

# UNION MEETING

## HAPPENINGS

September 2024

210 CLUB RAFFLE \$500 WAS WON BY

JOSE (CHRIS) VELEZ

CARRIER AND STEWARD FROM IRONDEQUOIT

CONGRATS CHRIS!

This month's meeting was held in person on September 4, 2024, at the IBEW union hall.

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 from August and September were audited and approved by the trustees.

### **Health Benefit Report:**

**HEALTH BENEFITS:** Michael Masters

Mike Masters gave a report outlining the new Medicare part B integration and how it affects those that are already retired as well as how it will affect all employees that retire after January 1, 2025.

For the first group of carriers that are retired prior to January 1, 2025, or active carriers that are at least 64 years old by January 1, 2025, are not required to get Medicare Part B, however as a one-time opportunity those that did not sign up at age 65 will be able to sign up without penalty with a September 30, 2024, deadline. You must keep your federal plan for the Postal Service to pay any penalty you would have for late enrollment.

For the other group, those that retire after January 1, 2025, the law now provides that when you reach the age of 65 and are retired you will be required to get Medicare part B (you will not have that choice)

It does not matter which group you are in, if you have Medicare part B you must keep it. If after a few years you decide to drop Medicare part B and no longer carry the coverage, then you will also lose you Federal health Benefits.

If you're in group 1 and choose not to get Medicare Part B, then you continue to keep your federal health insurance.

Any questions or for more details contact the union office @ 427-2450.

## **Benefit Trust Report; Sam Hogan**

The benefit trust financial report was shared with the members with no questions. \$209,080.09

## **AFL-CIO Report:**

The Labor Day Parade was held on September 2 downtown. Branch 210 had 10 carriers marching.

The labor council is holding the labor film series again this year. Free tickets are available at the union hall. The films are shown at the Dryden theatre 900 East Avenue 7:30pm each night and are as follows

September 6 -----Rustin

September 13-----Two Days, One Night

September 20 -----Love and Work

September 27 -----Between Two Worlds

October 4 -----Do Not Expect Too Much From The End of The World

October 11 -----Unrest

October 18 -----Union

October 25 -----The Whistle at Eaton Falls

November 1 ----- The Old Oak

## **Building report:**

The branch had 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 work has now been completed.

## **Political Education:**

H.R. 82 has been stuck in the Ways and Means committee; therefore, the original sponsor, congressman Graves, is asking for a discharge petition to bring the bill to a vote on the full house floor. The discharge petition removes the bill from the committee and needs 218 signatures to proceed. There are currently 326 co-sponsors of the legislation

## **Vehicle & Safety:**

No report

## **Unfinished Business: President Kenny Montgomery:**

Contract, at the beginning of the meeting National President Brian Renfroe called President Montgomery's cell phone and gave us an update on the contract. He was put on speaker phone over the PA system, so our members heard from him directly. Keep in mind the following is **NOT** set in stone and is only what is being discussed still. President Renfroe gave the following update.

Some of the details:

- The 2 pay tables will be combined into one new pay table with less steps and quicker time to reach the top step. Currently it takes 13.2 years to get to the top step. Currently still trying to figure out what top step will be.
- Step A would be a "few dollars" more than it is currently on table two
- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will most likely remain pro-rated for those not at the top step.
- CCA's will remain, starting pay increase unresolved at this point. CCA employment will be different and are still working on reducing the time it takes to get them converted. (currently 2 years)
- 100% back pay will be issued
- Significant article 8 changes, ability to be on day off only list (no pivots), be on pivot only list (no day off) Ability to volunteer to work beyond 12 hours, ability to end work at 12 hours without threats of discipline.
- No plans currently to schedule arbitration dates
- President Renfroe is scheduled to attend our retiree breakfast in Rochester on October 4th, he was asked about the odds of having a tentative agreement by then, he said 90% we will have an agreement by that date. Also 99% sure we will eventually get a negotiated settlement. Could be tomorrow or could be a month from now.
- Electronic grievance processing
- Contract end date of November 2026
- Uniform allowance was brought up and he said they're so far apart on that, they're considering separating this one item to some sort of arbitration process outside of the contract. A question was asked about vendors who have a monopoly on uniforms. He was going to investigate posting on the website which companies are owned by the same company, so members know who they are dealing with.

Branch 210 cannot give any recommendations on any of the above until a tentative agreement is reached and the actual details are released. The above report is merely what is still being discussed and subject to change.

The National Convention was August 3-9. We posted updates on the website on the resolutions that were discussed and voted on. Here are some highlights from the convention. Again, to see all the resolutions visit the Convention page of our website. The resolution below all were passed by the membership.

**General resolutions** passed include several Bargaining transparency/open bargaining provisions

**Constitutional amendments** include a retiree can now join after the 1-year deadline if they were a member in good standing at the time of retirement

**Legislative resolutions** include lobbying congress to pass a law prohibiting charging extra fees to use paper billing (mail)

**National agreement resolutions** that must be negotiated with the Postal Service include the following

Automatic 50% for going over 12/60

Single pay scale

All trainers get T-6 pay

Ability to sell back 80 hours of Annual leave

USPS to set a negotiated wing chill standard

Scanner data alone can't be used for discipline

Steward must be present when issuing discipline letter

Hooded sweatshirts can be purchased with uniform allowance

Uniform allowance every 8 months instead of yearly

204b's need at least 5 years' experience carrying first

Extra 10-minute break for every 2 hours past 8 hours.

Retirees Breakfast is Friday October 4, 2024, 9am at RIT INN and conference center all retired and active members are welcome to attend. Call the union office for reservations. President Renfroe is scheduled to attend the breakfast to honor our 50-year members.

The presentation of the appeal for the article 10 charges against National President Renfroe was overseen by past president Rolando ....4 appeals were heard at the convention. In all 4 appeals to the charges, the decision of the council was upheld by the members of the convention. The matter is now closed. The appeals were presented at the end of Wednesday and all-day Thursday.

The Convention delegates endorsed Kamala Harris for President

President Rolando was unanimously designated as President Emeritus

### **New Business: President Montgomery**

A branch 210 member has filed an unfair labor charge against branch 210 for coercing and restraining employees in the exercising of their rights by refusing to process the charging party's grievance for arbitrary and discriminatory reasons and failing and refusing to bargain in good faith with the employer. The charges and issues have been referred to the NALC attorneys in Washington, who will be handling the issue with the Department of Labor. We will provide the membership with any updates when the Department of Labor issues any decisions.

NALC at headquarters is now accepting applications for the 2025 leadership academy

APWU Rally Tuesday October 1, 2024, at Westgate Post Office 10am – 2pm. The board of governors last year limited public comment to once a year as opposed to every quarterly meeting. Improve staffing levels and provide better service. Listening to Postal Workers at the bargaining table

Columbus Day golf Monday October 14, 10am \$75 per person including skins and will be held at Timber Ridge Golf in Brockport. Contact Monique at the union hall to reserve your spot. 427-2450

### **Good of the Association**

President Montgomery thanked the membership, the stewards and the officers for all they have done for the union. This was his last meeting as Branch 210 President as he has decided to retire on September 30, 2024. Business agent Mark Camilli will be at our October union meeting to swear in our next and first female president Monique Mate.

**“It has been my honor to represent the greatest letter carriers and greatest retirees in the country as your branch president for the last 13 ½ years. I began as a steward in 1992, and I have never regretted the choice I made to become a representative of Branch 210. It is time for the next generation of leaders to come forward and lead us into the future. I will always be a supporter of Branch 210 and our efforts and make myself available should the branch need my help in any way.”**

Thank you all!!

Kenny

**The next union meeting is open to all members and is Wednesday  
October 2, 2024 at 7:00pm in person at the IBEW union hall 2300 East River Road,  
Rochester, NY**