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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



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Seeing that we are near the end of Black History Month and at the beginning of Women's Month, I thought I would write an article about a little bit of NALC history from both spectrums. Mary Fields aka Stagecoach Mary was the first black woman employed as a mail carrier in the United States and she was the second woman to work for the United States Postal Service.

Mary Fields was born enslaved around 1832 and freed following



the American Civil War. In 1895, she was hired as a mail carrier because she was the fastest applicant to hitch a team of six horses.

Her reliability earned her the nickname "Stagecoach," because she never missed a day of work even showing up during heavy snow by wearing snowshoes and carrying the mail packs on her back.

Mary stood six feet tall, and was a woman who commanded attention. Legend has it she wore a 38 Smith & Weston strapped under her apron to protect herself and the mail from wolves, thieves, and bandits, driving the route with horses and a mule named Moses. It was reported that she could hit anything within 50 paces. After quitting the Post Office, Fields opened her own laundry and restaurant with the help of Mother Amadeus, the mother superior of an Ursuline convent in Toledo, Ohio.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) was created in 1889. NALC Branch 132 was established in the year 1891. Prior to the year 1965, Black letter carriers hired by the Postal Service could not have a membership with NALC. Louis Davis, the first elected black Vice-President for the branch, began his career with the Postal Service in 1959. After his tenure as Vice-President ended, he remained a faithful and dedicated member of Branch 132, and was later elected as Director of Retirees. His name is among the recognized members of Branch 132 in the Ring of Honor in the Union Hall. Former President Fred Rolando during his tenure as president credited membership status to all black carriers who were hired before 1965.

In the year 2016, Black history and Women history evolved again. It was during that year that I was sworn in as the first Black President and the first Female President ever elected in the history of Branch 132. When I began my career with the Postal Service, I never envisioned that one day I would become the President of Branch 132. Becoming the president came with its challenges. It is a demanding position that comes with a lot of responsibility and comes with its critics. No, I am not a six-foot Mary "Stagecoach" Fields, but I am and continue to be committed and dedicated to the causes of letter carriers. Being the first is a door opener for others. I am honored to be a part of the history of this great union and among the trailblazers that make this union a big success.

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Robert Hinson, Vice President
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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

Last month, I attended the NBA School in The Woodlands, just South of Houston, Texas. For your information, our National Business Agent, Shawn Boyd schedules two training schools every February and October, for any member to attend. This school was laid out very well. It started promptly at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, with the choice of attending one of five classes, which lasted exactly an hour and fifteen minutes. On the first day, we attended two classes of our choice, which included beginner and advanced stewards training, legislation and OWCP. On Sunday, we had the same format and time frame, with the opportunity to attend many different classes. In total, we attended seven training classes on Saturday and Sunday.

On Monday, a Rap Session started promptly at 8:00 A.M. After some preliminary introductions, NALC President, Brian Renfroe addressed the members in attendance for about four hours, only pausing a couple of times for a short break. During his presentation, he discussed many subjects. The most important being the status of contract negotiations. He said that the NALC is still in weekly negotiations with the USPS, while at the same time preparing for binding arbitration. Without being too specific, he felt very confident that, whichever path we eventually take, the outcome will be very beneficial to our membership.

Also last month, our branch participated in a rally at the Dallas MPO, which was organized by the NALC at the national level with the assistance of the branch. It was promoted as "Enough is Enough". The purpose of the rally was to inform the media and our customers of the fact that letter carriers are under attack by criminals determined to steal our mail and arrow keys. For your information, there have been over two thousand occurrences nationwide in the last two years. Our union is calling on the postal service and congress to do more to protect all letter carriers.

NEW MEMBERS

JANUARY 2024

Angelique Poster

Devaugh Penson

Chester Bates

Jennie Bonner

Christian Del Rio

Mitshell Graylee

Zerek Jacob

Tiffany McKinney

Avonta Shaw

Domonique Gunn

Jamore Westmoreland

Westley Braselton

Breana Keller

Takeshia Fulcher

Alexandra Gee

Gilbert Mendoza

Luis Vazquez Rodriguez

Nicole Rose-Brown

James Sharpe

Justin Durham

Alex Boateng

John Griffin

Anthony Jackson II

Jasmine Sutton

Isaac Skinner

Ramon Lewis

DECEMBER 2023 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on December 4, 2023.
- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- Resolutions of Sympathy Brothers Gessesew Hagos, Keith Hetzel, Robert W. Bronaugh, Song Choe and Derrick Lewis.
- Brother Ray Courtney, a retiree of 32 years from Lewisville, TX, addressed the membership.
- There was an Executive Board recommendation to accept the 2024 proposed budget as written. A discussion on the proposed 2024 budget line items was conducted.
- After the discussion of the budget was held, a motion was made to accept the 2024 budget as written. (motion passed)
- President Lewis informed the membership that Brother Steve Ellenberg was resigning from his position as branch Treasurer at the end of December. She announced to the membership that she had appointed Brother Ron Stover to replace him until the end of the term
- President Lewis also reminded everyone to grieve any discipline related to attendance. It is very important because the USPS is tightening up on attendance.
- The Branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

JANUARY 2024 BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on January 8, 2024.
- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson. President Lewis led the Pledge.
- Resolutions of Sympathy Brother Burl Hall, Jr.
- No Executive Board recommendations.
- TSALC Vice President Everett Wylie addressed the membership on current legislative bills that are moving through Congress in this session. He also discussed the Candidates for office that will be on the ballot in the primary on March 5, 2024.
- President Lewis reminded the membership that choice vacation lists should be circulating in offices at this time. Lists should be completed and posted by February 1, 2024.
- Any members that have back pay awards that have not been paid should contact the branch office.
- OSHA fined the U.S.P.S. over \$16,000.00 as a result of an investigation into the death of Brother Eugene Gates, Jr.
- A new travel policy was presented to the membership, there was a discussion to answer any questions.
- Intire Health Group will have a DOL training class January 28, 2024 in Grand Prairie.
- A motion was made to induct members Eugene Gates and Laura Maglaris into the Ring of Honor. (motion passed)
- The branch financial reports will be posted in the Metro Letter Carrier.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hilliard, Recording Secretary

STEWARDS' CORNER

EDWIN DEMON COOPER, SR.



Before working for the United Postal Service, I served in the United States Army from December of 1995 until December of 1998. In 1999, I began to serve my country in a different way in the Mesquite community through the NALC Branch 132.

In 2008, my impact went further being named the first Black Chief Union Steward in the great city of Mesquite. Not only do I take pride in my community, I also take pride in advocating for the rights and the well-being of my fellow postal workers.

Taking on this role I have learned that I will not always make people happy, but as a leader you must do what is right. I enjoy what I do, and hope to continue to serve my community and colleagues. Being under the great leadership of Kim Lewis and my buddy Ron Stover, this should be an easy task. May God continue to Bless America and NALC BRANCH 132.

Edwin Demon Cooper, Sr.



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
JANUARY 2024

National Dues	\$85,403.80
OWCP Dues	450.04
Miscellaneous	384.96
Retiree Dues	36.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$86,274.80

TREASURER REPORT

JANUARY 2024

General Fund	\$232,458.96
Business Savings	25.00
High Yield Savings	292,765.04
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	<i>141,530.00</i>
<i>Convention Fund</i>	<i>85,000.00</i>
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	<i>10,000.00</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>7,000.00</i>
<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>39,000.00</i>
MDA Fund	413.02
CD 18 Month	107,837.95
CD 6 Month	534,385.63
TOTAL \$	\$1,167,885.60

FEBRUARY 2024

General Fund	\$203,499.51
Business Savings	25.00
High Yield Savings	293,501.04
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	<i>135,324.91</i>
<i>Convention Fund</i>	<i>85,000.00</i>
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	<i>9,200.00</i>
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>6,850.00</i>
<i>Education Fund</i>	<i>39,000.00</i>
MDA Fund	413.06
CD 18 Month	108,046.05
CD 6 Month	536,386.24
TOTAL \$	\$1,141,870.90

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Joyce Crawford; Jesse Garcia was out sick; Alex Gonzalez.

Caesar Clark – Sandra Kaulity; Reso Washington.

Collections – Rodrick Baker; Omar Nobles.

Downtown – Dawn Brewer.

Grand Prairie (MPO) – Michael Mathis; Mark McDonald’s brother passed away.

Highland Hills – Alfonzo Roberson.

Lake Highlands – Lula Green’s mother passed away.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Mesquite – Michael Hill’s mother passed away.

Parkdale – Locki McCoo.

Spring Valley – Rosalind Matlock Smith’s husband passed away.

Waxahachie – Donovan Russell; Ronald Smith.

Retirees – Jerry Green (Gladewater) is in the hospital; Burl Hall (Grand Prairie MPO) passed away.

Office Staff – Executive Vice President Sid Simmons celebrated his 71st birthday on 2/19/24. Happy belated birthday Sid.

(PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL SICK & WELFARE ARE REPORTED TO BROTHER ROBERT HINSON)



National Association of Letter Carriers

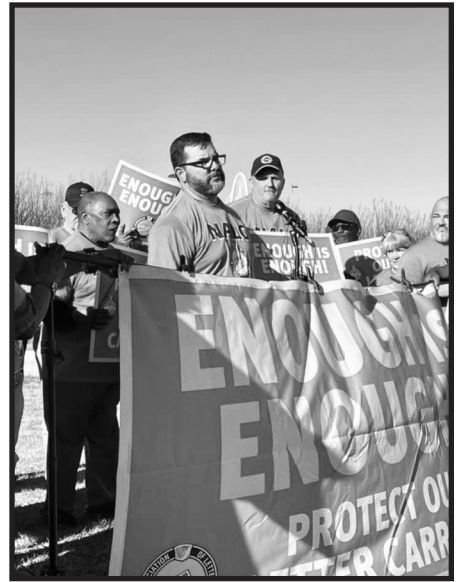



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" RALLY

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
SAFE DELIVERY
PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS RALLY

Main Post Office
401 Tom Landry Freeway
Dallas, TX 75260
Thursday, Feb. 22
@ 4:00 p.m.

STOP THE ASSAULTS ON LETTER CARRIERS



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

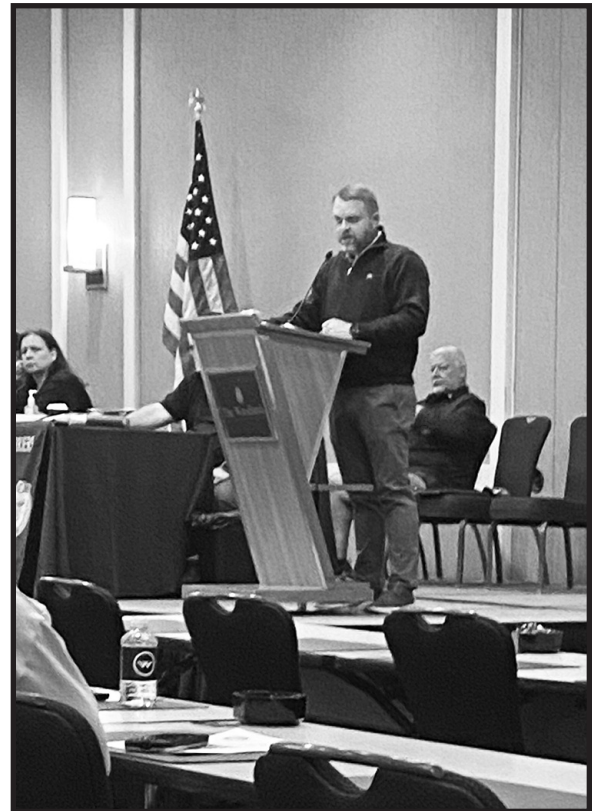
NBA SPRING SCHOOL



Members in attendance to the NBA Spring School.



District 2 Board



National President Brian Renfroe

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, 2024

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
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***".

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

March 5 – Election Day

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

March 10 – Daylight Saving Time Begins



March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 21 – 1:00 pm – Retirees' Luncheon – Golden Corral Restaurant

March 24 – Palm Sunday

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

March 31 – Easter

April 1 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall

April 4 – 7:00 pm - Steward Meeting – Union Hall

April 23 – Passover

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

May 2 – 7:00 pm - Steward Meeting – Union Hall

May 6 – 7:30 pm – Monthly Branch meeting – Union Hall

