

Open Bargaining and Contract Campaign Resolution

Whereas: NALC national contract negotiations are at a time when NALC members are most able to shape the direction of our union, the methods we use to fight for our demands, and set the priorities we fight for to improve the lives of letter carriers

Whereas: The NALC's power in the fight for a strong contract is increased when the union involves and mobilizes its members and engages its customers - the American public - about the biggest issues facing letter carriers. The broader public can sympathize with our issues - including overwork and a rising cost of living while wages have stagnated - because they are fighting the same problems in their workplaces.


Whereas: Having an active rank and file ensures the long-term viability of our proudly democratic union by creating new leaders and activists nationwide

Whereas: Other unions like the United Auto Workers, Teamsters, and Writers Guild of America - have successfully conducted visible contract campaigns involving large numbers of members and the public to strengthen their negotiating position and make gains in pay, benefits, working conditions, and workplace dignity.

Whereas: Many unions issue frequent bargaining updates with side-by-side comparisons of union and management proposals, in order to increase transparency, inform, agitate, and mobilize their members and the public, therefore be it

Resolved: that NALC Branch 3 Buffalo/WNY calls on the national NALC to:

- 1) Organize an active, vibrant contract campaign that involves and mobilizes members and the public, in stations and in the street, throughout the country to help us achieve the strongest possible contract at the bargaining table.
- 2) Hold rallies involving every branch leading up to the formal start of negotiations highlighting our main demands, and throughout a contract campaign when necessary, activating the membership at certain key points in negotiations.
- 3) Post frequent side-by-side bargaining updates of contract negotiations on the website and in NALC bulletins.



David J Grosskopf Jr-President NALC Branch # 3 Buffalo/WNY



Kim Fitzgerald-Secretary-Treasurer NALC Branch # 3 Buffalo/WNY



National Association of Letter Carriers

BRANCH 3, BUFFALO/WESTERN NEW YORK • Established 1889

David J. Grosskopf, Jr.
President

General Membership Meeting February 13th, 2024

Michael J. Levering
Executive Vice-President

President Grosskopf called the meeting to order at 7:44pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Renee L. Boguhn
Vice-President

The Executive Board made a motion to send two officers to the NALC Branch Officer training in Washington, DC. Training will be held from April 22nd-25th 2024. Cost will include travel, hotel, five days of lost/paid time, and meals for each officer attending. Motion passed.

Kim Fitzgerald
Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas M. Rybacki
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

The Executive Board made a motion to send eight people to Washington, DC for the congressional lobbying trip April 17th-19th 2024. Cost will include three days lost/paid time, hotel, and meals for each person attending. Eight tickets will be purchased for the congressional meet and greet party at a cost of \$160. Total not to exceed \$12,000. Motion passed.

Doug DiTondo
Michael H. Miskell
Jamie Jablonski
Colleen Kreuzer
Andrew S. Harrison
Board of Trustees

The Executive Board made a motion to send officer Jessica McGinnis to Union Community Advocate Network training at the United Way. Training will include five weekly classes. Registration cost is \$150. Motion passed.

Zebediah M. Robson
Sergeant-at-Arms

The Executive Board made a motion to approve an Opening Bargaining and Contract resolution for the Boston National Convention. This includes better communication from the national level to the local membership with regards to contract bargaining with the USPS. Motion passed.

Judith A. Kersten
Insurance Representative

Kent Hankin
Director of Retired Members

The Executive Board made a motion to donate \$200 to Cleveland Hill Fire Department. This station covers the district of our union hall. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislation committee: Chairman Fordyce encouraged the membership to contact their congressman to support HR 82. The Executive Board and the membership expressed sincere gratitude to chairman Fordyce for all his years of success as our Legislative Chairman. Chairman Fordyce will be stepping down as Legislative chair and Greg Smith will become the new Legislative chair.



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Fellowship committee: Chairman Zeb Robson informed the membership that the annual golf tournament will be held on June 2nd, 2024, at Chestnut Hill. The annual volleyball/cornhole tournament will be held on June 30th, 2024, at Bowen Grove. Brother Robson also reminded the membership that the annual NALC food drive will be held on Saturday May 11th, 2024. Anyone wishing to order “stamp out hunger” blue shirts for the food drive for \$12 each should contact the union hall no later than April 1st, 2024.

Bylaws and Constitution committee: Sister Kersten informed the membership that two bylaws have been passed by the committee and will be voted on at the March meeting.

Insurance committee: Sister Kersten informed the membership that retirees will have an opportunity from April 1st to September 30th to enroll in Medicare part B. Sister Kersten also informed the membership that all carriers who are hurt on the job should call the union hall immediately.

Newspaper committee: Sister McGinnis informed the membership that any applications for the coloring contest in the Buzz should be sent to the union hall no later than March 1st, 2024.

Muscular Dystrophy committee: Chair Linda Deluca informed the membership that the second annual meat raffle to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association will be held on Sunday February 18th at the Matthew Glab Post #1477 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. Doors open at 1pm, first spin 2pm sharp. Tickets are \$15 each, which includes draft beer. You must pay in full to reserve tables of ten or more. This is a first come, first serve event. Please bring \$1bills and snacks. If you would like to volunteer to work at this event, please call the union hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Grosskopf announced Article 8 payouts since the last membership meeting totaled \$11,491.



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President Grosskopf spoke on the William Street plant consolidation to Rochester. Public picketing will be February 23rd in front of 1200 William Street from 11am to 1pm. The public meeting is scheduled for February 27th at the Creekside banquet facility at 2669 Union Road Cheektowaga 14227 at 6pm. The initial finding document mail processing facility review clearly states on page 2 that the consolidation of plant operations may allow the Buffalo LPC to be retrofitted with a sorting and delivery center. All are encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Grosskopf informed the membership that Trustee Mike Miskell has been chosen for the spring class for the NALC arbitration advocacy training in Baltimore MD from March 17th, 2024, to March 23rd, 2024. Congratulations Brother Miskell. We know you will make the branch proud while attending the Maritime Institute Academy.

President Grosskopf updated the membership on the January blizzard situation. For the first time in history, the Buffalo installation was shut down on January 17th, 2024, due to the blizzard. President Grosskopf believes this was due to proactive reaction regarding the handling of the December 2022 blizzard.

President Grosskopf acknowledged the three Branch 3 letter carriers in the February Postal Record publication. Brother Jonah Carey from Batavia, Tim Mattson from Jamestown, and Christopher Sardynski. Congratulations to these three gentlemen for their acts of heroism.

President Grosskopf spoke on the optimized collections issue. Local transportation optimization (LTO) will eliminate the evening pickup of mail at local post offices for the transportation to a processing center. The launch date for Buffalo is June 24th, 2024.

President Grosskopf informed the membership that the Amherst branch will be having a special inspection with the live week beginning on February 24th.

President Grosskopf announced the appointment of Greg Smith as Legislative Committee Chairman. He also announced the appointment of Steven Olender as Letter Carrier Political Fund coordinator. Brother Kent Hankin will handle the duties for the retirees and Brother Olender will be handing the active carriers.



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President Grosskopf then spoke on the heat illness protection program (HIPP) arbitration out of Lewiston. All carriers must be presented the entire HIPP training (3 parts: Stand Up Talk, Video and Q+A) by March 15th, 2024.

FROM THE FLOOR:

A motion was made to donate \$1003 to the Variety Fund telethon in March. Motion passed.

Sgt at Arms Robson announced the “If you are here” drawing. Brother Gerald Cope (Life Member) would have won \$20 if in attendance.

Next general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12th, 2024, at the Matthew Glab Post 1477 at 7:30pm.

