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RELATIONSHIP PRINTING, INC.

# METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

LINDA BOROUGHS, EDITOR

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



### NALC THAT'S MY UNION

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it has taught us the importance of having a job! The unemployment rate rose to a record high of 14.7% in April 2020, leaving so many millions of people without a job. Businesses were closing, but the fear of unemployment was not a concern for letter carriers. Letter carriers, thanks to the negotiation skills of our national officers now and in the past, have a no-layoff protection clause for carriers in the regular work force who have completed six years of continuous service. The annual base pay of a letter carrier ranges from \$20/hour to \$33.20/hour. When factoring in overtime, that hourly wage increases to \$30/hour to \$49.80/hour. If you work any penalty overtime, you will be earning from \$40/hour to \$66.40/hour. Any letter carrier can make as much money as they want if he/she is willing and able to work the hours. And let us not forget about the many benefits that come with the job: sick leave, annual leave, holidays, and so much more. Yet there are so many carriers who take the job of a letter carrier for granted.

Yes, I know that the work is not all easy, and yes, I know that some carriers work in unfavorable environments. However, if we all kept our minds on the value of the job, and what it adds to the lives of our families and what our life would be like if we did not work for the Postal Service, we would gain a deep appreciation for the job and for the communities we serve. I said all of this to make this point: it is time for us to stop getting

into shouting debates with postal management when we do not agree with their instructions or when their instructions violate the National Agreement. The job of policing the contract is the responsibility of the union steward.

It is a wonderful thing to know your rights. By knowing your rights, you will always be a step ahead of management. But knowing your rights and trying to enforce your rights by telling management what they can or cannot do, or what you are going to do or not going to do, will lead to discipline. This is referred to as insubordination. While there may have been some instances in the past where the union was successful in getting matters of insubordination settled favorably, that does not mean that we will always be successful. Getting discipline rescinded should in no way bolster anyone into believing that they can do or say whatever they want to in the work environment.

First, everyone must know that there is the "iron rule" stating that an employee must "obey now and grieve later." Second, there is a narrow exception to that rule which permits an employee to disobey an order when he or she has a reasonable or good-faith belief that to obey that order would cause imminent danger to life or limb.

This rule has been incorporated into the JCAM by the national parties because they were aware that there will be times when postal management would violate the National Agreement when giving instructions to letter carriers. Both the Postal Service and the NALC understood that when this occurred, the employee would be bound by the iron rule to obey those instructions; however, that same iron rule also gave that employee the right to file a grievance. Instead of taking matters into your own hands by engaging in verbal disputes with management, use your right to file a grievance and let the process work for you. Ask yourself if it is worth staying at home with no pay before you act. Let your union work for you!

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MONDAY – FRIDAY

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903-753-1255

Fax 903-757-6490

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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

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Helen Toliver 214-429-5847

Thomas Vines 214-240-9821

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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)



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

**Sid Simmons**

In 2007, I had the honor and privilege of being elected president of NALC Lone Star Branch 132. At the time, it was the highlight of my political career. Unfortunately that same year, many of us lost a good friend and union brother.

Back in the 80's, this branch had the good fortune of having numerous young stewards who were very talented and dedicated. As a matter of fact, they are all currently in our Ring of Honor. This group includes Earl Hibbs, Robert Hinson, Ken Wardrum, David Ramsay, Myra Warren, Micky Morris, and Don Neal. I consider all of the aforementioned union leaders my friends. However, I am sad that one of them passed away very suddenly 14 years ago.

When I first met Don Neal, he was the Chief Steward at Vickery Station. This was back in the day when Jack Walker was our branch president. Jack recognized his talents and selected him to be on the Holding Corporation and a Step 2 Designee under the old grievance procedure.

When Earl Hibbs became president in 1992, he continued to support Brother Neal. Earl appointed Don to serve on the UMPS Team and as a Formal A representative. Earl also recommended Don to serve as an Employee Involvement Facilitator and as a member of the Step B Team. At the time, all of these positions were full-time. Don also served as a trustee on the Executive Board.

From my own personal experiences, union leaders usually have a Type A personality. We will not hesitate to accelerate a situation if we see management disrespecting the union or the members we represent. However, Don Neal was an exception to the rule. Don was always very effective with his own unique style. He was soft-spoken and very measured. I don't remember him ever yelling or screaming at anyone. Nevertheless, he got things done.

Even after all these years, I still have the utmost respect for him and what he represented. Don Neal was a good man and will always be missed by his many friends.

Editor's Note: I was a carrier at Vickery Station back when Brother Neal was the steward there. He was a class act, and very supportive of me and the other carriers. His passing was a sadness, but like Sid says, even after all these years, his memory is still a blessing to me.

## **STATE CONVENTION CANCELLED!**

The TSALC Convention scheduled for July 2021 in Houston has fallen victim to the pandemic, and is now **CANCELLED!**



## **JANUARY BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on January 4, 2021

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Brother Jeff Miller gave the invocation and President Lewis led the Pledge. The membership approved the minutes as printed from the December Branch meeting.

President Lewis read Resolution of Sympathy for Brother Robert Melton.

No Executive Board Recommendations.

President said the ballots for the Tentative Agreement will be mailed out January 10, 2021 and should be returned by February 16, 2021.

Brother Shawn Boyd gave an update on the Tentative Contractual Agreement.

TSALC President Carlos Rodriguez gave a legislative update for the state of Texas.

President Lewis made the following announcements;

Choice Vacation lists should be circulated in January.

Overtime Desired list should be completed.

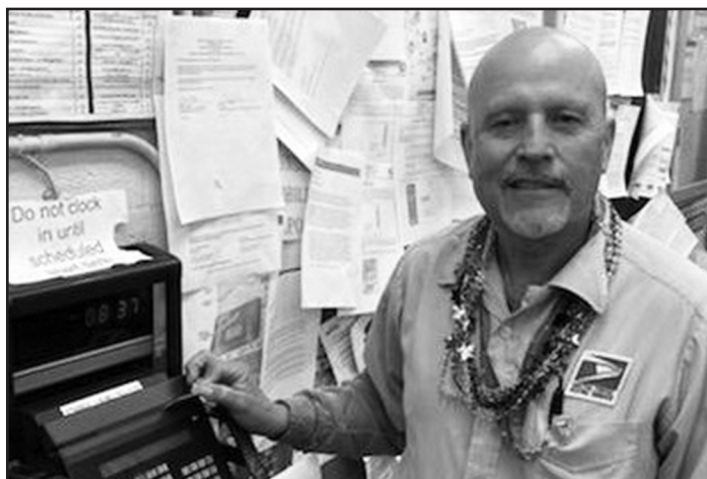
Also gave an update on the COVID situation.

A motion was made to publish the branch financial reports in the Metro Letter Carrier. (motion passed)

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary

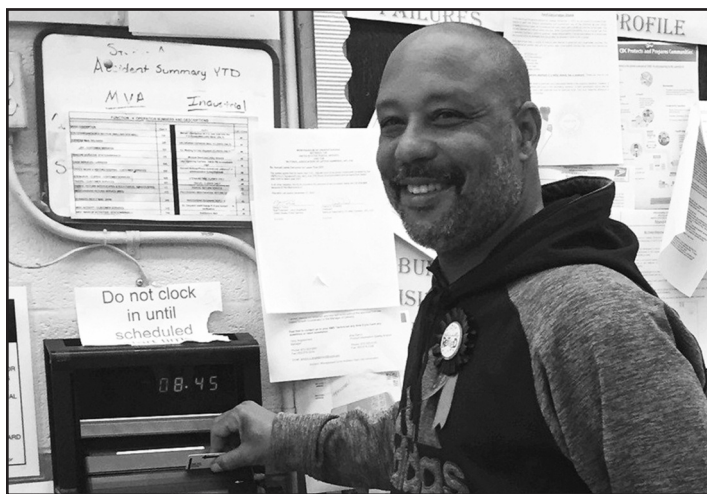
## LAST PUNCH BUNCH



### **ROBERT TATOWICZ**

**39 YEARS • DALLAS - STATION A**

Robert started at Downtown Station in Dallas, back when it was actually in Downtown Dallas. He moved to University, Brookhollow, and then wound up on route 0835 at Station A, which he carried for over 26 years. He liked the job so much that his son, Chris Tatowicz, has joined him at Station A on route 0811. He is one of the few remaining carriers to retire under the civil service retirement system, but he still advises the new carriers to invest in their TSP. His retirement plans will make us all jealous: Relax and catch up on the chores.



### **DARRELL MATTHEWS**

**36 YEARS • DALLAS - STATION A**

Darrell retires with 32 years of carrying mail and 5 years with the Marines. In the Marines, he worked in Hawaii loading fighter jets with ordnance. He then started with the USPS at Joe Pool Station - the original Joe Pool station. He moved to Station A, where he spent 29 years carrying in the same area. His customers became like family to him as he watched the kids and grandkids grow up, and customers put signs in their yards for him when they heard he was retiring. He plans to do nothing and sleep in late for a few months, then catch up on chores, and then look into traveling to Amsterdam or taking an African safari. He advises the new carriers to take care of their feet, be professional, and, of course, invest in your TSP.



### **WILL H. WORKMAN**

**36 YEARS • DALLAS - UNIVERSITY**

Will first carried mail in Ohio, decided it was too cold, and so he came to Dallas. At that time, there were two new inventions for incoming carriers: FERS, and a new category of overtime, V-time. He carried a route just south of the M-streets at University for 29 years before retiring. Now that he is retired, he plans to travel a bit, and then make a movie about his postal career and its interesting highlights. Carrying mail was the best job he ever had. He advises the new carriers to find a station with a friendly environment: "It will turn this job from a chore into a mildly comical and entertaining adventure." And of course, load up your TSP and retire debt free.



Keep your retirement happy by maintaining your union membership after you retire! Fill out an 1189 with your CSA number - or just call a branch officer for help - and keep your union membership active for only \$1 a month!



**JANINE SINGLETON**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

National Dues	\$66,561.23
OWCP Dues	668.70
Misc.	7,210.23
Active Dues	180.72
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	535.20
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.64
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$75,157.72</b>

DECEMBER 2020

National Dues	\$67,314.15
OWCP Dues	518.62
Misc.	0.00
Active Dues	100.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.44
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$67,934.21</b>

## MONTHLY INCOME REPORT

	Active	Paying	Gross	Net
PP-22	1945	1750	52260	33473
PP-23	1934	1742	51923	33088
PP-24	1927	1746	52164	33274
PP-25	1972	1758	53143	34040
PP-26	1989	1772	53690	34364
PP-01	1991	1773	53834	34368
PP-02	1998	1784	54058	34628

## SICK & WELFARE REPORT

**Station "A"** – Darrell Matthews retired with over 30 years.

**Carrollton (Rosemeade)** – Andy Alvarado.

**Caesar Clark** – Michelle Hubbard; LaShawn Silas' grandfather passed away; Reso Wahsington.

**The Colony** – Gwendolyn McClendon.

**Ennis** – Anna Gunn is back at work. Welcome back Anna!

**Kaufman** – Monica Addison.

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

**Northaven** – Enrique Mendiaz retired.

**Seagoville** – Rickie Chandler is back at work. Welcome back Rickie! Israel Luna's father passed away and Israel is recovering from Covid-19.

**Branch Office** – Kim Lewis' aunt passed away.

## LETTER CARRIER HAIKU

LINDA BOROUGHS



The wind grabs my mail  
With an invisible hand.  
Letters fly like leaves.

## TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$121,356.52
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,002.28
Stewards Fund	131,580.29
Convention Fund	40,000.00
CPA/Legal Fund	9,200.00
Building Fund	10,000.00
Education Fund	34,000.00
Money Market	286,221.99
MDA Fund	99.81
CD 18 Month	106,171.95
CD 18 Month	103,441.01
CD 12 Month	102,508.06
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>\$994,604.63</b>

## BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Miller Presley	Xavier Hill
Eloise Daniels	Aaron Bolton
Ariel Aetonu	Jermaine Martin
Odessa Miller	Travion Pointer
Nagji Badhiwala	Mark Dearing
Ezequiel Castro	Kelsie Carhee
Chad Hamilton	Jeana Griffin
Juanita Collins	Ivan Molina-Linares
Akile Davis	Kristen Rush
Thomas York	Dehquie Thomas
Michael Baynes	Oliver Carey
Monica Gonzalez	Isaiah Hinojosa
Unique Williams	Shelly Hamnett
Corey Bobo	Ronzetta Harris
Keith Holmes	Ronald Staes
Kenneth Moran	Jennai Thorton
Quincy Dather	Michael Bunn
Marty Johnson	Margaret Johnny
Jose Rodriguez-Vasquez	Bianca Truss
Jeremiah Wheeler	Antonio Flores
Olivia Thomas	Zakiya Chabazz
Miguel Noble	Tywanina Mire
Elias Moreno	Shakierra Gates
Johnny Jackson	Scott Hughes
Jerrell Porter	Kinyota Johnson
Senora Tunson	Gabbriel Smoot
Charles Harris	Dalila Moustafa
Israel Obragon	Louis Brothers
Samantha Bouvier	Aaron Rodriguez

# 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.

## 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)

### 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, 2021***

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

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

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

### Article XI - Elections

Currently reads:

**Section 3** – Beginning at the regular October 1997 meeting and every three (3) years thereafter, the branch President shall appoint an election committee consisting of eleven (11) members in good standing from (11) different stations or retired members with one (1) of said members being designated the election committee chairperson.

It is proposed to add the following to Section 3:

The branch president also has the option to hire an outside company to conduct the election of officers. If this occurs, the election committee will consist of five (5) active and retired members, one of which will be designated as the election committee chairperson.

Signed by Sid Simmons, Kimetra Lewis, and Danny Hilliard

## THE RETURN OF CUSTOMER CONNECT



Customer Connect is revitalized with new coordinators - our own Javier Carrizales out of Grand Prairie and Walter Bryant from Branch 493 in Tyler. Javier is handling the Dallas area, and Walter is handling the East Texas area. Javier and Walter want you all to know that Customer Connect helps every carrier by bringing in revenue that helps us keep our jobs. If you see a competitor's truck loading up parcels on your route, ask that business if they would like to talk to a USPS representative about mailing those parcels with us. Get their name and phone number and pass it on to your supervisor, or just call Javier at 214-478-5535, or call Walter at 916-601-1290.

You can also reach the USPS Customer Connect agents directly. Call Jenny Yoo at 469-933-8930 or Anthony Sanchez at 469-496-6919. Pass on those leads and let's keep our jobs secure!



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#NALC #stampouthunger #donordrive #lettercarriers #heroesdelivering

## STATE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OPENS

The Texas State Association of Letter Carriers is awarding four scholarships to children of letter carriers.

To get your application, contact

Julian Alvarez at 432-661-4607.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2021.

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## ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

Please remember that all events are subject to cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Meetings and steward trainings will be done by ZOOM video teleconferencing for the foreseeable future. Check our Facebook page, at “NALC Branch 132 Connection”, or the website at [nalclonestarbranch132.org](http://nalclonestarbranch132.org) for the latest information on cancellations.

March 1 - 7:30 pm - Monthly union meeting

March 4 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time begins - Your clocks will go forward one hour.

March 20 - First day of spring

March 27 - Passover begins

March 29 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

April 1 - 7:00 pm - Steward training (No fooling!)

April 4 - Easter

April 5 - 7:30 pm - Monthly union meeting

April 12 - Ramadan begins

April 22 - Earth Day

April 26 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

May 16 - Retiree Banquet - Look for more information in your May newsletter

