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METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

LINDA BOROUGHS, EDITOR

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



First and foremost, I would like to thank those members who have continued the work of the union by faithfully joining in on the Zoom conference calls. Your dedication and commitment are recognized. As we continue living in dire times, in a contagious environment with the infectious coronavirus lurking across the country, the world watched the most outlandish display of abuse of authority as Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin placed his knee on the neck of George Floyd for eight long minutes. Three of his colleagues assisted him in this brutal act which ultimately led to the senseless death of Mr. Floyd. Following his death was a series of protests; some peaceful; yet some were not, leaving the country in turmoil.

We pledge allegiance to a nation that promises liberty and justice for all. However, there are some who believe that liberty, justice, and equality should not be extended to all. This same type of hypocrisy is shown daily in post offices throughout the nation; even though Postal management and NALC signed an agreement, M-01242 (Joint Statement on Violence and Behavior in the Workplace), stating that all employees will be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

It has become commonplace for carriers to be bullied, threatened, intimidated, yelled at, cursed at, and insulted by postal management. Supervisors, managers, and postmasters believe that their title gives them the authority to treat their employees as they wish. If any carrier verbally states their discontent with management's behavior, they are placed off the clock in a non-

duty status without pay and subjected to discipline. In some offices, carriers call in for sick or emergency annual leave, then find out later that their absences were charged to leave without pay, forcing them to have to file a grievance to get paid. These are tactics used by management to control carriers by placing them in financial harm. This is called bullying!

Just to exert their authority, some members of management summon Postal police to the office even though the situation does not rise to a level in which the police are needed. In some offices where the management personnel dislike a certain carrier, they have gone as far as fabricating a situation to fire the carrier. This is an outright abuse of authority! I know you are aware of these things. My question now is what are we going to do about it?

We must first recognize the difference between a hostile work environment and management performing their duties. Management has a right to supervise carriers in the office and on the street. They have a right to question your performance as long as they do not bully, threaten, intimidate, yell, curse, or insult you. Branch 132 has been successful in getting grievance decisions that identify members of management who have created a hostile work environment for the carriers working in their offices. So, if you are working in a hostile environment, gather statements with specific dates and times of incidents from all employees who have been victims of abuse and file your grievances.

On another note, NALC announced a settlement, M-01923, regarding the Consolidated Casing Test. Management will select 31 of the 62 test sites to return to their original route structure by July 31, 2020. The remaining test sites will continue through November 27, 2020. There will be no further expansion of the test. When the test sites are returned to their original structure, carriers will be given the opportunity to return to their pre-test assignments and schedules. However, any new assignments that exceed the number of assignments currently existing under Consolidated Casing will remain vacant until the routes are evaluated and adjusted beginning January 2021.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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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



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(President's Desk - cont. from pg. 1)

Gratitude and respect goes out to the carriers at the Beverly Hills Station in Dallas for their perseverance during the many hard days they faced while the test was being conducted. A great big letter carrier cheer goes out to our national officers and their designees for the efforts they put forth in stopping the Postal Service's demolition of the way letter carriers deliver the mail. Until we meet again, be careful and remain safe.

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE POSTAL SERVICE



While carriers report to supervisors on the workroom floor, the ultimate boss at the Postal Service is Congress. Our senators and representatives pass legislation that governs the Postal Service and how it is run. This legislation can cover things like union representation, pre-funding of retirees' health care, and six-day delivery. Right now, there is important legislation being considered by Congress which could provide funding for the Postal Service and hazard pay for carriers.

The NALC website has activated a program which makes it easier than ever for you to contact your congressional representatives and encourage them to pass legislation that will help the Postal Service. By using this program, you can easily and quickly tell them how you feel about pending legislation that affects the Postal Service. Here is how to use it:

- Go to NALC.com. Look for the large banner that says "ACTION NEEDED" and click on it.
- On the NALC app, go to "Gov't Affairs", and then scroll down to "Take Action!". Click on "Read More". You can then click again on "Read More".
- You will be taken to a screen that summarizes the legislation that you will be contacting your representatives about. Read the summary, and then click on "Take Action".
- The first time you do this, you will have to fill in some basic information. On subsequent logins, you will be remembered and can skip this step.
- On the next page, your representatives will be listed, along with information about your communication. While you can personalize this, the quickest way is to choose to email a form letter, which is already selected and already written by the NALC, then click "Go!".
- And now you have sent an email to all of your congressional representatives letting them know how you feel about postal issues. The process is quick and easy, and can and should be done multiple times.

For family and friends, direct them to heroesdelivering.com, where they can also easily send emails to their congressional representatives.

Congress works for us, and they need to hear from us what we want them to do. The NALC has made it easy for us to do that with just a few clicks. Spread the word to your co-workers so that we can all let Congress know how they can help us!

Zoom!

The branch has been conducting some steward training via video teleconferencing since meetings at the union hall have been suspended. If you have not been sent an invitation to join the conferences, contact a branch officer and ask to be included. Steward training and branch meetings will resume at the union hall as soon as it is safe to do so.

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



KEN WARDRUM
42 YEARS
DALLAS - ROBERT E. PRICE

Ken has worked the last 35 years at Robert E. Price Station. He started with the Post Office as a mail handler with hair that was three feet long, then transferred to carrying as a PTF. After only three years as a carrier, he became a steward, and has served the union as steward, branch vice president, trustee, and editor. His wife, Del Wardrum, worked as a carrier at Richland Station. He plans to retire to the country with his wife and take care of his dogs, cats, cows, chickens and bees. (He is pictured in his beekeeper suit.)

He recommends that new carriers find a knowledgeable mentor in their office.



PAM HUGHES
24 YEARS
SULPHUR SPRINGS

Pam started in 1996 at the Greenville Processing Center as a clerk, transferred to Mount Pleasant, and then transferred to Sulphur Springs, where she became a city carrier in 2002. Pam plans to enjoy her retirement by camping, fishing, traveling and spending time with her grandkids.

She advises the new carriers to buy good shoes, take care of your body, hang in there, and never give up!



MARK MOORE
22 YEARS • DUNCANVILLE

Before starting with the Post Office, Mark served nine years in the Army, where he was a drill sergeant. He then became a parcel post distribution clerk in Dallas, and after four years, he transferred to Duncanville to carry mail so he could be outside. He has served as safety captain, steward, and food drive coordinator. During his retirement, he plans to continue coaching Little League and working as an umpire and a basketball referee.

He reminds the new carriers that anyone can see you on the street, so be careful and follow all the rules all the time.



TAD HEMBREE
32 YEARS • DALLAS - OAK LAWN

Tad began carrying mail in 1988 as a PTF. He is glad he was able to start as a PTF, and sympathizes with the new carriers who cannot start as PTFs. During his career, he carried at Richland, Pleasant Grove, Casa View (now Medrano), Vickery, Brookhollow, Highland Hills, and University, before coming to Oak Lawn to finish his career. Now he is moving to Tennessee, where he is building a new house, and will then travel the U.S. visiting all the major league baseball parks.

He advises the new carriers to make service your first priority, and treat the mail as if it were your own.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
MARCH 2020

National Dues	\$68,545.07
OWCP Dues	0.00
Misc.	816.31
Retiree Dues	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.67
TOTAL \$	\$69,363.05

APRIL 2020

National Dues	\$68,999.01
OWCP Dues	979.96
Misc.	197.74
Money Market	110,599.19
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.02
TOTAL \$	\$180,777.92

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Brook Hollow – Edna Middleton’s mother passed away.

Carrollton (MPO) – Amy Espinoza; Tracey Quinn.

Collections – Letrice Connelly; Lyndon Houston’s mother passed away; Beverly Burton-Lee; Brandon Davis’ father passed away; Sharecess Oliver’s grandmother passed away.

The Colony – Gwendolyn McClendon.

Downtown – Robert Mathis.

Ennis – Anna Gunn had surgery.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Northwest – David Womack retired in December and his wife had a stroke.

Oak Lawn – Tad Hembree retired with 30 years; Twasky Smith’s grandmother passed away

Prestonwood – Lindsay Birmingham’s husband passed away.

Robert E. Price – Al Brooks.

Seagoville – Rickie Chandler; Brenda Hammond retired with over 33 years; Stacey Payne.

Retirees – Joel & Minnie Requenez’s son had a stroke; John Tennison passed away.



ICE, ICE, BABY!

Is the Postal Service required to provide ice to letter carriers? Well, it’s complicated. The short answer is yes, but the situation is different for every installation, and sometimes varies from station to station.

If your station is not providing ice for the carriers, talk to your steward or call the union hall to get more information.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Sid Simmons

As I write this article, it is June 4, 2020, and it is unbelievably tragic what is going on right now in this country. We have a pandemic that has killed well over 105,000 Americans. This is the largest loss of life in one continuous event in over 75 years in this country. Some of us actually know someone who has died from the coronavirus. Personally, my niece’s father-in-law died of the virus after returning from a cruise to Hawaii in early March. It was devastating to her family, especially her son, who lost his grandfather even as he was training to be an officer in the Navy. This young man has now graduated from the academy, and sadly has one less family member to share his tremendous achievement with.

Also on this day, we continue to struggle with the senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We all hope that the peaceful demonstrations will eventually bring about positive change. We also hope the disrupters who are looting and damaging our inner cities will be identified and held accountable to the full extent of the law.

Once again, I want to thank the essential workers who are making our lives as comfortable as can be expected during this historical period in our collective lives. Especially, I want to thank the men and women who deliver the mail. It is my hope that Congress will recognize your contributions and reward letter carriers with much-deserved hazard pay. I also hope that Congress does the right thing and allocates funds to continue the viability of the United States Postal Service.

We can all do our part to help save our jobs by contacting our members of congress and urging them to support legislation that would put the postal service on solid footing for years to come. It really is a small sacrifice from each of us, and it is easy to do on the NALC website. There is an article in this newsletter that will show you exactly how to do it. Think about it, and then follow through with action.

WHEN WILL BRANCH MEETINGS RESUME?

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the branch office has been closed for all branch and stewards meetings since April 2020. The branch is following all advisories from the CDC and from governmental authorities, and when those agencies deem it safe to do so, the branch will resume branch meetings and steward training. The following changes will be made when the meetings do resume:

- Members must practice social distancing at all times.
- Masks will be provided and must be worn in the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use in all areas.
- Tables and chairs must not be moved.

The branch officers look forward to seeing you again. Please watch our website at nalclonestarbranch132.org or our Facebook group (NALC Branch 132 Connection) for the latest news on when meetings will resume.

Helpful Tips For Working In The Heat

Proper hydration is the first step to prevent heat-related illness

DO

- * Start work well hydrated
- * Drink plenty of water throughout the day
- * Consider sports drinks for electrolyte replacement when sweating a lot

AVOID

- * Drinking soda and other sugary drinks
- * Drinking lots of coffee and tea
- * Drinking alcohol
- * Waiting for thirst before drinking water

TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$241,090.87
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	210,785.95
Stewards Fund	130,958.78
Convention Fund	0.00
CPA/Legal Fund	6,650.00
Building Fund	6,750.00
Education Fund	16,982.02
Money Market	49,445.15
MDA Fund	1,849.02
CD 18 Month	105,319.14
CD 18 Month	101,876.88
CD 12 Month	101,760.10
CD 2.800%*	100,667.20*
INS. CASH	238.01
CASH	230.14
TOTAL \$	\$863,842.31

* Market Value (\$)

BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Antonio Jones	Lequetha Lee	Ashlynn Lewis
Juan Rodriguez	Heaven Cambell	Stevie Martin
JaDadvis Wilson	Jesse Chrisian Wood	Colin Pool
Garry Lamar Lacking Quinn	Kyle Kelly	Ericka Williams
JaLisa Johnson	Mequanint Kiflu	Rodney Agee
Akevia Jones	Jimmy Quach	Stanley Chinaka
Davion Warfield	Bavsoom Avmanious	Keondvae Baccus
Jimoh Mojeed	Titus King	Carlos Martinez
Demario Broadnux	Ivan Angeles	Lance Lankford
Charlise Billingsley	George Washington	Orlando Licon
Daniel Herrera	Ala'Aisha Moore	Albert Weerasinghe
Darvis Holt	Brittany Esquivias	Samuel Zaki
Veronica Clark	Danny Daniels	Christopher Anderson
Brittney Davis	Odalis Ortiz-Bosch	Duane Banks
Madonna Haung	Majood Tabatebaepour	Zackery Bolton
Adrianna Chambers	Juastin Brew	Junyoung Huv
Misheil Gayed	Chatara Hart	Edwin Barez
Romanfidel Paez	Kaneisha Flourney	Kevin Davis
Robert Reese	Pranavu George	Shjuana Williams
Jessica Solis Ramirez	Eltonio Becton	Eva Cooper
Yahanes Waseyehun	Ahmod Williams	Marina Nolley
Yvette Hernandez	Jose Figueroa	Willie Arkansas
Tarik Crear	Justice Frye	Alexander Miles
Laketta Hubbard	Alexis Taylor Smith	Jimmy Marshall

ALOHA TO HAWAII

The NALC convention in Hawaii in August has been CANCELLED due to the coronavirus pandemic. The next National Convention is in 2022 in Chicago.



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Check out Vote411.org - a website sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. From this website, you can get information about upcoming elections and verify your voter registration. Be aware - if you have moved recently, your voter registration may have been deactivated, and this website will help you verify that your registration is active. We all want to vote in November, so check now to be sure you will be ready then!

STAY CONNECTED WITH BRANCH 132

Did you know that Branch 132 has a website? Check it out at nalclonestarbranch132.org! You'll find the latest news there, along with pictures of members and other information. The branch is also active on Facebook. We have a group for members called NALC Branch 132 Connection, and a group exclusively for stewards called Branch 132 Steward's Corner. Last-minute schedule changes and other updates are posted on Facebook in the NALC Branch 132 Connection group. And remember to send your pictures to the editor or a branch officer. If it doesn't fit in the newsletter, we can post it on the website.

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CALENDAR

Please remember that all events are subject to cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic or other events. You can check our Facebook page or the website at nalclonestarbranch132.org for the latest information on cancellations.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| July 2 - | 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting |
| July 4 - | Independence Day - Postal Holiday |
| July 6 - | 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting |
| July 27 - | Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.) |
| August 3 - | 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting |
| August 6 - | 7:00 pm - Steward training |
| August 31 - | Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.) |
| September 7 - | Labor Day - Postal Holiday |
| September 22 - | Autumn Begins |
| October 24 - | Retiree Banquet |