# NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION OFFICIAL MINUTES

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

November 5, 2009 111 John Street, Suite 710 NYC, NY 10038

The meeting of the Executive Board was held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 and officially called to order at 2:35pm. In attendance were: the Local President, the Vice President, Local Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and all three Local 300 State Representatives.

The minutes from the last Executive Board meeting <u>held on July 17, 2009</u> were officially read into the record by Recording Secretary Yancey. After a reading of the minutes the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: BLUM,  $2^{ND}$  BY RUTHER: To accept the minutes as read.

Passed: Unanimous

During the financial review, Board members discussed the financial report submitted by Local Treasurer Tabarus. The LT entertained questions from EB members. After full review and discussion of the report the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: PIACENTE,  $2^{ND}$  BY YANCEY: To give subsequent approval to all legal and lawful expenditures for the period of <u>July 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009</u>.

Passed: Unanimous

# TREASURER'S REPORT (TABARUS)

Local Treasurer Tabarus provided a detailed presentation of Local 300 financial obligations and commented on a number of topics including:

- · Membership dues and analysis related to Mail Handler complement.
- •The various scholarship programs available to our members. Check the Local website.
- •The upcoming Local 300 newsletter. Winter 2010 issue scheduled.

At the conclusion of his report the LT focused the attention on the importance of fiscal responsibility in relation to our future arbitration battles and other financial responsibilities.

The following motion was made:

MOTION BY BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PRICE: To accept the Local Treasurer's report.

Passed: Unanimous

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT (HOGROGIAN)

Local President Hogrogian provided a comprehensive report on a variety of issues concerning the Local and entertained questions on a variety of topics including:

- •The vacant Branch President positions in Stamford and Carteret. Notification will be disseminated upon its formulation.
- •An update on the Network Distribution Centers (NDC). The redistribution seems to be working.
- •A discussion on Mail volume decline in other areas around the Local; and the possible impact on Mail Handlers operations; and our efforts in addressing the issues.
- •Reviewed the list of Excessing and Function 4's conducted by the USPS; gave an update on issues related to the USPS Area Mail Processing studies. (Queens and New Jersey)
- A discussion on the VERA incentive offered by the USPS.
- •An update on the National Re-assessment Program, which is in phase 2 in some districts. Many employees' medical limitations have been re-assessed under this program.
- •A discussion on declining membership dues, (possibly due to retirees; a discussion on our future arbitration battles, arbitration awards, and training for council members and shop stewards.

- <u>The NYMA/Northeast Area Merger</u>. Tour eliminations/Consolidation and Compression plans by the USPS. MORE AREAS/DISTRICTS JOINED UNDER THE MERGER.
- •An update on the EAS employees reassigned to the Mail Handler craft; and our immediate involvement in addressing the issue.

In conclusion of his report the LP discussed deployment of new automation and gave a full litigation report.

The following motion was made:

MOTION BY: RUTHER, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PIACENTE: To accept the President's report.

Passed: Unanimous

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (BLUM)

Vice President Blum gave a thorough report on a variety of topics concerning the Local including:

- •An update on the Casual % Division grievances. All efforts have been made to pay the aggrieved. Finalization is expected soon.
- •An update in working with the RI-399 Committee.
- •A discussion on our efforts at the 2009 Labor Day Parade.
- An update and discussion on the PAC Fund including, an overview on how members can contribute.
- •A discussion on our legislative involvement concerning Mail Handler issues; and our involvement at various community meetings; regarding Area Mail Studies in New Jersey, Western Nassau and Queens.
- · An update on Health Fairs Coordinating, Membership premiums update, and acknowledgement of the following retires; Jerome Anderson, Jeff James and Bob Anderson. At the conclusion of the report the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: PRICE, 2nd by YANCEY: To accept the Vice President's Report.

Passed: Unanimous

# **RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT (YANCEY)**

Recording Secretary Yancey began her report with an update on trial boards the EB may have conducted. This would include:

- The charges related to Craig vs. Knootz; in which the Executive Board returned a conclusion. Both parties were notified.
- •An update on the latest charges from Stamford, CT involving the Branch President.

  \*\*\*As recorded in this report, the Stamford Branch President has resigned. It should be further noted that the charging parties have withdrawn the charges. All Parties were notified.

Continuing the report the RS gave an update on the Impact Questionnaire distributed encouraging members to speak out about the impact of USPS compression plans. Mail handlers expressed concerns as:

- Transportation issues: If excessed out of their originating facility.
- Fatigue and stress as a result of excessing and poor staffing by postal management.
  - More bids: To compensate for the staffing shortage.

In conclusion of the Recording Secretary report an update on the RYE Playland Family Day Event. The outing was a success. The RS commended the Core Team members on a job well done.

A motion was made and seconded as follows:

MOTION BY BLUM,  $2^{ND}$  BY RUTHER: To accept the Recording Secretary's Report. Passed: Unanimous

### **NYS REPORT**

NYS Representative Piacente began his report with an update on the following:

- Tour compression issue in Westchester and the impact on the craft.
- ·An update on any grievances that may have been filed as a result of compression.

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In conclusion, Piacente has been active on a number of arbitration cases around the Local. The Board discussed recent arbitration hearings in Westchester.

After the NYS Report the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: TABARUS, 2nd by PRICE: To accept the NYS Report

Passed: Unanimous

#### **NJ STATE REPORT (PRICE)**

Charles Price discussed a variety of topics concerning New Jersey including:

- •All RI-399 grievances previously filed and or appealed to Step 3.
- An update on the Open Season. Price submits that due to the economic crisis, employees spent more time comparing health plans. The MHBP seems to have faired well with members in cost for coverage.

In conclusion of the New Jersey report the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PIACENTE: To accept the NJ State Report.

Passed: Unanimous

# **CT STATE REPORT** (RUTHER)

Ruther offered a comprehensive report on a number of issues concerning the Local including:

- •A discussion on the initiative by postal management targeting those who have been out of work for one-year of more. Any BP who has a member experiencing problems in this area can contact Ruther at Local 300 HQ.
- ·An update on OWCP cases and our efforts in getting our members compensated.

In closing, Ruther discussed the various arbitration cases he has been involved with around the local; followed by an update on the METS game.

At the conclusion of the report the following motion was made:

MOTION BY: PIACENTE 2<sup>ND</sup> BY YANCEY: To accept the CT State Report.

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Passed: Unanimous

Near closing of business the Executive Board discussed the Stamford and Carteret Branch President vacancies. Letters will be forthcoming soliciting anyone interested in the positions. The EB will discuss the formalities at the next Executive Board meeting.

The Board also entertained other business matters and a number of equipment requests as followed:

MOTION BY BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY RUTHER: To adopt the USPS Policy regarding the use of union property, equipment and information technology. (adopted policy enclosed)

Passed: Unanimous

MOTION BY RUTHER, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY TABARUS: <u>1</u>: Office manager will be able to sell back any excess annual leave over 440 hours at the end of leave year 2009. <u>2</u>: Beginning with leave year 2010, Office Manager will be credited with 208 hours at beginning of leave year; of which he will be able to sell back 40 hours consistent with Postal leave policies.

Passed: Unanimous

MOTION BY TABARUS,  $2^{ND}$  BY YANCEY: To approve a \$300 Christmas bonus for the Local 300 Office Manager.

Passed: Unanimous

MOTION BY PRICE, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY TABARUS: To approve the purchase of new computer for the NJIBMC/NDC not to exceed \$850.

Passed: Unanimous

MOTION BY BLUM,  $2^{ND}$  BY PRICE: To approve a \$50 holiday gratuity to relevant building staff at 111 John Street.

Passed: Unanimous

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MOTION BY BLUM  $2^{ND}$  BY RUTHER: TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2 YEARS TO THE CHIEF.

Passed: Unanimous

At the conclusion of all business relating to the meeting the following motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: YANCEY,  $2^{ND}$  BY RUTHER: To adjourn the meeting at 3:52pm.

Passed: Unanimous

Submitted by,

Linda/Yancey

Recording Secretary

NPMHU-Local 300

## Addendum

This addendum page logs all motions made at the Executive Board meeting held on November 5, 2009. A reference number has been assigned.

EBNOV5-09/001: Motion by BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY RUTHER: To accept the minutes as read.

EBNOV5-09/002: Motion by PIACENTE, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY YANCEY: To give subsequent approval to all legal and lawful expenditures for the period of July 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009.

EBNOV5-09/003: Motion by Blum 2<sup>nd</sup> by Price: To accept the Treasurer's Report.

EBNOV5-09/004: Motion by: RUTHER, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PIACENTE: To accept the President's Report.

EBNOV5-09/005: Motion by: PRICE, 2nd by YANCEY: To accept the Vice President's Report.

EBNOV5-09/006: Motion by: BLUM,  $2^{ND}$  BY RUTHER: To accept the Recording Secretary's Report.

EBNOV5-09/007: Motion by: BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PIACENTE: To accept the NJ State Report.

EBNOV5-09/008: Motion by: PIACENTE 2<sup>ND</sup> BY YANCEY: To accept the CT State Report.

EBNOV5-09/009: Motion by PRICE, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY TABARUS: To approve the purchase of new computer for the NJ-IBMC/NDC not to exceed \$850.

EBNOV5-09/010: Motion by: BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY RUTHER: To adopt the USPS Policy regarding the use of union property, equipment and information technology. (adopted policy enclosed)

EBNOV5-09/011: RUTHER, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY TABARUS: Office manager will be able to sell back any excess annual leave over 440 hours at the end of leave year 2009. Beginning with leave year 2010. Office Manager will be credited with 208 hours at beginning of leave year; in which he will be able to sell back 40 hours. This is consistent with Postal leave policies

EBNOV5-09/012: Motion by: MOTION BY TABARUS, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY YANCEY: To approve a \$300 Christmas bonus for the Local 300 Office Manager.

EBNOV5-09/013: MOTION BY BLUM, 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PRICE: TO approve a \$50 holiday gratuity to relevant building staff at 111 John Street.

EBNOV5-09/014: MOTION BY BLUM 2ND BY RUTHER: TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2 YEARS TO THE CHIEF.

EBNOV5-09/015: Motion by Yancey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruther: To adjourn the meeting at 3:52pm.

Submitted by

Recording Secretary

NPMHU- Local 300

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