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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



Out with the Old! In with the New!

Each new year we start off reflecting on the past and thinking about the things we did and those things we did not do. As we enter the year 2022, I'm sure many of you have made a few New Year's resolutions to bring about a new and improved you. We begin each year setting goals with the thoughts of bigger and better things to come in the next new year. We set our

sights high with great anticipation. Just as we envision change, improvement, and great things in our personal lives, so should we envision change, improvement, and great things in all aspects of our lives.

With the beginning of a new year comes an opportunity to better us. As we move forward into the new year, I am contemplating great things for Branch 132. In the year 2021, Covid-19 forced the branch to expand its way of thinking to find a way to bring the branch to the membership. For the first six months of 2021, the branch met via Zoom each month. The use of the Zoom concept allowed members who had never attended a branch meeting an opportunity to participate in the meetings from the comfort of their homes. Members throughout the branch in the East Texas area, in Corsicana, in Gainesville, in Greenville, in Sherman, and all the surrounding metroplex were able to join in the meetings. In the month of July, as restrictions on meetings were lifted, we began to have meetings both in-person and on Zoom. This opened the

door to have a more informed membership. And as we all know knowledge is power!

As we enter the year 2022, I am focusing on the continued education of the membership. After speaking with our National President Fred Rolando, I was informed that NALC will restart the Leadership Academy and the training for the Advanced Formal A and Beyond this year. The Leadership Academy involves three separate weeks of training where the students discuss effective leadership skills, including effective writing and oral communication skills as they learn all aspects of NALC. Each student leaves the academy with leadership skills and the confidence to lead. Branch 132 currently has five (5) graduates of the Leadership Academy.

The Advanced Formal A and Beyond training is a weeklong training which focuses on sharpening the skills needed for enforcing the National Agreement (our contract) at the Formal Step A level of the grievance process and provides an experience of what it's like to serve as a Step B representative. Currently the Branch has seven (7) graduates of the Advanced Formal A and Beyond and seven (7) members certified to serve NALC as Step B representatives. Yes, one would say we're in good shape but there is still room for improvement.

Let's not sit around and wait for great things to happen. Let's make great things happen. Let this be the year that we agree to stand up and stand out. For us to do so, we must know our jobs, know what is expected of us, and perform to the best of our ability. As we become better, we must help and encourage those who are struggling to become better. Get involved. Participate in the branch meetings and upcoming events. There are opportunities for everyone. The door of my office is always open for suggestions and ideas to better Branch 132. Let's roll up our sleeves and make it happen!

Remember: 2022 is the year for you!

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Robert Hinson, Vice President
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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 RitaWilder05@gmail.com



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LAST PUNCH BUNCH



DAVID SOLT

42 YEARS • LEWISVILLE - MPO

David started as a casual working Christmases in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He unloaded tractor trailers by hand, as all the parcels came in bags. He then hired on as a carrier and worked in Pennsylvania for five more years, including a 2-foot snowstorm on the last day he worked there. He didn't mind the heat, and his wife's job was transferred to Texas, so he came to Lewisville and finished out his career. Now he plans to catch up on chores and enjoy his permanent vacation. He thanks all of his fellow carriers for looking out for each other and tells the new ones to hang in there and don't worry about the bosses. "Just keep your nose to the grindstone," he advises.



CHRIS TREVIÑO

36 YEARS • DALLAS - JUANITA CRAFT

Chris started out at \$9.20 an hour with the PO, much better than the \$5.25 an hour that he was making at his previous job, plus he got lots of overtime. He kept working the overtime, prompting one management official to ask his boss, "Does this guy ever go home?" Chris remembers tying out his mail with twine instead of rubber bands, collating flats into delivery sequence, and smoking at the case with a clip-on ashtray. Now he plans to catch up on things around the house and do some traveling with his wife. He tells the new carriers, "Pay attention to what you're doing and get off the goddamn phone!"



LONNIE WILLS

42 YEARS • DALLAS - PLEASANT GROVE

Lonnie's 42 years include four years as an infantry mortarman at Fort Hood with the Army, where he was under General George Patton IV, a man with "war in his eyes", according to Lonnie. He was a PTF at University, and as soon as he went regular, he bid to Pleasant Grove and he stayed there for the rest of his career. He feels blessed by his job with the PO and considers it one of the best jobs you can get without a college degree. He plans to work for friends now as a marketer. He recommends to the new carriers that they treat every piece of mail like it is their own and treat their customers like family.



LEONARD MILLER

**39 YEARS
LEWISVILLE -
MPO**

Leonard served 4 years with the Marines at Camp Pendleton where he worked in administration. He hired on as a carrier right out of the Marines, and started in Metairie, Louisiana. Hurricane Katrina caused him to evacuate to Texas in 2005, and he decided to stay here, even though he lost his seniority. Now he is going to help his wife run a group home for seniors, take care of his dogs, and catch up around the house. He recommends a positive attitude at work, because it will help the years go by faster. "Treat the mail as if it is your own," he adds.

BRANCH 132 BOWL-A-THON

Branch 132 held the Sheila M. Stewart Bowl-a-Thon in November to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Sheila Stewart was known for her support and work for MDA, and the bowl-a-thon continues in her memory.



USPS NOW CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH

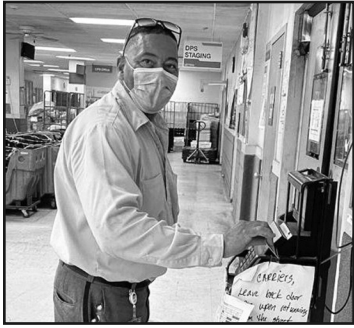
The USPS is now recognizing the Juneteenth National Independence Day as a holiday for regular carriers. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. In 2022, June 19 falls on a Sunday, so the holiday will be observed on Monday, June 20. Enjoy your extra day and remember those who suffered before slavery was abolished.

☆ Happy ☆

Juneteenth

☆ Y'all! ☆

LAST PUNCH BUNCH (CONT.)



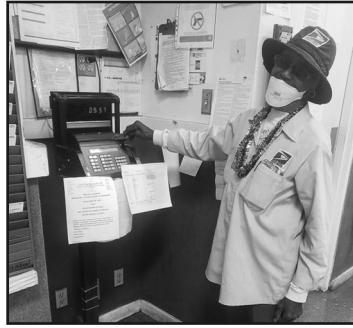
SAMUEL WELLS

41 YEARS • DALLAS - RICHLAND

Samuel's 41 years includes nine years with the Air Force, where he worked at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma scheduling aircraft. He started with the USPS as a clerk in Las Vegas, then transferred to carrying after a few months. In Las Vegas, he helped implement DPS, then he transferred to Dallas in 2005. Richland PO was the only station he ever worked at in Dallas. His favorite memory with the USPS is carrying the Olympic torch in 1992 when the USPS sponsored the



Olympics. He is pictured in the photo with his son, who was 5 years old at the time. He reminds the new carriers of the wisdom in Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."



PAMELA GREER

32 YEARS • DALLAS - LAKE HIGHLANDS

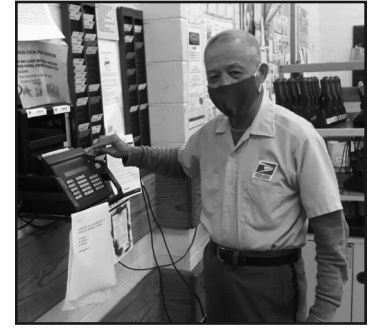
Pamela started out at East Grand Station, which was moved to the new Juanita Craft Station while she was still a PTF. The other subs went to Juanita Craft, but she was moved to Lake Highlands. The family atmosphere at Lake Highlands appealed to her, so she stayed there until she retired. Now that she is retired, she is thinking about doing some photography or sewing as a side business. She advises the new carriers to always keep God first, and to hang in there! "Just treat people the way you want to be treated, and do your best," she says.



MAGGIE SANTIAGO

22 YEARS • DALLAS - PARKDALE

Maggie started with the PO in upstate New York, and transferred here in December 2013. She had just married, and her new husband liked Texas, so they decided to give it a try. She got here on Thursday, and started on her new T6 position at Parkdale on Saturday, even though management wasn't expecting her. She will miss the good friends that she made on the route and at the station, but now she plans to get a little rest and do a little volunteering. She counsels the new carriers to learn everything they can, especially the union rules, and then follow the rules. "Find a pace that you can keep for thirty years," she states.



MARK NGUYEN

21 YEARS • DALLAS - BEVERLY HILLS

Mark started as a PTF at Lake Highlands, but he spent his last 16 years at Beverly Hills. He liked the walking on his route, and he was okay with the heat, but he never liked the cold because it hurt his hands. He did work in the big snowstorm in February 2021, but he was very careful because of the ice. Now he is planning to spend some time with family and spend some time taking care of himself. He reminds the new carriers to max out their contributions to their TSP account to get the matching funds and make their retirement easier. "Work hard and be safe," he says.



The Executive Board of Branch 132 wishes all members of Branch 132 a

Happy New Year!

Your hard work delivering to our customers is recognized and appreciated. May the new year bless us all with health, wealth, and happiness!



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!



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT**

SEPTEMBER 2021

National Dues	\$66,967.78
OWCP Dues	726.96
Misc.	0.00
Retiree Dues	36.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	797.04
Deposit Dividends	2.07
TOTAL \$	\$68,529.85

OCTOBER 2021

National Dues	\$67,506.98
OWCP Dues	590.24
Misc.	216.72
IRS Refund	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.24
TOTAL \$	\$68,316.18

NOVEMBER 2021

National Dues	\$67,954.05
OWCP Dues	970.44
Misc.	5,376.00
Active Dues	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	535.20
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.33
TOTAL \$	\$74,838.02

**SICK & WELFARE
REPORT**

Caesar Clark – Michele Ferguson-Hubbard; Reso Washington.

Duncanville – Yolanda Maline lost her husband.

Jefferson – John Brooks passed away.

Lakewood – Ron Teneyck.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Oaklawn – Jose Guerra passed away.

Retirees – Joe Lee passed away; Harper Evans, Jr. has a new grandson.

**BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS**

Michael Booker	Harvarell Davis	Stephanie Downey
Jajuan Fisher	Tiffany Griffin	Nioshaye Hill
Crystal Hurt	Latoya Jackson	Marteakka Houston
Jeremy Matthews	Jacob Smith	Shemika Williams
Sharon Willis	Teianna Johnson	Avery Brackens
Pedro Solorsano	Janie Gardner	Tamara Williams
Luis Ortiz	Shacameron Sullivan	Chanté Coleman
Willie Seldon	Amanda Scarbrough	Tawana Bables
Reginald Parker	Jean Mady	Rehan Shah
Marguita Ervine	Timika Battle	Krystal Bell
Victor Galindo	Leon Mariely	Tammie Foster
Melissa Kidder		Alexandria Oefrancisco

TREASURER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021

General Fund	\$263,164.82
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,384.60
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	<i>126,373.20</i>
<i>Convention Fund</i>	<i>33,000.00</i>
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	<i>4,850.00</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>15,060.64</i>
<i>Money Market</i>	<i>332,100.76</i>
MDA Fund	501.84
CD 18 Month	106,729.27
CD 18 Month	104,010.85
CD 12 Month	103,021.89
TOTAL \$	\$1,088,838.27

DECEMBER 2021

General Fund	\$288,517.84
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,426.63
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	<i>126,078.44</i>
<i>Convention Fund</i>	<i>33,000.00</i>
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	<i>2,700.00</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>14,513.35</i>
<i>Money Market</i>	<i>335,134.84</i>
MDA Fund	501.88
CD 18 Month	106,790.69
CD 18 Month	104,070.71
CD 12 Month	103,072.71
TOTAL \$	\$1,114,405.46

OCTOBER 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

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

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Aric Johnson gave the invocation and President Lewis led the pledge.

There were no Resolutions of Sympathy.

There were no Executive Board Recommendations.

President Lewis made the following announcements:

- The CCA mentor program is being formulated. Names of mentors at each station are being submitted.
- The MDA Bowl-A-Thon is being reinstated. Details will be announced at a later date.
- Brother Titus Brown was recognized as a Front Line Hero in DMagazine.

Nominations for branch officer elections were taken. The contested offices were: Executive VP: Sid Simmons and Ron Stover; Vice President: Robert Hinson and Aric Johnson; Trustee: Javier Carrizales, Helen Toliver, Thomas Vines, Eugene Johnson, Rita Wilder, and Chris Velasquez.

Nominations for delegates to the Chicago 2022 National Convention were taken.

A motion for the branch to donate \$500.00 to the southeast Louisiana carriers. (motion passed)

The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard

Recording Secretary

NOVEMBER 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

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

President Lewis called the meeting to order.

Thomas Vines gave the invocation and President Lewis led the pledge.

There were no Resolutions of Sympathy.

There were no Executive Board Recommendations.

President Lewis made the following announcements:

- The CCA mentor program is now up and running. President Lewis read the list of mentors.
- The MDA Bowl-A-Thon and Pool Tournament will be November 28, 2021, at the Forum Bowling Alley.
- LCPF Challenge to sign up the most members in an office. The contest ends December 31, 2021. Mesquite gave a \$500.00 one-time contribution.
- Election of officers ballots are in the mail to members.
- New Memorandum of Understanding M-01968.
- A climate assessment team will be in Duncanville November 16-18, 2021.
- EFEL Leave has expired on September 30, 2021. The other memorandums regarding Covid will continue until the end of the year.
- NBA spring school will be in Houston February 19-21, 2021, at the Hilton Post Oak.
- The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard

Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

During the holiday season, I always reflect on how incredibly fortunate that I am. Sharron and I have three wonderful kids that have grown up to be very good and responsible adults. Stacey, Jason, and Jennifer are all married and have families of their own.

Sharron and I are also blessed to have ten grandchildren that we see all the time. Kylie (20), Kaden (16), Conner (16), Preston (16), Sidney (14), Kloe (13), Tyler, (13), Konrad (5), Carson (4), and Lawson (2) all live within a ten-mile radius of our home. As you can imagine, Grammy and Poppa have lots of presents to buy for Christmas morning.

Sometimes life can be challenging, especially this time of year, for those of you who work 12 hours, day in and day out, delivering all those letters and packages to our customers. It doesn't make it any easier, having all those supervisors and managers constantly pressuring you to do more.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you for what you do. As letter carriers, you provide a vital service to our nation, especially during the pandemic.

I also want to encourage you to reflect on what is most important this time of the year, or all year round for that matter, and that is - your loved ones. May you all have a happy and prosperous holiday season. I know I will.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

ARTICLE VII EXPENSES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 12 - Stewards certified by the Branch shall be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at each regular branch meeting. Stewards and Alternate Stewards certified by the Branch will be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at stewards training meetings, payable no later than December 15th each year.

Change to Read:

Section 12 -- Stewards certified by the Branch shall be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at each regular branch meeting. Stewards and Alternate Stewards certified by the Branch will be paid eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per month for attendance at stewards training meetings, payable no later than December 15th each year. All Formal A Representatives appointed by the Branch will be paid a stipend of one hundred dollars (\$100) per month for their services in addition to any steward pay they receive.

Signed by:

Chris Velasquez

Robert Reedy

Janine Singletoon

D D Hurd

ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the branch elections were announced at the December branch meeting by the Election Committee. Here are the vote totals for the contested positions, with an asterisk denoting the winner for that race:

Executive Vice-President – *Sid Simmons – 428; Ron Stover – 392

Vice President – *Robert Hinson – 517; Aric Johnson – 291

Trustees - *Javier Carrizales – 600; *Eugene Johnson – 572; *Helen Toliver – 617; *Chris Velasquez – 602; *Tommy Vines – 544; Rita Wilder – 432.

The following officers were unopposed and elected by acclamation:

President – Kim Lewis

Recording Secretary – Danny Hilliard

Treasurer – Steve Ellenberg

Financial Secretary – Janine Singleton

Health Benefits Representative – Earl Hibbs

Director of Retirees – Bobbie Taylor

Sergeant-at-Arms – James “Mike” Bell

No one ran for the position of Editor. President Lewis has appointed Rita Wilder to serve as Editor. Congratulations to all of our officers and may you all serve the branch well!

NBA SPRING SCHOOL RESUMES

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, the NBA Spring School will resume in February. The dates are February 19-21, and the venue is the Hilton Post Oak in Houston. Call 1-800-245-7299 to make room reservations and use the code NALC to get the special \$109 rate. COVID protocols must be followed. The spring school offers a variety of classes, and all members are welcome to attend. Branch 132 offers a modest reimbursement for our members who attend. Knowledge is power, so come to Houston and increase your knowledge!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Currently, the branch meetings and steward training are being held at the union hall and being simultaneously broadcast over Zoom. With new developments, these plans could change, so be sure to keep up with the latest information on the branch's Facebook page at "NALC Branch 132 Connection" or check the website at: "nalclonestarbranch132.org".

January 1 – New Year's Day – Postal holiday

January 3 – 7:30 pm – Monthly branch meeting – union hall – Eating, meeting and installation ceremony for new officers and stewards

January 7 – 7:00 pm – Steward training – union hall

January 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Postal holiday

January 31 – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

February 3 – 7:00 pm – Steward training – union hall

February 7 – 7:30 pm – Monthly branch meeting – union hall

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 19-21 – NBA Spring School - Houston

February 21 – Presidents Day – Postal holiday

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

