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 WASHINGTON, DC

# METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

LINDA BOROUGHS, EDITOR

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



### DO WE DESERVE A STIMULUS PACKAGE?

As I write this, our nation is in the middle of a global pandemic caused by the Coronavirus. People are dying, businesses are closing, jobs are being lost, and the world as we once knew it is no longer the same. With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, there has been a call for social distancing and stay-at-home orders. The pandemic has had a domino effect on the world - crippling the economy and creating much pressure on

the essential workers, which includes you!

In times like these, it's hard not to worry. Covid-19 has had its effect on the Postal Service and its employees. As postal employees, we are viewed as "Essential Workers". For this reason, it is necessary for all postal employees to report for duty to continue providing service to the public. NALC and the Postal Service at the national level are working together diligently to come up with new work standards to ensure the protection and safety of letter carriers during this pandemic. The two parties have entered into agreements that provide emergency sick leave and FMLA leave expansion to those employees who have been affected by the virus, who are caring for others affected by the virus, and who have to care for children who cannot go to school due to school closures.

Just as COVID-19 has affected the economic welfare of small and large businesses, it is also affecting the stability of the Postal Service. With the mail volume being down, revenue is down. The Postal Service stands to lose approximately \$13 billion due to

COVID-19, which means it will run out of money at the end of its fiscal year, September 30, 2020. The Postal Service has asked for \$50 billion and a \$25 billion loan to sustain itself. The president of the United States of America says he will veto any stimulus package that includes the Postal Service. Go figure! By the time this newsletter reaches your homes, the decision to include the Postal Service in a stimulus package will have been determined. Whatever the outcome, the Postal Service will never be the same. COVID-19 will leave its impact.

However, instead of concentrating on the doom and gloom, let's focus on the good. As "essential workers" you should take pride in knowing that you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. As you deliver your mail, do so with honor. If no one else salutes you or gives you credit for the work you do, let me be the one to say, "Job well done!"

Every essential worker has an important role in keeping the world functioning. Your role should not be minimized. Letter carriers deliver crucial medications to their customers. You deliver social security checks to the elder and disabled. You are the leaders in deliveries of online purchases. Your essential service and dedication are necessary to ensure compliance with the shelter in-place and social distancing orders for the communities you serve. Letter carriers are on the front-line the same as caregivers, law enforcers, grocers, etc. You are the world's connection to daily living. With your commitment comes risk. That is why you are deserving of hazard pay and why the Postal Service should be included in the stimulus package.

A special debt of gratitude goes out to each of you. As you go about performing your duties, do so cautiously and safely. Remember you are keeping the country operational during these trying times. Your work and your significance will be rewarded. It is my prayer that the Lord goes before each of you so that no harm can come upon you.

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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

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Kimetra Lewis, President  
214-779-4758

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214-564-7128

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Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary  
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469-438-0101

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

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THURSDAYS

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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)

## LAST PUNCH BUNCH



**CHRIS GARTMAN**  
**36 YEARS**  
**DALLAS - BEVERLY HILLS**

Chris started in 1983 at Royal Lane Post Office in Dallas, which is now named after Robert E. Price. Back in the day, he drove a rented Chevette on his route, while other carriers drove jeeps and ice cream trucks (those were delivery trucks shaped like ice cream trucks). The carriers had to sort their flats into a separate flat case, and then sequence them into their own bundle. He has seen the Post Office add knit shirts and Shirt-Jacs to the carrier uniforms. Once the coronavirus dies down, he plans to work part-time in a body shop painting cars and to continue working in the ministry with the Jehovah's Witnesses. He reminds the new carriers that developing a good working relationship with your fellow carriers will help them cope with the many changes at the post office.



**PATRICIA ROBLEDO**  
**33 YEARS**  
**DALLAS - JOE POOL**

Patricia wanted to quit during her first week at the post office, but a supervisor talked her out of it. He told her she was doing a good job, and then instructed her to go start casing. Thirty-three years later, she has retired and now spends her time with family, friends, Jesus, and staying up late watching movies. She has worked since she was 13 years old, including working as a secretary at the Army/Air Force Exchange. For the new carriers, she passes on a message that got her through her career: You don't work for the Post Office - you work for Jesus.



**DAVID JERMAMY**  
**14 YEARS**  
**DALLAS - MEDRANO**

David combined his time with the Postal Service with his time in the Navy for his retirement. In the Navy, he saw Australia, Japan, Portugal, Spain, and many other places. Now that he is retired, he plans to spend some time fishing, hunting, and going to church. He asks everyone to call him if you need help, because he loves letter carriers! His advice to the new carriers is to stay cool, and use the grievance and EEO processes to bring you justice. He reminds everyone that the union is here to help you, and that the Post Office belongs to us!



**DAVID WOMACK**  
**28 YEARS**  
**DALLAS - NORTHWEST**

David started in 1992, and has only worked in two stations in Dallas: Northwest and Northaven. He also served with the Air Force for four years, stationed at Elgin Air Force Base in Louisiana. During his career, he was bitten twice by dogs, but the worst part for him was the extreme weather - the heat, the cold, and the rain. Now that he is retired, he plans to spend some time with his wife and grandkids and play a little golf occasionally. He always liked his co-workers and his customers, and he knows that the CCAs have it the hardest. He reminds the new carriers to treat people fairly, both co-workers and supervisors.

# A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

STEVE ELLENBERG

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

The above quote was written by Emma Lazarus and is proudly mounted on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty for all those entering this country to see. For more than 100 years, those words have inspired immigration to America with the hope for a better life that is free of persecution. A nation where citizens can explore their full potential and where creativity can flourish and grow.

It is that gesture of simple humanity that has made us the greatest and most powerful nation on God’s green earth. We are a “melting pot” of cultures, ethnicities, and races. We are people of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Native American descent. We are people of color. We are black, white, brown, yellow, and red. We are Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, and the non-religious. We are the best of all people and countries.

My people came to this country at the beginning of the twentieth century. They fled religious persecution just before the rise of Fascism which gave birth to the horrors of the Holocaust. They came through New York Harbor, past the Statue of Liberty, and landed at Ellis Island. They had nothing. They were the tired and poor. They were the homeless - the huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Immigration is an emotional issue in today’s America. I would like to remind my fellow Americans, and especially my fellow Texans, that it wasn’t too long ago that thousands of Texas cowboys would head south across the Rio Grande to search for work on Mexican ranches and haciendas.

Now it is our turn to lift the lamp beside the golden door.

## RETIREES BANQUET RESCHEDULED

The retirement banquet has been rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic.  
The new date is October 24. Don’t miss it!

### TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$204,293.18
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	100,139.48
Stewards Fund	132,130.90
Convention Fund	133,000.00
CPA/Legal Fund	7,850.00
Building Fund	10,000.00
Education Fund	16,982.02
Money Market	(-199,823.44)
MDA Fund	1,848.71
CD 18 Month	104,859.01
CD 18 Month	101,491.13
CD 12 Month	101,398.51
CD 2.800%*	100,746.40*
INS. CASH	110,599.36
TOTAL \$	\$825,400.78

\* Market Value (\$)

### FOOD DRIVE POSTPONED

The annual food drive has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. NALC and its national partners are committed to rescheduling the food drive later in 2020. Stay tuned for information about a new date.



## **TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS - DISTRICT 2 REPORT**



As I prepare to write this article, the nation is in a pandemic. The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed the livelihood of not only the members of NALC but of the world as a whole. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have listed a number of safety recommendations. We must follow all of the guidelines set forth by our political officials and the CDC. For farther information on COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Letter carriers are essential workers so we must continue to work, but not exactly as we were before COVID-19. I ask that you follow the safety guidelines of the CDC as you go about your daily routine. We must stay positive and trust and believe that this, too, shall pass.

I cannot close without thanking the members of District 2 for attending the District 2 Board Meeting in February. This was the first district board meeting held at the NBA Spring School in conjunction with Districts 1 and 3. The training was focused on getting everyone registered to vote. Those members in attendance were reminded to continue to stay focused on the legislative issues that we are facing as letter carriers. Brother Homer Hernandez spoke on getting signatures for VOTE BY MAIL. Also at the meeting, the importance of the 2020 Census was discussed. By now everyone should have received your 2020 Census information. It is very important that everyone complete their 2020 Census survey promptly. When you complete the 2020 Census, you help to give the government an accurate population count, which is then used to allocate congressional seats. The data gathered will allow a fair allocation of resources.

With the pandemic we are facing now, VOTE BY MAIL could be a means to ensure that everyone will be able to vote safely. As your District 2 Board Member, I pray for the safety and well-being of every officer, every letter carrier, their families, and the nation.

**THINK SAFETY BE SAFE**

Rita Wilder

972-805-6798 - [ritawilder05@gmail.com](mailto:ritawilder05@gmail.com)

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

No, it isn't December. This is May, and for postal workers, May starts a run of holidays. Every month from May to February (except June) has a holiday in it. Here are some holiday rules to help you ensure that you are getting all of your holiday benefits.

There are ten holidays observed by the Postal Service: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. CCAs are only paid for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. PTFs do not receive holiday pay, but instead receive a higher hourly pay rate to compensate them for the lost holiday pay. For both CCAs and regulars, the carrier must be in a pay status either the last hour of the employee's scheduled workday prior to the holiday, or the first hour of the employee's scheduled workday after the holiday. LWOP does not count as being in a pay status, but annual leave and sick leave do.

What if you are a regular carrier and the holiday falls on your non-scheduled day? In that case, the holiday for that employee is moved to the first regular workday before the holiday, and that day becomes the carrier's new designated holiday. For instance, if Memorial Day, which is on a Monday, falls on your non-scheduled day, then the previous Saturday becomes your designated holiday. Sunday is skipped because it is not a workday for a regular carrier.

Management can require you to work on a holiday or designated holiday, but there are some restrictions. CCAs can be required to work on a holiday with no restrictions, other than the usual work-hour guarantee. For regulars, management must choose the carriers to bring in by using a "pecking order". This pecking order is specified in your city's local agreement. You should talk to your steward to find out what your city's pecking order specifies. Management must follow this pecking order when scheduling in carriers on a holiday, including designated holidays. If management does not follow this pecking order, carriers should follow instructions and file a grievance.

The Overtime Desired List does not affect who is scheduled to work on a holiday. Only the pecking order matters. But once the carriers are scheduled in, any overtime should be assigned according to the normal overtime rules. If management does not follow the overtime rules, carriers should follow instructions and file a grievance.

If a regular is scheduled in to work a holiday, that carrier is guaranteed eight hours of work or pay. The carrier is paid at the regular hourly rate. One exception is Christmas, when carriers who work on Christmas Day are paid at the time-and-a-half rate.

Holiday rules can be complicated, so see your steward if you have any questions. The union has fought hard for you to get these holiday benefits, so make the most of them, and always remember to file a grievance if management does not follow the rules.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

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



**JANINE SINGLETON**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2020

National Dues	\$69,239.45
OWCP Dues	230.60
Misc.	539.72
Retiree Dues	24.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.44
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$70,035.21</b>

## SICK & WELFARE

### REPORT

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

**The Colony** – Gwendolyn McClendon.

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

**Parkdale** – Locki McCoo; Leatrice Miles; Tyra Parker.

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

**Retirees** – Donnie Winters passed away.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

### REPORT

	Active	Paying	Gross	Net
PP-01	1913	1767	53109	34201
PP-02	1898	1769	53168	34415
PP-03	1894	1773	53288	34572
PP-04	1892	1772	53374	34668
PP-05	1911	1762	52951	34068

## 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  
Contact Ron Stover at 469-438-7965 to start your contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund!

## GOING TO HAWAII?

Remember that you must attend six branch meetings before August to qualify as a paid delegate. Make sure you got them all!

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Sid Simmons*

As I write this article on the afternoon of April 8, 2020, 14,213 Americans have died from the coronavirus. It is obvious that at this moment in time, I have no idea when this nightmare will end, nor do I know how many more men, women, and children will ultimately succumb to this invisible killer. However, I do know that we, as a nation, would have been far worse off but for the countless men and women that courageously and unselfishly put themselves in harm's way to care for and serve their fellow citizens.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the doctors, nurses, and medical professionals that literally put their lives on the line every single day of this pandemic. Without their dedication and expertise, many more innocent human beings would have perished.

I also want to thank all the food industry employees that keep the grocery stores stocked and open, as well as the drive-through services that were crucial to our survival while we are (were) on lockdown. Not to mention, the thousands and thousands of truck drivers that kept this country's goods and services moving.

On a personal note, I want to thank the men and women that continue to process and deliver the mail every single day – especially letter carriers. During this horrific moment in time, everyone has realized how critically important letter carriers are to this nation. There has never been any doubt that letter carriers could handle the tremendous challenge of keeping this country's mail moving.

Please take every precaution to keep yourself as safe as possible. One day we will get past this, and when we do, history will record the contributions that letter carriers made to the survival of our nation.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

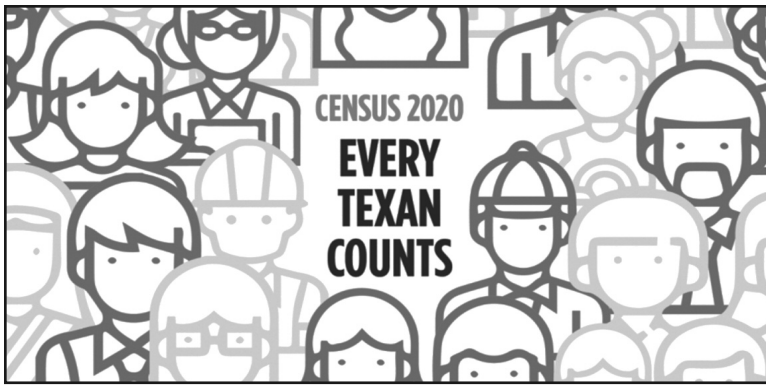
Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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**



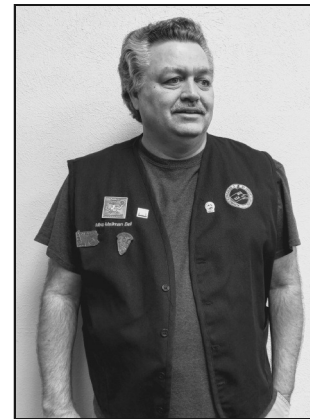
**IF YOU HAVEN'T  
COMPLETED YOUR CENSUS FORM,  
DO  
IT  
TODAY!**

## **CORONAVIRUS CAN'T STOP BRANCH 132 VESTS!**

In these trying times, I know that you are all wondering one thing: Are the Branch 132 vests still for sale? And the answer is yes! Orders are still being taken for the stylish yet practical vest which will be the signature apparel for Branch 132 members at the NALC convention in August.

As you can see from the accompanying photos, the Branch 132 vest makes every carrier look like a superstar! Harolyn G. Ndubuokwu accents her vest with a boa, for that extra *je ne sais quoi*, while showing off the NALC logo embroidered in glistening gold thread on the front of the vest. Mike Bell is demonstrating the personalization option, which allows a carrier to have their name added to the front of the vest, also embroidered in glistening gold thread. The practical pockets, big enough to hold your cellphone, are highlighted by Shawn Silas as she rocks a top hat. Meanwhile, Kim Lewis and Rita Wilder are showing off the back of the vest, where the Branch 132 logo pops in red, white, and blue against a navy blue background, while the lettering shines in gold thread.

For a limited time, Branch 132 members can buy their own vest - just like the ones featured by our models! 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 Mike and Shawn did for only \$6.00 more. Payments must be made in cash, Venmo, or Paypal. You must order before May 8, 2020. Order your vest by calling Linda Boroughs at 214-929-0421. Act now - fashion is fickle, and you don't want to miss this offer!



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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. Postage Paid**  
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**Dallas, Texas**

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## **CALENDAR**

Please remember that all events are subject to cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Check our Facebook page or the website at [nalclonestarbranch132.org](http://nalclonestarbranch132.org) for the latest information on cancellations.

- May 4 - 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting
- May 7 - 7:00 pm - Steward training
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 16 - Armed Forces Day
- May 18 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)
- May 25 - Memorial Day - Postal holiday
- June 1 - 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting
- June 4 - 7:00 pm - Steward training
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 18 - Retiree Luncheon
- June 20 - Summer begins - stay hydrated!
- June 21 - Father's Day
- June 29 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)