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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



On December 20, 2023, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued the United States Postal Service a \$15,625.00 citation following the death of City Letter Carrier Eugene Gates, Jr. Brother Gates lost his life while performing his duties along his route in the scorching heat on June 20, 2023. The OSHA citation labeled the violation as **SERIOUS**, meaning the Postal Service did not furnish a place of employment which was free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees, in that employees were **NOT** protected from the hazard of high ambient heat while performing job duties. The Postal Service contested the fine, claiming it was too punitive. As we are approaching the anniversary of Brother Gates' death, the Postal Service is continuing to engage in the same practices that led to his death.

To avoid this safety hazard from reoccurring, OSHA provided the Postal Service with a list of acceptable measures to put into place. **Among the measures were monitoring and ensuring rest breaks and earlier start times to reduce exposure to higher temperatures.** The Postal Service has completely ignored the advice of OSHA. Instead, the Postal Service refused to allow earlier start times causing the Union to have to file grievances. In the offices were the managers agreed with the earlier start times, those managers were reprimanded by their superiors. This chastisement caused the other managers to deny the grievances presented to them out of fear that they would have to suffer the same type of adverse consequences.

Just like Brother Gates, carriers are being disciplined when they are alleged to have used idle time along their routes. Brother Gates

was disciplined for having “stationary events.” It is now called “street inactivity.” **Same concept, new name!** Carriers are called to the office for an Investigative Interview to explain why the DMS (information obtained through the scanner) shows that they were inactive. Once a carrier tries to explain their actions, they are issued discipline. The Postal Service is **NOT** ensuring that letter carriers receive rest breaks.

Each of you must know and understand that the method management is using is inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the Postal Service. Sections 134.21 and 134.22 of the Handbook M-39 states:

134.21 The manager must maintain an objective attitude in conducting street supervision and discharge this duty in an open and above-board manner.

134.22 The manager is not to spy or use other covert techniques.

These rules are **NOT** optional. If you are called into the office and questioned about inactivity on your route, you do not need to immediately start confessing to your actions. Do not be in a hurry to defend your actions. When asked if there is anything you would like to add, you need to state that no supervisor made their presence known to you and that you were not informed that you were being observed. Think before you speak!



President Lewis with Brother Eugene Gates, Jr.'s widow, Carla.

Serving Addison, Athens, Canton, Carrollton, Carthage, Center, Commerce, Corsicana, Dallas, Daingerfield, Denton, DeSoto, Duncanville, Ennis, Fairfield, Ferris, Gainesville, Gilmer, Gladewater, Grand Prairie, Grand Saline, Greenville, Henderson, Jacksonville, Jefferson, Kerens, Kaufman, Kilgore, Lancaster, Lewisville, Longview, Marshall, Mesquite, Nacogdoches, Seagoville, Sherman, Sulphur Springs, Waxahachie, White Oak, Wills Point, Wilmer, Winnsboro

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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

Ron Stover

Most of us in the Letter Carrier Craft have heard from management that we must follow instructions and file a grievance later. This is not the case when it comes to your own safety. You should take steps to protect yourself from the extreme heat and humidity that we experience in North Texas to protect your health.

Make sure and hydrate yourself daily with cool drinking water, take a cooling towel to use over your head and neck when needed. Management is required to ensure that all employees who work in high heat are provided with cool water the entire shift.

OSHA has a free heat safety tool that can be downloaded to your smartphone for starters. This app will guide you to the appropriate protective measures that should be taken before you get hurt. When you need additional heat breaks, text your supervisor using your scanner when you start your break, and then text management when you have completed your heat break. You should take the breaks needed to protect your health.

If you don't have the Prevent Heat Illnesses, Know the Signs and Act card on the back of your badge, let your steward and management know immediately. This card is a quick guide, so you know what signs to look for when exposed to harsh temperatures for long periods at a time.

If management chooses to send messages to intimidate you, for example (stay cool keep it moving, or any message that does not encourage you to take additional heat breaks), file a grievance. Heat breaks are in addition to your regular lunch break, locally negotiated breaks, and comfort stops.

If you are harassed or intimidated not to take additional heat rest breaks, or if local management does not provide cool drinking water for the entire shift, first call the Whistle Blower OSHA hotline (1-800-321-OSHA) and then get with your steward and file a grievance.

If you experience any of the following symptoms, faint or dizziness, excessive sweating, cool pale clammy skin, Nausea or vomiting, rapid, weak pulse, Muscle cramps, call 911 immediately.

HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE

Faint or dizzy	OR	Throbbing headache, confusion
Excessive sweating		No sweating
Cool, pale, clammy skin		Body temperature above 103° Red, hot, dry skin
Nausea or vomiting		Nausea or vomiting
Rapid, weak pulse		Rapid, strong pulse
Muscle cramps		May lose consciousness

CALL 9-1-1

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses
- Move person to cooler place
- Cool using cool cloths or bath
- Do not give anything to drink

APRIL 2024

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on April 1, 2024
- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson, President Kim Lewis led the Pledge.
- Resolution of Sympathy – Sister Rhonda Clark
- No Executive Board Recommendations.
- It was announced that Brother Eugene Johnson was appointed to replace Sister Bobbie Taylor as Director of Retirees. Brother Twasky Smith was appointed to replace Brother Eugene Johnson as Trustee.
- Stewards need to review records on Heat-Related training given at each station and inform the branch if the records were incorrect.
- USPS has amended start times for carriers from April 1 to October 31 each year for some offices. Carriers in those offices will report no later than 7:30 am due to heat concerns.
- Retirees' Banquet will be held at the Union Hall on May 18, 2024, starting 6:30 pm.
- The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be Saturday, May 11, 2024.
- A motion was made to have a Christmas party at the Union Hall. (Passed)
- A motion was made to install Brother Gary Henderson into the Ring of Honor. (Passed)
- Branch Financial Reports will be in the next Metro Letter Carrier newsletter.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary

MAY 2024

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

- A quorum of members of Lone Star Branch 132 met on May 6, 2024
- Invocation by Brother Eugene Johnson, President Kim Lewis led the Pledge.
- No Resolution of Sympathy.
- No Executive Board Recommendations.
- It was announced that Executive Vice President Sid Simmons resigned after accepting the position of National Assigned Assistant in our Region 10 NBA Office. Brother Ron Stover was appointed to the position of Executive Vice-President. This caused a shifting of positions. Sister Clubber Targton was appointed to the position of Treasurer. Brother Eugene Johnson was appointed to the position of Director of Retirees. Brother Twasky Smith was appointed to the position of Trustee.
- There were three members inducted into the Ring of Honor. Brother Eugene Gates, Jr., Gary Henderson, and Laura Maglaris. Brother Gates' wife, Carla, spoke to the membership as did Brother Henderson. Sister Maglaris was not presented.
- Retirees' Banquet will be held at the Union Hall on May 18, 2024, starting at 6:30 pm.
- The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be Saturday, May 11, 2024. Sister Rita Wilder gave a final update about the food drive.
- There were 15 CCAs promoted on May 4th and 30 more will be promoted on May 18th.
- A motion was made to count Chris Velasquez present at the meeting. (Passed)
- A motion was made to give \$50.00 to the Gainesville office to buy food on the day of the Food Drive. (Passed)
- Branch Financial Reports will be in the next Metro Letter Carrier newsletter.

Respectfully submitted

Danny Hillard, Recording Secretary



JANINE SINGLETON
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

APRIL 2024

National Dues	\$82,919.65
OWCP Dues	0.00
Annuity Withholding	0.00
Retiree Dues	0.00
MBA Rebate	0.00
TSALC Rebate	0.00
HB Rebate	0.00
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$82,919.65

MAY 2024

National Dues	\$82,554.36
OWCP Dues	1,355.65
Active Dues	206.22
Lost Time Reimbursement	3,538.40
Retiree Banquet	120.00
TSALC Rebate	535.20
HB Rebate	486.75
Deposit Dividends	0.00
TOTAL \$	\$88,796.58

TREASURER REPORT

MAY 2024

General Fund	\$291,008.14
Business Savings	25.67
High Yield Savings	290,474.00
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	125,921.74
<i>Convention Fund</i>	85,000.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	7,050.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	472.20
<i>Education Fund</i>	35,670.78
MDA Fund	413.16
CD 18 Month	657,340.60
TOTAL \$	\$1,239,261.57

JUNE 2024

General Fund	\$263,448.36
Business Savings	25.67
High Yield Savings	290,474.00
<i>Stewards Fund</i>	124,223.71
<i>Convention Fund</i>	85,000.00
<i>CPA/Legal Fund</i>	4,750.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	212.20
<i>Education Fund</i>	34,815.08
MDA Fund	413.13
CD 18 Month	657,340.60
TOTAL \$	\$1,211,701.79

SICK & WELFARE REPORT

Addison – Joyce Crawford.

Caesar Clark – Reso Washington.

Collections – Rodrick Baker; Wenchang Wang; Latresha Clayton-Webb.

Downtown – Dawn Brewer.

Highland Hills – Alfonzo Roberson.

Longview (Northwest) – Scott Eades.

Northwest – David Joseph Rand passed away.

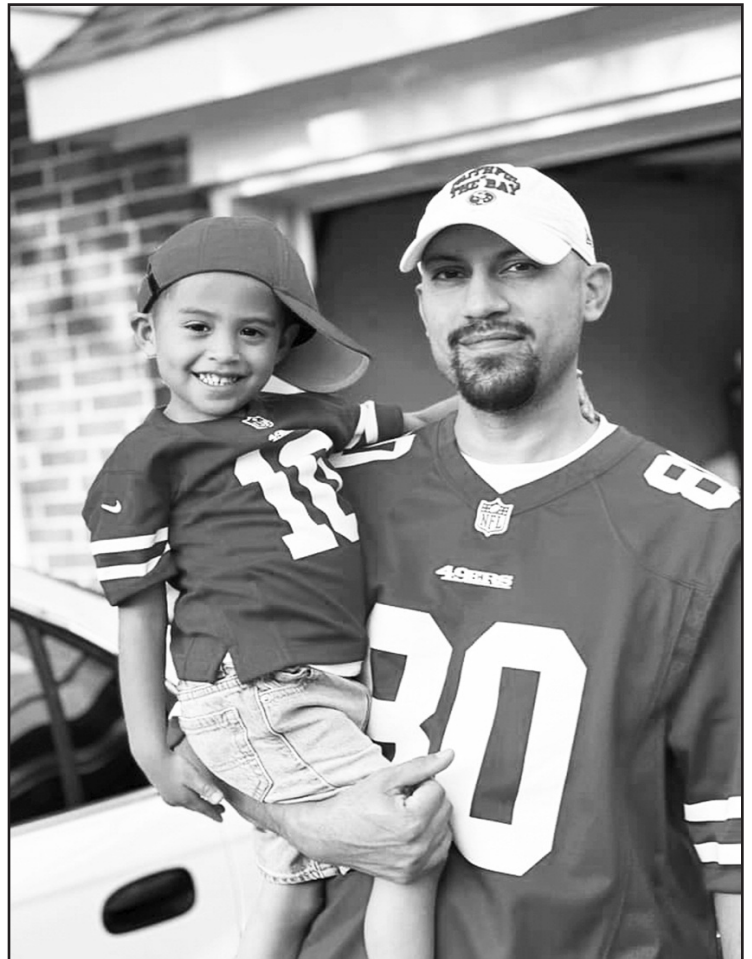
Parkdale – Lockie McCoo; Holly Fisk.

Waxahachie – Donovan Russell; Ronald Sutton.

Retirees – Larry Ausborne was in the hospital; Holly fisk passed away.

Office Staff – Vice President Hinson had eye surgery.

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

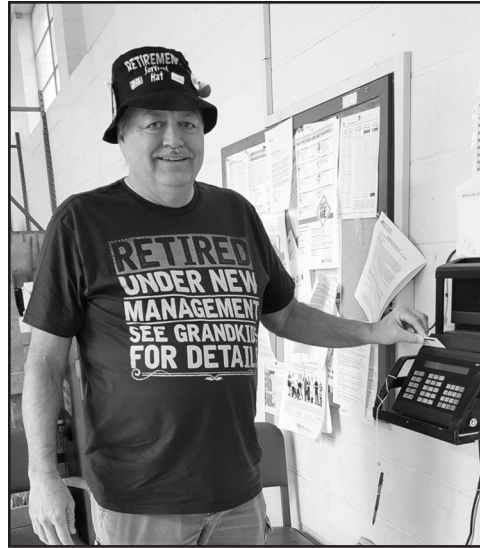


Congratulations to Chris Velasquez! He is now a newly certified Dispute Resolution Team member! Hip, hip, hooray! Chris is pictured here with his grandson.

LAST PUNCH BUNCH



BILLY AMOS
MESQUITE MPO
54 ½ YEARS



MIKE BELL
39 YEARS, 9 MONTHS



JANE CLARK
GILMER
26 YEARS

BRANCH 132 WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Osaigbovo Emuze	Allyssa Lewis-Brown	Brian Johnson	Ladarrus Davis
Jalen Trimble	Bryan McLamore	Kerry Griffin	Jana Collier
Gene Jackson	Marcus Ramirez	Jaylord Pena	Zakariya Payton
Fabio Fragoso	Devon Franklin	Shenaque Jones	Ravion Ross
Ashton Washington	Nathan Compton	Caleb Riser	Tijuanna Randall
Anthony Taulton	Lawanda Starks-Moore	Mathew Santos	Todd Bush
Nathaniel Bennett	Quendraill Barefield	Michael Brummett	Ryan Johnson
Joseph Marquez	Kadavrius Lewis	Shiffon Thompson	Ke'Onta Runnels
Phoumaro Em	Tristin Brown	Zedrick Glisper	Michael Lise
Angela Moore	Jeniyah Smallwood	Deandre Taylor	Joardan Walker Murrain
Jermonica Hampton	Jose Alvarez	Dylan Richison	Lisette Olevera
Mark Davis	Michael Truong	Samantha Antonelli	Tynisha Solter
Carol Fernandez	Derrick Williams	William Hicks	Amy Renaud
Nickolas Hubbard	Robert Avery	Bobby Bailey	John Paul Borrientes
Angel Sanchez	Damon Davis	Akilah Hendricks	Manuel Contreras
Jasmyne Smith	Jakobe Austin	Fernando Duarte	Joshua Ortiz
Tyrone Wilkins	LaCriesha Harding	Reginald Spencer	Tyrone Franklin
Jacob Villarreal	Morgan Jackson	Alexis Ahuja	Kennew Stewart
Kaitlyn Dingman	Aundarrell Stephens	Daylon Acker	Miriam Mendoza
Jimmy Rhoe	Julian Sims	Linda Boseman	Ciara Williams
Michale Hale	Andrew Mease	Byron Tucker	Kenneth Young
Terry Chase	Tiffany White	Kassi Akakpo Numado	Lowell Hudson
Steele Rouble	LaKendrick Stanton	Jarvis Taylor	Michael Jones
Miguel Armendaviz	Daylon Burks	Courtney Carson	Tony Carter
Kristian Curl	Leslie Cavanaugh	Veronica Love	Johnathan Gay
Hector Gonzalez			

FOOD DRIVE



Lewisville MPO



Lewisville MPO



Beverly Hills Station

2024 Top Results

Dallas City

1. Robert Price 6,950
2. Beverly Hills 5,600
3. Lakewood 5,400

Associate Offices

1. Denton 10,540
2. Longview NW 8,870
3. Nacogdoches 8,640



Beverly Hills Station



Retiree Support

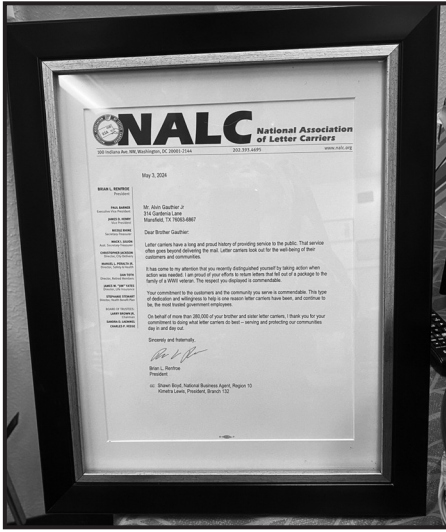


President Lewis supports Food Drive



Food Drive Coordinator at Richland

HONORING "OUR HERO" ALVIN GAUTHIER, JR.



Gary Henderson being inducted into the Ring of Honor.



National Business Agent Shawn Boyd with retiring Officers Steve Ellenberg, Sid Simmons, and Mike Bell.

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 2023 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*".

July 1 – 7:30 pm - Monthly Branch Meeting – Union Hall

July 4 – Fourth of July (Postal Holiday)

July 11 – 7:00 pm - Steward Meeting – Union Hall

July 29 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting

August 1 – 7:00 pm - Steward Training – Union Hall

August 5-9 – National Convention – Boston, Massachusetts

DUE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION THE BRANCH MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

August 12 – 7:30 pm - Monthly Branch Meeting – Union Hall

August 26 – 7:30 pm – Executive Board Meeting

September 2 – Labor Day (Postal Holiday)

September 5 – 7:00 pm - Steward Training – Union Hall

September 9 – 7:30 pm - Monthly Branch Meeting – Union Hall

September 20 – 1:00 pm - Retirees' Luncheon – Golden Corral – 1902 Towne Centre Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150

September 22 – Autumn Begins

September 30 – 7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting