

**Branch Meeting:** December 4, 2024

**Executive Vice President:** Mark McGrady opened the meeting with the flag salute and then a moment of silence. Mark also recognized the passing of several Branch 38 members.

The November minutes were read by Roy Jancio and approved by a motion from Amanda Krane and it was seconded by Robert Kietch. The motion was approved by the membership.

**President's Report:** President Mike O'Neill reported on the following items:

- Mike announced there will be a different pay method for shop stewards in 2025. Possibly two times June and November.
- Mike wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New year.
- The SS reform Act was passed by the House of representatives and now is in the Senate.
- Mike urged everyone to contact your Senator and ask them to support S597.
- Mike went over the overtime exclusion period for December 2024.
- Open Season ends December 9, 2024. Any issue contact Pete Bednarz.
- Mark discussed the Holiday Party.
- Mike also urged everyone to vote for the tentative agreement and tell everyone to ask questions if they are not sure on any topic. Any address changes must be in asap to ensure you receive a ballot. There is information in the shop steward packet on the TA. If you do not receive a ballot Mike says to contact him by December 20, 2024.

## **Guest speakers**

**Richard O'Connell:** Richie urged everyone to contact their Senators on the SS Act and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year.

**Don Millman:** Don reminded everyone of all the winter hazards quickly approaching and remember safety depends on you. Don also wished everyone happy Holidays and New Year.

**Dave Picconi -** Dave stated anyone on OWCP will automatically be switched to their current plan during Open Season.

Larry Cirelli – Larry urged everyone to max out TSP Funds because it will greatly help you when you retire.

**Bruce Didriksen, NBA Region 15:** Bruce discussed the following items: Bruce thanked Mike, Dan and Mark for all their years and dedication to the NALC.

- Bruce then discussed the SS Act and its importance to get the bill passed this year.
- Bruce discussed the Senate seats. The oversight committee of the USPS and how they are reporting losses, service is getting worse, and PMG say DeJoy cut service or ask for bail out.
- Discussed the SDC in Edison and the issues they are having. In 2025 there will be even more offices moving into the center. The Paterson SDC might be put on hold because of parking.
- Bruce discussed the backlog of the grievance process with noncompliance grievances.
- Finally, Bruce thanked everyone for supporting thre NALC and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year.

Mike – Mike said it is a honored and privileged to serve the Branch 38 members for so many years and thanked everyone for their support.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Joe Rutkowski reported that during the period of November 1 to November 30, 2024, the Branch had an income of \$156,474.77 expenses of \$144,525.80 for a positive balance of \$11,948.97 leaving an overall account balance of \$43,795.31. To date all the Branch's financial records are in order, and all bills are current.

Joe further spoke on the following items:

- Joe announced shop stewards will be paid twice a year starting in 2025.
- He discussed the January Branch 38Shop Steward Training and how everyone is working hard putting stuff together.
- There will be LMOU Training at the shop steward training.
- SNDC have already started in NJ and we will be on top of all the issues that arise.
- The new staff is ready to face all the old and new challenges management is going to implement. Joe said he is confident the representation will be better than ever.

**Motion to accept the report as given by:** Diane Holtz Seconded by: **June Albergo** – Approved by membership.

**Motion to close the meeting by:** Michelle Carroll; Seconded by Jeff Fezza; Approved by the membership.

**Next branch meeting date:** January 8, 2025

**Minutes taken by:** Recording Secretary Roy Jancio