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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



We all are aware of the saying, “OLD HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK”. When we hear that saying it generally applies to traditions. When we get accustomed to doing things a certain way, we begin to think it is the right way. Traditions and past practices, while they may have become the norm, when it is discovered that what we have believed over the years to be the right way has actually been the wrong way, it is time

to stop and make whatever changes are necessary to correct our ways. The same relates to the business of the Branch.

In the month of September, Trustee Helen Toliver, Financial Secretary Janine Singleton, and I attended the Branch Officers Training conducted by our National Secretary Treasurer Nicole Rhine. The training enlightened us on the seriousness of financial and administrative duties. We were educated on the importance of keeping the integrity and financial health of the branch intact. As fiduciary officers it is our responsibility to ensure that the branch is functioning in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service. When there is cause for change, it is our duty and obligation to put policies in place to protect the welfare of the branch. That is the intent of this letter.

For many years, long before I became the Branch President, it was and had been a long-standing tradition, if you were a delegate to the State or National Conventions or in attendance to the National Business Agent (NBA) schools, the only requirement to share in the monies set aside was to exchange credentials for voting purposes and sign in on the attendance roster. When that practice

first began, the money of the Branch was not as lucrative as it is today. Today we are a \$1,000,000,000+ organization. We are now capable of setting aside hundreds of thousands of dollars for trainings, conventions, functions/events. Back in the day, the monies members received for their attendance at such events did not exceed the per diem set by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

However, today, depending on the number of delegates attending the conventions and NBA schools, the amount of money received by those members could far exceed the maximum allowed. To avoid any potential problem, it has become necessary to implement a new traveling policy that will affect all members traveling on official business pertaining to Branch 132.

Effective January 1, 2024:

1. All individuals on official travel business seeking reimbursement must provide travel receipts. (Air fare and hotel)
2. When traveling by car to any trainings, conventions, functions/events as it relates to the Branch, mileage will be reimbursed at the government rate. When traveling by car to any trainings, conventions, functions/events, the mileage reimbursed will not exceed the rate of the air fare used by the other members attending the same trainings, conventions, functions/events. The beginning and ending mileage will be presented to the treasurer along with a copy of MapQuest or other driving guidance map.
3. Meals and incidentals will be paid at the per diem rate established by the GSA.
4. The traveling expenses begin one day before the trainings, conventions, or functions/events to allow members to register when necessary.
5. Based upon the bylaws of the Branch, funds budgeted for any trainings, conventions, or functions/events will be distributed equally among those members in attendance. If

(cont. on pg. 2)

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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

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

the expenses exceed the monies budgeted for any trainings, conventions, functions/events, only the monies allocated in the budget will be equally distributed among those members in attendance. If it is determined that the expenses incurred are less than each member's equal share of the budgeted funds, the excess monies received will be deemed as income for tax purposes.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sid Simmons

I got a call at the union hall the other day from one of our station stewards. He just wanted to make sure that he had given one of his letter carriers the right answer. After he repeated the question posed to him, I agreed that his answer was correct. He said, "I knew I was right, but I just wanted to make sure, because the answer I gave him was not what he wanted to hear." He ended our conversation by saying, "I guess he just had a gripe, but no grievance."

Our conversation is not uncommon. Here at the office, we get calls all the time from members and stewards that are extremely upset with something management did or did not do. And with some regularity, we must tell those individuals that "management can do that." Unfortunately, on occasion, our correct answer elevates an already high blood pressure, but what are we to do?

It solves nothing to tell a letter carrier what he or she wants to hear – when it is wrong. It only makes matters worse in the long term. I will confess that I do not like some of the rules and regulations that govern our postal lives. But because we have a negotiated collective bargaining agreement, I am going to do my best to give the right answer, even when it negatively impacts someone.

When I decided to address this topic, it reminded me of three hot button issues that always come up during the year: (1) Disapproved Leave. (2) Holiday Schedule. (3) Mandated Overtime. In the real postal world, some of us are always going to be upset when adversely affected, no matter what the right answer is. Nonetheless, as union officers, we must consistently enforce the contract, because without one, everything would be a gripe.



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!

NEW MEMBERS

Kyler Wren
Shakeema Hazel
Burnice Toe
Myangela Fountain
Shakia Slaughter
Fidencio Deleon
Carlos Padilla
Bryan Johnson
Demetri Riley
William Barnes

Sherman Andrews
Quince Wesby
Carmen Leblanc
Juan Leyva
Joseph Taylor
Breasia Johnson
Rotsovanna Khlot
Mariam Morin
Senay Mckuria

Matt Fields
Javian Beechum
Andre Jackson
Cameron Bernal
Johnnie Green
Lawrence Ozenne
Etta Belton
Tanyel White
Christian Perez
Monique Arnold

OCTOBER 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on October 2, 2023.
- Invocation by Brother Matthew Leffall. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- No Resolutions of Sympathy.
- The cause of death of Brother Eugene Gates, Jr. was determined to be heat related.
- Robert Jones of Branch 283 Houston, TX died in a vehicle crash while on duty.
- A motion was made that the branch make a \$1,000.00 donation to the family of Robert Jones. (Motion passed)
- Two proposed by-law changes were read to the membership and will be printed in the upcoming newsletter.
- The Fall NBA school will be held in South Padre Island.
- The merger with the Denton Branch will be final within the next 30 days.
- Delegates for the 2024 Boston convention nominations were nominated and accepted by the membership.
- The Branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.
- The Sheila Stewart MDA Bowl-A-Thon will be held in October.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

NOVEMBER 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on November 6, 2023.
- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- Resolutions of Sympathy Brother Robert L. Pool.
- Executive Board recommendations that the Branch participates in the Fill-A-Tundra Toy Drive in DeSoto.
- The membership voted to participate in the Fill-A-Tundra event.
- The MDA Branch Challenge concluded on October 31, 2023. The amount collected was \$2000.00 and will be sent to the MDA as soon as possible.
- The membership discussed and voted on the proposed by-law change. The by-law change was passed.
- 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

OCTOBER 2023

National Dues	\$81,519.36
OWCP Dues	422.90
Tax Refund	3,862.84
Miscellaneous	1,322.32
Annuity Withholding	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$87,127.42

NOVEMBER 2023

National Dues	\$82,791.18
OWCP Dues	50.00
Tax Refund	
Miscellaneous	1,638.00
Active Dues (S. Boyd)	205.68
TSALC Rebate	535.20
HB Rebate	4,656.00
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$89,876.06

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Alex Gonzalez; Joyce Crawford.
Caesar Clark – Sandra Kaulity; Ike Lewis; Reso Washington.
Downtown – Dawn Brewer.
Grand Prairie (MPO) – Michael Mathis; Mark McDonald’s brother passed away.
Highland Hills – Alfonzo Roberson.
Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.
Northwest – Dalphina People’s mother passed away.
Parkdale – Lockie McCoo.
Robert E. Price – Patrick Havery’s mother-in-law passed away; Leonard Campbell’s mother passed away.
Station A – Gessesew Hagos passed away.
University – Derek Lewis passed away; Mardel Jackson was injured in an off-duty vehicle accident.
White Rock – Hagos Mengsteab was injured in an on-the-job motor vehicle accident.
Waxahachie – Donovan Russell; Ronald Sutton.
Retirees – Robert W. Bronaugh passed away; Song Choe passed away; Keith Hetzel passed away.
(PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL SICK & WELFARE ARE REPORTED TO BROTHER ROBERT HINSON)

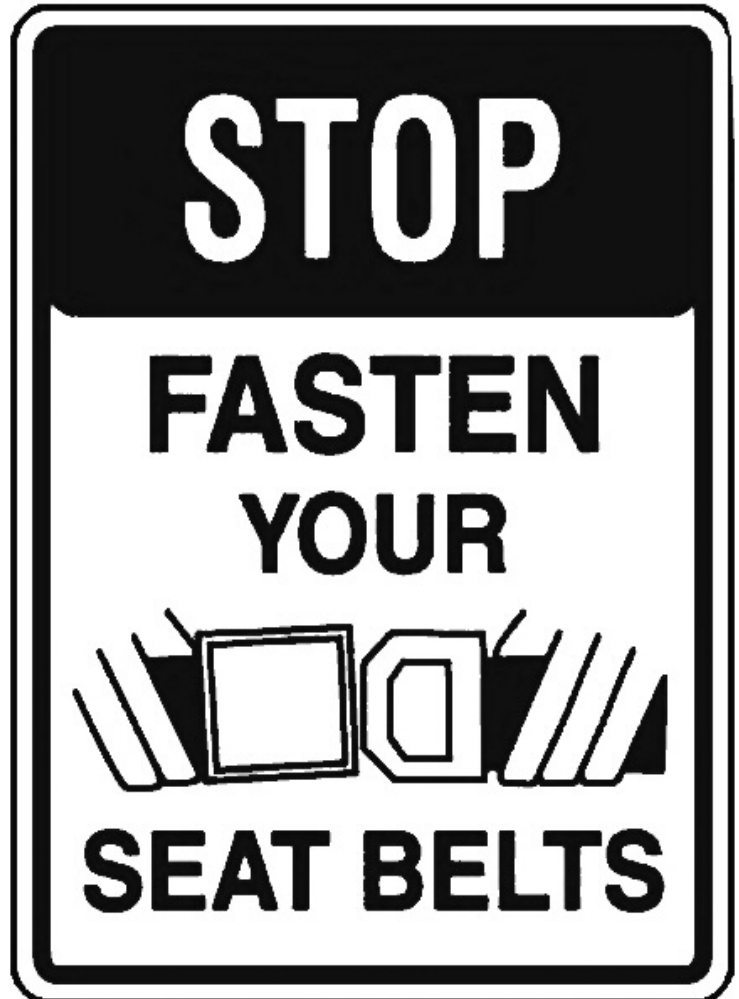
TREASURER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023

General Fund	\$275,722.58
Business Savings	25.00
High Yield Savings	291,322.13
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	115,202.37
<i>Convention Fund</i>	16.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	5,750.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	6,140.64
<i>Education Fund</i>	0.00
MDA Fund	412.95
CD 18 Month	107,429.63
CD 6 Month	530,470.71
TOTAL \$	\$1,205,383.00

DECEMBER 2023

General Fund	\$331,444.82
Business Savings	25.00
High Yield Savings	292,030.88
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	112,581.79
<i>Convention Fund</i>	16.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	2,250.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	6,140.64
<i>Education Fund</i>	0.00
MDA Fund	412.98
CD 18 Month	107,630.25
CD 6 Month	532,392.48
TOTAL \$	\$1,263,936.41



SHEILA M. STEWART MDA BOWL-A-THON

Branch 132 held the Sheila M. Stewart Bowl-a-Thon in October and raised \$2000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Sheila Stewart was known for her support and work with MDA, and the Bowl-a-Thon continues in her memory. Pictured below are Mr. and Mrs. Rickey Hewitt from Grand Prairie, who were the winners in every category, Best Series and Best Game. Thanks to all of the participants and donors.



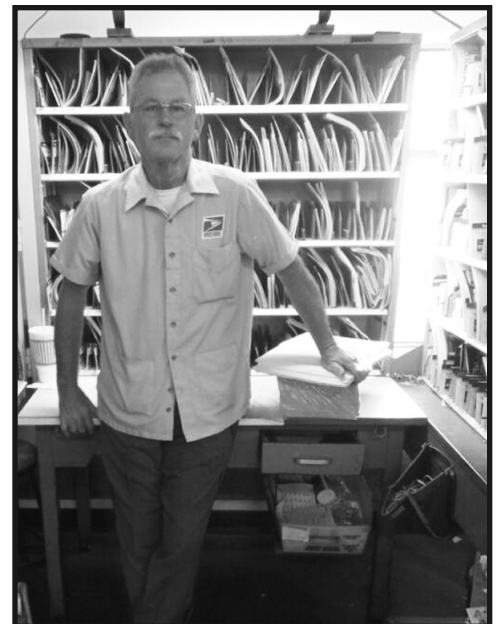
LAST PUNCH BUNCH



KATHY BROWN
NORTHWEST
35 YEARS



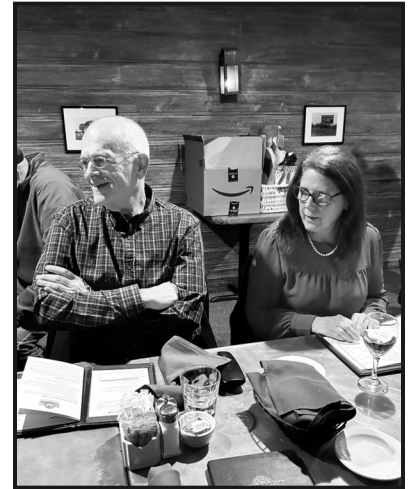
PORTIA ALEXANDER
LEWISVILLE MPO
32 YEARS



JAY FOGEL
UNIVERSITY
29 YEARS

STEVE ELLENBERG'S RETIREMENT DINNER

Steve Ellenberg after 20 years of service as an officer of Branch 132 has made the decision to officially retire to spend time with his family. Steve has served the Branch in a number of positions, starting his advocacy work as a steward. His dedication and commitment for Branch 132 was seen throughout the years for the work he performed. The members of Branch 132 would like to thank Steve for his service, his devotion, and his loyalty to Branch 132. We wish you a long and prosperous retirement. Thank you Steve for a job well done!



RETIREE'S BREAKFAST

The retirees came out in big numbers to fellowship and break bread with one another at the Union hall.



FIL-A-TUNDRA TOY DRIVE

A special thank you goes out to those members who participated in the Fil-A-Tundra Toy Drive. The Branch would like to recognize Mike Del Bosque and the Intire Health Team along with Gary Graham and Associates for the generosity they extended to assist the Branch with its efforts to make the toy drive a success. A big shout out goes to the carriers at the DeSoto Post Office who collected blankets, socks, scarves, and gloves as well as helped with transporting all the collected items.



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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***".

January 1 – New Year's Day – Postal Designated Holiday

Kwanza ends

January 4 – 7:00 pm - Steward training – Union Hall

January 8 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Postal Designated Holiday

January 29 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

February 1 – 7:00 pm - Steward training – Union Hall

February 5 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall

February 17-19 – NBA Spring School Houston

February 19 – President's Day – Postal Designated Holiday

February 26 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting (Members may address the board by making an appointment.)

March 4 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall

March 7 – 7:00 pm - Steward Meeting – Union Hall