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METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

RITA WILDER, EDITOR

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



I started out the new year in my last article declaring 2022 to be the year we stand up and stand out. I stated to make this happen, we need to know our jobs, know what is expected of us, and perform to the best of our ability. One area of concern throughout the branch is the increasing attendance issues. Attendance issues are prevalent in nearly every office within the branch. It is understandable that employees will at times become ill and/or have emergency situations that prevent

them from reporting for duty. That understanding was taken into consideration by the Postal Service and is expressed in the regulations outlined in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM).

All employees of the Postal Service are required to be regular in attendance. Sick leave is an earned benefit. The purpose of sick leave is to ensure employees against loss of pay if they are incapacitated for the performance of duties because of illness, injury, pregnancy and confinement, and medical (including dental or optical) examination or treatment. Except for unexpected illnesses, sick leave must be requested on a PS Form 3971 (Request for or Notification of Absence) and approved in advance by management. Annual leave is also an earned benefit. Annual leave is provided to employees for rest, for recreation, and for personal and emergency purposes. Except for unexpected emergencies, annual leave must be requested on a PS Form 3971 and approved in advance by management. Any request for annual and sick leave not requested and approved in advance will be considered as unscheduled leave. A tardy can also be considered as unscheduled leave. Any use of unscheduled leave can become the subject of disciplinary action.

Section 665.41 of the ELM states, *“Employees are required to be regular in attendance. Failure to be regular in attendance may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the Postal Service.”* A large percentage of carriers believe that their absence for sick leave is excused if they provide medical documentation; however, that is far from the truth. Section 511.41 of the ELM defines unscheduled absences as *“any absences from work that are not requested and approved in advance.”* The Union has and will continue to fight diligently for those carriers who are issued discipline for their attendance records. However, while we may have been successful in getting some discipline overturned, that does not change the requirement to be regular in attendance and it does not mean we will be able to continue to do so. A lot of attendance-related discipline has been overturned due to technical errors on the part of management, not because the discipline was not warranted.

It is your responsibility to be regular in attendance. It is also your responsibility to submit a PS Form 3971 upon your return to work. Section 513.332 of the ELM states in part, *“PS Form 3971, Request for or Notification of Absence, will be provided to the employee upon his or her return to duty.”* Do not allow management to fill out a PS Form 3971 for you. Request the form upon your return to duty and fill it out yourself. This has been an ongoing issue that creates a problem when the Union attempts to defend a carrier’s attendance record. If you have a chronic medical condition that causes you to be absent from work on a continual basis, you need to request FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) to protect your absence from discipline. Management is required once they are made aware of an employee having a chronic medical condition to offer FMLA; but they cannot do so if they are not made aware of your medical condition.

Putting our careers in a positive direction begins with reporting to work as required. Letter carriers are the backbone of the Postal Service. It cannot exist without us; therefore, it is important that we take our careers seriously by reporting to work as schedule. Let us stand up and stand out!

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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

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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

Rita Wilder, Editor
972-805-6798

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Javier Carrizales 214-478-5535

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 RitaWilder05@gmail.com



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National 1-800-848-3576

STEWARD'S CORNER

The Steward's Corner is designed to spotlight stewards throughout the branch that go above and beyond their duties of a steward. In this edition, Frank Valdez will be showcased. Frank Valdez was inspirational in settling a hostile work environment grievance at the Richland Station which resulted in the removal of the supervisor.



Hello, my fellow Letter Carriers, my name is Franklin Valdez, Letter Carrier from the Brookhollow station. I have been with the Postal Service since November 7, 1998. In 2017, I became a union steward at the Beverly Hills station and had the privilege to be trained by Formal A Chris Velasquez. In 2018, I was given the opportunity by the President, Kim Lewis, to attend the Advance Formal A and Beyond Training in Linthicum Heights, Maryland.

Thereafter, I was certified by President Kim Lewis as the Formal Step A for White Rock, Vickery, Spring Valley, Parkdale, Farmers Branch, Juanita Craft, Northhaven and recently Richland station. Throughout this amazing journey I have been blessed to be coached and mentored by President Kim Lewis and Chris Velasquez. President Lewis has pushed me out of my comfort zone and has made me a better steward. With her years of experience, knowledge and PATIENCE, President Lewis has helped me successfully represent carriers throughout the city of Dallas.

Our jobs as steward are not always easy but very rewarding when you assist fellow carriers with their contractual and discipline grievances. Throughout my 24 years of service, I have worked in many installations throughout the Southern Area. Through my Postal career, I have never encountered a local union so structured and strong as our local Branch 132. Our local Branch 132 structure and strength are the reflection of our President's leadership. With her hard work and dedication, President Lewis has established a safe, secure, and strong foundation for all of us. We should all be grateful and thankful for the long hours and hard work she dedicates for us. I am honored and proud to be part of her team and hope to continue my journey for years to come.

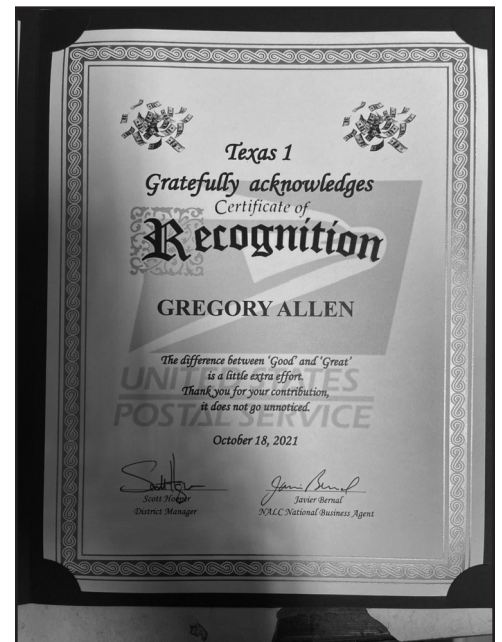
Franklin A. Valdez
Branch 132 Formal A

#POSTALPROUD WITH CUSTOMER CONNECT



GREG ALLEN
DOWNTOWN STATION
CITY CARRIER/STEWARD

Greg Allen through his dedication and commitment to the success of the Postal Service submitted a lead from the Anu'crown Luxury to the Customer Connect program that generated \$90,000 in revenue for the Postal Service. We would like to recognize and thank Greg for a job well done.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Postal Service Reform Act **HR 3076** passed the House of Representatives in a vote of 342-92. President Fredric Rolando called the passage 'a huge victory for the American people, who rely on the Postal Service for affordable and high-quality universal service.'

This was a bipartisan bill to strengthen the Postal Service, with provisions that eliminate the mandate on the Postal Service prefunding retiree health care benefits and six-day delivery. It also includes provisions to reduce postal health care by increasing participation in Medicare on a prospective basis. Please take a few minutes to call your Congressional Representative and **thank** them for taking the courage to vote for this bill.

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



RAY BUNCH

**PARKDALE
33 YEARS**

Ray started out at the Postal Service as a Casual in April of 1989. After turning regular at Spring Valley, he was assigned to the Farmers Branch Station. Ray decided to bid to Lakewood, Casa View (now known as Medrano) and finally settled at Parkdale. While at Parkdale he served on the Employee Involvement Team and assisted with the NALC Food Drive. Ray also received a Million Mile safe driving award. Now he plans to relax, travel, and sleep in on Saturdays. His advice to new carriers is to keep their customers happy.



ANDY ALVARADO

**CARROLLTON - ROSEMEADE
40 YEARS, 8 MONTHS**

Andy began his career as a mail handler at the Dallas BMC. He transferred to the Carrollton Rosemeade Station in 1985. In the year 1992, Andy was elected chief steward which started his long career as an advocate for NALC. Andy was appointed the first Dallas District DRT Member and served in that position from 02/27/2001 - 07/02/2016. After stepping down from the DRT position, he returned to the Carrollton Rosemeade Station where he finished his career. His advice to the new carriers is: 1) Join the Union, 2) Sign up your health



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!

benefits as soon as possible, 3) Invest in TSP, and 4) If you were in the military, buy back your military time. He would like to thank the following people who support him, his wife Becky, his daughter Nina and his grandkids, Jack Walker, Earl Hibbs, Sid Simmons, Kim Lewis, David Ramsey, Robert Hinson, Gary Mullins, Gene Goodwin, Kathy Baldwin, Javier Bernal, Myra Warren, Ken Claxton, Don Neal, Pete Goodman, John Bamford and all the Carrollton carriers past and present as well as the members of Branch 132. Andy says he had a great career with few regrets.

MONTHLY INCOME REPORT

	Active	Paying	Gross	Net	Active	Paying	Gross	Net	
PP-22	1945	1750	52260	33473	PP-14	1968	1759	52836	33638
PP-23	1934	1742	51923	33088	PP-15	1945	1737	52367	33344
PP-24	1927	1746	52164	33274	PP-16	1963	1754	52598	33436
PP-25	1972	1758	53143	34040	PP-17	1972	1758	53153	33787
PP-26	1989	1772	53690	34364	PP-18	1978	1766	53300	34038
PP-01	1991	1773	53834	34368	PP-19	1948	1741	52728	33181
PP-02	1998	1784	54058	34628	PP-20	1957	1747	52693	33494
PP-03	1999	1786	54102	34710	PP-21	1973	1757	53545	34013
PP-04	1996	1787	54081	34717	PP-22	1976	1756	53249	33758
PP-05	1987	1769	53568	34305	PP-23	1984	1770	53798	34196
PP-06	1982	1770	53472	34312	PP-24	1985	1772	53826	34325
PP-07	1971	1757	53115	34001	PP-25	1963	1753	53389	33903
PP-08	1962	1752	52910	33880	PP-26	1990	1783	54281	34619
PP-09	1968	1755	53024	33632					
PP-10	1958	1746	52720	33465					
PP-11	1946	1738	52385	33142					
PP-12	1961	1750	52887	33650					
PP-13	1959	1748	52773	33537					



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT**

DECEMBER 2021

National Dues	\$102,846.61
OWCP Dues	296.72
Misc.	0.32
Retiree Dues	12.00
MBA Rebate	797.04
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.34
TOTAL \$	\$103,955.03

JANUARY 2022

National Dues	\$72,726.40
OWCP Dues	988.84
Misc.	0.89
Retiree Dues	12.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	1.76
TOTAL \$	\$73,729.89

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Sharon Hodge.

Brook Hollow – Mack Thomas passed away.

Carrollton (Rosemeade) – Andy Alvarado retired with over 40 years.

Caesar Clark – Michelle Ferguson Hubbard; Reso Washington.

Downtown – Dawn Walker.

Farmers Branch – Joseph Johnson.

Highland Hills – Brian Thompson lost his unborn child.

Parkdale – Skyron Marshall & wife have a new baby boy; Ray Branch retired with 33 years.

Pleasant Grove – Lonnie Wills retired with 42 years.

Retirees – Kenneth Albernathy passed away; Larry Jackson's wife passed away; Clemon Richard, Jr. passed away on December 6, 2021; Rita Wilder's sister-in-law passed away.

Office Staff – President Kim Lewis' daughter and son-in-law lost their unborn child.

**NEW MEMBERS
JANUARY 2022**

Jennifer Perez	Morgan Sei	Adrian Pierson
Marvin Runnels	Feliciano Aparicio	Tindell Brown
Sadrin Connally	Sharice Mitchell	Christian Mullin
David Redenbaugh	Bryan Morris	Kristina Lovell
Jamal Welch	Richard Ansu-Gyeabour	Shuwon Carter
Alexia Preddy	Nicole Arevalo	Shannon Richburg
Brittney Archie	Oliver Evans	Nicholas Mancuso
Cardinal McCullough	Javier Lopez	Shawonda Smithmoss
Billy Bannister	Izack Webster	Elijah Calvin
Rebecca Arnot	Sylvester Taye	Chelsa Muckelroy
Felicia Bush	Michael Villareal	Daron Harvey
Jeffery Reyes	Hilario Leon	Jetaime Washington
Markeis Waston	Xavier Henry	Yvonne Campbell

TREASURER REPORT

JANUARY 2022

General Fund	\$245,194.74
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,470.07
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	133,530.00
<i>Convention Fund</i>	85,000.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	10,000.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	10,000.00
<i>Education Fund</i>	37,000.00
<i>Money Market</i>	235,940.07

MDA Fund	1,630.97
CD 18 Month	106,854.20
CD 18 Month	104,132.60
CD 12 Month	103,125.25
TOTAL \$	\$1,072,458.24

FEBRUARY 2022

General Fund	\$214,963.01
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,513.51
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	130,331.85
<i>Convention Fund</i>	85,000.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	9,200.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	10,000.00
<i>Education Fund</i>	36,850.00
<i>Money Market</i>	240,131.66

MDA Fund	1,631.11
CD 18 Month	106,923.90
CD 18 Month	104,194.53
CD 12 Month	103,177.81
TOTAL \$	\$1,042,453.87

DECEMBER 2021 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on December 6, 2021

President Kim Lewis called the meeting to order.

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

- Resolutions of Sympathy were read for Members Joe L. Lee, Gloria Troutman and John Brooks.
- Executive Board Recommendations: The board voted to accept the proposed 2022 budget.
- President Lewis presented the 2022 budget to the membership.
- A motion to accept the budget was made that included an amendment, to direct the money proposed for the fall NBA school to be set aside for the NBA fall training. (Motion passed) For 44 Against 10
- The Sheila M Stewart Memorial MDA Bowl-a-Thon and Pool Tournament raised \$1, 110.00 for MDA.
- The Election Committee report was read as follows: Executive VP Sid Simmons 428 - Ron Stover 392, Vice President Robert Hinson 517 - Aric Johnson 291 and Trustees Javier Carrazales 600, Helen Toliver 617, Eugene Johnson 572, Chris Velasquez 602, Tomas Vines 544 and Rita Wilder 432. Membership voted to accept the committee report.
- The NBA Spring School will be in Houston February 19- 21, 2022.
- Steward elections should be held from November 22-December 31, 2021.
- The new Juneteenth Holiday will be a paid holiday for full and part-time career employees only.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

JANUARY 2022 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on January 3, 2022.

President Kim Lewis called the meeting to order. President Lewis gave the invocation and lead the Pledge.

- Resolution of Sympathy was read for Member Brother Clemon Richard, Jr.
- There were no Executive Board Recommendations.
- The elected officers for the next 3 years were installed by NBA Javier Bernal.
- The officers for Auxiliary 28 and newly elected stewards were installed by President Lewis.
- Awards were given to Ricardo Inurrigaro and Linda Boroughs for their service to Branch 132. Javier Bernal, NBA for Region 10 was given an award expressing the Branch's appreciation for his service to NALC.
- The NBA spring school will be in Houston February 19 – 21, 2022.
- The membership approved the by-law change to Article VII section 12 Steward Pay.
- Article 10 charges filed against President Kim Lewis, Executive Vice-President Sid Simmons and Recording Secretary Danny Hilliard were read to the membership.

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

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

Our branch is one of the largest in the country, with about 75 offices that we represent throughout north and east Texas. In recent years, it has become more challenging to ensure that all our members are properly represented, where we have no steward, no matter how far away, or how small their station.

The responsibility of ensuring that all our members are represented, belongs to the full and part-time officers of this branch, namely the President, the Executive Vice President and the Vice President. Each one of us have designated offices that we represent, where there is no steward. There are also occasions when the Branch President will designate outside stewards to represent letter carriers in stations, other than their own. The grievance procedure can be very challenging to facilitate, when we are not on site. The following is an example of my typical day.

I usually start my day at a station before I come to the office. I always do at least one of the following. (1) Request or pick up documents. (2) Meet with letter carriers that want to file grievances. (3) Meet with the immediate supervisor at Informal A. (4) Appeal grievance to Formal A. (5) Meet with the postmaster or designee at Formal A. In addition to these in person contacts, I also have to schedule all these meetings in advance via e-mail, texts, and phone calls, sometimes for multiple stations on the same day. What I just described, also applies to the other two officers that I mentioned.

I believe it is important that the membership know what their officers are doing on behalf of the membership daily. I know I can speak for the other two officers, when I say that we never run out of things to do, which of course includes our other duties once we get back to the office.

This branch will always do whatever it takes to represent our membership.

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, 2022

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

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

LONE STAR BRANCH 132, NALC
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Dallas, Texas 75227

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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".

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

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

March 13 – Daylight Saving Time begins – set clock ahead one hour

March 20 – First day of Spring

March 28 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

April 4 – 7:30 pm – Monthly branch meeting – union hall

April 7 – 7:00 pm – Steward meeting – union hall

April 15 – Passover begins

April 17 – Easter

April 25 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

Looking ahead...

May – Retiree Banquet – Look for more information in you May newsletter

