

BRANCH MEETING

BRANCH 343, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Summary of Branch Action

MSC: To pay the branch bills.

MSC: That Branch 343 host a dinner for the *Mound City Carrier* committee for their continued efforts preparing the publication every month on behalf of the members of Branch 343.

MSC: That Branch 343 assist in providing warm, delicious meals for the homebound elderly during the holidays by donating \$100 to Meals on Wheels.

MSC: That Branch 343 purchase a one-eighth page ad in the Christmas edition of the *Labor Tribune*.

Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. The invocation and pledge of allegiance were led by Chet Drain and the minutes were read and accepted.

Break Away: MDA Coordinator Beau Trussell accepted donations for the Kickball Tournament, BBQ Cook Off, Washer Tournament, and Golf Tournament. 2017 is the highest grossing year for Branch 343's MDA donations.

NBA's Report: Trustee Tina Hunt reported that LMOUs are being negotiated across the nation. Barry Simon is back on the regular arbitration panel.

Retiree's Report: Tom Schulte reported that a representative from the BBB will be at the December retirees' meeting to provide information on fraud prevention.

Labor Council Report: Mike Chenot reported that the phrase 'RTW' will not be used on the ballot in Nov 2018. It has not been decided what type of photo ID will be required for voting.

Health Benefit Report: Chet Drain informed the members that open enrollment is November 13 through December 11. Go to opm.gov or liteblue to compare plans.

OWCP Report: Chet Drain let the carriers know

that the NALC Health Benefit Plan is the only plan that will pay your medical expenses while you are appealing an OWCP claim and the NALC Health Plan will get reimbursed from OWCP once the claim is approved.

Mound City Carrier Report: Tom Schulte highlighted the upcoming Pool Tournament (Dec. 3) and Trivia Night (Jan. 14). The Nov. MCC covered the BBQ Cook Off, Golf Tournament and Shop Stewards' Banquet.

Moment of Privilege: Ribbons presented to veterans.

Haake Scholarship Report: Pam Stepney noted the Dec. 31 deadline for seniors graduating in 2018.

Safety & Health Report: Richard Thurman said 165 accidents were reported in this fiscal year, slow down and pay attention to what you are doing.

Trustees Report: Tina Hunt reported the books were audited and found to be in good order.

PAC Report: Mike Weir reported the 2018 COLA for retirees is 2 percent and the budget reconciliation is ongoing in Congress. A new tax bill has been proposed.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer Report: John McLaughlin reported that all 22 LMOUs for Branch 343 have been opened for negotiation because the new contract requires provisions for CCAs to bid on choice vacation periods and incidental leave. Trivia Night will begin at 5:30 and an additional \$5 will be required if tickets are purchased at the door.

Vice President/Financial Secretary Report: John McLaughlin read the financial report for Oct.

President's Comments: Barry Linan provided additional information on LMOU negotiations. The award to retroactively convert CCAs to career in 2013 has temporarily resulted in a pay cut to those carriers. Barry sent a letter to all affected CCAs explaining how their pay will be eventually corrected.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Litteken
Recording Secretary