

LONE STAR BRANCH 132, NALC
8451 Endicott
Dallas, Texas 75227

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The branch meetings and steward training are being held at the union hall and being simultaneously broadcast over Zoom. Beginning in September for stewards to receive compensation for attendance at the monthly branch and steward meetings, the steward will be required to attend the meetings in person if you live or work within a 50-mile radius of the union Hall. 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*".

- November 2 – 7:00 pm - Steward training – Union Hall
- November 5 – Daylight Savings Time ends – set your clocks back one hour
- November 6 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall
- November 7 – **Election day – VOTE**
- November 11 – Veterans Day Postal Designated Holiday
- November 13 – **Federal Benefit Open Season begins**
- November 18 – 9:30 am – Retirees' Breakfast – Union Hall, 8451 Endicott, Dallas, Texas 75227
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day Postal Designated Holiday
- November 27 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)
- December 2 – **Penalty Overtime Exclusion Begins**
- December 4 – 7:30 pm – Branch Eating Meeting – Union Hall
- December 7 – 7:00 pm - Steward training – Union Hall
- December 11 – **Federal Benefit Open Season ends**
- December 18 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)
- December 21 – 1:00 pm – Retirees' Luncheon – Golden Corral
- December 25 – Christmas – Postal Designated Holiday
- December 26 – Kwanza begins
- December 29 – **Penalty Overtime Exclusion Ends**



VOLUME 51 – NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER 2023



METRO LETTER CARRIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LONE STAR BRANCH #132, NALC

RITA WILDER, EDITOR

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KIMETRA LEWIS



YOU'VE GOT POWER

This year's National Business Agent (NBA) Fall School was held at the Margaritaville Resort in South Padre Island, Texas. While there I spent some time talking with members of NALC from other branches and discovered that Branch 132 has much to be grateful for. We are the second largest branch within Region 10. Our by-laws allow us to send as many members of Branch 132 to the

NBA Schools as would like to attend. This provides educational opportunities to any member desiring to learn. It filled me with pride to see our members at the school so eager to learn; however, there is still room for others.

Over the weekend we were privileged to attend the classes put together by our NBA Shawn Boyd and his staff. We obtained a wealth of knowledge from the instructors. The itinerary was filled with interesting subjects to meet the needs of the membership. The courses ranged from OWCP issues to grievance handling. There were courses in veterans benefits and rights, converting from CCA to PTF, crossing crafts assignments, legislative update, TIAREAP Joint Route Adjustments and maintaining a mutual respect atmosphere. The courses were informative and beneficial for those in attendance.

While I am grateful for those members who attended the Fall School, I am hoping that more members will attend the Spring School. There are two NBA Schools each year. These schools allow the membership to expand their knowledge in all areas

affecting their careers. The need to know your job is essential to being a great employee and a great union member. NALC works hard to provide its members with the resources and educational tools necessary for the success of our great union, such as Formal A and Beyond Training, Advocacy Training, and Leadership Academy. Branch 132 does its part by conducting steward training once a month and we are diligently seeking members who have an interest in learning because there is power in knowledge.

Just imagine the power we would have if we were all educated in all aspects of a letter carriers' career. It is not impossible. Strength lies in numbers. Speaking of numbers, we would like to welcome our newest members from Denton Branch 1367. As many of you know they are now a part of Branch 132. The decision to merge with another branch is not an easy decision to make. It takes a lot of thought and consideration for what is overall best for the membership. This must take top priority. Saying that, I am grateful to those members from Denton who believed and had confidence in Branch 132. Our promises to you will not waver. We are committed and dedicated to providing the members in Denton with the same first-class representation we offer the other members of Branch 132. We are looking forward to us transitioning into one strong and powerful branch.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I would like to thank the officers, the stewards, the DRT members, and the TIAREAP members for all you do. The job of a union advocate is a thankless job. Many of you go over and above the call of your position. It takes a great person to put the needs of others ahead of the needs of themselves. It takes an even special person to fight for the rights of someone else. Hats go off to you! I would also like to thank the membership for their commitment to Branch 132. We could not be powerful without the entire membership! I am sending you all a letter carrier cheer. Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Thanks for all you do!

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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

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 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

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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

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

Did you know that the average member of NALC Lone Star Branch 132 has more benefits than just getting their questions answered, and/or filing a grievance when necessary? Well, they do. Most of our members don't realize, or take advantage of, the yearly opportunities to get back some of their hard-earned union dues.

Our branch budgets thousands of dollars every year that can benefit any member. You do not need to be an officer or shop steward to take advantage of it. The easiest way to get started is by attending a branch meeting. On those evenings, you can expect to have a meal waiting for you. Sometimes, we prepare it. Other times, we have it catered. However, the best meal is served in December. It's usually barbecue with all the trimmings, or very good Italian food.

Our branch also allocates funds for our retirees, which includes a quarterly eating meeting at Golden Corral in Mesquite. The branch also, on occasion, makes breakfast for them at the union hall or invites them to a nice café.

Our branch also allocates funds for any member to be compensated for attending state and national conventions, if they meet the branch attendance requirements. However, there are two training seminars every year that any member can attend, with no meeting requirements. They are scheduled by our National Business Agent, Shawn Boyd, in Texas or New Mexico. These two meetings are held every February and October. All you must do to share in the allocated funds, is to attend the training sessions. For your information, this year's Fall School was attended by our members in South Padre Island.

Our branch also allocates funds to award five \$1,000.00 scholarships to member's sons, daughters, and grandkids seeking higher education.

I encourage our members to take full advantage of the many opportunities afforded them.

**AUGUST 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on August 7, 2023.
 - Invocation by Brother Matthew Leffall. President Lewis led the Pledge.
 - Resolution of Sympathy; Brenda Hammond.
 - There were no Executive Board Recommendations.
 - Cynthia Burse from EAP addressed the membership on the purpose and polices of EAP and advised members on their rights pertaining to that forum.
 - Scholarship award winner Mackenzie Murphy and family were in attendance, Mackenzie is the daughter of member Joe Murphy and will be attending Texas A&M University. Mackenzie also won the TSALC scholarship and was runner-up for the NALC scholarship. She gave a brief statement to the membership.
 - The merger vote for Branch 1367 Denton was taken the vote passed 121 for and 4 against.
 - The proposed by-laws were approved by the NALC by-law committee and will be amended in the branch copy.
 - President Lewis and NBA Shawn Boyd addressed heat issues to the membership. Including the heat training that should have been given to all letter carriers, but records were falsified by management. Shawn asked to be informed if there are stations that are not supplying water to the carriers so those issues can be addressed.
 - At the TSALC Convention branch 132 had the 2nd highest number of delegates. President Lewis received two awards one for best editorial and best news story by the newsletter committee.
 - The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

SEPTEMBER 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on September 11, 2023.
 - Invocation by Brother Matthew Leffall. President Lewis led the Pledge.
 - No Resolutions of Sympathy.
 - There were no Executive Board recommendations.
 - NALC Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta presented Carla Gates and family a plaque in memory of her husband Eugene Gates, Jr. Brother Peralta also informed the members of the efforts that NALC is taking to hold Postal Management accountable for heat related issues that letter carries face.
 - Region 10 NBA Shawn Boyd was in attendance, it was also his birthday, the membership sang Happy Birthday.
 - The merger vote for Br. 1367 Denton has been Officially approved by NALC Headquarters.
 - Contract negotiations are ongoing with Postal Management in Washington, D.C.
 - Delegate nomination forms for NALC Convention in Boston, MA must be turned no later than the close of the October 2, 2023 meeting.
 - Retiree brunch will be September 21, 2023 at the Golden Coral.
 - NBA fall school October 7-9, 2023, South Padre Island.
 - National Rap session will be November 17-19, 2023 in New Orleans.
 - Brother Peralta addressed the members again on the heat related issues, and urged each member to help other carriers at their stations with any issues they might have.
 - The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT**

**AUGUST
2023**

National Dues	\$76,768.22
OWCP Dues	0.00
Active Dues	0.00
Lost Time Reimbursement	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$76,768.22

**SEPTEMBER
2023**

National Dues	\$76,964.77
OWCP Dues	223.34
Food Drive Bag Donation	500.00
Denton Branch Merger	\$78,952.87
Annuity Withholding	569.08
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	
TOTAL \$	\$157,210.06

TREASURER REPORT

**OCTOBER
2023**

General Fund	\$260,852.52
Business Savings	25.00
High Yield Savings	286,295.76
Stewards Fund	116,739.96
Convention Fund	16.00
CPA/Legal Fund	5,750.00
Building Fund	6,140.64
Education Fund	12,217.16
MDA Fund	412.91
CD 18 Month	107,222.72
CD 6 Month	528,492.17
TOTAL \$	\$1,183,301.08

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Alex Gonzalez.
Caesar Clark – Sandra Kaulity; Ike Lewis; Reso Washington; Raymond Hall retired.
Downtown – Dawn Brewer.
Grand Prairie (MPO) – Michael Mathis.
Highland Hills – Alfonzo Roberson.
Lewisville – Gwen McClendon is the proud grandmother of a new baby girl weighing-in at 7 lbs. and 5 oz.
Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.
Parkdale – Lockie McCoo.
Robert E. Price – Aubrey Waites’ father passed away on September 24, 2023.
Waxahachie – Donovan Russell; Ronald Sutton.
Retirees – Andy Alvarado’s wife, Becky, had surgery and his sister-in-law Brenda is ill; Larry Fitzhugh passed away; William “Bill” Gordan, Jr. passed away.
(PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL SICK & WELFARE ARE REPORTED TO BROTHER ROBERT HINSON)



To make this work, all it takes is a \$5.00 bi-weekly contribution. Branch 132 do your part!



**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE
ARTICLE III
FINES, FEES, AND DUES**

CURRENT LANGUAGE

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 O.W.C.P. 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 periods will remain at the National Per Capita Tax until they return to a pay status. Any member failing to pay their dues within 30 days after written notification, shall forfeit their membership after a grace period of an additional 30 days. Applications for reinstatement will be accompanied by all back dues.

Submitted by: Sid Simmons, Danny Hilliard, and Robert Hinson

STEWARDS' CORNER

CHARLES HILL



My name is Charles Hill. I have been with the Postal Service since 1992. I started my postal career as a Transitional Employee at Prestonwood Station. I later moved to the Lewisville MPO where I became a full-time regular carrier in 1994. My joy of helping others led me to become a steward for Branch 132 in Lewisville in the year 2015. I am currently serving as the station’s Formal A representative. Although it can be challenging at times, it’s a job I have enjoyed for the past 5 years.

I was recently selected to attend the Formal A and Beyond Training at the Maritime Institute. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am looking forward to seeing what the training will add to my ability to effectively serve in my capacity as a Formal A representative.

REGION 10 NBA SHAWN BOYD HARD AT WORK



HONORING EUGENE GATES, JR.

Mrs. Carla Gates accepting a plaque from NALC National Officer Manny Peralta (Director of Safety and Health) in honor of her late husband Eugene Gates, Jr. (City Carrier Lakewood Station).

