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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



Throughout the year, each of you gives of yourselves daily to the communities you serve. Your welcome presence brightens the faces of your customers as you deliver the many packages and letters they are anxiously awaiting. Your customers rely and depend upon your service and this past Christmas season was no exception.

Christmas is a special time of giving. Joy comes from the smiles placed on one's face when they receive a gift of love. It warms the heart of those giving when they can be of a blessing to others. Each year at Christmas time, the carriers at the DeSoto Main Post Office come together to sponsor a family with a special Christmas. Steward Clubber Targton suggested this year to the carriers to sponsor one of our own members after being made aware of how he and his family took into their care six children who were about to become orphans of the state.

Louie Rodriguez is a city carrier assigned to the Lancaster Main Post Office. He and his wife are the parents of two adult children. When Louie and his family became aware of the possibility of their neighbors' children going into foster care, kids whose ages range from six to twelve, without hesitation, the Rodriguez' agreed to take the children into their home to prevent their separation. Louie and his family took on this challenge not knowing what the outcome would be and without expecting any assistance from anyone.

When Steward Targton's suggestion was presented to the DeSoto carriers, they instantly went to work to make sure each kid's Christmas wish list was fulfilled. When the

generosity and compassion of Louie and his family was made known to me, I felt compelled to share his story with the membership. Which I did. At the December branch meeting, after hearing the Rodriguez' story, the membership graciously donated monies to give to the family for Christmas. The branch agreed to match the collected donation. And, on December 15, 2022, the Rodriguez family was presented with a sizable Christmas gift for the kids.



Was the membership's act of kindness unusual? No! Letter carriers are giving individuals. We have hearts of gold when it comes to helping others. When we are called to action, we perform. As I stated above, daily we provide a service to the various communities we serve. Why would we not do the same for one of our own! As we move forward into the new year, let us continue to show our love and gratitude to our customers and to one another. Let us acknowledge with special recognition those among us who are going over and beyond the call of duty such as Louie Rodriguez. It takes a special person to open their homes to others expecting nothing in return.

I applaud Louie and his family for their heroism. It is because of their love and devotion to others that six children

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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

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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

(PRESIDENT'S DESK cont. from pg.1)

now have an opportunity to stay together as a family. Let us all work hard throughout the coming year to be an example like the Rodriguez family. Let us make a conscience effort to do something good for someone else. It may take hard work and sacrifices, but the reward will be great. It will outweigh any obstacle that we might encounter. At the end of the year, when we reflect to see what all we have accomplished, we can feel proud of what we have done and the impact that we have made upon the lives of others. Branch 132 let us get busy doing the good things we have been called to do. As I have stated to you before, letter carriers are heroes who do not wear capes. Thanks again for all that you do.



**Past & Present NBA
Javier Bernal and Shawn Boyd**

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Sid Simmons

It's unreal how fast the holiday season comes around each year. It seems like just yesterday; we were experiencing a summertime drought with temperatures in the triple digits. Just like that, it was over and we started suffering through severe storms, including tornados and flooding, which included considerably cooler temperatures. Now the rainy period has subsided and leaves have begun to fall. Many of you would respond by saying, "What's the big deal, it's just another year in Texas."

It's also the time of the year when letter carriers really come through for their customers, due to the way they shop on-line these days. It's unbelievable how many packages the average letter carrier delivers daily. Some routes get so many parcels, that letter carriers must make multiple trips to the street. It's a good thing that our postal vehicles have increased in size, from days gone by, when we took an entire route to the street in a small jeep.

Just as a reminder, our National Agreement with the United States Postal Service expires in May of 2023, which means the NALC is already preparing for negotiations. I believe our new National President Brian Renfroe will continue the long legacy of very effective and productive negotiations. I also believe our national union will continue to make the case that we have earned and deserve an increase in wages and benefits. And finally, I hope we can return to the days when we had an all-career workforce. It would be great, that with a stroke of a pen, all current CCA's and future hires would start day one as a career employee. In my opinion, that would immediately stop the high turnover rate of CCA's.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

National Dues	\$71,372.35
OWCP Dues	
Miscellaneous	
IRS Refund	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	2.28
TOTAL \$	\$71,374.63

NOVEMBER 2022

National Dues	\$71,176.33
OWCP Dues	1,157.00
Miscellaneous	2,630.00
Bowl-a-thon	560.00
Active Dues	193.50
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	4,572.00
Deposit Dividends	2.32
TOTAL \$	\$80,291.15

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Caesar Clark – Michelle Hubbard; Reso Washington.
Collections – Allen Thomas; Wencheng Wang; Galvin Swanson.
The Colony – Gwendolyn McClendon.
Lake Highlands – Leonard Johnson passed away.
Lewisville – Daniel A. Wade passed away.
Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.
Northwest – Melvin Phillips' father passed away.
University – Mardel Jackson's sister passed away.
Waxahachie – Donovan Russell.
Retirees – Denise Ward passed away; Earl Hibb's mother-in-law passed away; Bobbie Taylor's companion passed away; Cornell Jackson had surgery.

TREASURER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022

General Fund	\$260,819.40
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,896.23
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	119,662.24
<i>Convention Fund</i>	0.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	3,950.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	2,209.86
<i>Education Fund</i>	11,276.64
<i>Money Market</i>	374,797.49
MDA Fund	2,657.72
CD 18 Month	107,478.99
CD 18 Month	105,129.63
CD 12 Month	104,040.66
TOTAL \$	\$1,092,047.63

DECEMBER 2022

General Fund	\$312,665.05
Regular Shares	25.00
Money Market	511,938.30
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	114,668.79
<i>Convention Fund</i>	0.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	2,250.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	0.00
<i>Education Fund</i>	9,066.78
<i>Money Market</i>	385,952.73
MDA Fund	27.78
CD 18 Month	107,540.84
CD 18 Month	105,325.95
CD 12 Month	104,231.52
TOTAL \$	\$1,141,754.44



**Swearing In of the National Officers
2022**



**Recipients of the Christmas raffle:
Sandra Kaulaitis and Chris Velasquez**

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE ARTICLE VII EXPENSES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – The President of this branch shall be a full-time officer with a salary of ninety-two thousand eighty dollars (\$92,080.00) per annum, payable bi-weekly. All fringe benefits now paid by the United States Postal Service shall be paid by the branch. The employee share of social security payments shall be paid by the branch. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade 2, Step O Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The President shall earn eight (8) hours annual leave and four (4) hours sick leave per pay period. The President shall be scheduled for three (3) weeks of annual leave each year. At the end of each year, all accumulated annual leave will be paid to the President at the regular hourly rate of the office, not to exceed eighty (80) hours. At the end of each year, all accumulated sick leave will also be paid to the President at the regular hourly rate of the office.

The president shall preside at all meetings of the Branch; preserve order; sign all warrants on the Treasurer ordered drawn by the Branch, and all other papers ordered by the Branch; have general supervisory powers over the branch; see that officers perform their duties, enforce the Constitution, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Branch; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; give the deciding vote when a tie occurs; examine and announce the result of all balloting and other votes. He/she shall not make or second any motion or take part in any debate while in the Chair; he/she shall ascertain from the Financial Secretary before adjournment of the meeting the amount of money received since the previous meeting, and from the Treasurer if he/she has received the same. At the end of his/her term, he/she shall make a report showing the progress and condition of the Branch. He/she shall, together with the Treasurer, sign and file with the Secretary of Labor on behalf of the Branch, an annual financial report if required by public law. The filing of such report will be required unless the Branch has received expressed notification from the National Association that it is exempt from such requirement. He/she shall, by virtue of his/her office, be the chief steward for the Branch, and he/she may delegate such authority to other members. The pay listed above serves as compensation for these duties; therefore, he or she is not entitled to additional funds for performing duties unless approved by a majority vote of the membership.

Change to Read: Section 1 – The President of this branch shall be a full-time officer with a salary of **ninety-five thousand eighty dollars (\$95,080.00)** per annum, payable bi-weekly. All fringe benefits now paid by the United States Postal Service shall be paid by the branch. The employee share of social security payments shall be paid by the branch. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade 2, Step **P** Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The President shall earn eight (8) hours annual leave and four (4) hours sick leave per pay period. The President shall be scheduled for three (3) weeks of annual leave each year. At the end of each year, all accumulated annual leave will be paid to the President at the regular hourly rate of the office, not to exceed eighty (80) hours. At the end of each year, all accumulated sick leave will also be paid to the President at the regular hourly rate of the office.

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Section 2 – The Executive Vice-President of this branch shall be a full-time officer with a salary of ninety thousand four hundred seventy-six dollars (\$90,476.00) per annum payable bi-weekly. All fringe benefits now paid by the United States Postal Service shall be paid by the branch. The employee share of social security payments shall be paid by the branch. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increase granted to Grade 2 Step O Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Executive Vice-President shall earn eight (8) hours annual leave and four (4) hours sick leave per pay period. The Executive Vice-President shall be scheduled for three (3) weeks of annual leave each year. At the end of each year, all accumulated annual leave will be paid to the Executive Vice-President at the regular hourly rate of the office, not to exceed eighty (80) hours. At the end of each year, all accumulated sick leave will also be paid to the Executive Vice-President at the regular hourly rate of the office.

The Executive Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the President to discharge the duties of his/her office, the Executive Vice-President shall then perform all duties incumbent on the President for the remainder of the term of office along with any other duties assigned by the President. The pay listed above serves as compensation for these duties; therefore, he or she is not entitled to additional funds for performing duties unless approved by a majority vote of the membership.

Change to Read: Section 2 – The Executive Vice-President of this branch shall be a full-time officer with a salary of ninety thousand four hundred seventy-six dollars (\$90,476.00) per annum payable bi-weekly. All fringe benefits now paid by the United States Postal Service shall be paid by the branch. The employee share of social security payments shall be paid by the branch. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increase granted to Grade 2 Step **P** Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Executive Vice-President shall earn eight (8) hours annual leave and four (4) hours sick leave per pay period. The Executive Vice-President shall be scheduled for three (3) weeks of annual leave each year. At the end of each year, all accumulated annual leave will be paid to the Executive Vice-President at the regular hourly rate of the office, not to exceed eighty (80) hours. At the end of each year, all accumulated sick leave will also be paid to the Executive Vice-President at the regular hourly rate of the office.

The Executive Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, and in case of death, resignation, disqualification, refusal or neglect of the President to discharge the duties of his/her office, the Executive Vice-President shall then perform all duties incumbent on the President for the remainder of the term of office along with any other duties assigned by the President. The pay listed above serves as compensation for these duties; therefore, he or she is not entitled to additional funds for performing duties unless approved by a majority vote of the membership.

Section 2.A – The Vice-President shall be a part-time officer (three days per week) with a salary of \$42.74 per hour payable bi-weekly. Any additional days worked shall be paid at the hourly rate of the position. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade O Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Vice-President shall earn two (2) hours of annual leave and one (1) hour of sick leave for each twenty (20) hours worked. At the end of each year, the Vice-President shall be paid for all unused leave. The employee share of social security shall be paid by the branch. The Vice-President will perform duties at the direction of the President.

Change to Read: Section 2.A – The Vice-President shall be a part-time officer (three days per week) with a salary of \$42.74 per hour payable bi-weekly. Any additional days worked shall be paid at the hourly rate of the position. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade **P** Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Vice-President shall earn two (2) hours of annual leave and one (1) hour of sick leave for each twenty (20) hours worked. At the end of each year, the Vice-President shall be paid for all unused leave. The employee share of social security shall be paid by the branch. The Vice-President will perform duties at the direction of the President.

Section 4 – The Recording Secretary shall be a part-time officer (three days per week) with a salary of \$41.50 per hour payable bi-weekly. Any additional days worked shall be paid at the hourly rate of the position. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade 2 Step O Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Recording Secretary shall earn two (2) hours of annual leave and one (1) hour of sick leave for each twenty (20) hours worked. At the end of each year the Recording Secretary shall be paid for all unused leave. The employee share of social security shall be paid by the branch.

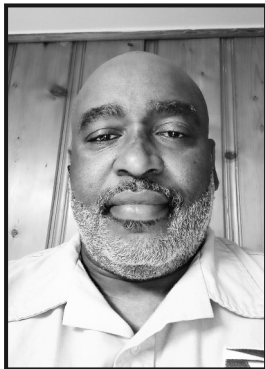
(By-LAW CHANGES cont. from pg. 5)

Change to Read: Section 4 – The Recording Secretary shall be a part-time officer (three days per week) with a salary of \$41.50 per hour payable bi-weekly. Any additional days worked shall be paid at the hourly rate of the position. Adjustments to the future salary shall be made by the same dollar amount of increases granted to Grade 2 Step P Letter Carriers in their salary increases. The Recording Secretary shall earn two (2) hours of annual leave and one (1) hour of sick leave for each twenty (20) hours worked. At the end of each year the Recording Secretary shall be paid for all unused leave. The employee share of social security shall be paid by the branch.

Submitted by: Jonathan O'Hara, Clubber Targton, Twasky Smith, Chris Velasquez, Ron Stover, and Rita Wilder.

STEWARDS' CORNER

GARY HENDERSON



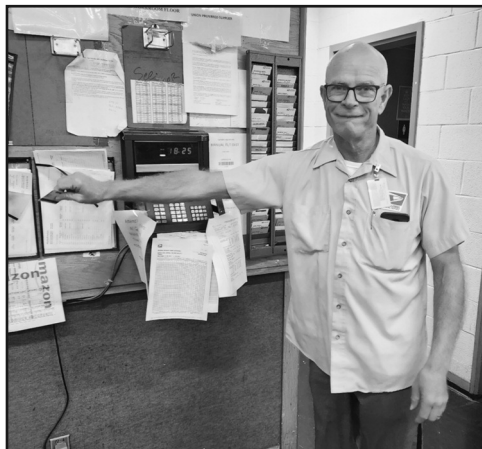
Hello, my name is Gary Henderson. I became a union steward shortly after I started my employment with the Postal Service. The current steward at the Marshall Post Office, Anita Livingston, was retiring and she asked if I would consider becoming the steward since no one else showed an interest. After some thought, since I had already filed many grievances, I decided to become the steward. I viewed this as an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the rights of city carriers and as an opportunity to help other carriers needing to defend themselves against contractual violations.

Initially, like most stewards, I was unsure if I was doing everything right. I specifically remember one of my earlier grievances for a carrier that had received a letter of warning, who at the time was going through a tough period at home. I believed the matter could have been resolved with a simple discussion, not discipline. In those moments when I have needed assistance with a grievance, I have reached out to branch officers Earl Hibbs, Sid Simmons, Kimetra Lewis, Robert Hinson, Larry Pipkin, Andy Alvarado, Laura Maglaris, and others who were all helpful in answering questions whenever I was unsure about a particular issue. And although I have been a steward for over 25 years, there are still things that I am learning as new issues continue to arise that I never dealt with before.

During my tenure as a letter carrier, I was asked to be a steward and a Formal A representative at a few local offices in the East Texas area who did not have union representation. I was selected by the branch to attend the Formal A and Beyond training where I learned a great deal of new information. Upon retiring, I informed President Kimetra Lewis, that if my services were needed, I could continue to assist the branch with my steward duties, and that is what I am currently doing.

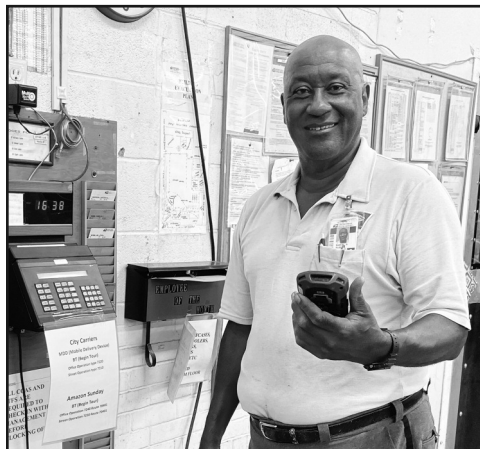
Throughout the years, I have been successful with many grievances sustained in favor of the Union. In every grievance filed, I have put forth my best effort to defend the contract and the letter carriers. One might ask why I continue to be a steward and my answer would be, "I continue because I believe strongly in the Union and in doing my part to help the next generation". Union Strong!

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



ROY BRADFORD

CARROLLTON MPO - 39.5 YEARS



SAMUEL (SAM) RUSSELL

MARSHALL - 38 YEARS/MARINE CORPS - 8 YEARS



National President Fred Rolando

SHEILA M. STEWARD BOWL-A-THON RAISES \$1,300 FOR MDA



Intire Health Physician Group



Best Female Bowler



Best Male Bowler & Best Male Series



Branch 132 Bowlers

OCTOBER 2022 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

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

- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- No Resolutions of Sympathy.
- Applications for NALC scholarships are being accepted until December 31, 2022.
- The NBA small batch training will be held at the union hall October 10th from 8am until 1pm.
- The NBA spring training will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico February 18-20, 2023 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton.
- Open season for health benefits will be from November 8 thru December 13, 2022.
- The Sheila M. Steward Bowl -a-Thon will be held at the Forum Bowling Lanes on November 6, 2022 at 1 pm.
- A retiree luncheon will be held on October 20th at the Golden Coral, a Breakfast will be November 19th and a luncheon will be held at the Circle Grill on December 15th.
- The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard

Recording Secretary

NOVEMBER 2022 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on November 7, 2022.

- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- No Resolutions of Sympathy.
- Applications for NALC scholarships are being accepted until December 31, 2022.
- The NBA small batch training had about 100 people in attendance.
- November 19, 2022 active letter carriers will receive a 1.3 percent increase in pay and CCA's will receive a 2.3 increase in pay.
- The Sheila M. Steward Bowl-a-Thon raised \$1,300.00 for MDA.
- President Lewis cautioned all members to be aware of their surroundings as there has been an influx of robberies in the Dallas area and to report any incident to management. Their response needs to be reported to the union hall.
- Open season will be from November 14 thru December 12, 2022.
- The 2023 proposed budget was discussed, voted on and approved as written by the members.
- President Lewis asked members to bring their gently used uniforms to the union hall for use by the new CCA's.
- Three proposed by-laws changes were discussed, voted on and all three were approved.
- The branch financial reports will be in the Metro Letter Carrier Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Hilliard

Recording Secretary

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8451 Endicott
Dallas, Texas 75227

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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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 "*Lone Star Branch 132 of the National Association of Letter Carriers*" or check the website at: "*nalclonestarbranch132.org*".

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

January 16 – Postal holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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

February 2 – 7:00 pm – Steward training

February 6 – 7:30 pm – Monthly union meeting

February 18-20 – NBA Spring School Albuquerque, NM

February 20 – Postal holiday - President's Day

February 27 – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)