



Branch Officers

President - Doug Blevens

Vice President - Shane Davis

Secretary - Abigail Gray

Treasurer - William Craft

Proudly Serving

**Corning - Jonesboro - Marked Tree - Mountain Home - Piggot - Pocahontas -
Rector - Trumann**

Christmas Party!

December 6th, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Native Brew Works
515 South Gee Street
Jonesboro, Ar. 72401**

There will be a taco bar with street corn

Hope to see you all there!!!



Branch Meeting
11/18/2025 at the S&DC Conference
Room-eat at 5:30 pm and meet at
6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting





1131 Minutes

Happy November! Here are the highlights of this month's NALC branch 1131 meeting:

Open enrollment season for health insurance is coming up, so be on the lookout for health benefits information in the mail! You can also access union health benefit information online at NALChbp.org

We discussed important upcoming dates for current employees/members: bid leave begins November 1st, Steward's college is January 21-23, and the National Convention will be August 3-7. Article 8 details our new pay rate of double time + ½ for working more than 12 hours per day/60 hours per week - this will be tax code 029 on your virtual time card. A motion was made to continue our monthly meetings beginning at 6:30 pm at the S&DC through February, and the motion was passed.

Lastly, the following officer seats were elected by attrition during this meeting's nominations:

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Trustees: Charlie Goodwin, Quentin Shavalia, Barry Bode

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Sargent at Arms: Doug Blevens

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Treasurer: William Craft

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Recording/Financial Secretary: Abigail Gray

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Vice president: Caleb Mitchell

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President: Shane Davis



Presidents Report

Doug Blevens

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. What an exciting night we had at the nominations last meeting!

All officers were again elected by acclamation.

Shane will inherit a couple of vacant positions as well, so there is work needing to be done should you feel a calling to help out. With our newly elected officers, we should all be willing to help them help us. That's the bottom line. I see division in our Union, and I see division in our branch.

It doesn't have to be this way, y'all.

We have to get back to working together towards a common goal and holding ourselves accountable for our actions. Not everybody is out for number one stuff. Look at your brother or sister in the case next to you. They are facing many of the same issues you are facing. We could go on all night, you know what I mean. How would I want them to act in this career? That's how I'm gonna act. And when we all start acting right, it goes pretty damned smooth, I promise. If I call in sick, someone has to carry my route. I'd better be in pretty good pickle before I push that off on someone else. We've all been there, and it's awful. And we also all know how it feels to be that guy.

Wear your uniform and wear it with pride. If you don't have a uniform, let your leaders know, and we will see what can be done. We're a freaking team, and we should be dressed like one. And not the Bad News Bears I'm seeing.

Read your contract. Study your M-41. And thumb through a JCAM sometime, just so you know the rules, and know your rights. Knowledge is power, and we're all running around like some pee-wee soccer team that has never even read the rules.

We have some very good, professional carriers in our office, and we have some carriers who need to shape up.

Y'all, I say this because I love you. I want you, each and every one, to have a long, successful career at the post office. I also want that to be enjoyable for your peers. We just have to stop and think every once in a while, Am I doing it right?

I see a future that has lots more structure forced down to local management and we haven't had that in a very long while.

Anyway, there's my parting words and twisted wisdom.

I'm am very excited to see where Shane and Caleb lead our Branch. I'm am certain we are in great hands. Yall check out their work and keep an eye out for all the new things getting done.



Vice Presidents Corner

Eliminating Negativity in Challenging Times

In today's political climate, unity within the NALC is more important than ever. Our members face constant challenges, from legislative threats to the Postal Service to misinformation about the vital work we perform every day. When negativity and division spread among us, it weakens our voice and distracts from the real issues that affect every letter carrier. The strength of this union comes from solidarity, respect, and the belief that we are stronger together.

Eliminating negativity does not mean ignoring problems. It means addressing them with professionalism, understanding, and a focus on solutions. Every time we handle a discussion, meeting, or grievance with integrity, we help build trust and morale. When we support one another, we create an environment where progress can happen. Now more than ever, we must choose cooperation over conflict and unity over division. Together, we can face any challenge and continue protecting the dignity and future of all letter carriers.

**In Solidarity,
Shane Davis
Vice President**



State Association

Hey guys, my name is Charles “Mark” Brown, and I was elected as your new Secretary/Treasurer for the Arkansas State Association during the 2024 Convention. I have been employed as a city letter carrier with the USPS for almost 23 years. I have always worked in the Searcy, AR office, first as a PTF, then becoming a regular one year later. I have 2 kids; Hadley is 8, and Easton is almost 7. I have been married for 15 years to my wife Jessi, and we all live on a farm in McRae. I have been a union steward for about 6 years and became Branch 35 Secretary/Treasurer 2 years ago.

My passion is helping where I can, and I enjoy the business side of the Union. I saw there was a need for a State Secretary/Treasurer, so I stepped up and here I am a year later. Together with the newly elected President and Board, our State Association is looking much brighter. In the last year, we have accomplished three big requirements that have lapsed: getting our Bond protected again, reestablishing our Tax-Exempt Section 501(c)5, and establishing State Withholding Tax status. The Bond is now protected for 3 years instead of yearly, as in the past. With this change, the Bond will have to be updated every time there is an election of officers to make it easier to remember. The Association had not filed a 990 IRS form for at least 3 years, and a reapplication was required to obtain IRS approval for tax-exempt status. This included a 68-page application to the IRS with a \$600.00 application fee. The state filed its 990 and we are now in compliance with the IRS again. And according to records received when I took the position, the Association was not compliant with State Withholding Tax, and with a little work and applications I am happy to say we are now. This all required a lot of work and man hours by myself, the new President and Executive Board to accomplish. Our bank account is looking better now and continues to grow. I am happy to serve each of the members of the Arkansas State Association. The future looks brighter, and exciting things are in store! Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as your State Secretary/Treasurer.

**Charles Mark Brown
State Secretary/Treasurer
Branch 35 Secretary/Treasurer**



Region 4

Greetings,

I hope this finds you all well and ready for the upcoming holiday season. During this time of year, the NBA office receives several calls regarding holiday scheduling (Article 11 & 30 LMOU) and the December exceptions hours of work (Article 8). If you have questions about holiday scheduling pecking orders, it is always best to reach out to your local branch officers first, since they are familiar with your LMOU provisions.

This year, the penalty overtime exclusion period is from November 29th through December 26th. During this period the work over 8 hours up to 12 hours in a day will be paid for at the 1.5 % overtime rate, and in accordance with M-02009, any work over 12 hours in a day or 60 hours in a week will be paid at the 2.5% rate. Also, for those not interested in working over 60 hours a week, M-02009 also provides, “Full time employees who are not on an “Overtime Desired” list or on the Work Assignment list, shall not be required to work beyond 11.5 hours of work in a day or 60 hours of work in

a service week, and shall not be subject to disciplinary action for terminating their route of duty when these limits on hours of work are reached”. I trust the new contract language provides you with some relief this holiday season.

I wish you moments of rest and celebration with your loved ones. We appreciate your efforts and anticipate the busy times ahead with gratitude. Thank you for connecting us all year round!

**Christy Bowers
RAA Region 4**



James D Henry

NALC Vice President

Am I my brother's keeper? This is a question one year older than dirt and two years younger than water. As far back as the earliest recorded history, we as people have struggled with the answer. There are those of us who sincerely believe that anything that doesn't directly affect me is not my concern. Conversely, there are those of us who subscribe to the idea of "one for all, and all for one." Then how can it be that two diametrically opposed philosophies coexist without a constant state of turmoil? Moreover, which of the two philosophies is right? After all, both sides do believe in self-preservation. It's just a matter of the method in which one preserves themselves.

As letter carriers employed by the U.S. Postal Service, there probably isn't a workday that goes by that we are not faced with the decision of, Do I or do I not get involved? Either through observation, notification, or request, we all, at some point in time, make the decision to address contractual and moral violations or to simply ignore them. How often have we been asked and/or know of someone who has been asked to provide a statement for something witnessed or have direct knowledge of? And yet, decline or refuse to provide any information or a statement. Ironically, the very ones who decline or refuse to assist their colleagues are more often than not expecting assistance. Could that be you?

Sure, there are a host of reasons for someone not to feel an obligation to get involved or to come to the aid of a colleague. Perhaps it's not an issue that you personally consider all that important. Perhaps you believe in the issue but are afraid to get involved because of possible managerial retribution. Perhaps you are not afraid of anything, believe in the issue, but feel the person(s) in need of help are not worthy of your cooperation. Nonetheless, the aforementioned may be good reasons, but are hardly justifiable reasons not to aid in a valid issue and/or righteous cause. Never allow your emotions to supersede your intellect.

For if you do, you lose sight of the fact that helping one another is the same as helping yourself. The very essence of a union is to unify; i.e., join together, become one force. In order to achieve that end, its members must be willing and able to see each other as themselves. When one is hurt, the other bleeds. This sometimes requires validating your convictions by fighting for your rights and each other; even if unsuccessful, fight still.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, “The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best, knows the triumph of achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.”

The NALC, as an organization, has epitomized being the “keepers of its brothers and sisters.” Every negotiated contract, every political endorsement, and every executive decision has been made with the fundamental principle ensuring there is a worthwhile job for not only letter carriers currently employed, but for those yet to be born. It’s simple; because we are in the “arena” fighting and standing up for one another, we have known victory. In the rare instances where we have known defeat, we failed “while daring greatly.” Without the defeats, you learn little and cannot appreciate the victories.

If we expect to have a work environment that is aligned with the philosophy of “one for all and all for one” at our worksites, we as individuals must be in the “arena,” or we’ll know neither victory nor defeat. The profile of a courageous person involves doing the right thing because it is right in an unpopular atmosphere or circumstance. It may be unpopular sometimes to provide a statement for people considered undesirable, or in an adversarial atmosphere between labor and management. I challenge all to be courageous, trustworthy, and reliable. We are all we’ve got. We must be able to rely on each other. If we can’t depend on one another, then on whom?

Therefore, I submit to you all my union brothers and sisters, “I am, you are, we are our brother’s keeper.”

Upcoming Events

**National Rap Session
November 21-23
Cleveland, Ohio**

**Stewards College
January 21-23
Pocola, Oklahoma**

**National Convention
August 3-7
Los Angeles, California**