 National Association of Postal Supervisors

PO Box 90008

Washington, DC 20009- 0008

Minutes

January 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Wright. Ray Nowden made an administrative announcement for all members on ZOOM to keep their phones muted unless speaking, to mitigate background noises. Tonya Despertt read the meeting minutes from November 2023 and the membership was advised that the minutes could be found on NAPS Branch 135 Website under the secretary’s desk tab. The minutes were accepted as read.

President Wright revisited comments made during our last meeting regarding USPS and salary suppression. He stated that he spoke with President Butts and was told that USPS and NAPS met in December and USPS agreed that the ceiling and minimum salary caps would be raised to correct the disparity. Employees at the low end of the salary should see the increase on the February 2nd check.

Officer roll call was taken.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

**President Marcellus Wright Present**

**1st Vice President- Reginald Hughes Present**

**2nd Vice President – Darrell Young Present**

**Secretary- Tonya Despertt Present**

**Financial Secretary-Theresa Bailey Present**

**Treasurer Donalda Moss Present**

**Sergeant of Arms- Vincent Clark Present**

**Tour 1 Representative Mary Milner Present**

**Tour 2 Representative- Waverly Vaughn Present**

**Tour 3 Representative – Raynard Nowden Present**

**Station & Branches Mike Alston Present**

**Immediate Past President Alvin Harper Absent**

**Legislative Representative Vacant**

**Good and Welfare Yvonne Duncan Present**

**Administrative Office – Sekita Davis Present**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

There was no report.

**GOOD & WELFARE REPORT**

There was no report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

No Financial Report. Signature Federal Credit Union sent out a message earlier in the day that the vendor that maintained the account statements was unable to post the statements.

**1st VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

No 1st VP report.

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

No 2nd VP report.

President Wright asked, 2nd VP Darrell Young about the t-shirts for State convention. Darrell replied that he only needed names and sizes.

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Alvin Harper stated that he was working on bags for giveaways for Nationals. He is working on a bag with a Cherry Blossom design.

President Wright called for any unfinished business.

The Bylaw committee has started their work, just need to finish. President Wright asked that the bylaw committee come to 2024 LTS a day earlier to finish working on the bylaws. The current bylaws are 30 years old. There was some discussion around using the mail to reach our membership, as it is costly. We must determine which members are eligible for the State meeting and Nationals. Voting by electronic mail is a viable option. President Wright asked what the bylaws says about regular voting. According to the constitution and bylaws we must mail ballots out. Although, it is costly, time consuming and labor intensive, we typically only get 40 – 50 responses. We must also bear in mind that many of our members are not local and may not be familiar with members running for the board. We discussed printing 2 sets of ballots and the cost of stamps and envelopes. It was suggested that we do electronic mailings as it is more cost effective. President Wright asked Ray how many emails he had for the membership. Ray replied that he had 300 – 400 email addresses. Darrell Young stated that according to the bylaws any mailing—electronic or physical, had to go to each member. It was noted that every member has not provided their email address. It was stated that we must follow the bylaws and physically mail the ballots to all members using the mailing list that we have. We cannot circumvent the process. It was decided that ballots had to be mailed out the coming Saturday. Theresa Bailey and Waverly Vaughan volunteered to help with the mailing. Dabney volunteered to count the ballots.

President Wright reiterated that if anyone had a recommendation for the constitution and bylaws committee to submit the suggestion to the committee. He also stated that it was time for nominations for the board. Members must be in good standing, attending 10 meetings preceding Nationals to be eligible to hold branch office. For nominations at the State convention, members must be in good standing with 1 year preceding, Members may attend each meeting, respectively, and be nominated to the board. Ray Nowden sent out the names of the eligible members for State, 2 weeks ago. The attendees are also posted each month to Branch 135 website. Members were reminded to confirm their meeting attendance and to reach out to the Branch Secretary with any discrepancies. We had 23 members eligible for State and must decrease to 19. For State convention, it was suggested that we send a message to everyone that qualifies for State, and request they respond if they would like to attend. President Wright stated that there were no more rooms. Everyone that was eligible was contacted via email by the Technology Director, Ray Nowden. Nineteen rooms were booked. Based on responses and some clerical issues the branch decided to take 22 people. Board members will stay off site during the State convention to ensure the members stay in the same hotel where the event is being held. President Wright and the Executive board will determine offline who will stay at a different hotel.

2024 LTS is March 3rd – 6th. It is held annually and is our hallmark event. The meeting is to educate NAPS members on lawmaker meetings and their staff members. Branch 135 President, Marty Wright has been selected to lay the wreath at Sunday’s wreath laying ceremony.

Members attending LTS are:



Registration closes February 15th and participating members have until February 22nd to notify the branch if they cannot attend. No substitutions can be made. The cost for the hotel is $275.00 per night. If a member cannot attend and do not make the deadline for notifying the Branch, they will be subject to having fees deducted from future per diems they may be entitled to.

Past President Harper stated that he did some research on traveling to State. He compared mileage of two driving routes, mileage being 962 round trip vs 958. The flight is $461.00. There are two airports that we can travel into-either Spartanburg/Greenville or Asheville Airport. Asheville is approximately 10 miles from the Ashville Airport. A cab from the airport to the hotel will cost approximately $35 - $70 roundtrip. The Spartanburg/Greenville airport is 50 miles away and one would have to rent a car. Most bus companies are booked. Baltimore and Southern MD are going together and are renting a bus. Past President is also looking at Branch 135 taking a bus to Nationals in CT. The cost of the bus is $13,000.00. Flights going to Hartford are currently $300.00. He is working on arranging transportation from the airport to the casino. President Wright stated that even if we decide to fly, we can consider renting vans for the group once we get to Connecticut. If so, we would all have to be on the same flight. There are 19 people eligible for Nationals.

The members attending State are:



Members were advised to book their flights to Asheville asap. Donalda will provide reimbursement checks for anyone in the room and all others will be mailed immediately. Some checks will be picked up from Marty. The dates for State are May 23rd – May 26th. Airfare from DCA is $461.00. All parking receipts will be settled.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Tonya Despertt

Secretary Branch 135