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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



Greetings,

On a day-to-day basis, letter carriers are faced with many obstacles as they go along their routes. Dogs, uneven lawns and pavements, irate customers, bad weather, intimidating management, injuries, Covid-19, etc. Despite the obstacles, the letter carriers, which are the backbone of the Postal Service, get the job done. We deliver the mail!

This past February, the entire state of Texas was faced with the worst winter storm in its history. The roads were treacherous. There were power outages everywhere. Pipes burst in the homes of some Texans. Schools and businesses were closed. No public transportation. The weather was so severe, the president of the United States declared the state of Texas as a disaster state.

In the Dallas District, the Postal Service was forced to suspend its operations on February 16 because of the storm. A large percentage of you were unable to report for duty. As you began to return to work, you were informed by postal management that you would have to use your own personal earned leave to cover your absences. What a slap in the face! Was that the way you planned to use your personal earned leave, stuck at home unable to go anywhere? I say no!

Fortunately, our national officers knew in advance that Acts of God would occur that would prevent letter carriers from being able to report for duty and they knew that letter carriers would have to fight management to receive paid administrative leave when Acts of God were present. Language incorporated in the Employee Labor and Relations Manual, Section 519.211, defines what

conditions must be met for community disasters to be classified as Acts of God.

519.211 General - Acts of God involve community disasters such as fire, flood, or storms. The disaster situation must be general rather than personal in scope and impact. It must prevent groups of employees from working or reporting to work.

The February winter storm met the qualifications, yet we still had to file grievances across the branch because the Dallas District refused to pay letter carriers administrative leave. This is the thanks we get! Letter carriers who braved the storm to report to work found there was no mail to deliver. They were only paid for the hours they worked. The remainder of the day, they used their own personal earned leave to cover their absence. What a shame!

The Postal Service is a multimillion-dollar corporation. The stability of the Postal Service lies with the letter carrier. Yet the letter carriers are not valued. One of the reasons the Postal Service fails to acknowledge the value of the letter carriers is because we as a union are not unified. As the stewards were preparing their grievances to defend the rights of every letter carrier who was forced to use their personal earned leave, many carriers refused to provide the union with statements to validate their absence. Their responses to the stewards were, "I'm okay, I have leave that I can use," or, "I'm just glad they are paying me," among other things.

Earned leave is a benefit which is to be used at the discretion of the employee, not when the Postal Service is inoperable. Our union, your union, spent a lot of time, money, and effort into making sure your rights were protected. For us to be an effective union, it is going to take the cooperation of all members. Without the stewards filing grievances, the loss of 40 hours of leave in the early part of the year would have a hard impact in the latter part of the year when leave balances began to decrease.

Remember: we are more effective when we act as a team. Not as a losing team but as a winning team, working together to achieve a common goal. I cannot say it enough: teamwork is the dreamwork. Let us make it happen.

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BRANCH 132 OFFICE

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

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NALC Branch 132 Longview Office
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214-906-3201

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469-438-0101

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903-456-9136

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469-765-5259

Linda Boroughs, Editor
214-929-0421

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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

Texas State Association of Letter Carriers District 2 Report - 2021 First Quarter

Submitted by Rita Wilder

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

As we enter into this new year, an old problem - the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic - is still affecting our nation. We must continue to follow all of the guidelines recommended by President Biden, medical experts, and other officials. With the help of our newly-elected President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the 117th congress, we will be able to put this pandemic behind us.

Over 70 million dosages of the vaccine have been made available to be administered to high-risk individuals and the rest of the population. Check with your local officials to locate where vaccine is being administered in your area.

With COVID-19 a concern, the Texas State Association had to cancel the convention scheduled for July 21-23, 2021. Although the convention is canceled, the election of officers must still be conducted. Election information will be outlined in the April and May Postal Record under Texas State Summaries.

Our LCCLs continue contacting their congressional representatives to try to get them signed on as co-sponsors to a number of bills and resolutions that are deemed priorities by the NALC legislation department. As a constituent, you too can contact your congressional representatives and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors. If we can get these bills and resolutions passed during the 117th congress, that would be a big step for the NALC, the Postal Service, and our customers.

These are some of the bills that are considered priorities: 1) USPS Fairness Act- H.R.695: Congressman Collin Allred is one of the lead representatives on this bipartisan bill. This piece of legislation would release the USPS from the pre-funding mandate; 2) Door Delivery - H. Res. 109; 3) Six-Day Delivery - H.Res.114; and 4) Delivery Standards - H. Res. 119. In order to obtain additional information regarding each of the bills and resolutions, go the NALC website (nalc.org), go to "Government Affairs" and click on "Priority Congressional Bills and Resolutions". The For the People Act of 2021 - H.R.1 is the other bill that we should take into consideration. This bill expands voter registration, vote-by-mail, and early voting. It will also limit voters from being removed from voters rolls and would establish independent redistricting commissions to carry out congressional redistricting. If we could get support for all of the above legislation it could make a world of difference for everybody.

Continue to stay safe and pray for our nation.

Rita Wilder can be reached at ritawilder05@gmail.com or 972-805-6798.



Don't let your union membership retire when you do!

Watch the mail for your Form 1189. Fill it out with your CSA number and return it to the union hall. For only \$1 a month, you can keep your union membership active!

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

Last month, we lost one of our recent retirees to cancer. Sheila Stewart had courageously battled her disease for years, but finally succumbed to the relentless attacks on her body. At times like these, we want to reflect and search for kind words to describe a friend's life. Sometimes, that can be difficult, depending on the individual. However, this is not one of those times. There is no way that I can adequately express in words how wonderful she was, but I am going to try.

Sheila was a magnificent human being. She had many friends and family who are going to miss her dearly. I first met Sheila when she became a steward at Richland Station some years ago. At the time, I was the branch president and I immediately recognized that she was something special.

I had two relationships with Sheila. The first involved our interactions in her capacity as a steward. She was an outstanding steward who took care of business and filed really good grievances. The other was our personal relationship as friends. We had many things in common. Number one was our absolute devotion to the Dallas Cowboys. On numerous occasions, over the years, we watched the game together at the union hall, after a training or branch meeting.

Sheila and I also shared, through conversations, our own individual battles with cancer. That is why this is so emotional for me. I saw firsthand what she was going through physically. It was amazing how strong and positive she was in her own quiet and gentle way. I am obviously extremely happy that my treatment was a success, but very sad that hers was not.

One of the highest honors that this branch can bestow on a member is to be nominated and inducted into the Ring of Honor for NALC Lone Star Branch 132. I am pleased to announce that Sister Sheila Stewart will be inducted, at the very first branch meeting, after we get back to normal. I just wish she could be there, like old times, raffling off tickets for MDA as we enter the meeting room. Nevertheless, I believe she will always be there with us in spirit. Rest in peace, Sheila Stewart.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on February 1, 2021.

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.. Brother Jeff Miller gave the invocation and President Lewis led the pledge. The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

There were no Resolutions of Sympathy. No Executive Board Recommendations.

The branch received a letter of appreciation from President Rolando for the donation the branch made to the NALC disaster relief fund.

Information was given for those members that have not received their ballots to vote on the tentative contract and how they can obtain another ballot.

The Dallas District office said that we now have 917 confirmed cases of COVID 19 and 3 Deaths.

President Lewis addressed the Delivery Management System. USPS is trying to update PS form 1564A in order to load that data into the DMS program.

President Lewis cautioned members against doing things that might set them up for failure to follow instructions. There was a discussion on how to avoid those bad decisions.

A proposed by-law change to Article XI, Section 3, Elections, was read, and will be voted on at the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary

MARCH BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on March 1, 2021.

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Brother Titus Brown gave the invocation and President Lewis led the pledge. The minutes from the February and March meetings will be published in the Metro Letter Carrier.

There were no Resolutions of Sympathy. No Executive Board Recommendations.

Brother Ron Teneyck is doing well and is undergoing therapy and hopefully will return to work within 6 months.

Brother Shawn Boyd gave an update on the voting on the new contract. He said if the contract is approved that there should be CCA conversions by May if not sooner.

The Dallas District office said that we now have 949 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

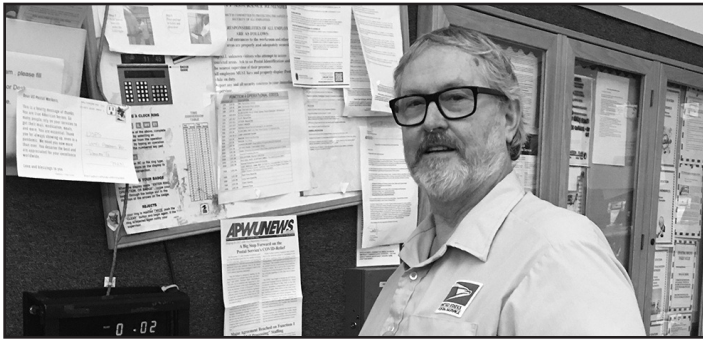
President Lewis went over strategies for branch grievances on administrative leave due to the winter storm. A lengthy discussion followed about different forms of documentation that would be needed.

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



CHARLES WATKINS
43 YEARS • DALLAS - VICKERY

Charles started as a casual clerk in 1976, worked as a PTF mail-handler for a little over a year, and then became a PTF carrier. As a carrier, he only worked at two stations: Belmont Station, which no longer exists, and Vickery Station. He was transferred to Vickery when he went regular, and he stayed there for the rest of his career. He also served as steward and served on the route adjustment team for CDRAAP, MAIRAP, JRAP, etc. Now that he is retired, he plans to relax, catch up on chores, and travel to Colorado once the pandemic eases. He advises the new carriers to pay yourself first by investing in your retirement, and ask the seasoned carriers and the union when you need help. "The union is your friend."



DONNIE CHRISTOPHER
37 YEARS • DALLAS - DOWNTOWN

Donnie served in the Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, where he logged about 25 jumps. He then started at Farmers Branch Station as a carrier in 1987. He worked at North Branch, which no longer exists, and at one time had a full-time collection route before they abolished the collection section. (They have brought it back since then.) He now plans to volunteer at his local high school by coaching the kids in track and field, and do some golfing and fishing. He tells the new carriers to call the union hall when they have question. "Get to know your union. They're good for you."



BINH VAN QUACH
36 YEARS • CARROLLTON - ROSEMEADE

Binh was fortunate enough to finish his career with no dog bites! Although he once had to climb onto a pickup truck to avoid a German Shepherd, he managed to escape that incident without getting bitten. He also used an umbrella to fight off the dogs. He likes to travel, especially to foreign countries, and once the pandemic eases, he plans to visit Japan, Thailand, and Taiwan, among other places. He also plans to work out more at the gym. He reminds the new carriers that all dogs bite, no matter what the owner says, and always be careful with the mail.



RICHARD CARAMILLO
35 YEARS • ADDISON

Richard's total years of service includes one year and seven months of sick leave! Richard started at Spring Valley at a route that was moved to Prestonwood when they built Prestonwood Station. He then moved to the Addison Post Office when it was created. He enjoyed his job, and also enjoyed training some of the new CCAs when they came into the station. He now plans to catch up on chores and head up to Lake Murray in Oklahoma for some fishing. His advice to the new hires is simple: "Do your job and be careful with the mail."



JEFFREY MILLER
35 YEARS • DALLAS - DOWNTOWN

While Jeff is retiring from Downtown Station, he spent 31 years of his career at University, and he spent 30 years as a steward. He also served in the Army before joining the USPS. Don Neal and Earl Hibbs encouraged him to serve as steward at Vickery and University, and he held the branch offices of trustee, sergeant-at-arms, and financial secretary. He now plans to start driving school busses, as he thinks rowdy schoolchildren will be easier to handle than hostile supervisors. He thanks this job for helping him send his four children to college where each one of them has earned a master's degree. He advises the new carriers to plan for retirement by separating their wants from their needs, because the wants will keep you broke.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

JANUARY 2021

National Dues	\$68,731.75
OWCP Dues	1,593.16
Misc.	180.72
Retiree Dues	48.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.89
TOTAL \$	\$70,554.52

FEBRUARY 2021

National Dues	\$69,427.26
OWCP Dues	1,307.22
Misc.	150.00
Retiree Dues	12.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.90
TOTAL \$	\$70,897.38

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.



LETTER CARRIERS' DONOR DRIVE

National Partners



Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community.

1. Go to nalc.org/food
2. Select your state
3. Choose a food bank in your area
4. Make a contribution

It's that easy. All collections stay in the local community.

#NALC #stampouthunger #donordrive #lettercarriers #heroesdelivering

TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$161,646.79
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,084.88
Stewards Fund	131,180.11
Convention Fund	40,000.00
CPA/Legal Fund	8,750.00
Building Fund	9,761.22
Education Fund	18,906.81
Money Market	302,486.74
MDA Fund	99.81
CD 18 Month	106,292.15
CD 18 Month	103,584.85
CD 12 Month	102,624.11
TOTAL \$	\$985,357.59

Correction: In the March 2021 newsletter, an unfortunate typo misstated the total assets of the branch by an extra \$50,000.00. The branch regrets the error, and assures the members that this month's totals are correct.

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
PP-03	1999	1786	54102	34710
PP-04	1996	1787	54081	34717
PP-05	1987	1769	53568	34305
PP-06	1982	1770	53472	34312

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Jesse Garcia had knee surgery.

Carrollton (MPO) – Stacia Woodberry.

Carrollton (Rosemeade) – Andy Alvarado.

Caesar Clark – Michelle Hubbard; Reso Wahsington.

Collections – Sherian Alexander; Latreash Clayton-Webb; Latrice Connely; Wen Cheng Wang; Marisol Lau-relez has a new granddaughter.

Lakewood – Ron Teneyck had surgery.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Retirees – Larry Ausborne's grandson passed away; George Brant's son Eddie passed away; Armando Castilleja's wife is in the hospital; Edna Roy's brother passed away; Sheila Stewart passed away; Janet Williams' sister passed away.

Auxiliary #28 – Margaret Castilleja is in the hospital.

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

www.collegeanswer.com

www.collegeboard.com

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**

BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Mitchell Alexander
Mary Redmon
Lindsey Horton
Khristy Gulley
Dominique Woods
Suzanne Clubb
David Clark
Chetavuen Williams
Kedrick Edwards
Jessica Hills
Geranika Robinson
Markesha Wheeler
Amanda Moore
Natasha Bryant
Katelyn Shenkenberg
Adam McCray
Muhammad Shahzad
Jimmy Grandberry
Alexander Medina
Stacy Brantley
Donald Smith III
Jonathan Mitchell
Aisha Taylor
Ronesha Miller
Craig McClerran
Tamika Awel
Erik Hernandez
Michael Perkins
Andreu Aguino
Gary Watson
Rhtonda Robertson
Equana Collins
Kristopher Dudley
Miguel Martinez
Demetriaw Glaspie
Breanna Church
Kohl Clem
Khija Griffin
Justin Beackens
Gwendolyn Robinson
Cionne Bailey
Syrquita Pritchett
Davione White

Latonya Rozier
Andrea Ardoin
Ruben Molinar
Rosario Rosales
Ondre Brown
Tekleab Zery
Biju Mathew
Oscar Cortez
Jonathon Emmert
Sky Killian
Timothy Ruiz
Isaiah Turner
Lucas Morales
Condance Petterson
Michael Mendosa
Lanesia Anderson
Colby Franklin
Chineice Wilkerson
Teena Roberson
Colby Franklin
Mathew Edwards
Ambra Smith
Olivia Dabner
Jeriel Mason
Alanis Gonzales-Arroyo
Taylor Lester
Jorge Mendoza-Garcia
Darnell Penson
Sean Smith
Jalen Hart
Carl Singleton
Jadden Nelson
Tiana Bircher
Sharrona Brightman
Rudolfo Ramirez
Felicia Gaudin
Joseph Selvaggi
Jacklyn Esters
Timothy Solomon
Adrian Williams
Junior Espana
Anatastacia Brown
Celeste Aguillen
Quinton Barrett

Erick Rada
Jose Lopez DeLeon
Reginald Baker
Kenneth Barber
Donald McGinnis
Taylor Bennett
Shumaine Smith
Justin Crane
LaKeshia Evans
Latonya Robinson
Cherri Whatley
Cindy Patterson
Elizabeth Paz
Ingrid Simmons
Amari Wright
James Mulqueen
Lashawnda Lovett
Timothy Newman
Edaardo Villeda-Barcenas
Terri Paige
Valeria Garcia
Karl Hooks
Devaris Titus
Edward Tyson
Candace Turner-Owens
Todd Barnes
Zanber Aulam
Mayra Padilla
Deamber Washington
Justice Broome
Anthown Wren
Klyn Perdue
Shakena Cobb
Tiesha Davis
Madeline Downie
Shaquandolyn Gay
Takeania Walton
Miguel Blanca
Monica Coleman
Harvey Leviner
Demaria Muldrow
Cortelyou Nelson
Jose Figueredo



CUSTOMER CONNECT SUCCESS!

Janine Singleton brought in over \$40,000 in revenue with a Customer Connect lead on her route. A customer on her route asked Janine how to get regular parcel pickups. Janine passed the information on to her station manager, and the Post Office picked up the business. For her efforts, Janine got a cool USPS thermal cup and a certificate. "I was happy to do it," says Janine.

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

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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 for the latest information on cancellations.

May 3 - 7:30 pm - Monthly union meeting

May 6 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

May 9 - Mother's Day

May 12 - Eid al-Fitr - the end of Ramadan

May 16 - Retiree Banquet - Everyone can attend, but you must RSVP. Look for more information inside this newsletter

May 24 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

May 31 - Memorial Day - Postal holiday

June 3 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

June 7 - 7:30 pm - Monthly union meeting

June 20 - Father's Day

June 21 - First day of summer

June 28 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

