

The Branch 1111 Retiree Committee last met on September 17, 2019 in the Union Hall (Richmond) at 11:00 am.

It was possibly our most difficult meeting as our main discussion was if we should continue meeting. This subject concerned how can we assist helping our Retirees who haven't donated to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). Of course, no one has the right to force anyone to donate to the LCPF.

It is possible some Retirees may have accepted our past suggestions but we aren't sure. There are many political financial threats to our Retirees that it is somewhat difficult to understand why more Retirees decline to donate. A current letter carrier pays a little more than \$30.00 a month for their Union dues. If a Retiree retired recently or even 10 years ago and was paying \$20.00 a month for their dues, it is a fact the Retiree dues drops to \$2.00 a month for their dues. Using the example of someone who retired 10 years ago, they saved \$18.00 a month on dues. Thus, the concern why a Retiree declines to donate even \$1 or \$2 dollars a month for the LCPF to save their retirement benefits. Of course, some donations may not be financial.

The Committee discussed other important options Retirees to help us with their time. For example, making a toll free phone call to a Congressperson or Senator and asking them to support or not support a bill affecting Retirees. Or, attending a legal picket line which would challenge or support a bill for/against Retirees.

Based on our discussion, the Committee is considering sending short surveys asking if Retirees would become active in phone calls or legal picketing. This survey would also include a section to let us know if you request we not contact you in the future. It is certainly not our desire to constantly communicate Retirees about issues which could help or hurt them.

Another discussion determined the Committee will reach out to more experienced NALC representatives to obtain ideas we have not thought about. Still, we need to plan for the future.

If you haven't attended any of our meeting, please feel free to join for a short discussion (approximately one hour) especially if you have idea(s) for was. In addition to sharing ideas, we have light snacks and drink for you. We make efforts to meet every other month on the second Thursday at 11:00 am. Our next two meetings will be on November 14, 2019 and the following meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019. As always, the meeting will start at 11:00 am and will be at the Union Hall in Richmond. We hope to see you there.

A special Welcome to Brother Archie Threats (Oakland Retiree) who attended our Committee meeting September 17th.

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else". (Baseball catcher Yogi Berra).

In Solidarity,

Your Branch 1111 Retiree Committee

Michael Chavez, Jose Corral, Jerry DePoe, David Luong, Joe McHale,
Ken Moore, Celso Pacheco, Antonio Ramirez and Archie Threats.