

UNION MEETING

HAPPENINGS

December 2023

210 CLUB RAFFLE \$500 WAS WON BY

Joseph Carrion

Joe is a CCA carrier in Rochester.

Congrats Joe!

This month's meeting was held in person on December 6, 2023, at 7:00pm at the IBEW union hall on East River Road in Rochester.

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.

Health Benefit Report: Mike Masters

HEALTH BENEFITS:

Mike discussed the new Silver Script program for eligible seniors who qualify for Medicare. The NALC will be paying for a medicare part D prescription plan on behalf of those members that qualify for Medicare. Information is being mailed out to those members affected and the member can choose to opt out if they choose and drug coverage would revert back to the NALC.

Mike discussed the end of open season being Monday December 11, 2023. There is NO planned extensions so if you don't make the changes you need by December 11th you will have to wait until next year.

For active and retired, changes to Dental and Vision coverage is made through [Benefeds.com](https://www.benefeds.com).

Health care changes for Active carriers are done through liteblue.usps.gov

Health care changes for retirees can be done by calling the automated line at 1-800-332-9798

Flexible Spending limits have been increased for next year to \$3,200. Flexible Spending needs to be renewed every year and does not just continue year to year. To renew or sign up for Flexible Savings go to [FSAFEDS.com](https://www.FSAFEDS.com)

Benefit Trust Report; Sam Hogan

The benefit trust financial report was shared with the members with no questions. Current balance of \$191,574.23

AFL-CIO Report:

The Strike happening at the UAW has ended as the UAW has agreed to contracts with all 3 automakers.

All local AFL-CIO endorsed candidates won their respective elections this past election cycle.

The Annual labor council delegates dinner will be Thursday December 14 at 5:30.

Building report:

Windows replacement at the union office has been completed. Comfort windows did a great job.

Political Education:

HR 5995 has been submitted before the House. This bill, if passed would allow employees to buy back non-career time and get credit toward retirement. Currently there are 42 co-sponsors 11 of which are from New York. (7 republicans and 4 Democrats) including local congressmen Joe Morelle (D) and Nicholas Langworthy (R) from the southern tier.

H.R. 82 the Social Security fairness act now has 300 co-sponsors including all representatives in New York except for Claudia Tenny (R) from the 24th district and Hakeem Jefferies (D) from the 8th.

Vehicle & Safety:

The Postal Service is testing a new off-the-shelf vehicle to take the place of the Metris. No more Metris's will be purchased, and the new vehicle will be used until the next generation vehicles are rolled out fall of 2024. See the postal record article about the new test vehicle being looked at (photos in Postal Record)

Unfinished Business: President Kenn y Montgomery:

Steward Elections. January of every even year, deadline for nominations is January 4, 2024.

Contract, The NALC is simultaneously preparing for arbitration and still trying to negotiate.

2019-23 it took 535 days.

2016-19 it took 444 days.

2011-16 it took 417 days.

2006-11 it took 322 days.

2001-05 it took 217 days.

1998-01 it took 303 days.

As of today, we are at day 200.

Penalty overtime exclusionary period December 2nd – December 29

According to the NALC constitution union dues is based on 2 hours pay at level 1 step D per month plus any local dues. With past pay raises dues is scheduled to increase by .09 cents per pay period to \$32.02 (currently \$31.93)

National Rap Session report by Monique and Masters. Information from the RAP was shared, contract negotiations process, information on Silver Script, and several training sessions took place at the RAP session.

The new leave year will begin January 13, 2024, and you will see the leave on your paystub February 2, 2024.

Convention call will be coming out February 1st. National Convention August 5-9 in Boston. If you are an elected delegate start thinking about if you want to go or not. Delegate Spending limit of \$12,000. Deadline for letting us know you want to go is Friday January 26, 2024.

The following is shared at every union meeting..... If you're hurt on duty and have an accident, Branch 210 recommends filing your claim online. **ECOMP ONLINE submission.... Please do it online with less problems.** [Click Here](#) to register and file your claim.

New Business: President Montgomery

OWCP Claims. Ecomp.dol.gov. We are having issues in some locations with carriers who file a CA-1 hard copy and management not submitting it, we are filing grievances in these instances however a grievance does not help the fact that failure to file a CA-1 by management delays health care, delays COP and delays the approval of any needed procedures. **Filing online** (see instructions above to file online) takes away management's ability to delay your workers compensation claim. You can register for the OWCP site without an injury which can speed the process up down the road if you're ever hurt. Don't let management affect your ability to get medical and get paid when you're hurt.

The following advice comes from our attorney Vincent Moyer, Here's what you need to know regarding the timeframe that may govern your ability to seek legal recourse against a party or parties responsible for your injury...

If you sustain an injury on the job, regardless of whether it is from a dog bite, a slip and fall on a slippery or uneven surface, a motor vehicle accident or some other type of situation, you need to be aware of the fact that your ability to bring a lawsuit or legal action against the responsible party is governed by a Statute of Limitations. In New York State, generally, that time period, if the basis for your action is the negligence of the responsible party, is three (3) years from the date of the accident. Please be aware that if you fail to bring a lawsuit or legal action within that period of time, you may forever be barred from doing so in the future. If you are not sure about the statute of limitations that may govern your particular situation, it is advisable to consult with an attorney immediately after your injury in order to ensure that your legal rights are protected.

President Montgomery presented a Constitutional Amendment to the members concerning the Letter Carrier Political Fund. The members voted unanimously in favor of the amendment. It will now be sent to headquarters to be considered at the National Convention by the full membership.

Scholarship applications due December 31.

Death of Members

We held a moment of silence for 2 retirees who recently passed away. Robert Lauricella and Drew Dunning. Both of which retired from Rochester.

Good of the Association

The members voted to hold the Seabreeze picnic again this Summer, July 14th

The MDA coordinator is setting up the annual MDA bowl-a-thon at L&M lanes. We are shooting for Sunday February 18th at 12:00. \$25 per person. The members approved sponsoring the event with Pizza and Wings.

The next union meeting is open to all members and is Wednesday January 3, 2024 at 7:00pm in person at the IBEW union hall at 2300 East River Road 14623

The officers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, happy Holiday season and very Happy and prosperous New Year. and enjoy time with your families!

