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MEMBERSHIP PRINTING, INC.

# METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

LINDA BOROUGHS, EDITOR

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



### DO WE NEED SOME MOTIVATION?

One of the greatest activists and motivators of all time was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only was he a great activist and motivator, but he was also one of the greatest whistleblowers of this nation with his drive to end inequality. Dr. King left behind a multitude of quotes that inspire and motivate others to take a look within themselves.

As I started to write this article, I asked myself what brings about motivation. It was then that my eyes fell upon the 'Shift' key on my keyboard. The shift key then began to speak to me in my subconscious, saying, "Kim, I only have one main function and that main function is to change things. I can take a lower-case letter and elevate that thing to a capital letter. I can take a number and transform it into a powerful symbol." That finally led me to the conclusion that if we need a change all it takes is a shift in our motivation.

Dr. King said it best when he said, "I had a dream..." All it takes is a dream. In the year 2016, when I began my tenure as president of Branch 132, I had a dream. I envisioned Branch 132 in the days and months to come as a strong vibrant branch. In my dreams, I saw not one Formal A steward handling the business of the branch for the city of Dallas; but multiple stewards. Today we have nine Formal A stewards for the Dallas installation and nine for the associate offices.

In my dream, I saw doors opening up for opportunities for the

educational growth of our membership. Today we have members who have attended formal training to advance themselves in their ability to serve Branch 132 as stewards, as Formal A representatives, as Step B representatives, as arbitration advocates, and as letter carrier academy trainers. Opportunities presented themselves for members of Branch 132 to be the founders of the Dallas Accident Prevention Team (DAPT) in order to oversee the safety of letter carriers within the Dallas Installation. In our last steward training, seasoned stewards agreed to become mentors to our new stewards, which was also a part of my dream.

Guess what - I'm still dreaming! New and innovative ideas are on the way for the retirees through the leadership of our new Director of Retirees, Bobbie Taylor. Jerridean Sadberry has stepped up to making a difference with the MDA charity activities. Linda Boroughs through her insight brought forward creative ideas for vests and seat covers to declare to others how proud we are to be members of Branch 132. These are just a few of the plans in place - the opportunity is wide open for other ideas and suggestions to make Branch 132 one of the best labor organizations of all times!

Great things are happening for NALC as a whole. We are thankful that an arbitrator has been selected so that now we can move forward with our contract negotiations. House Resolution (HR) 2382 passed the House with bipartisan support. The passing repealed a mandate that was established in 2006 that forced the Postal Service to prefund retiree health benefits for decades into the future. The mandate was used to push privatization of the Postal Service and cutting services such as six-day delivery and door-to-door delivery. Now we have even more reason to be motivated.

Let's shift our motivation by making a change. If you are not already attending the branch meetings, motivate yourself to get involved with your union. The branch meetings are held every first Monday of the month, unless the Monday falls on a holiday. Get to know your union brothers and sisters. Be a part of the dream!

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### BRANCH 132 OFFICE

8451 Endicott  
Dallas, Texas 75227  
214-388-4349  
Fax 214-388-4149

HOURS – 7:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.  
MONDAY – FRIDAY

NALC Branch 132 Longview Office  
201 East Methvin Street, Suite 201  
Longview, Texas 75601  
903-753-1255  
Fax 903-757-6490

### OFFICERS

President Emeritus – William P. York

Kimetra Lewis, President  
214-779-4758

Sid Simmons, Executive Vice President  
214-564-7128

Robert Hinson, Vice President  
214-906-3201

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary  
214-697-8704

Steve Ellenberg, Treasurer  
Cell: 214-783-6212

Janine Singleton, Financial Secretary  
469-438-0101

Earl Hibbs, Health Benefits, OWCP  
903-456-9136

HOURS – 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
THURSDAYS

Mike Bell, Sergeant-at-Arms  
214-695-8157

Bobbie Taylor, Director, Retirees  
469-765-5259

Linda Boroughs, Editor  
214-929-0421

### TRUSTEES

Richard Inurrigaro 214-557-8193

Eugene Johnson 214-938-4278

Helen Toliver 214-429-5847

Thomas Vines 214-240-9821

Chris Velasquez 214-274-6984



Stewards meet 7:00 PM the first Thursday of each month in the Branch Office.

Executive Board meets 7:00 PM last Monday of each month.

AFL-CIO Council meets third Thursday of each month.

Branch meeting 7:30 PM first Monday of each month unless deferred by membership vote.

Opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers, and do not express the opinions of the editor or the Union. All articles for publication must be signed and received by the Editor no later than the 1st of each month. If you wish to run your personal or business ad, rates are available on request and must be received by the 10th of each month to be inserted in the next month's issue. The editor's email address is [LABORoughs@gmail.com](mailto:LABORoughs@gmail.com)

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Current Bylaw:

Article VII Section 12:

Stewards certified by the Branch shall be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at each regular branch meeting. Stewards and Alternates certified by the branch shall be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at stewards training meetings, payable no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

Proposed change to add the following paragraph to the aforementioned section:

Stewards and Alternates will not be compensated for any period of time they have been suspended of their duties, or when a Steward or Alternate has been in a non-duty status with the United States Postal Service for over 30 calendar days.

Signed by:

Kimetra Lewis

Sid Simmons

Robert Hinson

## LAST PUNCH BUNCH



**MARY N. JONES**  
**33 YEARS**  
**DALLAS - HIGHLAND HILLS**

Before she came to work for the Post Office in 1986, Mary was working as an underwriter for an insurance company, making \$4.50 an hour. A co-worker encouraged her to apply to the PO, so Mary signed up and took the test. She made a 95 on the test, and was hired on making \$9.45 an hour. After working at a desk, she was a little discouraged to be working outside in the ice and cold, but she was determined to make this her career. She didn't take off for her first three years, because she had heard they could fire her for any reason. She started as a PTF at Lakewood Station, and she worked on Swiss Avenue, where they still had the relay boxes instead of vehicles. When she did drive a vehicle, it was one of the rental vehicles, like the Chevrolet Novas, with the back seat removed. She advises the new carriers to listen to the senior carriers, as they are trying to help the new carriers thrive in their careers.

## LETTER CARRIER'S LAMENT

BY LINDA BOROUGHS

I know the smell must bother you,  
'Cause I've got dog poo on my shoe.  
Dog poo on my shoe - What can I do?

Every day I walk for miles,  
I just can't dodge all of the piles.  
Dog poo on my shoe - What can I do?

So won't you please get off my back,  
'Cause it's down deep, down in the cracks.  
Dog poo on my shoe - What can I do?

When I get home, I'll clean them well,  
But until then, my shoes will smell.  
Dog poo on my shoe - What can I do?

## DISCOUNT MAVERICKS TICKETS!

Mavs v. Rockets

Monday, March 23, 7:30 pm

Prices start at \$27!

After the game, all attendees are invited onto the court to attempt a free throw on the Mavs basket!

Go to [mavsgroup.com/ntxpdcfamily](http://mavsgroup.com/ntxpdcfamily) to get your tickets!

## STYLISH BRANCH 132 VESTS ARE BACK FOR A LIMITED TIME!

Your editor had a wonderful time in Paris surveying the upcoming summer fashions, and caught several of our Branch 132 members walking the runway while wearing the very trendy Branch 132 vests. Sources say that all of the most chic branch members will be wearing this navy blue accessory at the upcoming national convention in August.

I caught Rita Wilder and Kim Lewis rocking their vests on the runway, showing off the NALC emblem on the front of the vest, embroidered in gold thread. Rita is also smiling because she knows her vest has two practical pockets, perfect for holding her cellphone and pens. Michele Ferguson Hubbard showed off her personalized vest with flair - her vest features her name embroidered in the same gold thread as the emblem. Harolyn G. Ndubuokwu showed off her skill with a boa, Shawn Silas created drama with a top hat, and Mike Bell was cool and sophisticated in his vest. These three are showing off the back side of the vest, which features a colorful star and the name of the branch.

For a limited time, Branch 132 members can buy their own vest - just like the ones featured on the Paris runway! The base cost is \$37.00, with an additional \$2.00 for each size over XL. Sizes run from small to 5XL. You can personalize your vest like Michele did for only \$6.00 more. Payments must be made in cash, as credit cards and checks are so last year. You must order before May 8, 2020. Order your vest by seeing Linda Boroughs at a branch meeting, or call her at 214-929-0421. Act now - fashion is fickle, and you don't want to miss this offer!



### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

LocQuenetta McCoo and Robert Hinson were the only two branch members to attend every monthly meeting and every steward training in 2019. The branch would like to thank them for their dedication!

### TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$182,791.84
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	100,106.56
Stewards Fund	133,043.19
Convention Fund	133,000.00
CPA/Legal Fund	7,850.00
Building Fund	10,000.00
Education Fund	26,550.00
Money Market	{-210,336.63}
MDA Fund	1,848.25
CD 18 Month	104,408.38
CD 18 Month	101,113.14
CD 12 Month	101,044.11
CD 2.550%*	102,166.69*
CD 2.800%*	100,688.80*
Cash	7,695.77
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$801,888.54</b>

\* Market Value (\$)

### FOOD DRIVE - MAY 9

The annual NALC Letter Carriers Food Drive is coming up on May 9! See your steward now to find out how you can help!



# ***THE POSTAL STRIKE OF 1970: ONE LETTER CARRIER'S STORY***

**BY LINDA BOROUGHS**

Recently, I had the chance to speak with retired letter carrier Ray Courtney, who was hired on in 1963 in Iowa. He transferred to Dallas in 1980, and just attained 60 years of membership in the NALC. He received his NALC gold card at a recent branch meeting.

Ray worked before the postal strike of 1970, the same strike that was instrumental in obtaining the rights that we take for granted today. Times were tough for letter carriers back then. The job was harder, but the pay and benefits were much worse. The subs didn't have it as bad as the regulars. The subs worked 60-70 hours a week, so they got a lot of overtime, and could live on their wages.

But once carriers went regular, they were held to 40 hours a week. The carriers were making so little that regular carriers qualified for food stamps. All of the carriers had second jobs, or their wives also had jobs, in order to make ends meet. (Ray didn't know any female letter carriers at that time, although there were some in other offices.)

The carriers were paid this poorly even though the job was difficult. Ray had to carry in Iowa weather that was 20 degrees below zero, where the wind chill was eighty degrees below zero, and no skin could be exposed or it would succumb to frostbite immediately.

The dismal working conditions caused carriers to go on strike. The strike started on the East Coast and spread across the nation. Ray's branch in Iowa voted to strike, but by the time they voted, the East Coast had already been on strike for a week. Because the East Coast hadn't been processing mail, Iowa wasn't getting much mail, so the decision to strike was an easy one, as they weren't working much anyway. The strike ended shortly after Ray's branch voted to strike, so the carriers in Iowa never actually went on strike.

At that time, they had relay boxes in Iowa. Any old-timer can tell you young 'uns that relay boxes were used instead of a vehicle. The carriers would pull down their routes into bags, and another carrier would take the bags out and leave them in locked relay boxes. The carriers would walk all day, reloading their pouches as they reached the relay boxes. The mail volume decreased so much from the strike that carriers were able to fit their entire route into their pouches, so the relay boxes weren't even used due to the low volume.

The postal strike paralyzed the nation, and convinced President Nixon that things needed to change. President Nixon and Congress agreed to pay carriers a living wage, and agreed to many other benefits that we enjoy today, such as vacation time, sick leave, and the right to union representation. Those rights continue today, and we still have to fight to keep them, by talking to our representatives in Congress and electing representatives who are friendly to labor.

But a major reason that we enjoy the good benefits and job that we have today is due to people like Ray, who persevered at the low wages before the strike because they loved the job, but also stood up for themselves and others when the time came to take a stand. We all stand on their shoulders, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

## ***WHY DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE LETTER CARRIER POLITICAL FUND?***

"I contribute to promote policies that would be beneficial to the letter carrier craft." - Lenora Salinas, Dallas, Beverly Hills Post Office

Call Ron Stover at 469-438-7965 to set up your contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund.



The December Retiree Luncheon saw more than 40 retirees and guests attending. Prizes were awarded, food was eaten, and people were socialized. The next retiree luncheon is on Thursday, March 19. Call the Branch 132 Director of Retirees, Bobbie Taylor, at 469-765-5259 for more information.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Georgina Mendoza	Dajaelle Perry	Deantre Williams
Tanya Gardner	Brillanta Lawson	Sonia Williams
Vania Garcia	Justice Abrams	Ziente Ridge
Kevin McCleaven	Christopher Mosley	Patrisia Williams
Krystal Henderson	Benjamin Adjei	Precious Carson
Matthew Williams	Antonio Correa	Ashawnti Black
Joel Nwoke	Aubre Jeter	Jorge Torres
Yanira Gonzalez	Porshia Williams	Denisse Vasquea
Javon Young	Lana Pate	Seoyoung Bae

## ACTIVE MEMBERS REPORT

	Active	Paying	Gross	Net
PP-01	1913	1767	53109	34201
PP-02	1898	1769	53168	34415



**JANINE SINGLETON**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

### NOVEMBER 2019

National Dues	\$69,428.75
OWCP Dues	709.60
Misc.	5,340.00
Retiree Dues	24.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.14
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$75,504.49</b>

### DECEMBER 2019

National Dues	\$68,945.40
OWCP Dues	239.68
Misc.	800.32
Retiree Dues	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.96
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$69,987.36</b>

### JANUARY 2020

National Dues	\$102,889.55
OWCP Dues	612.96
Misc.	150.00
Retiree Dues	36.00
MBA Rebate	68.75
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.41
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$103,758.67</b>

## ROUTE CHECKS ARE COMING!

The following units are scheduled for route inspections during the weeks indicated:

Longview Northwest	75605/04	March 7, 2020
Longview	75601/02	March 14, 2020
Ennis	75119	March 28, 2020
Dallas Northwest	75209/20	April 11, 2020
Dallas Prestonwood	75248/52	April 18, 2020
Dallas R. E. Price	75230/51	April 25, 2020
Dallas Oak Lawn	75219	May 2, 2020
Dallas Farmers Branch	75234	May 9, 2020

Want to make sure you get full credit for the work on your route? The branch will be holding route check inspection schools, led by Steve Ellenberg. The classes are two hours long, from 10 am - noon, and will be held at the union hall. You will learn everything there is to know about completing a good route inspection from the branch's expert on route inspections. The dates for the route inspection schools are:

March 8

April 5

Everyone is welcome to attend the schools, and you can attend whichever one works for your schedule. Getting a good route inspection means that your route will be credited with the time you need to get the work done. Learn how to get a good route inspection, which can help create routes and jobs!

## SICK & WELFARE REPORT

**Station "A"** – Wesley Turner's father passed away.

**Carrollton (MPO)** – Tracey Quinn; Stacia Woodberry.

**Carrollton (Rosemeade)** – Andy Alvarado's niece passed away; Rhonda Clark's brother passed away; Christobel LeBlanc had a stroke and is recovering.

**The Colony** – Gwendolyn McClendon.

**Duncanville** – Mark Moore retired.

**Grand Prairie (MPO)** – Andrew Bargley; Charles Shepherd.

**Longview (Northwest)** – Scott Eades.

**Parkdale** – Tamecia Ford; Tyra Parker.

**Pleasant Grove** – Payton Greer passed away.

**Seagoville** – Rickie Chandler had surgery; Brenda Hammond.

**Retirees** – Armando & Margaret Castilleja's son had a leg amputated.

Steve Ellenberg, Danny Hilliard and Rita Wilder were inducted in Branch 132's Ring of Honor on February 3, 2020.

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 132 SCHOLARSHIP

1. Lone Star Branch 132 of the National Association of Letter Carriers will award up to five \$1,000 Scholarships a year to applicants who are selected by the Scholarship Committee. The winners must meet all eligibility requirements as determined by the Branch and described below.

2. The Scholarship Committee will be formed of four volunteers selected from Branch 132 and Auxiliary 28, and a fifth member will be selected from the local Educational Community. These five volunteers will be appointed each year by the Branch President.

### 3. Eligibility Requirements:

A. Applicant must be a high school senior at the time of application.

B. Applicant must be accepted to an accredited college or university and be willing to provide documentation of acceptance.

C. Applicant must submit copy of high school transcript and SAT or ACT test scores at the time of application. Additional personal information, such as community activities, teacher recommendations, or special achievements, is welcome, but not required.

D. Applicant must be a son or daughter or grandson or granddaughter of an active, retired or deceased City Letter Carrier who is a member of NALC Branch 132. Branch member must be a member in good standing for at least one year. Children of deceased members are eligible provided the widow/widower had not remarried. Legally adopted or verifiable dependents (income tax records, divorce records, etc.) are also eligible.

E. Relatives of members of the Scholarship Committee are ineligible to receive a Branch 132 Scholarship during the year that the family member serves on the Committee.

F. Applicant must enroll as a full-time student at an accredited college or university.

G. Scholarships are non-renewable and will only be given for the first year of enrollment.

H. If unusual conditions require a postponement of schooling, the recipient must state reason(s) in writing to the Scholarship Committee and request that the Scholarship be held in abeyance. Request(s) will be received by the Committee and a decision

rendered.

4. Checks for the NALC Branch 132 Scholarship will be written to the college/university and will be applied toward tuition, fees, books, or room and board.

5. If the NALC Branch Member is suspended

by the Union, acted as a 204B within the previous 24 months, or enters supervision, the Scholarship will be cancelled.

6. Applications will be printed in the Branch Newsletter and will also be available through the Branch office. Winners **will be** announced in July.

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## Scholarship Notes

The following information is presented in response to several requests from NALC Branch 132 members. You should contact the following addresses for eligibility information and applications:

### Check out these websites:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

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### Branch 132 Scholarship Application Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship To Member \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***Applications Must Be Received by MAY 31, 2020***

Please mail completed application form, high school transcript, and test scores to:

**Scholarship Committee, Branch 132  
8451 Endicott  
Dallas, Texas 75227**

## **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Sid Simmons**

Over the years, this branch has initiated several aggressive actions against the United States Postal Service, especially when we felt it was abusing letter carriers. I can think of at least two occasions when we organized "Informational Pickets" in front of the Dallas Main Post Office on Sylvan Avenue. This local branch was able to bring together at least one hundred letter carriers to inform the public about poor working conditions in stations we represented.

Twenty years ago, NALC Lone Star Branch 132 went beyond demonstrations and took our concerns directly to the media. For those of you who do not remember, or were not letter carriers at the time – here is what we did.

In May of 2000, the branch paid \$5,000.00 for an ad to be published in the Sunday Edition of the Dallas Morning News. The following is what the branch authorized me to write and submit to the newspaper.

**"TO OUR VALUED POSTAL CUSTOMERS"**

"Have you noticed that your mail is being delivered much later in the day, and sometimes even at night? Have you also noticed longer lines at the Post Office? Have you ever wondered why this is happening? The men and women who deliver your mail want to answer those questions.

Since the beginning of last year, the postal managers of the Dallas District have reduced our workforce by approximately 200 employees. This is despite the fact that the metropolitan area is one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

The Dallas District maintains that their decision to reduce our workforce has not affected the quality of customer service we provide to you. We believe they are wrong. What do you think? Please let the Postal Service know how you feel. After all, your opinion is the only one that counts."

As you can see, not much has changed.

### **ARE YOU RETIRED? DID YOU GET A RETIREE PIN?**

If you have retired, but did not get a retiree pin, call the union hall! We will make sure you are presented with a retiree pin, because we want to be sure all of our retirees are properly honored.

## **RETIREES & OFFICERS BANQUET**

**Saturday, May 23, 2020**

### **SKYLINE RANCH**

**1801 E. Wheatland Road, Dallas, TX 75241**

**Reception – 6:00 PM      Food Served – 6:30 PM**

**There will be no charge or deposit required for attendee and one guest.**

Additional tickets will be \$10.00 each.

**Please mail or deliver this form to the union hall.**

**(8451 Endicott Lane Dallas, TX 75227)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Member's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number in Party

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MAY 20TH**

**LONE STAR BRANCH 132, NALC**  
**8451 Endicott**  
**Dallas, Texas 75227**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**PERMIT No. 4377**  
**Dallas, Texas**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Printed on recycled paper*

## **CALENDAR**

- March 2 - 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting
- March 3 - VOTE! - Primary elections
- March 5 - 7:00 pm - Steward training
- March 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins - Set your clocks ahead one hour
- March 8 - 10:00 am - noon - Route Check School - Union Hall - Don't be late!
- March 19 - Retiree Luncheon
- March 30 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)
- April 2 - 7:00 pm - Steward training
- April 5 - 10:00 am - noon - Route Check School - Union Hall
- April 6 - 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting
- April 12-18 - National Dog Bite Prevention Week
- April 2 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)
- April 2 - NALC Letter Carriers Food Drive
- May 23 - Retiree and Officer Banquet - See registration form for details