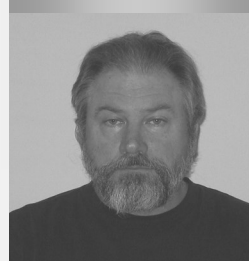


# Tampa Letter Carrier

## From the Desk of the President

### Stamp Out Hunger

Hello once again to all you loyal readers. As we move into the month of March it is time to begin preparations for the annual NALC Food Drive. As most of you know, every year on the second Saturday in May, the NALC conducts its annual food drive, and this drive helps to fill the local community food banks to carry them through the summer months where donations tend to lag. Also, the summer months are the time when children are out of school, and many suffer due to the loss of meals they had at school. Remember, many children suffer from food insecurity in the home...school lunches may be the only complete meal they eat regularly.



Brian Obst  
President  
Branch 599

The NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which has been running for over thirty years, has collected and distributed over 1.9 billion pounds of food for local pantries and community food banks. While this is, in itself, an impressive achievement, we are confident that we can do better.

Locally we partner with Metropolitan Ministries in the Tampa area to help distribute the collected food to all the local food banks that serve the community at large.

As we ramp up preparations for the drive, all stations will receive postcards and collection bags to deliver to all addresses in the area. These items are important to the success of the collection drive, as they remind postal patrons that the drive is approaching and gives them a bag to put their food donation in so we can collect it for delivery to the food banks. These items are also first-class mail so their importance cannot be overstated.

Donations are easily done, and local supermarkets always run what are called BOGOs or Buy One Get One Free offers. It is perfect for donations as one can purchase items and provide the BOGO free item to the food drive. Please consider this when you make your own donation to this worthwhile collection. Remember, we not only serve the community, but we are also members of the community.

### Deliver the Cure with MDA

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a notice of the MDA Challenge Raffles that are taking place for the National MDA Challenge. The month of March is designated as MDA Challenge Month for the NALC, and we are raffling off one 55-inch 4K Ultra Smart TV and one 17.3-inch display HP Laptop to help raise money for the challenge. Tickets are \$10 each and are available through your shop steward or through our Branch office. Last year we were #1 in donations for the MDA in Region 9 (North & South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) and we want to continue in this position as well as raising more this year. The funds for MDA are used for research and care networks, as well as

*(Continued on page 3)*

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

### Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday  
March 7  
7:30 PM

**Tampa Letter  
Carriers Hall**  
315 W Busch Blvd  
Suite C  
Tampa FL 33612

Additional parking is  
available in the lot  
before our building.

## Branch 599 Office

315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C  
Tampa FL 33612

813.875.0599

www.nalc599.com

Brian Obst  
President  
erif\_lor@hotmail.com

Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
7:30 am – 4 pm

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## Tampa Letter Carrier

Brian Obst  
Publisher

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**National Association of Letter Carriers 599**, 315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C Tampa FL 33612, publishes the Tampa Letter Carrier monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the Tampa Letter Carrier to the Editor via email at editor.nalc599@gmail.com and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net no later than the 5th of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

## Officers

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<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Luis Cruz	813.431.3223	
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Bonita Lattimore	813.756.9676	
<b>Health Benefit Rep</b>	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914	
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256	
<b>Trustees</b>	Milly Minsal, Ch. Andre Hinton	813.446.2572 931.980-5169	
<b>Labor Management</b>	J.D. Lewers Clement Cheung	813.528.5519 813.758.5910	
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle · Orbe Andux · Donald Thomas Michael Anderson · James Good · Alan Peacock · Tony Diaz		

## Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
<b>Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Mike Smith</b>				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.326.0717 656.215.2467
Brandon	33510/11	Osceola Williams Sr.	813.661.1636	210.445.1369
Carrollwood	33618	Brian Jackson	813.961.2963	813.352.9481
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.247.2416	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	J.R. Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Jose Gomez	813.879.4309	917.743.6948
Hilldale Annex	33634	Maria Afful	813.879.4309	347.457.7316
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Mike Dennis	813.831.2034	813.361.9103
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Palm River Annex	33619		813.663.0048	
Plant City	33564	Roberto Torres	813.754.3590	609.521.6730
Produce	33610		813.237.4084	
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1642	
Seminole Heights	33603	Paul Sardinas	813.237.4569	813.650.3504
Sulphur Springs	33604	Morgan Kalish	813.237.4569	689.299.2936
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Josh Villa	813.873.7189	203.278.6485
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Miriam Rojas	813.988.0152	727.253.1309
Town & Country	33615/35		813.884.0973	
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.247.2416	813.334.3189

# Brandon Station Enjoying the Reward!



Brandon Station won our donation contest for the NALC Disaster Relief Fund by collecting \$516! The reward for the winning station was a catered breakfast by President Brian Obst and Vice President Mike Smith.

## From the Desk of the President

*(Continued from page 1)*

funding MDA camps designed for children afflicted with this disease. Let us give it our all and donate...buy a ticket to help make the challenge successful!

***Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.***

—Margaret Mead

I will leave you as always....

**Knowledge is the Key.**

*Brian Obst*  
President

## Calendar

Meetings are subject to change due to any upsurges of COVID.

### Shop Stewards Wednesday

**March 5 7:00 PM**  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Executive Board

Thursday  
**March 7 6:30 PM**  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Branch 599

Thursday  
**March 7 7:30 PM**  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Retirees' Breakfasts

#### Tampa

Monday  
**March 4 9:00 AM**  
Mama's Kitchen  
9312 N Florida Avenue 33612

#### Temple Terrace

Tuesday  
**March 12 10:00 AM**  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
off Fletcher near I-75  
12272 Morris Bridge Road



Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before retiring Saturday night, March 9.

## Just for the Health of It

You may have heard the expression... *having skin in the game*. Our skin is our largest bodily organ. In the case of letter carriers, who spend quite a bit of time outdoors, we all have skin in the game when it comes to keeping our skin healthy. You know the importance of an annual visit to the dermatologist for a skin screening.

But, sometimes skin issues arise between visits. These could be relatively minor skin issues such as: acne, athletes foot, chronic hives, eczema, genital herpes or warts, hair loss, insect bites, jock itch, lice, nail problems, psoriasis, rash, ringworm, rosacea, shingles, or suspicious moles. You may not want to wait for your annual screening to address these issues, or you may not want to or be able to schedule a visit to your family doctor. In those cases, the NALCHBP Telehealth program may be the solution for you.

You can schedule a dermatology care visit

virtually, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No appointment is needed. The doctor will give you a treatment plan and a prescription if needed.

It's easy and convenient to use NALCHBP Telehealth.

Step 1: Signup or log into NALCHBP Telehealth and then select Dermatology to get started.

Step 2: Describe the problem and upload photos of the affected area.

Step 3: Get a diagnosis, treatment plan, and prescription if needed.

Do yourself a favor and download the NALCHBP Telehealth app today!

Here's to your health.....

*Detlev*



Detlev Aeppel  
Health Benefit Rep.  
Branch 599

## Retired...but not Tired

It was so nice seeing all of you who attended the Retirees Dinner on January 14, at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant. I thought the food selection and the service were outstanding. With the wonderful turnout we had for that night, I thought this was a good time to make an attempt to host a get-together at the new Branch office.

I would like to invite all retirees and the active carriers who have the day off to an informal get-together at our new location. I have set the date for Friday, March 15 at 1 PM. If this get together is successful, I would like to continue them on a quarterly or semi-annual schedule. Maybe turn it into a pizza party get-together. The new office's address is 315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C. It is located just west of the intersection of Florida Avenue and Busch Boulevard. The building construction is completed and we have a nice meeting area for us to sit together. Please join me, visit the new offices, and mingle with fellow

retirees. **Please call our Branch office at 813-875-0599 and let us know you are interested in attending so that we can plan appropriately.**

I want to once again, begin the Retirees Breakfast at Mama's Kitchen. Please remember the first Monday of the month. The next date will be March 4, at 9:30 AM. Mama's Kitchen is around the corner from our Branch offices. The address of Mama's Kitchen is 9312 N Florida Avenue.

**I hope to see you there! Please contact me at 813-503-1256 for any questions or to let me know you are attending.**

So as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans said,  
*Happy trails to you, until we meet again.*

*John*



John Gebo  
Director of Retirees  
Branch 599

# From the Vice President's Desk

Carriers, at times, want to file a grievance, for whatever reason. Shortly afterwards, the next questions are: what happened to that grievance and where's my money? A typical question and answer period for stewards. The grievance process isn't quite that easy. Grievances may be settled at the lowest level, but can be delayed if it is moved up to arbitration.

Article 15 (Grievance-Arbitration Procedure) of the National Agreement gives the definition of a grievance: *A grievance is defined as a dispute, difference, disagreement or complaint between the parties related to wages, hours, and conditions of employment. A grievance shall include, but is not limited to, the complaint of an employee or of the Union which involves the interpretation, application of, or compliance with the provisions of this Agreement or any local Memorandum of Understanding not in conflict with this Agreement.*

It's easy to only think about the disciplinary letters affecting carriers, but grievances are not only about discipline. There are two different types of grievances – disciplinary and contractual – processed through the Branch office. Disciplinary actions account for a small number of the yearly grievances initiated and settled throughout the year.

Stewards are the beginning and end of the grievance process. Stewards receive continual training on the proper procedures to file and settle grievances. Carriers should be aware that a steward cannot refuse to file a grievance on their behalf, or cannot file if they are not aware of the action. On the other hand, if the grievance is not justified, the steward will discuss the reasons for not filing a grievance with the carrier. This is where the continual training and understanding of the National Agreement and Postal policies come to light.

Familiarity with the steps in the grievance process is important for all carriers to understand. As stewards, we are charged to know and administer the steps in the grievance process.

Informal Step A – the informal Step A meeting consists of the carrier's immediate supervisor and the steward. If the grievance is not resolved at this step it is appealed to formal Step A.

Formal Step A – grievances at this step consist of a representative designated by the installation head and a certified union representative trained to hear formal Step A grievances. If the grievance is not resolved at this step, it is appealed to the Step B team (Dispute Resolution Team). It is important to note that once the grievance is appealed to the Step B team, the local union does not have any further authority over the grievance.

Step B Team – the Step B Team consists of representatives appointed by the NALC and the Postal Service. The team will review and make a decision on the grievance. There are four choices: resolve, impasse, remand, or hold the grievance. The outcome of the grievance depends on the decision made by the team. If no settlement is reached, the last and final step is arbitration.

Arbitration – prior to appealing the case to an arbitrator, the National Business Agent's office will review the case in its entirety and request an arbitrator to hear the grievance. Just as appealing to the Step B team, the NALC does not have any authority over the grievance at this moment. Once the grievance is seen by the arbitrator, the award given is final. The arbitrator has the authority to settle the grievance without compromise from the NALC or the Postal Service.

Settlements at the lower levels of the grievance process are joint decisions between the union and management.

Settlements at lower levels are also final.

Stewards are trained to be very mindful of what they agree upon during the settlement process. Article 15 of the National Agreement authorizes stewards and management to resolve any grievance during the grievance process when a compromised settlement is reached.

All settlements are binding, and management must abide by the terms of the compromised settlement. Postal Policy letter (M-01517) directs management to comply with all arbitration awards and grievance settlements. Stewards are directed to ensure that this never occurs and if so, they are to file the necessary grievance to ensure compliance.

*Compliance with arbitration awards and grievance settlements is not optional. No manager or supervisor has the authority to ignore or override an arbitrator's award or a signed grievance settlement. Steps to comply with arbitration awards and grievance settlements should be taken in a timely manner to avoid the perception of non-compliance, and those steps should be documented.*

The grievance process isn't just filing a grievance. Understanding what happens after a grievance is filled is just as important as correcting the violation. I would like to task all carriers to become a steward of their own actions and understand what happens to that grievance from beginning to end.

To get there we must work together!

Mike



Mike Smith  
Vice President  
Chief Steward  
Branch 599

## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**We cannot share in the joys and sorrows of your life unless you tell us...**

Births  
Weddings  
Special Anniversaries  
Graduations  
Illnesses  
Surgeries  
Recovery  
Deaths  
etc.

### Employee Assistance Program

info is at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)

Choose Workplace Issues, hover over Safety & Health, and choose Employee Assistance Program.

*It's confidential for you and your loved ones.*

## Matt Speaks: The Israeli–Palestinian Conflict as told through Postal Stamps



Matt Fernandez  
Recording Secretary  
Branch 599

The postage stamp depicted the town of Rosh Pina, just to the west of the occupied Golan Heights of Syria. All over it was green with sheep looking at your eyes as they grazed the field within its world. Its corner read, Israel. The other postage stamp depicted a domed structure standing proudly. Seemingly aware of its historical significance. The sky above it cerulean with a name on the bottom, Palestine.

Still other postage stamps of this kind can be found all over the Holy Land. One depicts the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Yitzhak Rabin was on another and one also depicted former U.S. President Bill Clinton with them both presiding over the signing of the Oslo Accords which at the time was believed would lead to a lasting peace in the Middle East. Today the current Israeli Palestinian conflict has so divided the land that different Postal Services deliver to the people. The State of Israel utilizes its Israeli Postal Company to deliver the mail to its citizens, while at the same time Palestine Post operates in those autonomous Palestinian areas controlled by the Palestine National Authority. The Gaza Strip ruled by Hamas, a political and military group considered a terrorist organization by several major powers, has a different system from both.

Mail delivery can be a complicated business in the Holy Land, as for example when on February 22, 2010, Israel had to suspend mail nationwide because according to Reuters: **[A] letter bomb was found in a post office in the northern town of Migdal Haemek, where a woman spotted wires and batteries in an envelope she had come to collect.**

This is one incident amongst many in this sensitive and volatile place. Nothing and no one is unaffected and as has been seen not even the mail. As recently as 2021, mail service was delayed again during the 2021 Israel–Palestine crisis which ultimately would help pave the way for the Israel–Hamas War currently ongoing as of this

writing.

One special feature of the Israeli Postal Company is how it handles the thousands of letters around the world addressed to God. These are taken to the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism where it stands within the vicinity of where once stood the Temple of Biblical times. The first destroyed by the Babylonians, the second conquered by the Romans. A third one is desired to be built. Some even say it is *prophesied*. On the Temple mount, however, stands the domed structure depicted on the stamp.



This is the dome of the rock where Muslims believe Muhammad ascended into heaven. Its account is told in the Quran, and its elaborations in the hadith which are the collections of the sayings and doings of Muhammad.

Hamas-produced stamps are hard to come by, however one manages to slip by. This one depicts Sheik Ahmad Yassin, its founder. He is depicted as a gentle grandfather-like figure. A smile stretching across his face. He is still years away from his assassination, ultimately carried out in a targeted strike by Israel on March 22, 2004.

Having spanned 75 years, The Israeli Palestinian Conflict is one of the longest ongoing political issues of our times. Having spanned twelve U.S. Presidential administrations, the greatest generation, the civil rights movement, Elvis and the Beatles, its causes remain after over seven decades, a matter of such great controversy and profound differences to have even given this history buff a headache. Not a single explanation has been offered, at least to my satisfaction. It is simply not easy to pinpoint. Pro-Israeli voices have argued that Palestinians largely left on their own accord. Fleeing the violence of the civil war already raging within what was at the time called Mandatory Palestine. More violence erupted with the beginning of the 1948

## Matt Speaks: The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict as told through Postal Stamps

Palestine War which saw Israel single handedly defeat several Arab armies. Still others have argued that the fleeing of Palestinians was actually a planned expulsion by Zionist (those who support the establishment of a Jewish State) forces in order to acquire more land than what the first drafted solution to what would become the Israeli Palestinian conflict had to offer.

According to the Cairo Review of Global affairs: *Resolution 181, passed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on November 29, 1947, suggested the creation of two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The plan to partition Palestine would have established the Jewish state on an area of approximately 14,100 square kilometers, or 56.47 percent of the total land, to be inhabited by five hundred thousand Jews, four hundred thousand Arab-Palestinians, and ninety-two thousand Bedouins (in the Negev desert). This means that the Jewish state was expected to host an almost equal number of Jews and Arab-Palestinians. At the time, in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, Jews accounted for about 30 percent of the total population, and owned approximately 6.7 percent of the land ("land ownership" was not common in the region: in 1951 Iraq, for instance, only 0.3 percent of the registered land was owned as "private property").*

*As for the Arab state envisioned by the UNGA, it would have covered approximately 11,500 square kilometers (42.88 percent of the total), with ten thousand Jews and eight hundred thousand Arab-Palestinians. Jerusalem, on the other hand, was expected to be subject to a Special International Regime under UN control.*

The Jewish Virtual Library describes what transpired as the vote to approve the plan drew closer: *It became clear little hope existed for a political solution to a problem that transcended politics: the Arabs' unwillingness to accept a Jewish state in Palestine and*

*the refusal of the Zionists to settle for anything less. The implacability of the Arabs was evident when Jewish Agency representatives David Horowitz and Abba Edan made a last-ditch effort to reach a compromise in a meeting with Arab League Secretary Azzam Pasha on September 16, 1947. Pasha told them bluntly: "The Arab world is not in a compromising mood. It's likely, Mr. Horowitz, that your plan is rational and logical, but the fate of nations is not decided by rational logic. Nations never concede; they fight. You won't get anything by peaceful means or compromise. You can, perhaps, get something, but only by the force of your arms. We shall try to defeat you. I am not sure we'll succeed, but we'll try. We were able to drive out the Crusaders, but on the other hand we lost Spain and Persia. It may be that we shall lose Palestine. But it's too late to talk of peaceful solutions".*

In the 1960s, several Arab states released a series of postage stamps depicting the land of Israel with a sharp dagger stabbing it at the location of a village called Deir Yassin. At the point of the dagger, blood was dripping out and covering the country.

Deir Yassin was the location of the eponymous massacre and/or battle of the same name. It was also the site of a crucial chapter in an understanding of the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Again, we have different interpretations. On one hand according to the Institute of Middle East Studies:

*The Deir Yassin massacre was a massacre of more than 100 Palestinians, including dozens of children, women, and elderly people, carried out by Zionist militias in the Palestinian town of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem on April 9, 1948, during the establishment of the state of Israel. Some of the victims were mutilated and raped before being murdered. Entire families were killed. Dozens of men were paraded through Jerusalem on trucks and then executed in a nearby quarry.*

The Jewish Virtual Library however argues using context and brings the scholar to fill some gaps in the story. The capture of Deir Yassin, it argues, began when *the 150,000 Jewish inhabitants [of Jerusalem] were under constant military pressure; the 2,500 Jews living in the Old City were victims of an Arab blockade that lasted five months before they were forced to surrender on May 29, 1948. Prior to the surrender, and throughout the siege on Jerusalem, Jewish convoys tried to reach the city to alleviate the food shortage, which, by April, had become critical. Meanwhile, the Arab forces, which had engaged in sporadic and unorganized ambushes since December 1947, began to make an organized attempt to cut off the highway linking Tel Aviv with Jerusalem – the city's only supply route. The Arabs controlled several strategic vantage points, which overlooked the highway and enabled them to fire on the convoys trying to reach the beleaguered city with supplies. Deir Yassin was situated on a hill, about 2,600 feet high, which commanded a wide view of the vicinity and was located less than a mile from the suburbs of Jerusalem.*

All this was leading up to what would become in Arab publications as the Deir Yassin Massacre. Eliezer Tauber, Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern History at Bar Ilan University however writes: *Deir Yassin was not the peaceful village many later claimed it to be, but a fortified village with scores of armed combatants....A ten-hour fierce battle, in the presence of a civilian population, ended in the victory of the Israelis. No massacre took place. When the battle ended, the killing stopped. "I believe that most of those who were killed were among the fighters and the women and children who helped the fighters," one of the Arab survivors was later to testify. Furthermore, the Arab villagers got an*

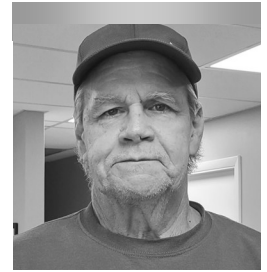
(Continued on page 8)

# Down the Building Manager's Rhoad

Hi, I would like to introduce myself. I am Walt Rhoads and was hired as Building Manager, effective December 18, 2023. My duties include the cleaning and maintenance of the building. In addition, I maintain the exterior of the building by mowing, trimming, and edging of the property. The last few weeks have been devoted to tackling the overgrown landscaping.

Please stop by your new hall at 315 W. Busch Boulevard, Suite C, to see the improvements and hopefully attend our monthly Branch meetings.

Walt



Walt Rhoads  
Building Manager  
Branch 599

## Matt Speaks: The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict as told through Postal Stamps

(Continued from page 7)

*advance warning to evacuate the village, which 700 of them followed. The attackers took an additional 200 villagers prisoner and safely released them in Arab Jerusalem.*

Regardless how one sees it, the battle and/or massacre led to several more depopulated Palestinian villages and eventually that number rose to over 700,000. By the end of the 1948 War, many Palestinians trying to return home suddenly saw Israeli citizens living in their homes whose own descendants continue to reside there to the present day, turning a political headache into a migraine over what has been called the *right of return* and whether that is even a feasible goal for any of the parties involved in wishing to establish a lasting a peace in the region. On February 7, 2021, Palestinian Minister of Communications for the Palestinian National Authority, Ishaq Sidr announced: *From April, postal items that do not bear a Palestinian postal code will not be processed*, elaborating that it was *a question of asserting Palestinian rights*. Al Jazeera reports that the [Palestinian National Authority] *said Sunday it had asked the Universal Postal Union to notify its member states that Palestinian postal codes were coming into force.*

*And that according to the [Palestinian National Authority], the postcode project would help establish a Palestinian addressing system that would facilitate Palestinian mail, and would constitute an essential component of an infrastructure that will enable the public and private sectors to provide services in a manner that depends on geographical location.*

*In the West Bank it reports, A Palestinian postal worker who asked not to be named, told AFP [News agency] the new postcodes were "more symbolic than practical".*

Al Jazeera added that the postal worker said it truly only meant anything if the Palestinians controlled the ports or airports.

There are a great many more postal stamps scattered across the region which, collected together, adds more to the story of the conflict over the Holy Land.

For now, however, we must return to the present at the Western Wall. The sun is setting, and The Israeli Postal Company letter carriers are returning to their own stations. One of them, having delivered the last of the Letters to God, she contemplates for the first time on a possible spiritual awakening within her as she reflects on what she managed to glimpse in one of the letters, a passage from Psalm 122: ***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.***

The sun continuing to pass out of sight, she starts to sing *Jerusalem My Gold:*

*The mountain air is clear as wine  
And the scent of pines  
Is carried on the breeze of twilight  
With the sound of bells.*

*And in the slumber of tree and stone  
Captive in her dream  
The city that sits solitary  
And in its midst is a wall.*

*Jerusalem of gold  
And of copper, and of light  
Behold I am a violin for  
all your songs.*

Matt





# From the Treasurer's Desk – 14th Edition

Brothers and Sisters,  
Here is the article on the Great Strike I was planning to submit for the February newsletter. However, due to the tragic *in line of duty* death of Sulphur Springs carrier, Paul Falica, I chose to delay this to write about him instead. I wrote this article in 2020 because it marked the 50-year anniversary. With our contract negotiations ongoing with the USPS, this is a good time to reflect on how we got to collective bargaining.

## The Great Strike of 1970

Our wages, benefits, and collective bargaining we benefit from and utilize today are a direct result of the strike of 1970. This year, we celebrated the 54-year anniversary of the strike that brought the nation to a halt and solidified the NALC.

Wikipedia states: **The U.S. Postal Strike of 1970 was an eight-day strike by federal postal workers in March 1970.** The strike began in New York City and spread to some other cities in the following two weeks. This strike against the federal government, regarded as illegal, was the largest wild-cat strike in U.S. history. President Richard Nixon called out the United States armed forces and the National Guard in an attempt to distribute the mail and break the strike. At the time, postal workers were not permitted by law to engage in collective bargaining. Striking postal workers felt wages were very low, benefits poor and working conditions unhealthy and unsafe.

APWU President Moe Biller described Manhattan (New York City) post offices as like *dungeons*, dirty, stifling, too hot in summer, and too cold in winter. The U.S. Post Office Department's management was outdated and, according to workers, haphazard. Postal union lobbying of Congress to obtain higher pay and better working conditions had proven fruitless. An immediate trigger for the strike was a Congressional decision to raise the wages of postal

workers by only 4%, at the same time as Congress raised its own pay by 41%. The post office was home to many Black workers, and this population increased as whites left postal work in the 1950s and '60s for better jobs. Postal workers in general were upset about the low wages and poor conditions.

On March 17, 1970, in New York City, members of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 36 met in Manhattan and voted to strike, by a vote of 1,555 to 1,055. Picketing began just after midnight on March 18. Even as NALC President James Rademacher urged his membership to return to work, the wild-cat strike spread across the nation. This was a mass action where rank and file leaders emerged like Manhattan letter carrier Vincent Sombrotto, who would go on to be elected first a branch president and then the longtime national president of the NALC.

More than 210,000 United States Post Office Department workers were eventually involved across the nation, although initially the strike affected only workers in New York City. President Nixon appeared on national television and ordered the employees back to work, but his address only stiffened the resolve of the existing strikers and angered workers in another 671 locations in other cities into walking out as well. Workers in other government agencies also announced they would strike if Nixon pursued legal action against the postal employees. The strike crippled the nation's mail system. The stock market fell due to the strike's effect on trading volume. Some feared that the stock market would have to close entirely.

Nixon spoke to the nation again on March 23, asking the workers to go back to their jobs and announcing that he would deploy the National Guard to deliver mail in New York. This announcement was accompanied by

Proclamation 3972, which declared a national emergency. Nixon then ordered 24,000 military personnel forces to begin distributing the mail. *Operation Graphic Hand* had at its peak more than 18,500 military personnel assigned to 17 New York post offices, from regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard, and Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Reserves. This was not very effective and the Post Office Department figured out it needed postal workers. The Nixon administration began to negotiate with postal union leaders. Within one day, they reached a preliminary agreement and the postal workers went back on the job. **The strike ended after eight days with not a single worker being fired.** After a final agreement was hammered out a month later, the postal workers won a 6% wage increase—and that summer, President Nixon signed the Postal Reorganization Act that gave the postal workers an additional 8% raise.

**The postal strike influenced the passage and signing of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.** Effective July 1, 1971, the U.S. Post Office Department became the U.S. Postal Service, an independent establishment of the executive branch. The four major postal unions (National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association) **won full collective bargaining rights:** the right to negotiate on wages, benefits and working conditions, although they still were not allowed the right to strike.

**The U.S. Postal Strike of 1970 is a big part of the history of the NALC.**

*(Continued on page 10)*



Tony Diaz  
Treasurer  
President Emeritus  
Branch 599  
Nalcrest Trustee

## Mail Call

Brothers and Sisters, it is time we talk about the basics of Opting or *Hold Downs*. Article 41, Section 2.B.4 of the 2019-2023 USPS-NALC National Agreement addresses opting or hold-down rights for city carriers.

Opts become available when the route on a regular assignment is temporarily vacant for five days or more (because the regular letter carrier is on vacation, is ill, the assignment temporarily has no regular letter carrier assigned, or for other reasons); eligible letter carriers may exercise their right in the delivery unit to which they are assigned, to opt to work (or hold down) that assignment for the duration of the temporary vacancy.

Opt availability is learned by word of mouth or utilizing the leave calendar as a reference. Check your LMOU, local agreement, for any more information on notification about Opts.

You will need to request to be assigned to an opt in writing. I suggest using PS Form 3971, leave request form.

Once an available hold-down position is awarded, the opting employee *shall work that duty assignment for its duration*. An opt is ended when the regular carrier returns, even if only to perform part of the duties—for example, to case but

not carry mail.

*I want to request for the opt, but I have scheduled leave after, say, the second day of the opt.*

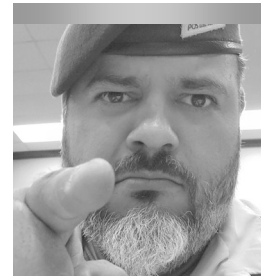
No problem, if you win the opt and go on leave during the opt, a new opt will be available for the time you will be out. When you return from leave, you can resume your opt until the regular carrier returns or a new conversion gets the assignment.

*So, who is eligible?*

Full-time reserve (FTR), full-time flexible (FTF), unassigned full-time regular (UAR), part-time flexible (PTF) and city carrier assistant (CCA) letter carriers, based on seniority, all have the right to *opt* on temporarily vacant full-time regular assignments.

If you wish to learn more, check out my main source: [nalc.org/news/the-postal-record/2022/june-2022/document/Opting.pdf](https://nalc.org/news/the-postal-record/2022/june-2022/document/Opting.pdf)

*Sarge*



Luis Cruz  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Branch 599

## From the Treasurer's Desk – 14th Edition

**Striking carriers put their careers and livelihoods on the line not knowing the consequences. Their courage and strength will be felt for generations, and we should all be grateful.**

**Quick Hits: Information you should know  
Vehicle update...**

**USPS unveils first electric vehicle charging stations as part of its Delivering for America Plan**

The 10-year initiative to restructure the processing, transportation and delivery networks—the Postal Service has committed to purchasing and deploying battery electric vehicles (BEVs) as part of its efforts to replace the aging delivery fleet. On January 22, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy introduced the first electric charging stations at the South Atlanta Sorting and Delivery Center (S&DC). DeJoy acknowledged the administration's assistance in securing funds in the Inflation Reduction Act to help the Postal Service offset the costs of purchasing and installing the electric charging stations. In addition to the installation of charging stations at the South Atlanta S&DC, the Postal

Service also unveiled the first deployment of the Ford e-Transit, which is a left-hand drive BEV. The Postal Service plans to purchase and deploy 9,250 of these delivery vans across the country. Beginning later this year, USPS will begin to receive the Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDVs). Current plans call for USPS to produce a minimum of 60,000 NGDVs over the next six years, with 45,000 of them being battery-powered. Overall, the Postal Service intends to acquire 106,480 new delivery vehicles to replace the outdated Long Life Vehicles (LLVs) and Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) with 62% of them being BEVs. The remaining vehicles will be a mix of additional NGDVs and commercial vehicles, such as the e-Transit. As it plans for the deployment of the new fleet, the Postal Service intends to install electric charging stations and station BEVs in the S&DCs being implemented across the country.

—NALC Bulletin

**Look forward to talking to you again  
on the next *Around The Horn***

# LET'S RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

TO HELP



Deliver  
the Cure  
with **MDA**<sup>®</sup>

**MDA Challenge Raffle – \$10 per ticket per prize**



**55" 4K Ultra Smart TV**



**HP 17.3" HD Laptop  
8GB Memory**

Drawing will be on March 27, 2024.

Winner will be notified via telephone call.

Tickets will be available through  
your Steward or at Tampa Letter Carriers Hall.

# Awards and Recognition for NALC Members

As President of the Branch, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that all members of the Branch are provided the awards and recognition that they have earned as members of the NALC during their service and subsequent retirement from the Postal Service.

These awards are earned by your continued membership in the NALC and beginning at 25 years, individuals will earn awards for their time in the NALC every 5 years. Special awards are given when the individual reaches certain milestones such as 50 years, 60 years, 70 years, and 75 years. The standard award is a lapel pin signifying the number of years of membership attained. Additional awards for 50 years include a citation from the National President along with the lapel pin and a gold membership card signifying the attainment of 50 years and the paid-up dues for life of the recipient. The 60-, 70- and 75-year awards all receive a citation letter from our National President along with the lapel pin, but 70- and 75-year members also receive a special plaque from the national offices of the NALC to recognize the achievement.

During my first year as president, I became aware of a situation where many previous awards had not been processed so I wanted to address this issue to rectify this glaring error and recognize our members who have attained various

awards. Last month we addressed 10 members who had achieved their 50-year gold card status along with a member who had attained the 70-year award for membership and service to the NALC.

This month I am publishing a list of all members who have attained various award levels so they can be properly recognized for their achievements. Lapel pins for years of service have begun to be sent to members who have attained levels of award and more 50-year Gold Cards have been ordered for presentation at an upcoming Branch meeting if they are able to attend. It is my hope that we can get all the awards caught up for all deserving members. With that in mind, I apologize for the delay in recognizing our members and I, on behalf of the entire Branch membership and the membership of the entire NALC, thank you for your service.

Periodically the names and award levels that members have attained will be run in our newsletter as we send the awards out or make presentation of awards at Branch meetings.

*Brian Obst*  
President, Branch 599

The following pages will reflect all current members who are receiving awards:

## Awards for 25 Years in the NALC

Michael F. Abramowski  
Ramon D. Acevedo  
Julio S. Acosta Jr.  
Detlev C. Aeppel  
Gertrude K. Affayroux  
Fred L. Akers Jr.  
Christian D. Albrecht  
Marlene G. Albuschat  
Toby J. Aldridge  
Glynis D. Alexander  
Rosie A. Allen  
Patrick R. Alley  
Cary W. Allmon  
Francisco Alonso  
Thomas Alonzo Jr.  
William Alvarado  
Bennie J. Andrade Jr.  
Mark A. Andrew  
Tamiko S. Arcangeli  
Vincent N. Arcuri  
Kenneth E. Baab  
Wendy M. Bainbridge

John R. Baker  
Darrin M. Barnwell  
Lawrence W. Barter  
James L. Batton Jr.  
Sylvia Y. Bauer  
Guadalupe Bautista  
Lonnie L. Bell  
Andre E. Belton  
Richard R. Bennett  
David S. Berroth  
Edward D. Berroth Jr.  
Sophie A. Bezdek  
Norman G. Bobeau  
James S. Boczarski  
Kerry M. Bolio  
Winfield S. Bollinger III  
Tyrone W. Bonner  
Thomas W. Boothe  
Ana R. Brito  
John E. Brown  
Marie A. Brown  
Larry A. Brubaker

James Burgos  
Wilton Burgos  
Ronald L. Burkett  
Mickey L. Burney  
Jimmy D. Burrell  
Karen L. Burrell  
Harris V. Camacho  
Jimmy D. Cantrell  
Zorida D. Cantu  
Israel Carrion  
Mari J. Casale  
Donnette M. Cervantes  
George W. Chapman  
Leroy J. Chow Jr.  
Marvin F. Clark  
Jose A. Clemente  
Cheryl A. Clothier  
Patricia A. Cobb  
Thomas E. Collogan  
Michael G. Copple  
Manuel R. Corripio  
Emelio Cosme

Derrick D. Cousin  
Daniel W. Couturaiaux Jr.  
Chad E. Cozzens  
Ruben J. Cuesta  
Steven M. Cueto  
Rolando J. Cuevas  
Nicholas Cullaro  
George T. Czanko  
Michael C. Dannhardt  
Rinnie Davis  
Donna Dayton  
James R. Dubose  
Mark M. Demicheli  
Julio Diaz Jr.  
Duane A. Dosal  
Michele E. Dresden  
Maxine L. Dufresne  
Seymore S. Eldridge  
Christophe A. Espinosa  
David H. Fernandez  
Pasquale J. Ferrante

*(Continued on page 13)*

# Awards for 25 Years in the NALC

*(Continued from page 12)*

Vic Figueroa  
Jeffrey A. Fisher  
Michael D. Fisher  
Johnny L. Flannery  
Eric Fletcher  
James R. Follman  
Donald H. Forrest  
Beverly J. Fravel  
Anthony C. Gainey  
David R. Garcia  
Jose M. Garcia  
Joseph Garcia  
Nydia L. Gardner  
Thomas R. Gaskins  
Robert J. Giaquinto Jr.  
Michael A. Giovinco  
Steven M. Glover  
Steven A. Golden  
Antonio R. Gonong  
Ricardo J. Gonzalez  
Harry L. Grant  
Anthony J. Green  
Robert M. Green  
John J. Gregory  
Francis T. Guckien Jr.  
Lowell T. Gwinn  
Daniel Hackett  
Charles P. Hall  
Larry M. Hall  
Stephen M. Hall  
James C. Hamilton Jr.  
Frank L. Hardy  
Kevin A. Hardy  
Pamela J. Hardy  
Phillip F. Harrell  
Victoria L. Harrell  
James Harrison  
Walter D. Hart  
Franklin Hart Sr.  
Lorraine A. Hass  
Chandrika N. Hayes  
Waymon Hayes III  
John J. Hencoski  
Richard L. Henderson  
Jose A. Hernandez  
Donald G. Herriman  
Wallace L. Hill  
Andre R. Hinton Sr.  
Jamal D. Hoper  
James F. Houlihan  
Darcy F. Hubbard  
Richard M. Huerta  
Ken E. Huse  
Jesus R. Iligan  
Tyrone J. Iverson  
Norris K. Ivory  
Thomas Izquierdo  
Meden A. Jamo  
Beth N. Jenkins  
Gary D. Jenkins  
Pedro N. Jimenez  
Patricia D. Johnson  
Winston L. Johnson  
Gregg M. Jorissen  
Mary Jurgens  
Gerald T. Kane Jr.  
John G. Karey  
Alma M. Kelley  
Michael D. Kelley  
Charles E. Kelly Jr.  
Ernest R. Kerns  
William G. Kirk  
David M. Kossow  
Samuel L. Kroll  
Diane L. Krug  
Michael Lack  
Brian M. Langel  
William R. Langgle  
Gilberto Latorre  
Robert W. Leavine  
Carol A. Lehde  
Lee R. Lorfald  
Michael A. Lezcano  
Fidel Linares  
Michelle L. Lipton  
Toni Llauger  
Matthew L. Loechelt  
Silvero Lona  
David J. Long  
Fabian E. Lopez  
Dennis Lorenzo Jr.  
Dennis A. Luneburg  
John L. Lykins  
John J. Maher  
Ivan Maldonado  
Salvatore V. Marsala  
Mark T. Martin  
Mary J. Martin  
Santos Martinez  
Anthony Marziano  
Anthony J. Maucere  
Kevin A. Mays  
Roy J. McAfee  
David E. McClure  
T. H. McCracken  
Darnell McCray  
Debra McEndree  
George McEndree  
Lorraine M. Mcmillion  
Arcilio Mendez  
Donna L. Mendez  
Stanislaus Michno  
Joseph B. Mills  
Brenda M. Montague  
Anthony M. Moran  
David L. Morris  
Martin L. Morris  
Charles P. Munkel  
Jimmy L. Munns  
Robert M. Murray  
James E. Neely  
Anthony D. Negrón  
Rhonda L. Nelson  
Adam Noble Jr.  
Robert L. Norman  
Michael K. Oakley  
Miroslaw Oldziej  
Anne Marie Oliveri-Longo  
Walter Ortiz  
Laura G. Pacheco  
Deborah A. Pagano  
Angel L. Perez  
Brad G. Perez  
Cynthia C. Perez  
Jose A. Perez  
Chris A. Pesa  
Julio Pesquera  
Michael J. Peterson  
Albert Phelps Jr.  
Harold K. Phillpot  
George H. Piloto Jr.  
Robert J. Piparo  
Joseph B. Plant Jr.  
Kelly J. Polick  
Marvin L. Porter Jr.  
Joann G. Pratt  
Martin L. Price  
Michael P. Provencher  
Danielle J. Puls  
Sharon T. Ramirez  
Donna L. Rau  
John G. Ray  
Debra D. Redden  
Joseph L. Restivo  
Louis M. Reyes Jr.  
Dale I. Robertson  
Annette L. Robinson  
Rickey Robinson  
Henry F. Roder Jr.  
Lawrence D. Rodriguez  
Russell D. Rodgers  
John P. Rowland  
Sherwood Rubin  
Don J. Russell  
Reinaldo J. Saltares  
Christian Saltos  
John J. Samanka  
Daniel B. Sampson  
Barbara D. Sanchez  
Barnabe J. Sanchez  
Robert M. Sanchez  
John A. Schakel Jr.  
Anthony W. Scheel  
Ronnie W. Schumate  
Arnold W. Smith  
Gary D. Smith  
Randall F. Smith  
Michael D. Sovan  
Hector Spindola Jr.  
Deborah L. Stabell  
Patricia H. Stevenson  
Heather B. Stewart  
Sharon L. Stodghill  
Gary S. Stone  
Lori W. Strauss  
Susan J. Suarez  
Warren J. Sumlin  
John W. Syron III  
Sally K Tedder  
John C. Tercha  
Robert C. Thomas  
Lonnie C. Thompson Jr.  
Kent W. Thran  
David G. Tincher  
James J. Tobin Jr.  
William J. Tolliver  
Angel L. Torres  
Roberta A. Torres  
Wilfredo Torres  
Nancy C. Tracy  
Kenneth C. Tucker  
Richard P. Turosz

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Awards for 25 Years in the NALC

*(Continued from page 13)*

Lynda M. Ulmer  
Peter J. Vaile  
Karen E. Valdespino  
Julita Valdiri  
Carl Vann  
Frank Vazquez

Jose R. Vazquez  
Donald J. Walker  
Dawn L. Waller  
John A. Watts  
William M. Weimer  
Donald K. Weller  
Ruth E. Welsh

Cynthia D. Williams  
Dennis O. Williams  
Russell R. Williams  
James L. Willis  
Diane M. Wilson  
Warren W. Wilson  
Carl E. Wilson Jr.

Mark R. Winkelpleck  
William C. Worth III  
Marilyn A. Youngblood  
Juan C. Yepes  
Mark A. Young  
Glenn R. Zimmerman  
Raymond M. Zschoche

## Awards for 30 Years in the NALC

Michael F. Abramowski  
Detlev C. Aeppel  
Gertrude K. Affayroux  
Fred L. Akers Jr.  
Christian D. Albrecht  
Marlene G. Albuschat  
Rosie A. Allen  
Patrick R. Alley  
Francisco Alonso  
Thomas Alonzo Jr.  
William A. Alvarado  
Bennie J. Andrade Jr.  
Tamiko S. Arcangeli  
Vincent N. Arcuri  
Kenneth E. Baab  
Wendy M. Bainbridge  
John R. Baker  
Lawrence W. Barter  
James L. Batton Jr.  
Guadalupe Bautista  
Lonnie L. Ball  
David S. Berroth  
Edward D. Berroth Jr.  
Sophie A. Bezdek  
Norman G. Bobeau  
James S. Boczarski  
Kerry M. Bolio  
Thomas W. Boothe  
Ana R. Brito  
James T. Brophy  
John F. Brown  
Larry D. Brubaker  
James Burgos  
Ronald L. Burkett  
Mickey L. Burney  
Jimmy D. Burrill  
Karen L. Burrill  
Harris V. Camacho  
Jimmy D. Cantrell  
Zorida D. Cantu  
Mari J. Casale

Donnette M. Cervantes  
George W. Chapman  
Leroy J. Chow Jr.  
Marvin F. Clark  
Jose A. Clemente  
Cheryl A. Clothier  
Patricia A. Cobb  
Thomas E. Colligan  
Manual R. Corripio  
Emilio Cosme  
Daniel H. Couturiaux Jr.  
Ruben J. Cuesta  
Steven M. Cueto  
Rolando I. Cuevas  
George T. Czanko  
Donna M. Dayton  
James R. Debose  
Mark M. Demicheli  
Duane A. Dosal  
Michele E. Dresden  
Maxine L. Dufresne  
Christophe A. Espinosa  
David H. Fernandez  
Pasquale J. Ferrante  
Jeffrey A. Fisher  
Michael D. Fisher  
Johnny L. Flannery  
James R. Follman  
Donald H. Forrest  
Beverly J. Fravel  
David R. Garcia  
Nydia L. Gardner  
Thomas R. Gaskins  
Michael A. Giavinco  
Steven M. Glover  
Antonio P. Gonong  
Ricardo J. Gonzalez  
James A. Good  
Henry L. Grant  
Robert M. Green  
John J. Gregory

Daniel Hackett  
Charles P. Hall  
Larry M. Hall  
James C. Hamilton Jr.  
Frank L. Hardy  
Phillip E. Harrell  
Victoria L. Harrell  
James Harrison  
Walter D. Hart  
Franklin Hart Sr.  
Lorraine A. Hass  
Waymon Hayes III  
John J. Hencoski  
Richard L. Henderson  
Jose A. Hernandez  
Wallace L. Hill  
Darcy F. Hubbard  
Richard M. Huerta  
Ken E. Huse  
Beth N. Jenkins  
Gary D. Jenkins  
Pedro N. Jimenez  
Patricia D. Johnson  
Gregg M. Jorrisen  
Gerald T. Kane Jr.  
John G. Karay  
Alma M. Kelley  
Michael D. Kelley  
Charles E. Kelley Jr.  
Ernest R. Karns  
Samuel L. Kroll  
Diane L. Krug  
Michael Lack  
Brian M. Langel  
William R. Lanngle  
Robert W. Leavine  
Fidel Lineres  
Michelle L. Lipton  
Toni Llauger  
Matthew L. Loechelt  
Silverio Lona

Dennis Lorenzo Jr.  
Dennis A. Luneburg  
John J. Maher  
Ivan Maldonado  
Salvatore V. Marsala  
Mary J. Martin  
Santos Martinez  
Roy J. McAfee  
David E. McClure  
T. H. McCracken  
Darnell McCray  
George R. McEndree  
Loraine M. Mcmillion  
Areilio Mendez  
Stanislaus Michno  
Joseph B. Mills  
Davis L. Morris  
Charles P. Munkel  
Jimmy L. Munns  
James E. Neely  
Rhonda L. Nelson  
Adam Noble Jr.  
Robert Norman  
Michael K. Oakley  
Walter Ortiz  
Luis G. Pacheco  
Deborah A. Pagano  
Jose A. Perez  
Julio Pesquera  
Michael J. Peterson  
Harold K. Philpott  
George H. Piloto Jr.  
Robert J. Piparo  
Joseph B. Plant Jr.  
Kelly J. Polick  
Marvin L. Porter Jr.  
Joann G. Pratt  
Martin L. Price  
Sharon T. Ramirez  
Donna L. Rau

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Awards for 30 Years in the NALC

*(Continued from page 14)*

Debra D. Redden  
Joseph L. Restivo  
Louis M. Reyes Jr.  
Dale I. Robertson  
Annette L. Robinson  
Henry F. Roder Jr.  
Lawrence D. Rodriguez  
Sherwood Rubin  
John J. Samanka  
Barbara D. Sanchez  
Robert M. Sanchez  
John A. Schakel Jr.  
Anthony W. Scheel  
Ronnie W. Shumate

Arnold W. Smith  
Gary D. Smith  
Hector Spindola Jr.  
Patricia H. Stevenson  
Heather B. Stewart  
Sharon L. Stodghill  
Gary S. Stone  
Lois W. Strauss  
Warren J. Sumlin  
John W. Syron III  
Sally K. Tedder  
John C. Tercha  
Robert C. Thomas  
Lonnie C. Thompson Jr.  
Kent W. Thran

David G. Tincher  
William J. Tolliver  
Wilfredo Torres  
Nancy C. Tracy  
Richard P. Turosz  
Peter J. Vaile  
Karen E. Valdespino  
Julita Valdiri  
Frank Vazquez  
Jose R. Vazquez  
Donald J. Walker  
Dawn L. Waller  
John A. Watts  
William M. Weimer  
Donald K. Weller

Ruth E. Welsh  
Dennis O. Williams  
Russell R. Williams  
James L. Willis  
Warren W. Wilson  
Carl E. Wilson Jr.  
Mark R. Winkelpleck  
William C. Worth III  
Marilyn A. Youngblood  
Mark A. Young  
Glenn R. Zimmerman  
Raymond M. Zschoeh

## Awards for 35 Years in the NALC

Michael F. Abramowski  
Detlev C. Aepfel  
Christian D. Albrecht  
Marlene G. Albuschat  
Francisco Alonso  
Bennie J. Andrade Jr.  
Vincent N. Arcuri  
Kenneth E. Baab  
Wendy M. Bainbridge  
John R. Baker  
Lawrence W. Barter  
James L. Batton Jr.  
Guadalupe Bautista  
Lonnie L. Bell  
David S. Berroth  
Edward D. Berroth Jr.  
Sophie A. Bezdek  
Norman G. Bobeau  
James S. Boczarski  
James T. Brophy  
Larry D. Brubaker  
James Burgos  
Donald L. Burkett  
Mickey L. Burney  
Jimmy D. Burrell  
Karen L. Burrill  
Jimmy D. Cantrell  
Zorida D. Cantu  
Mari J. Casale  
Donnette M. Cervantes  
George W. Chapman  
Leroy J. Chow Jr.  
Marvin F. Clark

Patricia A. Cobb  
Thomas E. Colligan  
Manual R. Corripio  
Emilio Cosme  
Daniel H. Couturiaux Jr.  
Ruben J. Cuesta  
Steven M. Cueto  
Rolando I. Cuevas  
George T. Czanko  
James R. Debose  
Mark M. Demicheli  
Duane A. Dosal  
Michele E. Dresden  
Maxine L. Dufresne  
David H. Fernandez  
Jeffrey A. Fisher  
Michael D. Fisher  
Johnny L. Flannery  
James R. Follman  
Donald H. Forrest  
Beverly J. Fravel  
Nydia L. Gardner  
Thomas R. Gaskins  
Michael A. Giavinco  
Steven M. Glover  
Anthony R. Gonong  
Ricardo J. Gonzalez  
James A. Good  
Henry L. Grant  
Robert M. Green  
John J. Gregory  
Daniel Hackett  
Charles P. Hall

Larry M. Hall  
James C. Hamilton Jr.  
Phillip E. Harrell  
Victoria L. Harrell  
James Harrison  
Walter D. Hart  
Franklin Hart Sr.  
Lorraine A. Hass  
Waymon Hayes III  
John J. Hencoski  
Richard L. Henderson  
Jose A. Hernandez  
Darcy F. Hubbard  
Richard M. Huerta  
Ken E. Huse  
Beth N. Jenkins  
Gary D. Jenkins  
Patricia D. Johnson  
Gerald T. Kane Jr.  
John G. Karay  
Alma M. Kelley  
Michael D. Kelley  
Charles E. Kelley Jr.  
Ernest R. Kerns  
Samuel L. Kroll  
Diane L. Krug  
Michael Lack  
Brian M. Langel  
William R. Langgle  
Robert W. Leavine  
Fidel Linares  
Dennis Lorenzo Jr.  
John J. Maher

Ivan Maldonado  
Salvatore V. Marsala  
Mary M. Martin  
Santos Martinez  
Roy J. McAfee  
David E. McClure  
George R. McEndree  
Lorraine M. Mcmillion  
Arcilio Mendez  
Stanislaus Michno  
Joseph B. Mills  
Davis L. Morris  
James E. Neely  
Adam Noble Jr.  
Michael K. Oakley  
Walter Ortiz  
Luis G. Pacheco  
Deborah A. Pagano  
Jose A. Perez  
Julio Pesquera  
Michael J. Peterson  
Harold K. Philpott  
George H. Piloto Jr.  
Robert J. Piparo  
Joseph B. Plant Jr.  
Marvin L. Porter Jr.  
Joann G. Pratt  
Martin L. Price  
Sharon T. Ramirez  
Donna L. Rau  
Joseph L. Restivo  
Louis M. Reyes Jr.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Awards for 35 Years in the NALC

*(Continued from page 15)*

Dale I. Robertson	Gary D. Smith	Davis G. Tincher	Donald K. Weller
Annette L. Robinson	Hector Spindola Jr.	William J. Tollivar	Ruth E. Welsh
Henry F. Roder Jr.	Patricia H. Stevenson	Wilfredo Torres	Dennis O. Williams
Lawrence D. Rodriguez	Heather B. Stewart	Richard P. Turosz	Russell R. Williams
John J. Samanka	Gary S. Stone	Karen E. Valdespino	James L. Willis
Barbara D. Sanchez	Lois W. Strauss	Julita Valdiri	Warren W. Wilson
Robert M. Sanchez	Warren J. Sumlin	Frank Vazquez	Mark R. Winklepleck
John A. Schakel Jr.	John W. Syron III	Jose R. Vazquez	William C. Worth III
Anthony W. Scheel	Sally K. Tedder	Donald J. Walker	Mark A. Young
Ronnie W. Shumate	John C. Tercha	Dawn L. Waller	Marilyn A. Youngblood
Arnold W. Smith	Lonnie C. Thompson Jr.	John A. Watts	Glenn R. Zimmerman
	Kent W. Thran	William M. Weimer	Raymond M. Zschoche

## Awards for 40 Years in the NALC

Christian D. Albrecht	Duane A. Dosal	Richard L. Henderson	Luis W. Strauss
Vincent N. Arcuri	Maxine L. Dufresne	Richard M. Huerta	Sally K. Tedder
Kenneth E. Baab	David H. Fernandez	John G. Karay	William J. Tolliver
Wendy M. Bainbridge	Jeffery A. Fisher	Alma M. Kelley	Richard P. Turosz
David S. Berroth	Michael D. Fisher	Diane L. Krug	Dawn L. Waller
Norman G. Bobeau	James R. Follman	Dennis Lorenzo Jr.	John A. Watts
James T. Brophy	Donald H. Forrest	David E. McClure	William M. Weimer
Ronald L. Burkett	Nydra L. Gardner	Joseph B. Mills	Ruth E. Welsh
Tomas E. Colligan	James A. Good	Joseph L. Restivo	Russell R. Williams
Ruben J. Cuesta	Henry L. Grant	Dale I. Robertson	Warren W. Wilson
George T. Czanko	Robert M. Green	Annette L. Robinson	William C. Worth III
James R. Debose	Daniel Hackett	Barbara D. Sanchez	
Mark M. Demicheli	Charles P. Hill	Gary D. Smith	

## Awards for 45 Years in the NALC

Francis R. Fultz	Gerald T. Linthiaum	Laura M. Moore	Nicholas J. Stopay
John J. Gebo	William G. Mandikas	Kathleen C. Nelson	Donald H. Thomas Jr.
Arthur T. Haines	Robert M. McClamma	James H. Stoffer	Arne K. Weijola
John R. Hromalik			

## Awards for 55 Years in the NALC

Gilbert Cabanas	Michael J. Loredó	Louie A. Myers Jr.	Larry M. Tharrington
Johnny W. Davis	Lomax McIntyre Jr.	Dennis A. Owen	Myron L. Thomas
James G. Dean			

## Awards for 65 Years in the NALC

Jarrett V. Langston	Oscar A. Valdes	Donald H. Welk
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# CCAs, Welcome to Branch 599!

As President of Branch 599, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all the new CCAs to our Branch as members. You have joined an elite group with a membership dedicated to helping you adjust and adapt as you make your way in the Postal Service as a new employee. Our members are here to ensure you are not being abused by management as you learn the ropes of your new job.

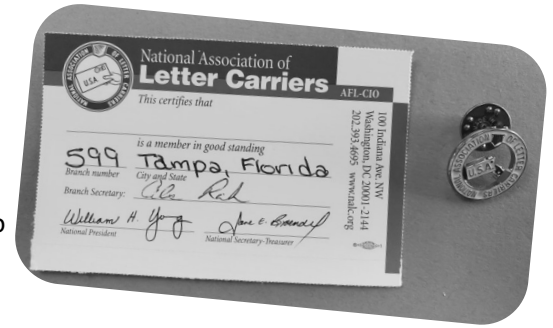
As new members I will take this opportunity to notify you of some things that will help as you transition into your new role as letter carriers. It is important as you take on this new job that you become more educated about your Union and how you can begin to assimilate into becoming a productive member of our Branch and the NALC.

The first thing you need to know is that on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM, there is a Branch meeting at Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, 315 W. Busch Boulevard, Tampa FL 33612, and it is open to all the membership, both active as well as retired. This meeting is used to update the membership on the status of the Branch, deal with financial matters and other branch business, and to bring the membership up to date on issues dealing with Postal Management. Members also have the opportunity to address the branch leadership with questions and concerns to get answers to help them in their day-to-day work for the Postal Service.

As new members you should come to the meetings to get this information to help you become a better carrier and Union member. I am sure you have all heard it before... **There is no Union without U.**

New members also get sworn into the Branch as members and will be presented with a NALC lapel pin and you can get

a Union card issued to you to carry in your wallet to show your Union membership.



As members of the NALC there are many benefits available to you once you become a regular carrier and you need to know about these as you want to be prepared to exercise your right to these benefits once they become available to you. We have the best health insurance available in the Federal Employees Health Benefit system, run by the Union for Union members (*No CEO getting paid millions of dollars driving up premium costs*). We have the Mutual Benefit Association which is Union run for Union members and provides various insurance solutions for members. Nalcrest is the NALC retirement community in central Florida where NALC members can retire to and live in a community designed for retired members, they are currently celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These are just a few of the benefits membership brings to you, so please do what you can to help yourself as a Union member and look into these benefits that are available to you going forward.

Once again, I want to welcome you to the NALC and Branch 599, I look forward to working with you going forward and helping you to become an educated member of our Branch. Like I always say, **When I started, I was just like you and now I am the President of this Branch. It is available to you...all you must do is get involved and learn, one day it can be you where I am today.**

Brian Obst, President



Miroslaw Oldziej and Brian Obst

## Oldziej Retired!

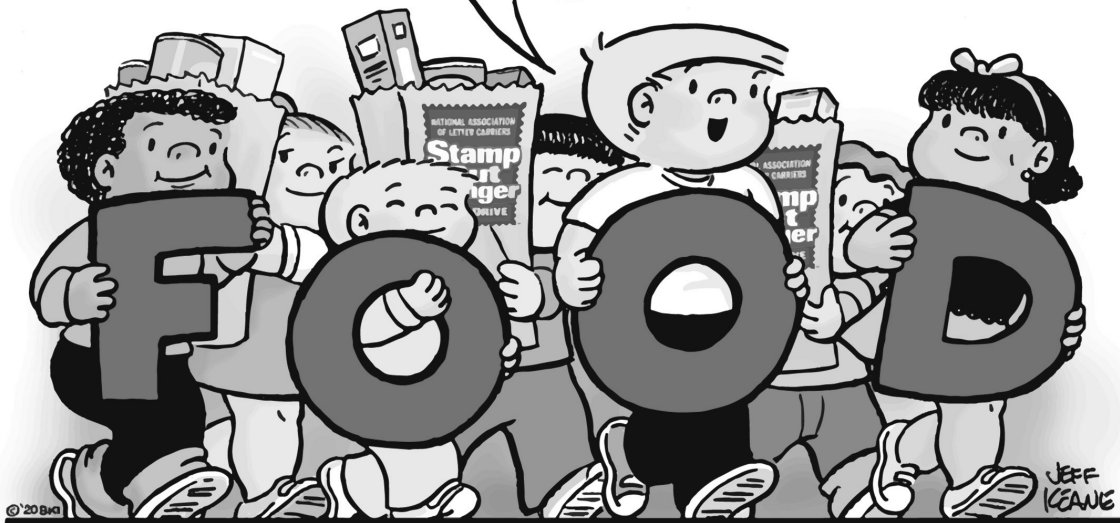
President Obst presented **Miroslaw Oldziej** [Brandon] with his retirement pin and gratuity at our February meeting.

## More from our Retirees Dinner...



John Gebo, Alan Robinson, and President Emeritus Orbe Andux

THIS SPELLS  
HELP FOR LOTS OF  
FAMILIES THIS  
YEAR!



# LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

Saturday  
May 11

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.  
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

*National Partners*



## The Financial Guy

After a year in my new position, I have learned a lot, but have so much more to learn. I am trying to get all files in order and make this position more streamlined and easier to access all information.

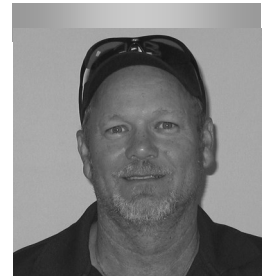
My main job that I have been focusing on is the back dues that are owed to the Branch. This is for letter carriers on OWCP, LWOP, or retired letter carriers that owe money to the Branch. Final notices have been sent out to some carriers that owe money for back dues. According to National, three letters

must be sent out to give each carrier every opportunity to address this issue.

Our next step is to begin the process of having carriers that have not made any contact with the Branch about payments, be removed from the Union. All this has been done with guidance from National. This is our last resort to collect money that is due to the Branch. Again, if you have NALC health insurance, you are putting yourself in jeopardy of losing your health insurance. Like I have said

before, this is not the action that we prefer, but have been left no choice. Article VII of our Bylaws spells this out very clearly and has been sent out with each letter. Please contact me ASAP to discuss this matter if it pertains to you.

Until next time,  
*Alan*



Alan Robinson  
Financial Secretary  
Branch 599

## OWCP Sick Leave and Mileage Reimbursement

When you are injured on the job, you must report your injury to management immediately. Once you have reported the injury, you will fill out 3 forms from management

(CA1+CA16=CA17)

as well as logging into ECOMP to report the injury yourself. If you believe it is unnecessary, you are not required to see the doctor about the injury. However, if you find you do, you need to see the doctor within 3 days of the injury and the doctor must be a medical doctor (M.D.). You must still report

the injury even if you do not go and consult a doctor. Any mileage used to see the doctor can be reimbursed for 58 cents per mile by filing Medical Travel Refund Request (Form 957) from OWCP.

Your first 3 calendar days after the day you were injured will be charged as sick leave. Up to the next 45 calendar days after those first 3 days are paid by Continuation of Pay (COP). If you are out on COP for more than 14 calendar days, you can be reimbursed for the first 3 days of sick leave. This is not

automatic; you must request a payroll correction from management. After the 45 days of COP have passed, you must file disability on your own, it will not be handled by management.

Safety is our number one priority. Everyone be safe out there!

*Clement*



Clement Cheung  
Labor Management Rep.  
Branch 599



## Our February Meeting





**“Mary Lou Jackman - William Corbeau”  
2024 Florida State Association of  
Letter Carriers Scholarship Application**



*Al Friedman, President*

\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT CUT OR REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS APPLICATION, AND PRINT LEGIBLY\*\*\*

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Male

Female

(You must select only ONE box. If more than one child is eligible, please use a separate/additional forms.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch Name and/or Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Member Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I certify the above named member of the FSALC is in good standing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Local Branch President or Secretary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

(DO NOT CUT THE APPLICATION, MAIL ENTIRE FORM. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

\*\*\*\*\* TO QUALIFY, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET: \*\*\*\*\*

- 1) The student must have graduated from an accredited High School or have a GED.
- 2) The Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
- 3) Applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. Winners will be notified by mail. **DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF OF ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME.**
- 4) Applications must be postmarked on or by July 1, 2024. Entries received with a postmark after July 1, 2024 will not be open or returned. Only one application per applicant will be accepted.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be a total of four (4) scholarships awarded - two for female applicants and two for male applicants - each in the amount of \$2000.00. This drawing will be held during the NALC 73rd Biennial Convention, August 5 -9, 2024 in Boston, MA. Winners will be notified via mail.



FSALC USE ONLY

RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS TO:  
John W. Mitchell  
FSALC Director of Education,  
1440 7th Street Southeast  
Winter Haven, FL 33880



# A NALCREST 60th Anniversary Celebration to Remember

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held the week of January 29 through February 2, and the retirement community lived up to its name as A First-Class Community. It was an awesome week, culminating months of planning and preparation!

As a NALCREST Trustee, hosting our National officers and staff, the National Trustees, and the National Business Agents from around the country (All who form the Executive Council) was a great experience. The entire Executive Council was present all week, including NALC President, Brian Renfroe. Their schedule was a busy one of meetings with their council as well as with the NALCREST Trustees and staff, and numerous activities with our residents. Many officers and all of our NBAs had never visited NALCREST. The Trustees provided a firsthand look at our facilities with reports on our budget, new

projects, and challenges NALCREST is facing moving forward. Those who had not seen NALCREST were blown away by our beautiful hidden community.

Several guests visited NALCREST throughout the week, helping celebrate the milestone, all retired from their respective NALC positions. Former NALCREST Trustees, Don Southern and Tom Young; former NBA, Lynne Pendleton; former national Trustee, Mike Gill; and former NALC officer, Ernie Kirkland. In addition, our Florida State Association of Letter Carriers President, Al Friedman joined us. In the months leading up to the celebration, we were in contact with NALC President Emeritus, William Doherty's family developing plans for them to attend. It was Doherty's dream and vision to purchase the NALCREST property back in the 1950's and the family was grateful for the invitation.



Tony Diaz  
Treasurer  
President Emeritus  
Branch 599  
NALCREST Trustee

Thursday night, February 1, the auditorium was packed with 515 attendees. After an outstanding dinner, a beautiful desert bar awaited, followed by a DJ and dancing. On Friday, February 2, there was a southern BBQ prepared at the lake house, attended by over 350. All in all, it was great to catch up with all of our guests and show them how NALCREST is being maintained.

The Trustees and staff wanted to make the 60<sup>th</sup> celebration as big as the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. I am honored to be a NALCREST Trustee, and I am proud to represent Branch 599.

*Tony*

## One Trustee Position Is Still Available

Good day, brothers and sisters. For those of you that didn't make the last Branch meeting, I would like to inform you that one of the trustee positions has been filled by Andre Hinton and one still remains vacant. If you are interested, below are the duties of the Trustees which are listed in Article 6 Section 11 of our N.A.L.C. Branch 599 Bylaws:

Section 11 (A) The Trustees shall audit the condition of the books of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary at least once every 3 months. They shall compare the vouchers and records and see that they correspond with the collections and disbursements. They shall report to the branch the results and findings

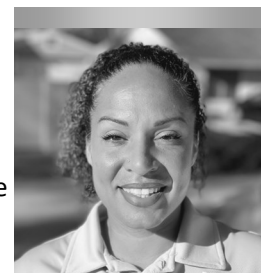
of such audit at the next regular branch meeting following the audit. They shall have custody of all branch property and shall perform such other duties as the Branch ByLaws may require of them. The Board of Trustees shall be known as the Trustees of the National Association of Letter Carriers 599 Tampa Florida Inc.

(B) For the faithful fulfilling of his/her duties, the three (3) Trustees shall each receive \$70.00 per month for allowed expenses.

Just know that it's not extremely time consuming if records and audits are kept organized, but it IS extremely important. The most time-consuming

part is having to go to each of the 3 banks and listing you as trustee and signer of the accounts. After, it's just getting you familiar with what to look for during each audit. Lastly, if anyone is ever interested in being present for an audit, it is open and encouraged that our members join us to see what we do. I will be planning the next audit in April...if you are interested please contact me and I will let you know as we near the next audit.

Thank you for your time,  
*Milly*



Milly Minsal  
Trustee Chair  
Branch 599



# FED-HURT

(833) 433-3487

Injury Care For ALL Federal Workers

## What Do I Do If I Get Hurt On The Job?

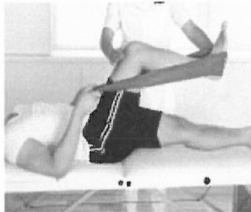
**If you are injured, here are some very simple steps to follow.**

1. Notify Your Supervisor Immediately. (The Supervisor has up to 10 days to file your claim with OWCP).
2. File a CA-1 and CA-16 for a Traumatic Injury.
3. File a CA-2 for an Occupational Disease.
4. Write your Personal Statement describing the injury. Be specific.
5. Call 833-433-3487 to speak with a FED-HURT OWCP Specialist.



### Our Doctors Specialize in:

- Physical Medicine
- Physical Therapy
- Chiropractic Care
- Interventional Pain Management
- Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE)



### Services Include:

- ✓ Expert Claims Assistance
- ✓ Medical Exams Detailing Causation of Injury



Our team of Physicians and Physical Therapists work for you, not OWCP. We will see you without an approved claim and provide OWCP with all the necessary documentation to get your claim approved the first time.

## Locations Throughout Florida

### North Florida

- 📍 Pensacola
- 📍 Daytona / Ormond Beach

### Central Florida

- 📍 Orlando / Airport
- 📍 Orlando / Sanford
- 📍 Orlando / Altamonte Springs
- 📍 Tampa / Palm Harbor
- 📍 Tampa / Temple Terrace Bush Gardens

### South Florida

- 📍 Fort Meyers / Cape Coral
- 📍 Fort Meyers / Cape Coral
- 📍 Port Saint Lucie
- 📍 Lake Worth / Palm Springs
- 📍 Fort Lauderdale / Davie
- 📍 Miami / Hialeah

Are you a federal employee  
injured while on the job?

Call our office (833) 433-3487



WWW.4FEDHURT.COM

# Addressing OWCP issues...let's get it right

There have been many articles in our newsletter over the years regarding on-the-job injuries. These are regularly asked questions you need to know:

1. What do I do first?
2. Who do I notify?
3. What paperwork do I need?
4. Who will help me through this?

Correcting OWCP issues are time consuming, frustrating, and if not corrected can delay medical treatment that could cause more severe prolonged injuries. So how do you avoid these issues? How do you get it right?

The **answers** to the above questions should help the process.

1. Report the accident immediately, explain exactly what happened, with a time and place (address).
2. Your supervisor or manager, and if you cannot reach anyone, your steward or our Branch office. It is important to notify someone.
3. Register an account on ECOMP at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov). The forms needed are, CA-1, CA-16, and CA-17, know your forms, ask questions, and do not rely on management to submit your forms without verification.
4. Your supervisor and/or manager should assist you, however, this is not always the case. Do not allow management to delay you going to [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov); this is critical to your case.

## *Other tips:*

1. Your online account at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov) will be available to download should you need a paper copy of any of your forms.
2. Write a detailed, thorough, complete, and legible statement. Some important information to consider, if applicable: the time, the place, the conditions, the surface(s), any contributing factors, possible witnesses, and any hazards.

## **On the Job Injury – Forms needed, simple math,**

$$CA-1 + CA-16 = CA-17$$

CA-16 must be signed by management,

Authorization for Examination and/or treatment.

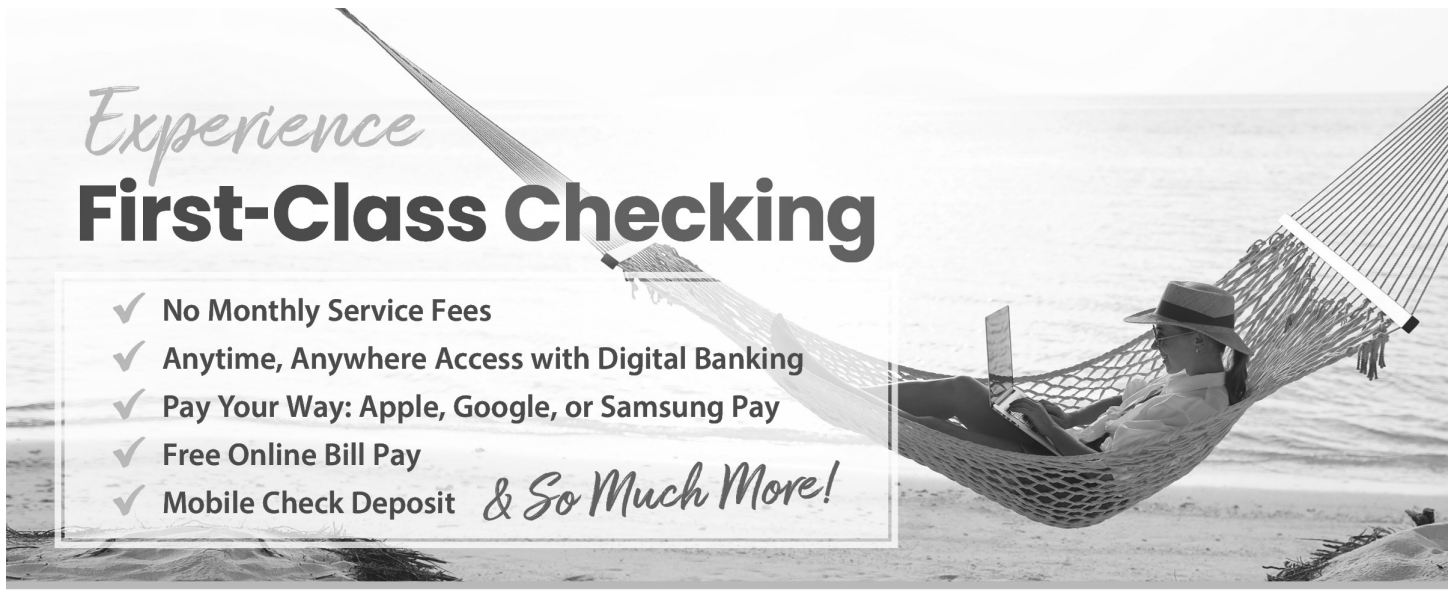
Any questions...call the Branch office; ask for Brian Obst, 813.875.0599.



National Association of Letter Carriers  
 599 Tampa Florida Inc.  
 315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C  
 Tampa FL 33612  
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 www.nalc599.com  
 Tampa Letter Carrier  
 Volume 24 • Issue 3 • March 2024

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