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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



Where Would We Be Without A Union?

Have you ever asked yourself this question? Over my career, I have pondered this question many times. Those were the times when I found myself faced with discipline, times when I found myself fighting to obtain the contractual rights granted by the National Agreement, and times when I was forced to defend violations of the Postal Service's rules

and regulations. Those were the times that I told myself, that without a doubt, I could not work for any organization that was not represented by a union.

The need and the desire to work for an organization represented by a union began to manifest in my mind as a child. I grew up surrounded by union leaders. My father and my uncle were the President and Vice-President of the Laborers' International Union of North America Local #648. I watched the work they performed finding jobs and fighting for the rights of laborers in the Dallas area. I witnessed the satisfaction that they both gained from helping others. That same feeling transferred over into my life at an early age. So, the thought of being without a union frightens me.

During the period of January 11, 2021 to March 1, 2021, eligible members of NALC cast their mail-in ballots for the ratification of the 2019-2023 National Agreement. Voting members, which includes each active member receiving this newsletter, had an opportunity to select "accept" or "reject" for the

agreement. Ballots were mailed out to the 1,738 active eligible letter carriers in Branch 132. Five-hundred and six (506) members voted to accept the proposed National Agreement and thirteen (13) voted to reject the agreement. Two-thirds of the eligible members for Branch 132 did not exercise their right to vote on a matter that affects each and every one of them in their daily lives. This lack of voter participation alarms me!

If there were no unions, chances are that salary increases would no longer be universal. There would be no paid overtime. Promotions would be based on who management favored. The ability to bid on what work you prefer would be removed. The right to contest the actions of management would be a thing of the past. How many of you would continue to work at the United States Postal Service if you could no longer file a grievance when management violated your rights?

Do not take our Union for granted. Branch 132 has filed more grievances as of today than it filed for the entire 2020 year. Just a look at the number of grievances alone proves that our union is busy at work. It clearly demonstrates that a union is necessary and essential. I am proud of the skills and the hard work of our Union leaders who diligently perform the duties of union representation for the branch. That is the secret to our success: the men and women who unselfishly devote their time and efforts towards making NALC Branch 132 strong. These are the officers, the stewards, the Formal As, the DRT members, and the arbitration advocates. That is the source of our branch's strength!

Take a moment to ask yourself how you would feel if tomorrow you reported for work and found out there is no longer a union? Would you quit or would you tough it out? Relish the privileges that you have as a member of one of the biggest and strongest unions in existence. Take a vested interest and a proactive step in what is going on in your postal career while you still have a union. Remember that you are the UNION!

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MONDAY – FRIDAY

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Kimetra Lewis, President
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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
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.
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Mike Bell, Sergeant-at-Arms
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Bobbie Taylor, Director, Retirees
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Linda Boroughs, Editor
214-929-0421

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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

"I Was About to Pass Out"

by Linda Boroughs

I regularly hear this phrase from carriers who are sharing their horror stories about their experiences with the heat: "I was about to pass out." And it always aggravates me. Because if you are about to pass out, then you have waited too long to take measures to protect yourself from the heat.

If you are about to pass out, what are your options? You can't drive anywhere, because you might pass out and run off the road. You might be able to call someone, but you also might pass out before you can tell them what is wrong. You can try to walk to an air-conditioned shelter, but what if you pass out while you are walking there? And too often we hear of carriers, discovered by customers, who are passed out in driveways, because that carrier was about to pass out from the heat, but just kept going.



Before you get to the point where you are about to pass out, stop carrying mail. Yes, your supervisor might throw a hissy fit if you get back late, but that is not your problem. Your responsibility is to make sure you take care of yourself and do not succumb to the heat. Listen to your body so you can tell when the heat is starting to affect you. And when you feel that you are getting overheated, don't push yourself to the point that you are about to pass out. Stop when you first feel the effects of the heat, and go to an air-conditioned place. If you have an air-conditioned truck, sit in the truck with the A/C on (make sure you stay in the driver's seat while it is running). Drink some cool water. Relax. Take some deep breaths. You know what cools you off and what is best for you. And once you have cooled off, try again to safely carry some mail.

Don't rely on your supervisor to take care of you. If you feel you are in danger from the heat, call 911. If you need to tell your supervisor that you will return late, try texting them on the scanner to reduce the chances of a negative interaction with them. If you have to call them, cool off and relax in an air-conditioned place before you call them, and stay there while you call them.

If resting in an air-conditioned place doesn't help, then you may need to go home or go back to the station. If you do, file a report of an on-the-job injury. This can be done online at "ecompany.dol.gov", or you can get the form from your supervisor. Also fill out the Heat Injury Report that is in this newsletter, and you can email that to peralta@nalc.org or give it to your steward or branch officer.

It's a cliché, but it's true: You are your most important delivery. Delivering mail in the heat is challenging, but it should not be life-threatening. Do what you need to do to protect yourself, and never push yourself to the point that you are about to pass out.

MEETINGS RESUME AT THE UNION HALL

Starting in July, the monthly branch meeting and steward training will be live and in person at the union hall! The branch officers are still working out some of the details, so stay tuned to our Facebook page (NALC Branch 132 Connection), or the website at "nalclonestarbranch132.org" for the latest information.

At this time, the plan is that members will be required to wear masks at the meetings. Social distancing will be required to the greatest extent possible. The officers are trying to work out a system to also share the meeting via Zoom or other means, so that the members do not have to come to the hall for the meetings.

Let's work together to make this work for everyone! We are all eager to see each other again in person, and we all look forward to putting this pandemic behind us.



National Association of Letter Carriers



Initial Heat Injury Report

Date of Injury: ____/____/____

Employee Name: _____

Contact#: ____-____-____
(cell preferred)

Email address: _____

Work Location: _____ State: _____
Installation and Station

Branch President: _____ Branch: _____

Contact#: ____-____-____
(cell preferred)

Email address: _____

Events leading to injury:

Please send a copy of this form to NALC Director of Safety and Health at NALC Headquarters or to peralta@nalc.org

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



ZANDRA ROGERS-JACKSON
32 YEARS • DALLAS - NORTHAVEN

Zandra hired on as a PTF at Northaven. When she turned regular, she was moved to University Station, but she bid back to Northaven in three months, because she felt a bond with the other carriers at Northaven that had helped her out when she was a new carrier. She stayed at Northaven until she retired. During her career, she only had one dog bite, which happened only two years ago - she almost made it her entire career without a dog bite! Now that she is retired, she will take care of her parents, do a little traveling, and enjoy being in control of her own time. She still thinks about the other carriers out there working, and she reminds them to be aware of their surroundings, and to take care of themselves to avoid injuries and accidents.

RETIRING SOON?

Have you received your blue book for retirement? Are you wondering where to start? Do you even know what a blue book is?

The branch has two officers to help you plan for your retirement. Earl Hibbs and Robert Hinson are available to help you make your transition to retirement as smooth as possible. If you need assistance with your blue book, call the union hall and make an appointment with either one. They will sit down with you and show you all of your options and help you decide what is best for you.

They do ask that you make an appointment beforehand, instead of just stopping by the union hall. They want to take the time to go over things thoroughly, and an appointment lets them clear their schedule so they can focus on you. Call them now, and then you can enjoy your retirement with the confidence that you covered all the bases!



GARY HENDERSON
26 YEARS • MARSHALL - MPO

Gary has 26 years as a carrier, plus 8 years in the Army, where he served as a radio operator and mechanic in places such as Germany, Hawaii, and Arkansas. He spent 23 years as a union representative, serving as the Formal A steward for Marshall, Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, Henderson, and Kilgore. He got involved with the union because he wanted to gain knowledge. He didn't understand everything in the PO, and he wanted to know the right way. He personally experienced management's shenanigans when he was put off the clock in 2009 (he was brought back with full back pay), and when management accused him of signing documents on his day off. Now he will spend some time with his grandkids and try to hit all 50 states in a road trip. For the new carriers, he tells them, "Learn the contract," in order to learn what you can do and what management can do. For the stewards, he advises them to be willing to tell carriers when they are wrong (as long as management isn't listening) and never accept special favors from management.



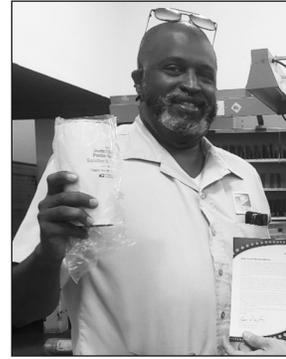
Don't let your union membership retire when you do!

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!

VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY



The veterans at Robert E. Price received certificates and insulated cups from the USPS as a thank you for their service.



Shannon Garrett served with the Navy as a welder where he repaired leaks in the boat hulls, plumbing, and steam pipes. He worked in Asia, and also worked on the hovercrafts.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

MARCH 2021

National Dues	\$68,617.00
OWCP Dues	461.20
Misc.	786.79
Retiree Dues	12.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.24
TOTAL \$	\$69,878.23

APRIL 2021

National Dues	\$67,880.64
OWCP Dues	385.24
Misc.	
Money Market	
MBA Rebate	67.25
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.37
TOTAL \$	\$68,334.50

TREASURER REPORT

General Fund	\$167,962.28
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,170.30
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	<i>130,139.94</i>
<i>Convention Fund</i>	<i>40,000.00</i>
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	<i>6,200.00</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>6,575.58</i>
<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>18,702.11</i>
<i>Money Market</i>	<i>309,552.67</i>
MDA Fund	99.81
CD 18 Month	106,416.57
CD 18 Month	103,706.10
CD 12 Month	102,744.23
TOTAL \$	\$992,124.29

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

- Caesar Clark** – Michelle Hubbard; Reso Wahsington.
- Desoto** – Michael Ainsworth's grandmother passed away; Jose Hernandez's grandfather is sick.
- Farmers Branch** – Ricky Bambico passed away.
- Lakewood** – Ron Teneyck.
- Longview (Northwest)** – Scott Eades.
- Parkdale** – Rhonda Carney; Bashira El-Amin; Tyra Wellington.
- Waxahachie** – Ed Bremer's wife passed away.
- Retirees** – Armando Castilleja and wife's son passed away; Marvin Haar had hip replacement; Murray Freeman passed away.
- Auxiliary #28** – Margaret Castilleja and husband's son passed away.
- DRT & Formal "A" Team** – Mike Bell's wife retired.

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
PP-07	1971	1757	53115	34001
PP-08	1962	1752	52910	33880
PP-09	1968	1755	53024	33632
PP-10	1958	1746	52720	33465
PP-11	1946	1738	52385	33142

ATTENTION ALL DELEGATES TO THE TSALC CONVENTION

Be advised that the 2021 Texas State Association of Letter Carriers (TSALC) Convention, originally scheduled for July in Houston, Texas, has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, TSALC by-laws require that there be an election of state officers. Considering the unusual circumstances, the election will be conducted by mail. All branch delegates will receive a ballot in the mail sometime after July 26, 2021. The completed ballots must be received by the TSALC Secretary no later than August 26, 2021. Branch bylaws require that delegates must vote in the election to share in the allocated funds. The branch officers will verify if a delegate voted with the TSALC before disbursing the funds. Listed below are the delegates for Branch 132:

Andy Alvarado	Danny Hilliard	Marcus Ritch
Rachel Anderson	Robert Hinson	Alfonzo Roberson
Larry Ausborne	Bennie Hoskins	Edna Roy
Mike Bell	Michelle Hubbard	Jerridean Sadberry
Kevin Blair	Rhonda Hudson	Lenora Salinas
Rodrick Boddie	Lyndon Huston	LaShawn Silas
Linda Boroughs	Richard Inurrigarro	Sid Simmons
Greg Boulet	Cornell Jackson	Janine Singleton
Shawn Boyd	Mardel Jackson	Penny Smith
Albert Brooks	Eugene Johnson	Twasky Smith
Javier Carrizales	Joseph Johnson	Alexander Staten
Michael Chabolla	Kennard Johnson	Beverly Stevens
Stanley Chinaka	Mary Jones	Ron Stover
Jane Clark	Kim Lewis	Clubber Targton
Edwin Cooper	Robert Lyons	Darryl Targton
Rachel Bacus-Cox	Laura Maglaris	Bobbie Taylor
Shanequal Dean	Clyde Martin	Helen Toliver
Jerry Edwards	Lakeshia Martin	Donnell Turner
Steve Ellenberg	Reachel Mason	Chris Velasquez
Keven Fegans	Shelton Mayfield	Thomas Vines
Jesse Garcia	Locquetta McCoo	David Warren
Russell Gardiner	Dwight McCullough	Myra Warren
Darrell Green	Albert Menefee	Jackie Washington
Jeff Guyot	Jeff Miller	Reso Washington
Sorainya Harris	Rodney Moaning	Charles Westmoreland
Patrick Harvey	Shelia Murray	Rita Wilder
Timothy Harvey	Harolyn Ndubuokwu	Carolyn Wiley
Waymond Harvey	Deresa Raley	Paula Williams
Gary Henderson	Kevin Rape	Roy Williams

BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Ismail Abdullah	Shabaria Walter	Pettus Williams. Jr.	T'Londria Bonner
Eric Gallegos	Amirali Kassam	Damion Davis	Courtney Wright
Jake McCormick	Jacqueline De Jesus	Lexus Williams	Tasmon Smith
Ashanta Jenkins	Teresa Chitwood	Sofia Turcios	Ethan McDaniels
Fernando Alvarez	Jesse Mascorro	Adrion Arteaga	Dangelo Sanders
Wilamina Bradley	Nashali Disdier	Brenton Terrance	Ebony Christopher
Bryan Smith	Niesha Walter	Ariel Dorn	Alexis White
Branson Adair	Amy Frachiseur	Deshaun Wilson	Michael Dixon
Monique Hill	Tiffany Bates	Kecia Gagum	Jimmy Johnson
Malcolm Gordon	Jerrold Johnson	Willinetta Kennedy	Anthony Jones II
Christie McGee	Juan Ruiz	Keyona Pope	Odalis Ortiz-Bosch
Rodney Stiggers	Jessica Rodriguez	Amy Rich	Kashia Taylor
Oswaldo Velasquez			

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S
REPORT
Sid Simmons**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our union hall has been closed to the membership since March of last year. As a result, the deadly virus forced our stewards and officers to conduct business in a different manner. Our monthly Executive Board Meeting, as well as our branch and steward meetings, has been conducted over Zoom. After a month or two, we worked out the bugs and were able to virtually take care of business. Despite our ability to adapt, we all looked forward to the time when we could get together in person to conduct the good work of this union. Well, that time has arrived.

The first event where some of us got together in person was the annual Retiree Banquet on May 16, 2021. It was well attended and it felt really good to see some of our senior retirees after over a year. Our National Business Agent, Javier Bernal, was our special guest and gave us an update on current issues that affect all letter carriers, active and retired.

The branch officers have discussed the matter and have decided it is time for us to get back to “almost” normal. On June 28, 2021 the Executive Board will convene its first in-person meeting at the union hall in well over a year. The stewards’ training will be conducted in person at the union hall on July 1, 2021, and the branch meeting will be at the union hall on July 12, 2021.

Many of our active members and stewards have not physically been to the union hall since early last year. It is our hope that they will be pleased to see some of the changes we have made to their building. The kitchen area has been completely remodeled and updated. There will also be an addition to the entry way, which will display plaques with the names of all our branch presidents since our charter was approved 130 years ago.

We sure hope to see you soon.

**MAY BRANCH MEETING
MINUTES**

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on May 3, 2021.

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Brother Titus Brown gave the invocation and President Lewis led the Pledge.

There was one Resolution of Sympathy for Sister Shelia Stewart.

No Executive Board Recommendations.

President Lewis read a list of letter carriers who have died due to COVID-19 nationwide.

- The retiree banquet will be held Sunday, May 16th, starting at 4pm at the Skyline ranch.
- The first CCA conversions as per the new national agreement will take place May 8, 2021, for those CCAs with 24 months of service.
- LMOU negotiations will be finished by May 28, 2021.
- President Lewis shared a letter from USPS headquarters about EFEL procedures and the forms for requesting EFEL and read each item of those forms.
- Nomination forms for TSALC elections must be received May 31, 2021. All delegates will receive ballots and those ballots must be returned by August 26, 2021, in order to be counted.
- Branch trustees met April 30, 2021, for an audit of the financial records for August-December 2020, and all was found to be in order.
- A motion to publish the branch financial reports in the Metro Letter Carrier. (passed)

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Branch 132 plans to resume meeting at the union hall in July. These plans could change, so check the Facebook page “NALC Branch 132 Connection”, or the website at “nalclonestarbranch132.org” for the latest information.

July 1 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

July 1 - National Postal Worker Day

July 5 - Postal holiday - Independence Day

July 12 - 7:30 pm - Monthly branch meeting

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

August 2 - 7:30 pm - Monthly branch meeting

August 5 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

August 7 - International Beer Day

August 30 - Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

September 2 - 7:00 pm - Steward training

September 6 - Postal holiday - Labor Day

September 13 - 7:30 pm - Monthly branch meeting

