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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



Cherish the Day!

Every day brings on new possibilities. We wake up with an agenda and a plan. Some of us wake up and make plans for the day while others plan weeks, months, or days ahead. When making plans; however, we never anticipate the unexpected. Here recently my family experienced the loss of one of my brothers. I received the news as I was traveling to a Committee of Presidents meeting in Alaska.

My plans for the trip were to go to the meeting to be updated on the affairs of our union by our National President Fred Rolando and then return home to share the value information with the branch. Yet, the unexpected occurred. After receiving the news, my mind began to reflect on the times I spent with my brother. The moments we played together, the moments we laughed together, the moments we cried together and the moments we fought. Not literally fight, but disagreed. As I reflected over our past together, I began to become grateful that our last visit together was full of joy. I remember how we engaged in a long conversation and ended our visit saying we loved each other. While that memory did not take away the pain I was feeling in my heart; that memory brought a smile to my face even though it was the last time I saw him alive.

Being a member of NALC is much like being a member of a big family. There are a variety of different characteristics, beliefs, principals, and morals among the membership. Each of us have our own individual reason for why we made the decision to join NALC. We all have our own expectations of what we believe

we would gain from our membership. There are times when some of us become disappointed with the representation we received because we either do not understand the outcome or we simply do not agree with the outcome. There are times when some of us criticize the values of one another. Either by judging others work ethics or complaining of others inability to perform their duties. It is in those times that we bash the union and our coworkers to anyone who will listen, causing potential damage to the reputation of that member.

Since the unexpected is inevitable in all our lives, we need to live each moment in expectation of the unexpected and cherish the day. Instead of bickering or complaining about one another, we should uplift one another. We need to embrace and help one another at every opportunity that presents itself. It's not hard. We need to make every conscience effort to delete all negative thoughts that we may have about one another and function in unity; one with the other. We will never always agree but we can agree to always remain in solidarity as a team.

As the President of Branch 132, I feel it is my duty to encourage harmony among the members. Leadership is not about being the best, it is about making everybody else better. That is why my plan for the upcoming months is to schedule events that promote camaraderie and unity. On November 6, 2022, the branch will be hosting the MDA "Sheila M. Stewart" Bowl-a-Thon. It will be a day of fun and fellowship. All interested members are encouraged to attend. The retirees of Branch 132 will be in fellowship for breakfast on November 19, 2022, and again for their quarterly luncheon on December 15, 2022. The branch will also host an eating meeting for the membership on December 5, 2022. See the **Calendar of Events** in this newsletter for the times and locations. These events will take us into the year 2023. More fellowship opportunities are ahead as we establish memories together that we can cherish.

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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

President Emeritus – William P. York

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

TRUSTEES

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

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

On October 10, 2022, which was the Columbus Day Holiday, we had some very comprehensive training at the union hall. In attendance, were approximately 100 officers, union stewards and members of the NALC, from all over the states of Texas and New Mexico. The training was conducted by NALC Region 10 National Business Agent Elect, Shawn Boyd, and included one of his assistance, A. G. Rameriz, as well as OWCP Specialist David Miller from Colorado. For over five hours, they provided the very best training that this union has to offer, which included all aspects of the grievance procedure.

The regional school was promoted as a "Small Batch Training", which is a relatively new concept. In years past, the National Business Agent's office would have two large training schools a year for Texas and New Mexico. The first would be in a selected city over the Presidents Day holiday weekend in February, and the later would be over the Columbus Day holiday weekend in October. However, here recently, the NBA's office has utilized large branches like Houston, Dallas and San Antonio to conduct smaller trainings at their union halls, in lieu of the large regional training school in October. This is a great idea. There is no doubt that it promotes increased local participation by members of the NALC.

On a personal note, it was so great to see our union hall to capacity, with hardly an empty seat. I haven't seen that in well over two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to take this opportunity to encourage our members to return to meetings in person. Zoom has been a great option, but it's time to reunite, face to face, and enjoy the fellowship that we have missed for way too long. Hope to see you soon.

STEWARD'S CORNER

JAVIER CARRIZALES



Hello, my name is Javier Carrizales and I have been a member of NALC since day one of my career. I started my career nearly 26 years ago as a casual letter carrier in the state of California. At that time, I was a member of Branch 1100. I transferred in the year 2000 to Grand Prairie and instantly became a member of Branch 132. I began my Union career as an alternate steward around 2003 and have been serving in the capacity of steward ever since. I am currently Chief steward of the Grand Prairie Main Post Office, a trustee of the branch, and a member of the Route Evaluation Adjustment Team (REAT). The work NALC does to protect our members is what I love being a part of. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that make this machine work. We have a very strong union and I do not take it for granted. We do not get our rights and benefits because management likes us, we get them because our union fights for them. Thanks to all the branch leaders and stewards who have taught me along the way and the members that put their trust in us. God bless our Union, the NALC.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

AUGUST 2022

National Dues	\$72,086.35
OWCP Dues	1,555.19
Miscellaneous	
Retiree Dues	
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.52
TOTAL \$	\$73,644.06

SEPTEMBER 2022

National Dues	\$71,129.99
OWCP Dues	895.90
Miscellaneous	1.12
Retiree Dues	564.57
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.14
TOTAL \$	\$72,593.72

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Caesar Clark – Michelle Hubbard; Reso Washington.

Collections – Allen Thomas.

The Colony – Gwendoln McClendon.

Desoto – Antwyan Redic, Sr.'s brother passed away.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Parkdale – Brandon Esquivel; Jerald McGee's brother passed away; Locquenetta McCoo's brother passed away and she has a new grandbaby girl.

Retirees – Andy Alvarado's wife Becky is recovering from surgery; Greg Boulet's sister passed away.

Office Staff – President Lewis' brother passed away; Executive VP Simmons' father-in-law passed away

TREASURER REPORT

SEPTEMBER
2022

General Fund	\$258,402.66
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,810.69
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	123,423.91
<i>Convention Fund</i>	0.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	4,850.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	2,312.70
<i>Education Fund</i>	19,334.06
<i>Money Market</i>	361,890.02

MDA Fund	2,208.29
CD 18 Month	107,353.33
CD 18 Month	104,731.57
CD 12 Month	103,653.65
TOTAL \$	\$1,088,185.19

OCTOBER
2022

General Fund	\$265,119.16
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,852.76
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	122,106.56
<i>Convention Fund</i>	0.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	3,950.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	2,312.70
<i>Education Fund</i>	17,316.78
<i>Money Market</i>	366,166.72

MDA Fund	2,657.49
CD 18 Month	107,415.11
CD 18 Month	104,927.15
CD 12 Month	103,843.80
TOTAL \$	\$1,095,840.47

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE #1

ARTICLE III

FINES, FEES AND DUES

Section 4 – Effective January 14, 1994, all members on O.W.C.P. for 90 days and receiving compensation, will be responsible for paying dues directly to Branch 132. The back dues upon receipt of first compensation check will be the amount of the National Per Capita Tax (1/3 of minimum dues structure per PP). All subsequent pay period dues will be at the minimum dues structure. Applications for reinstatement will be accompanied by all back dues.

Change to Read: **Section 4** – Effective January 1, 2023, all members on OWCP for 90 days receiving or not receiving compensation, will be responsible for paying dues directly to the branch. The dues will be the amount of the National Per Capita Tax (1/3 of minimum, due structure per pay period). All subsequent pay period dues will remain at the National Per Capita Tax until they return to a pay status. Any member not current on their dues, will forfeit their membership. Applications for re-instatement must be accompanied by all back dues owed by the member.

Proposed by-law change was submitted by: Janine Singleton, Sid Simmons, and Danny Hilliard

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE #2

ARTICLE VII

EXPENSES AND DUTIES OF OFFICIERS

Section 6 – The salary of the Treasurer shall be four hundred fifteen dollars (\$415.00) per month payable monthly.

The Treasurer shall receive, receipt for, and disburse all monies of the Branch, and keep regular account thereof. He/she shall pay all warrants drawn on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/she shall, whenever requested by the President, and at the end of his/her term make a report showing his/her receipts, disbursements and amount of money on hand; deliver his/her books, papers and money to his/her successor in office when qualified; and to ensure the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Branch may direct.

Change to Read: **Section 6** – The salary of the Treasurer shall be **four hundred thirty dollars (\$430.00)** per month payable monthly.

The Treasurer shall receive, receipt for, and disburse all monies of the Branch, and keep regular account thereof. He/she shall pay all warrants drawn on him/her by the Recording Secretary voted by the Branch and signed by the President, and have all accounts receipted upon payment of the same. He/she shall, whenever requested by the President, and at the end of his/her term make a report showing his/her receipts, disbursements and amount of money on hand; deliver his/her books, papers and money to his/her successor in office when qualified; and to ensure the faithful performance of his/her duties, he/she shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Branch may direct.

Section 7 – The salary of the Health Benefits Representative shall be four hundred fifteen dollars (\$415.00) per month.

Change to Read: **Section 7** – The salary of the Health Benefits Representative shall be **four hundred thirty dollars (\$430.00)** per month.

The Health Benefits Representative is responsible for assisting members with their health benefits and OWCP needs.

Section 8 – The salary of the Director of Retired Members shall be two hundred seventy-six dollars and fifty cents (\$276.50) per month payable monthly. The Director of Retired Members shall be responsible for coordinating activities of retired members of the branch and such duties as may be assigned by the branch president.

Change to Read: **Section 8** – The salary of the Director of Retired Members shall be **two hundred ninety-one dollars and fifty cents (\$291.50)** per month payable monthly. The Director of Retired Members shall be responsible for coordinating activities of retired members of the branch and such duties as may be assigned by the Branch President.

Section 9 – The salary of the Editor of the Local 132 Newsletter shall be one hundred seventy-three dollars (\$173.00) per month payable monthly, if said Editor is other than a full-time officer of the branch.

Change to Read: **Section 9** – The salary of the Editor of the Local 132 Newsletter shall be **one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$188.00)** per month payable monthly, if said Editor is other than a full-time officer of the Branch.

Section 10 – The salary of each Trustee shall be one hundred seventy-three (\$173.00) per month payable monthly for attendance at each regular Executive Board Meeting and semi-annual audit of the books of the branch.

The Trustees shall examine and report to the Branch the condition of the books of the officers at least once every six months, compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. They shall have custody of all Branch property and shall perform such other duties as the Branch by-laws may require of them. The Board of Trustees shall be known as the Trustees of Lone Star Branch No. 132 of the National Association of Letter Carriers of the United States of America.

Change to Read: **Section 10** – The salary of each Trustee shall be **one hundred eighty-eight (\$188.00)** per month payable monthly for attendance at each regular Executive Board Meeting and semi-annual audit of the books of the Branch.

The Trustees shall examine and report to the Branch the condition of the books of the officers at least once every six months, compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. They shall have custody of all Branch property and shall perform such other duties as the Branch by-laws may require of them. The Board of Trustees shall be known as the Trustees of Lone Star Branch No. 132 of the National Association of Letter Carriers of the United States of America.

Section 11 – The salary of the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be one hundred seventy-three dollars (\$173.00) per month payable monthly for attendance at each regular Branch meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order within the Branch regular meetings. He/she is to ensure all by-laws and traditions are respected by everyone. He/she should enforce the rules of the Branch.

Change to Read: **Section 11** – The salary of the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be **one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$188.00)** per month payable monthly for attendance at each regular Branch meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order within the Branch regular meetings. He/she is to ensure all by-laws and traditions are respected by everyone. He/she should enforce the rules of the Branch.

Submitted By: Rita Wilder, Janine Singleton, Rodrick Boddie, Chris Velasquez, Ron Stover, DD Hurd, Helen R. Toliver, Eugene Johnson, Roy Williams, Kim Lewis, and M. Ferguson Hubbard.

**PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE #3
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. All Formal A Representatives appointed by the Branch, with the exception of the President, Executive Vice-President, and Vice-President, will be paid a stipend of one hundred (\$100.00) per month for their services in addition to any steward pay they received, payable no later than December 15th each year.

Change to Read: **Section 12** – Stewards certified by the Branch shall be paid **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** per month for attendance at each regular Branch meeting. Stewards and Alternate Stewards certified by the Branch will be paid **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** per month for attendance at stewards training meetings, payable no later than December 15th each year. All Formal A Representatives appointed by the Branch, ~~with the exception of the President, Executive Vice-President, and Vice-President,~~ will be paid a stipend of one hundred (\$100.00) per month for their services in addition to any steward pay they received, payable no later than December 15th each year.

(By-Law Changes cont. from pg. 5)

To receive compensation, all Stewards and Alternate Stewards must attend the meeting in person, if they live or work within a 50-mile radius of the Union Hall. Any steward or alternate falling into that category that is unable to attend the meeting in person due to working while the meeting is taking place will have the opportunity to provide evidence that they were working to receive compensation.

Submitted By: Helen R. Toliver, Chris Velasquez, Ron Stover, Rita Wilder, Janine Singleton, and Warren Brown.

The Branch will be voting on the above three proposed by-law changes at the November Branch meeting.

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".

November 3 – 7:00 pm – Steward training

November 4 – Last day to early vote! Get it done before the crowds

November 6 – Daylight Savings Time ends - your clocks will go back one hour

1:00 pm MDA "Sheila Stewart" Bowl-a-Thon – Forum Bowling Lanes, 2001 Great S.W. Pkwy.,
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

November 7 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Union Meeting

November 8 – **Election Day – VOTE!**

November 11 – Postal Holiday - Veteran's Day

November 14 – Federal Benefit Open Season begins

November 19 – 10 am - Retiree Breakfast - Circle Grill, 3701 N. Buckner Blvd., Dallas, TX 75228

November 24 – Postal Holiday - Thanksgiving

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

December 1 – 7:00 pm – Steward training

December 5 – 7:30 pm – Branch Eating Meeting

December 12 – Federal Benefit Open Season ends

December 19 – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 26 – Postal Holiday - Christmas & Kwanza begins

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 2 – Postal Holiday - New Year's Day

January 5 – 7:00 pm – Steward training

January 9 – 7:30 pm – Branch Meeting

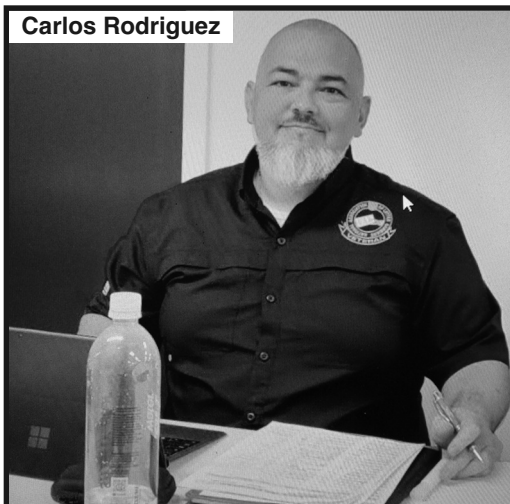


REGION 10 SMALL BATCH TRAINING

On October 10, 2022, the branch extended its hospitality to our National Business Agent Javier Bernal by hosting the “Small Batch Training” for Region 10 at the Union Hall. Regional Administrative Assistant Shawn Boyd and Regional Grievance Assistant AG Ramirez provided a wealth of knowledge to those in attendance regarding the grievance procedure; along with our Texas State Association President Carlos Rodriguez on legislative matters and David Miller, Regional Workers Compensation Assistant on OWCP issues. The training was well attended as shown in the pictures. A special thanks goes out to the instructors, to our auxiliary and to those members who volunteered their services to help to make the training a success.



It's the U and I in
UNION
that makes us
STRONG



Adjo Akpadja
Winner of Questions & Answers



President Kim Lewis
and class participants

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SEPTEMBER 2022
BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on September 12, 2022.

- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- Resolution of Sympathy. Gary K. Holman and John L. Shumaker.
- A motion was made to amend the motion made in August changing the gift card for retired members to a check (passed).
- The NBA small batch training will be held at the union hall October 10, 2022 from 8am- 1pm, any members attending will be paid \$150.00.
- The NBA spring training will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico February 18-20, 2023 at Embassy Suites by Hilton.
- President Lewis said the retiree lunch will be October 20, 2022 at the Golden Corral there will be a breakfast in November and a lunch in December.
- The Sheila M. Steward Bowl-a-Thon will be held at the Forum Bowling Lanes in Grand Prairie on November 6, 2022 at 1pm.
- Proposed bylaw changes will be printed in the next Metro Letter Carrier.
- Javier Carrizales, Marshall Sherman and Kevin Rape updated the membership on the new route count process.
- Brother Shawn Boyd thanked the members for their support for National Business Agent.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary