

UNION MEETING

HAPPENINGS

August 2024

210 CLUB RAFFLE \$500 WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO THE MEETING BEING ON ZOOM THIS MONTH

This month's meeting was held virtually via ZOOM on July 31, 2024 due to the National Convention next week being in conflict.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the previous meetings minutes was made and passed without dissent.

The bills were read and shared with the membership, a motion to pay all the bills was made and passed without dissent. The bills will be audited at the September union meeting.

Health Benefit Report:

HEALTH BENEFITS:

I've been fielding many questions on the new Postal Service Health Benefit Program, or PSHB. Remember, through the Postal Reform Act, signed in 2022, this new health benefit program will, for postal employees, replace the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHB). FEHB was the program, or umbrella as I like to call it, for which we have all chosen are health benefits up to this point. Now most plans we all have will be available in the new PSHB. So come this open Season, we all must make an election to keep our current plans or switch to something different. This may sound like business as usual, but unlike previous years where you could do nothing and allow your plan to "roll over" to the next year, this year if you'd like to keep your current plan you MUST make that plan election during open season in the new PSHB. Currently, OPM (Office of Personnel Management) is developing a new enrollment platform that will be used by all USPS employees (active and retired). Unfortunately, information on the enrollment process has not been released. I would assume, and hope, it will be seamless much as our enrollment platform is for FEHB. When that information becomes available, we will let you know.

Per usual the PSHB plan rates will be released sometime in October. Open Season begins November 11, 2024, and runs through December 9, 2024.

National Director of Health Benefit Plans, Stephanie Stewart said "...I assure you that we are diligently working behind the scenes to make this transition as seamless as we can for our members.

We have made it a priority to provide more updates as soon as they are approved for release."

Benefit Trust Report; Sam Hogan

The benefit trust financial report was shared with the members with no questions. \$207138.95

AFL-CIO Report:

The Labor Day Parade is downtown on Labor Day September 2 and we are lining up at 10:45am on North Union Street near the Teachers union hall. Pizza will be provided at the end of the parade.

Building report:

The branch is having the main entrance door and storm door as well as the storm door on the front of the building replaced on Thursday August 1. The membership voted last year for the expenditure which was included in the improvements (basement, flooring, painting) that have already been completed.

Political Education:

On July 25, President Biden nominated Val Demings and William Zollars to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG).

Demings is a Democratic nominee. If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill Anton Hajar's seat, which expired on Dec. 8, 2023. Her term would expire on Dec. 8, 2030. Demings is a former member of the House of Representatives and unsuccessfully ran for Senate in Florida in 2022. Demings served as a social worker and police officer. In 2007, she was appointed chief of the Orlando Police Department, where she served until 2011.

Zollars is a Republican nominee who previously served as a governor on the USPS board. His term expired on Dec. 8, 2022, and if reconfirmed by the Senate, his new term would expire on Dec. 8, 2029. Zollars is the former Chairman/President/CEO of Yellow Transportation, Inc., a freight and shipping company. Prior to that, he served as a senior vice president of Ryder Integrated Logistics and as general manager and vice president of the Midwestern region of Eastman Kodak. He also served on the boards of Cerner, ProLogis, CIGNA and the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Workers Compensation bill H.R 618 has been advanced by the house committee on education. This bill passed the last congress 325-88 but the Senate did not take any action and it had to start over. S131 is the Senate companion bill

Vehicle & Safety:

A good number of workers compensation claims are denied every year for the following reason, bottom line is make sure your medical documentation is signed by a doctor and not just a physicians assistant.

NOTE - Medical evidence must be submitted by a qualified physician. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are not considered qualified physicians under the FECA unless the medical report is countersigned by a physician. Also, under the FECA, a "physician" includes chiropractors only if there is a diagnosed spinal subluxation and it is demonstrated by x-ray. Lastly, note that Medical evidence must contain a valid medical diagnosis. A finding of "pain" alone is not sufficient since pain is not a valid diagnosis; rather, it is a symptom.

Unfinished Business: President Kenny Montgomery:

Contract, Nothing new to report.

The National Convention is next week. We will be posting updates on the website (<http://nalc210.com/convention-updates>) and our branch 210 facebook page. We will share the resolutions and the outcome of those resolutions with the membership

Seabreeze, we sold 483 tickets. Cost to the branch was \$5,971.57. Well within the \$6,500 budgeted.

ECOMP ONLINE submission.... Please do it online with less problems. [Click Here](#) to register and file your claim.

New Business: President Montgomery

Retirees Breakfast is Friday October 4, 2024 9am at RIT INN and conference center

Grievance time limit extension due to the convention beginning July 27 and ending August 26

The following resolutions were put to the Convention by Branch 210

Hoodie purchase on uniform allowance.....approved, now it needs to be negotiated with the USPS

LCPF monthly reporting of where the money is spent....Disapproved by the Executive council

We should be making no agreements with USPS that denies us the right to file a grievance....disapproved by council Council as they believe that by insisting on grievance rights the USPS won't enter into agreements like TIAREAP in the future.

We will be arguing against their recommendations and ultimately the membership will decide.

Article 10 charges against National President were discussed....appeal has been filed to the convention which President Renfro has ruled to be out of order and states the appeal will not be heard. The Convention will be discussing it in detail and we will report back their findings.

Good of the Association

Nicholas Masters, son of Michael Masters, Health Benefits director recently won a scholarship with union plus. We want to congratulate Nick and wish him the best in college.

The next union meeting is open to all members and is Wednesday

September 4, 2024 at 7:00pm in person at the IBEW union hall 2300 East River Road, Rochester, NY