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 41
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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



The saga continues! With the Postal Service conceding that the Consolidated Casing Initiative was a disaster, here we go again with the Expedited Street/Afternoon Sortation (ESAS) Test.

Selected as test sites for the City of Dallas are Caesar Clark, Parkdale, and Pleasant Grove Stations, along with the associate offices of Carrollton MPO, Longview Northwest, and Gainesville. It was originally stated that carriers would case preferential flats and pull down the morning

of delivery; however, it appears that management throughout the district has implemented a variety of versions of the test, termed as "Grab & Go". It was stated that this test would last 30 days with there being a possibility of extending for an additional 30 days.

Please note that this is a unilateral test. NALC did NOT have any input in the decision to conduct the test or any input in the way it is being conducted. NALC is of the position that the following office functions should still be performed while on Office Time.

- Stand up talk/Scanner – Minimum office time 9 minutes daily
- Withdraw parcels – Minimum office time 5 minutes daily
- Vehicle Inspection – Minimum office time 3 minutes daily
- Accountable Mail – Minimum office time 6 minutes daily
- Personal Time – 5 minutes daily
- Break – 10 minutes in the AM is optional; both can be taken on street time

It has been reported that some offices are clocking straight to

street time and performing all duties on street time with no office time being recorded. Please let us know if this is happening in any of your offices.

With this type of test comes delayed mail. If management has implemented such an initiative in your office and mail is getting delayed/curtailed, please contact the union hall to let us know the days the mail was delayed/curtailed, how much mail was delayed/curtailed, and the reason for the delay. We all know that this is an injustice to our customers. We need full cooperation in collecting this data so that it can be reported to our national officers.

NALC was also informed at the national level of the Postal Service's intent to conduct a study of city carriers' office activities in the AM and PM to collect data to use for the establishment of new work methods and standards. The study will be conducted by a third-party contractor hired by the Postal Service. Only thirty-six (36) offices throughout the nation were selected for this one-week test which began on August 10, 2020. Richland Station in Dallas was selected as one of the thirty-six test sites. It is important during this observation that carriers at Richland conduct all the office duties of a city carrier. Failure to provide adequate data could easily affect the entire nation. We are depending on your complete compliance.

On a final note, COVID-19 is still looming. The district total of confirmed cases as of today is 179. The numbers are increasing daily. Due to the nature of the work performed by letter carriers, you are essential to the communities you serve. It is of the utmost importance that you place your safety and the safety of others first by wearing your protective equipment. As a branch, we are continuing to follow the guidelines of CDC; therefore, we are conducting our monthly branch and steward meetings via ZOOM. If you would like to be a part of the meeting, please contact the union hall with your name and email address so that we can gladly include you in the meetings. Please see the calendar on the back page for the days and times of the meetings. Until we see one another again, take care and stay safe!

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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

CALENDAR

Please remember that all events are subject to cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic or other events. Meetings and steward trainings will most likely be done by ZOOM video teleconferencing for the foreseeable future. Check our Facebook page or the website at

nalclonestarbranch132.org

for the latest information on cancellations.

September 3 - 7:00 pm - Steward training.

September 7 - Labor Day - Postal holiday.

September 14 - 7:30 pm - Branch meeting.

September 22 - Autumn begins.

September 28 - 7:00 pm - Executive Board meeting.

(Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

October 1 - 7:00 pm - Steward training.

October 5 - 7:30 pm - Branch meeting.

October 5 - Last day to register to vote on November 3! Check vote411.org to make sure you are registered.

October 5 - Deadline for submission of delegate nomination forms for the 2021 state convention.

October 12 - Columbus Day - Postal holiday.

October 13 - Early voting begins. Get it done now and avoid the crowds!

October 26 - 7:00 pm - Executive Board meeting.

(Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

November 1 - Daylight Savings Time ends - Set your clocks back one hour.

November 2 - 7:30 pm - Branch meeting.

November 3 - Presidential Election - Last day to vote. Early voting began on October 13.

November 5 - 7:00 pm - Steward training.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

As I write this Article on August 5, 2020, 157,848 Americans have died from COVID-19. On any given day, approximately 1,000 of our citizens die from a disease that currently has no cure. We continue to be held hostage to an invisible demon that patiently waits for us to make a mistake, so it can kill us.

Most medical experts predict that it will probably be next year before a true and tested vaccine is developed that will stop this disease from its daily spread across our country. In the meantime, we must stay diligent and do everything in our power to stay as safe as humanly possible. I believe that includes wearing a mask when outside the home. This statement is not intended to be political. It's just my opinion.

In the workplace, letter carriers are still very much considered essential. We continue to report to work every day and do our jobs, despite the tremendous stress of the times we live in. I want to thank each and every active letter carrier for their courage and commitment. History will record and praise the heroic acts of all the men and women who deliver the country's mail.

As all letter carriers are aware, the United States Postal Service has a new postmaster general. With a new leader come changes. Unfortunately, this guy is no different. He recently implemented some tests that delay mail, including first class. In the old days, you could get fired for delaying first class mail. Nowadays, it's part of the business model.

As I write this article, the new postmaster general is meeting with key leaders from the House of Representatives and Senate in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting is to come to an agreement on how much assistance the government is going to give to the Postal Service, in order to help it survive this pandemic.

By the time you read this article, the fate of the Postal Service will have been determined. Let's hope a decision is reached that allows the Postal Service to continue providing service to the American people and providing good, secure jobs to its workers.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?



Check out Vote411.org - a website sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. This is a one-stop website for all your voting needs. 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. You can also print out a voter registration form to mail in. You must register by October 5 in order to vote in the presidential election on November 3. If you register now, you can take advantage of early voting which begins on October 13. Check now to be sure you will be ready!

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU RETIRE?

Retirement is something that we look forward to - leaving behind the bosses, the alarm clocks, the bad weather. But don't leave behind your union membership when you retire! Staying in the NALC is a good idea for retirees:

- Every retired member receives a free \$5,000 accidental death policy from the NALC.
- The NALC Retirement Department can help you solve problems with your retirement benefits.
- Your subscription to The Postal Record will continue.
- Retirees who remain members can vote in NALC elections and can serve as officers and convention delegates.
- The support of retirees gives NALC a voice with congress on retiree issues.
- Branch 132 has a quarterly luncheon and an annual banquet for retirees who remain members.

All of this - and for only \$1 a month! That includes national dues of \$7 a year, and Branch 132 dues of \$5 a year.

So how do you retain your NALC membership when you retire? The NALC mails all recently retired members a retirement packet that contains a Form 1189. If you don't receive that packet, call Danny Hilliard at the union hall and the branch can provide you with a Form 1189. Fill out that form, and give it to a Branch 132 officer. Make sure you have your CSA number on it, which is a number assigned to you by OPM after you retire. That officer will then forward it to the national office - and that's all you have to do! Dues will be deducted from your retirement check every month.

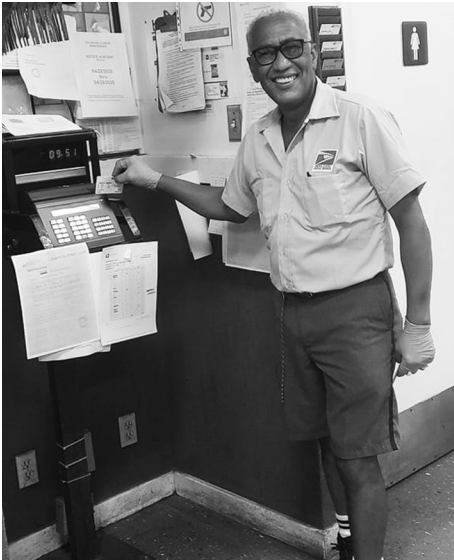
But wait - there's more! After 50 years of NALC membership, you will become a life member of NALC, and no more dues are required.

The NALC encourages retired carriers to maintain their membership in the NALC. The retirees help provide history and mentoring to the new carriers, and help the NALC fight for good retirement benefits, and that helps all carriers, active and retired. Retirees can also help the NALC with legislative issues without having to abide by the onerous Hatch Act restrictions that encumber active letter carriers.

So watch your mail for your retirement packet, and make sure you return the 1189 to the branch when you retire so that you can stay a member of the NALC!



LAST PUNCH BUNCH



ANDRES GARCIA
35 YEARS
DALLAS - LAKE HIGHLANDS

After serving for three years in the army, Andres started his postal career in New York, where he worked at Radio City Station. He transferred to Dallas in 1989. He carried the same route here for the last 20 years of his career, but due to route changes only one street, Shady View, remained on his route for that entire time. His customers loved him so much that they threw a retirement party for him, which was featured on the local news. He is going to take his time deciding exactly what to do in retirement, but for now he will spend some time with his wife, fix up the house and do some traveling. He reminds the new carriers that your customers will become your family, if you give the best service you can and respect the sanctity of the mail.



STEVE HIGINBOTHAM
35 YEARS
DALLAS - PRESTONWOOD

When Steve started carrying mail, there was more mail - more letters and flats to be exact, and the flats had to be routed. Now there are more parcels, but he still thinks it was tougher back then. Now he plans to play golf, spend time with his family, and catch up around the house. After COVID-19 dies down, he hopes to visit national parks, starting with Glacier National Park, and play golf at Pebble Beach. He recommends to the new carriers to put away as much money as you can for your retirement, and make sure you get the match in your TSP account.



THONG TRUONG
20 YEARS
DALLAS - LAKE HIGHLANDS

Thong really liked his job as a letter carrier. He got to be outside, get some exercise, see people, and he made a good salary doing it. But it was time to retire, and while he is sad to retire, he is going to spend some more time with his grandchildren now. After COVID-19 settles down, he might do some traveling, but for now he plans to take things as they come. His advice to the new carriers is simple: Do the right thing and work hard.



JOSELITO CASTANEDA
20 YEARS
DALLAS - LAKEWOOD

2020 STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DONOR DRIVE

For the last 27 years, the National Association of Letter Carriers has been proud to hold the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the nation's largest one day food drive, on the second Saturday in May. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't able to safely collect and distribute food in May this year. However, we will schedule the 28th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, the need for food assistance is more urgent than ever and we want to give everyone the opportunity to continue to help meet that need. Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community. You can find a food



bank that is in your community on the NALC website. Simply go to NALC.org and look for "Community Service" in the banner across the top of the home page.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is a drive with a single mission - to feed the hungry in America, and as always, with your help, we will.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
MAY 2020

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| National Dues | \$67,722.69 |
| OWCP Dues | 860.64 |
| Misc. | 5.00 |
| Active Dues (S. Boyd) | 180.72 |
| MBA Rebate | 0.00 |
| TSALC Rebate | 0.00 |
| HB Rebate | 0.00 |
| Deposit Dividends | 2.09 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$68,771.14 |

JUNE 2020

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| National Dues | \$69,482.90 |
| OWCP Dues | |
| Misc. | 2,026.26 |
| Retiree Dues | |
| MBA Rebate | 0.00 |
| TSALC Rebate | 0.00 |
| HB Rebate | 0.00 |
| Deposit Dividends | 1.76 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$71,510.92 |

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Caesar Clark – Reso Washington; Teeke White’s mother passed away.

Downtown – Javier Garcia, Marco Gonzales’ brother-in-law, passed away from COVID-19.

Lancaster – Tarik Combs had surgery.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Parkdale – Tamecia Ford; Locki McCoo; Tyra Parker Wellington.

Richland – Janine Singleton’s mother passed away.

Seagoville – Rickie Chandler.

Retirees – Larry King passed away; Jimmy M. Taylor passed away.

Office Staff – Health Benefits Representative Earl Hibbs and wife are the proud grandparents of a new baby boy.

TREASURER REPORT

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$314,955.04 |
| Regular Shares | 25.00 |
| Money Market | 210,821.17 |
| Stewards Fund | 129,905.29 |
| Convention Fund | 0.00 |
| CPA/Legal Fund | 4,850.00 |
| Building Fund | 6,480.00 |
| Education Fund | 16,982.02 |
| Money Market | 52,603.86 |
| MDA Fund | 1,824.33 |
| CD 18 Month | 105,804.06 |
| CD 18 Month | 102,264.09 |
| CD 12 Month | 102,122.97 |
| CD 2.800%* | 100,936.31* |
| INS. CASH | 208.39 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$863,842.31 |

* Market Value (\$)

**BRANCH 132 WELCOMES
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**

- Kerryn Brown
- Noe Cervantes
- Timothy Thompson
- Brandon Morris
- Suzanne Singh-Shillingford
- Jacob Cepeda
- Dawn Avery
- Colby Woodberry
- Belayhun Adisu
- Stedman Arterberry
- Jahmil Beasley
- Patrick Harrison III
- Domonique Smith
- Devanta Castile
- Biancoa Gaines
- Ephraim Walker
- Christy Davidson
- Brandon Turner
- Gregory Bryant
- Anthony Harrington II
- Rebeckah Carter
- Thomas Gaither
- Teanessa Jones
- Nickolaos Kouvaris
- Erick Matlock
- Amber Lucas
- Ashley Massie
- Jonathan Myers
- Terah Portridge
- Alfredo Salinas
- April Shaw
- Kelly Stovall
- Brenton Thomas
- Randay Toliver
- Marco Machuca Vega
- Christopher Pfeiffer
- Ian Viguera
- Antron Walls
- Shawn Williams
- Stephine Dixon
- Ralph Williams III
- Sumori Ajamon Moun
- Danisha Smith

The Executive Board of NALC Branch 132 would like to publicly affirm its commitment to diversity in the workplace, in society, and in our branch membership. As letter carriers, we are proud to be part of a vital institution that helps bring the people of our nation together. As a union, we aim to be an organization that brings together members of all races, creeds, and ethnicities in the spirit of love and solidarity. We embrace our nation's core belief of "liberty and justice for all", but for that belief to be fully realized for any of us, it must be true for all of us. While we support our union brothers and sisters in the police forces who do their jobs with honor and integrity, we do not support those who abuse their power and use it to discriminate and commit violence. The Executive Board stands together with all of our members against racism, the abuse of power, and the inequities in our society, and commits to working to correct these problems to the best of its ability.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

The COVID-19 crisis isn't the first time the nation's postal system has risen to the occasion during a national health emergency. Postal workers also played a critical role during the 1918-19 influenza pandemic. "Letter carriers then and now were on the front lines," said Jenny Lynch, the Postal Service's historian.

The 1918-19 flu outbreak was the deadliest pandemic in modern history. An estimated 50 million people died worldwide, including approximately 650,000 in the United States. Called the "Spanish Flu" because newspapers in Spain printed uncensored coverage of the pandemic, the virus is believed to have originated at an Army training camp in Kansas before traveling with American troops to Europe in spring 1918. In crowded military camps and trenches in war-torn Europe, the virus is thought to have mutated into a deadlier form.

The first cases of the more lethal flu in the United States were reported among returned servicemen in Boston that August. Within weeks, the flu jumped to civilian populations and quickly spread to cities nationwide.

From coast to coast, local and state governments enacted social distancing measures – including closing schools, banning public gatherings and shuttering some businesses – in a desperate attempt to stop the spread of the disease. Some people were also ordered to wear cloth masks.

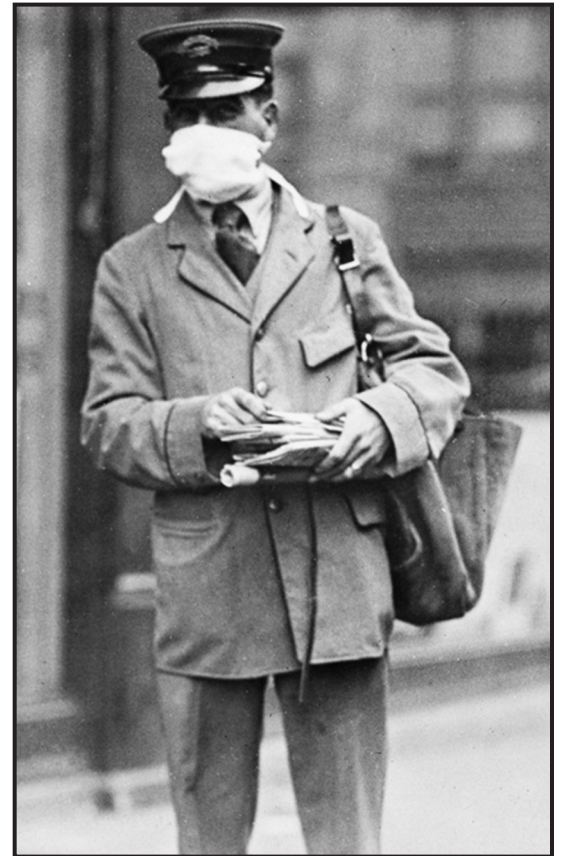
Through it all, the U.S. Post Office Department kept the mail moving, although not without challenges. In Washington, D.C., for example, more than 150 postal clerks and carriers fell ill during the first week of October 1918 – the deadliest month.

Washington Postmaster Merritt Chance urged high school boys to work at the Post Office – for as long as schools were closed – to keep operations continuing. A week later, he required all clerks who interacted with the public to wear gauze masks. In other towns, especially in the West, Post Offices reduced or even suspended service. In most U.S. cities, the flu peaked between September and November 1918, then weakened in early 1919.

In a 2007 study, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Michigan's Center for the History of Medicine found that social distancing saved lives during the pandemic. Cities that implemented social distancing measures early, and kept them in place the longest, experienced lower overall mortality rates.

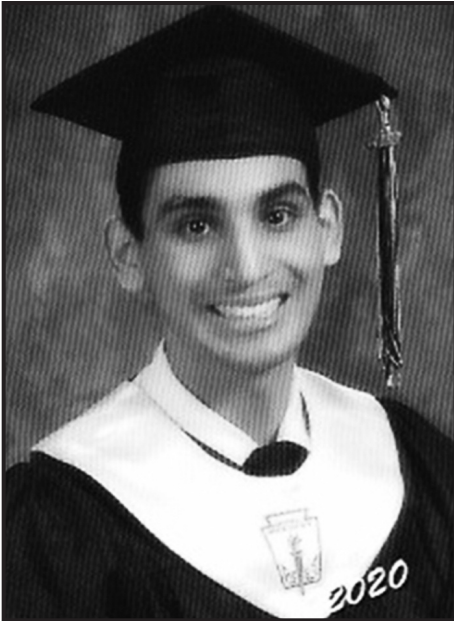
Historians like Lynch have also noted the important role that mail played in keeping people connected during the 1918-19 pandemic and other times of crisis. "The ability to connect can be, quite literally, a lifeline during times of extreme stress," she said. "Mail enables the exchange of vital supplies and information. Perhaps even more important, it can provide hope, comfort and purpose."

This story comes from the USPS Link newsletter. Link is a daily news site for Postal Service employees and is available on any computer with internet access. There is also a mobile app for Link. Go to link.usps.com for more information and for daily updates on postal news.



BRANCH 132 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION WINNERS

Branch 132 recently held its annual scholarship competition, and five lucky seniors were awarded scholarships. Each is the son, daughter, or grandson of a Branch 132 member. Good luck to all of them!



LYNDON H. HUSTON

Lyndon is the son of Lyndon B. Huston who works in Dallas Collections. Lyndon will be attending Southern Methodist University.



ERIN LEDESMA

Erin is the daughter of Joe Ledesma who works at the Lewisville Main Post Office. Erin will be attending Southern University in Baton Rouge.



REBECCA MEREDITH

Rebecca is the granddaughter of Bobby “Sleepy” Meredith who is a former Recording Secretary for Branch 132. Rebecca will be attending Texas State University.



SAMUEL NAVARRETE, JR.

Samuel is the son of Samuel Navarrete who works in Dallas at University Station. Samuel will be attending East Texas Baptist University.



KELLY TRAN

Kelly is the daughter of Dang “Lee” Tran who works at the Lewisville Main Post Office. Kelly will be attending the University of North Texas.

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SEE PAGE 2 FOR THE CURRENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

I desire to place my name in nomination as a delegate to the 2021 State Convention in Houston, Texas. I affirm that I have not served or applied for a supervisory position with the United States Postal Service within the last 24 months.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

This form must be received at the union hall no later than October 5, 2020.

Confirmation of receipt will be provided by the Recording Secretary.

Please notify the office if you do not receive proof of submission.