

**Draft of the Branch 380 Minutes
For January 11, 2005**

Pres. Mark Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. There were 38 Members present. The flag salute and roll call of officers were taken. The attendance award went to Rick Powelson. The previous minutes were read by Asst. Sec. Kelly Roth and approved without corrections. There were no communications. **Newly Retired Members:** Congratulations to Pat Toto. Frank Ratkiewicz presented two envelopes with gifts to Pat Toto. **Safety Report:** Vivian Harrison stated that she will check on the status of the ramp at the carrier annex. **Branch Picnic:** Pres. Van Wagner stated that he spoke with Ray McDonald from Princeton Branch 268 and that it is very likely that on June 26, 2005 we will have a joint picnic combining both branches at the Liberty Lakes picnic facility in Columbus, NJ. **Legislation:** Bill Young reports that the postal reform is currently moving in Congress. If it goes to a vote E-Activists will be receiving an e-mail or letter in the mail regarding whether to support the bill or not. **NALC Health Benefits:** Joe Mooney stated that open season has been extended until January 7, 2005. The NALC Health benefits have experienced an increase in membership. If you are a new member this year, there may be a delay in getting your membership cards due to the extended time to join. You are covered even though your cards have not arrived. **MCLU:** There is a meeting this Friday at Local 269 on Whitehead road. On May 2, 2005 at St. Jacobs Church, there will be a workers memorial mass. Dues will go up from \$.07 to \$.10. On March 12, 2005 there will a St. Patties Day Parade. **Retiree Rep:** Sherm Britton stated that as of December 27, 2004, we have one 70 year, five 60 year and seventeen 50 year members. There are 142 total retirees. Seven passed away in 2004. In 2005, Eugene Bowlby will become a 75 year member. There will be six new 59 year members in 2005. **MBA:** Jesse Davis stated that the best program out there is the Maturity Program. **MDA Report:** Marty D'Autrechy stated that he only received 5 MDA canisters back from the station collections. **Merger:** Pres. Van Wagner stated that we are planning to clean-up our by-laws. Princeton Branch 268 is also planning to do the same. This is to try to combine both branch by-laws for the potential merger.

The meeting recessed briefly for the Branch Aid Society.

Secretary's Report: The Post Office is changing the finance numbers in each station. When a new member joins, we need to know what station they will be joining. **Treasurer's report:** Frank Ratkiewicz presented the report and it was approved by the membership. **Vice President:** Pres. Van Wagner stated that Bill Malkin is undergoing another round of chemotherapy and asked to be excused tonight. **Trustees:** The semi-annual audit is scheduled for January 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. **Presidents Report:** Pres. Van Wagner announced the stewards for 2005. Bidding is now only available on line, by phone or kiosks. There are no more hard copies. You will need your pin and employee number. The election committee received a protest of the Branch elections by Tony Di Stephano, Jr. and the committee will be responding to the protest in the proscribed manner. Congressman Chris Smith has been kicked out as the veteran's affair rep. committee by the Republican Leadership because he would not cut the veteran budget. **Old Business:** Sec. Zerrenner stated that all delegates are eligible to receive funds for the Washington Breakfast. **New Business:** Joe Mooney motioned to pay delegates going to the Washington Breakfast \$450.00. This motion was approved.

The 50/50 winner is Alan Arnold in the amount of \$ 38.00. Alan Arnold donated \$ 10.00 to MDA. Bill Roth motioned the meeting to be adjourned. Vivian Harrison seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.