



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 4 - Issue 2

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

February 2005

## President's Report

by **Jim Good**

*President - Branch 599*

### ***Injured On Duty - Your Rights And Responsibilities***

**I** have been hearing many reports of carriers who have been hurt on the job, with discipline being issued to them because they have not properly reported these accidents. The *Employee and Labor Relations Manual* states in *Section 814.2f*, relating to employees' responsibilities: "Immediately report any accident or injury in which they are involved to their supervisors, regardless of the extent of injury or amount of damages."

Now I know what you're thinking. At least once a week you step out of your truck a little unevenly and twist your ankle, or you crack your elbow on the doorframe of the LLV, or maybe you cut or bruise your finger or hand on your case. These are things that go with the job of being a letter carrier and will probably not result in a problem in the future. When I delivered mail in Cleveland years ago, it was not unusual to fall almost weekly during the icy, snowy winters. Again, it went with the job.

I guess what I'm getting at is that if every letter carrier were to fill out an accident report and report every single incident that involved even the most minor of injuries there would be a very long line at the supervisor's desk. But that is what the book says to do, and since in some areas represented by our branch management has chosen to issue frivolous discipline as a result of not reporting *all* accidents here is what you must do if injured.

If you are injured while in the office, tell your supervisor immediately and document the incident. If it is an injury that requires immediate medical attention fill out an *OWCP Form CA-1*, request a *Form CA-16* (authorizing medical treatment) and *CA-17* and go to the doctor of your choice. Make sure that your supervisor gives you the receipt from the *CA-1*. If you cannot get in to see your doctor at that time then go either to a walk-in clinic or the emergency room. You can still go to your doctor of choice after your initial visit to the clinic or emergency room. If it is an injury that you believe could possibly require medical attention in the future then fill out a *Form CA-1* and have management send that form to the *Postal Service Injury Compensation Office*. They will keep the form on file for future use if necessary. If it is a minor injury then make sure that the supervisor documents your report of the incident and gives you a copy of that documentation.

If you are injured while out of the

office, and you can complete your assignment, call your supervisor immediately and report the incident. Document the injury when you return to the office and get a copy of the documentation from your supervisor. If you cannot complete your route then call your supervisor and follow his/her instructions. You will need to fill out a *Form CA-1*, request a *Form CA-16* and *CA-17* and seek medical attention as stated above. Management must allow you to fill out the *CA-1* and must give you the forms *CA-16* and *CA-17*, as well as a receipt from the *CA-1*.

In the past the reporting of minor injuries has not been a problem, but as it is with many other recent issues involving letter carriers some managers and supervisors have chosen to discipline simply for the sake of discipline. This is definitely not the way to promote a good labor / management relationship but since they have chosen this path, we must follow the correct procedures to protect ourselves!

TLC



#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OUTSIDE THE LINES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>UNIONISM.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AROUND THE HORN.....</b>	<b>11</b>

**Branch Meeting**

**Thursday**

**February 3, 2005**

**7:30 PM**

**at the Union Hall**

**Branch 599 Officers**

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Detlev Aepfel	(813) 907-9685
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cheryl Clothier	(727) 385-7337
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 681-5688
TRUSTEE(Chairman)	Henry Dupree	(813) 621-6471
TRUSTEE	Jose Oliva	(813) 873-2747
TRUSTEE	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	Jack Newman	(813) 805-2942
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Veronica Lorenzo	(813) 926-9555
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
MAPS COORDINATOR	Chris Albrecht	(727) 781-7162

**Presidents Emeritus**

Michael Anderson	Orbe Andux
James Butler	Milton McConnell
Don Thomas	Garland Tickle
Lenin Perez	

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Miroslaw Oldziej	(813) 661-1636
Carrollwood	33618	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	John Watts	(813) 971-5525
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Eddie Alvarez	(813) 817-7391
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	(813) 935-0244
Interbay	33611	Marie Brown	(727) 488-8434
Interbay	33629	Alfonso Higareda	(813) 741-1687
MacDill	33608	Marie Brown	(727) 488-8434
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 681-6890
Port Tampa	33616	Alfonso Higareda	(813) 741-1687
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 872-1542
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Ken Lee	(940) 368-4771
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Pedro Jiminez	(813) 727-9280
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Anderson	(813) 681-5688
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	(813) 505-7914

**TAMPA RETIREES' BREAKFAST**

First Monday of Every Month

9:00 AM at

The Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert

in Drew Park

**BRANDON RETIREES' BREAFAST**

Second Tuesday of every month

8:00 AM at

Buddy Freddy's

134 Gornto Lake Rd S.

in Brandon

**A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599****3003 W. Cypress St.****Tampa, Florida 33609-1617****Tel: (813) 875-0599 Fax: (813) 870-0599****email: [nalc599@verizon.net](mailto:nalc599@verizon.net)****website: <http://www.nalc599.com>**

The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 599, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33609-1617, 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. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for publication must be signed by the writer. All articles are subject to editing and revision at the discretion of the publisher & editor. Please submit articles to the branch office no later than the tenth of the month. For submission guidelines, send email to: [writer@nalc599.com](mailto:writer@nalc599.com) or go to <http://www.nalc599.com/writer.htm>

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

Executive Vice-President's Report

by Detlev Aepfel

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

**Route Inspections & Adjustments**

It has been a busy few months for letter carriers. We have endured government elections, union elections, and the holiday season crunch. Now that things are somewhat back to normal we must turn our attention to basic letter carrier issues once more.

Postal management at the national level has unilaterally withdrawn from negotiations to create a new route inspection and adjustment procedure. This means that the union and management at the local level have been forced to stop local negotiations for a new local route inspection and adjustment method as well. This is very disappointing news.

Before negotiations were halted Branch 599 had been successful in putting in place a mutually agreed to local method for inspection and adjustment at Sun City Center. The Sun City Center agreement is based on mutually agreed to volume figures, actual carrier times on the route over an extended time period, and carrier input. The branch and local management agreed this method would be much fairer to both parties. This will be the method of inspection and adjustment of routes

at Sun City Center. Unfortunately the branch was still in the process of negotiating with management at Tampa and Plant City when the halt was called by postal officials in Washington. This means that we are once more subject to the outdated and expensive inspection and adjustment method outlined in the M39 and M41.

Upper management has expressed a desire to eliminate 2000 letter carrier routes across the nation. If management moves forward with this plan, carriers can expect to see aggressive route inspections and adjustments, as well as a continued attempt to "sell" the DOIS system to carriers.

Carriers should start preparing for these old fashioned inspections now! Pay attention to the work you do on a daily basis. Keep a linear account of your daily work load. Learn how different mail volumes and qualities of the mail affect your daily street time as a whole as well as how it affects your corner times and scan point times. Practice giving good estimates. If your estimate turns out to be wrong, figure out what went wrong.

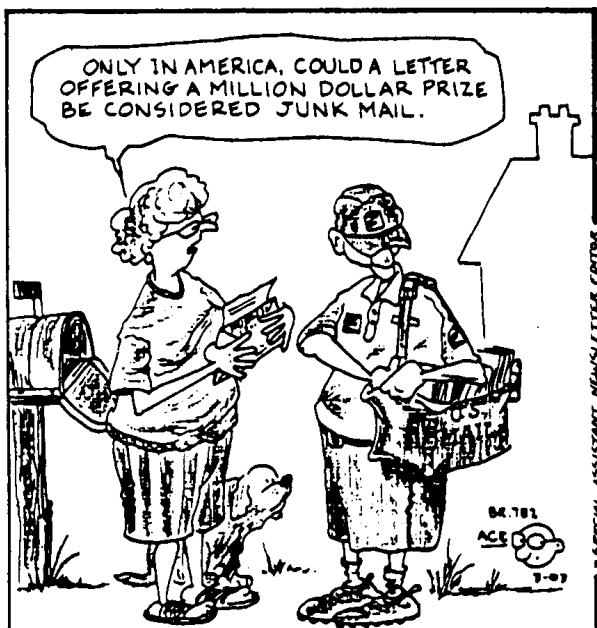
Always fill out a 3996 (in duplicate so you can keep a copy) if you will be needing overtime, and a 1571 (in duplicate so you can keep a copy) if you will be curtailing mail. **Never ask "What does DOIS say...?"!** As a letter carrier you are expected to look at your mail volume (cased letters and flats, sequenced mail, DPS, accountables, and parcels) and give a professional estimate to the best of your ability. This is outlined in the M41 and has not changed. There is no mention of DOIS in the M41.



If you are scheduled to be inspected, find out what you will need to do to improve your chances of an accurate count and a fairer inspection. Learn how to perform the mail count and how to fill out the 1838C properly. Learn what is expected of you on the route. It begins with you. If you need help, ask your steward or call the union hall.

In solidarity..

TLC



**Member's Assistance Program**

Let me assist you in finding help for you or your loved one! Branch 599 has trained me and made available to me the numerous programs and services that are available in the Tampa Bay area. Just about any problem you or a family member has can be dealt with by using the resources you can obtain, free of charge, from your community. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential! I can help.

Please call Chris Albrecht at (727) 791-7162

MAP's Representative – Branch 599

**Health and Welfare**

Tony Borkowski, Father-in-law passed away

John Flannery's Mother passed away

Outside The Lines

by Leslie Ray Garcia



# Social Security Privatization

Congratulations to all the elected officers of our branch. I hope that there will be unity and the infighting will cease!

George W. Bush has been elected the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. The agenda of this lame duck administration is similar to his 8 years as governor of Texas except it is on a national scale. If you don't believe me, investigate the evidence with regard to the Texas economy, etc.

One such effort will be to rewrite the Social Security system. His election with a 3.5 million vote victory is being portrayed as a mandate by the White House campaign operatives! The Bush administration plans to allow younger workers to divert some Social Security payroll taxes to private investment accounts but in order to formulate this plan, \$2 trillion dollars will have to be invested by the federal government to jumpstart the plan. This financing will only add to an already growing national deficit. Even the AARP, supporters of Bush's prescription plan, are against this Social Security reform plan.

Apparently Bush believes only stock brokers can save Social Security even though the stock market has had corporate bankruptcies, corporate scandals

and a financial roller coaster ride of enormous proportions. This type of manipulation of federal moneys is incredible since Social Security has always been a safety net for the elderly. It has protected millions from facing abject poverty upon retirement, even if their pensions should evaporate as they did for employees of companies such as Enron.

In the October 13, 2004 edition of the St. Petersburg Times it was reported that Barbara Bush, while at the Sun City Center, portrayed her son, George W., as a "... *compassionate leader with morals and convictions...*" She promised the crowd that he would look out for their interests. Do you really think that the president's parents will let him wreck Social Security and Medicare, she asked.

I think she may have overstated she and her husband's authority over the president because he doesn't seem to be listening. If Social Security funds are not going to benefit big business, why is a lobbyist group that is representing *Wall Street* and the *Alliance for Worker Retirement Security*, financially supporting this proposed privatization scheme? Additional political allies of G.W. are raising millions of dollars for an election-style campaign to promote the pri-

vate Social Security accounts.

Stephen Moore, head of the conservative *Club for Growth*, has already raised \$1.5 million. The *Club for Growth* has stated it will maintain Republican support by targeting lawmakers who were not cooperating with G. W. through an intense media campaign. Mr. Moore is attempting to raise an additional \$13.5 million for this media blitz.

The proponents of this social security privatization scheme fail to divulge that approximately 2 percentage points of the 6.2 percent payroll tax will be invested into private accounts with the investor receiving smaller Social Security benefits at retirement, especially if your investments are lost due to faltering companies.

I guess I'm old fashioned. I would not take a chance on this *slot machine plan!* With the ups and downs of the stock market, the ever increasing deficit and the declining value of the US dollar in the World Market, how can you?

"Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."

Robert Frost

TLC



2005 Retirees - Installation Dinner

## Tampa Letter Carrier, Incorporated Update

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at the Union Hall. One of the motions that were passed at this meeting was to publish in the Tampa Letter Carrier Newsletter, on a monthly basis, a summary of the monthly Board of Directors meetings. The following report is a result of that motion.

Elections were held for officers of the board for the term of 2005 and 2006 with the following results. Brian Obst, Chairman; Detlev Aeppel, Co-chairman; John Gebo, Treasurer; Jim Good, Secretary; Fernando Quintanilla, Jack Newman and Joe Oliva, Trustees.

A motion was passed to set aside the by-laws to discuss other issues.

Motions were made and passed to investigate the validity of the contracts signed for building manager and maintenance man, and to place Jack Newman into the position of building manager pending the results of this investigation.

A motion was made and passed to remove Alessi's name from the sign in front of the union hall and replace it with an insignia of the NALC and the date of our charter. A motion was also passed to repaint the NALC seal on the front door of the union office.

A motion was passed to have the building manager look into getting a new soda machine to replace the one that was taken out last year.

*All members in good standing of NALC Branch 599 are automatically members of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.*

A motion was passed that the policy of the board would be as follows: Any member of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. could attend any and all TLC Inc. Board of Directors meetings, speak and discuss issues but would not be allowed to make motions or to vote. This policy was to be printed in the newsletter. A summary of the important issues discussed at each of the TLC, Inc. board meetings was also to be printed in the monthly newsletter.

A motion was passed that the pending proposed by-law additions and changes would be tabled until the board decided how and when the membership would vote on these additions and changes.

Jim Good

Recording Secretary - TLC, Inc.

TLC

# ***ARSLAN UNIFORMS***

*Bill & Shirley Moran*

*Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg*

*Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa*

***NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?***

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*wfm505@tampabay.rr.com*

Unionism

by Brian Obst

Labor Relations Representative - Branch 599

Modified Job Offers

You have worked for the Postal Service and given your all to do the job properly because you care about doing a good job. Suddenly you are injured on the job through no fault of your own and after intensive treatment and therapy you find that you can no longer perform all the duties of your position. The Postal Service must now follow Federal Guidelines and provide you work that you can perform within your limitations. Here are some guidelines that you should know:

The Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) provides the guidelines that must be followed when providing a modified job offer to any injured employees after they have recovered to maximum medical improvement (MMI). In ELM 546 there is an order of assignment that must be followed when providing work assignment for partially recovered employees and it goes as follows:

- 1. The individual must be assigned to work within their craft, within their installation and during their existing work hours, providing it exists. If it is not available then we move to the next step.
2. The individual must be assigned work outside of their craft, within their station and during their existing work hours, providing it exists. If it is not available then we move to the next step.
3. The individual may be assigned to work within their craft, inside their assigned station outside

of their normal scheduled hours. If it is not available then we move to the next step.

4. The individual must be assigned to work outside of their craft, outside of their assigned station within their existing work hours. This is the order of assignment laid out in the ELM 546.

For all of the above listed instances it is stated that all reasonable efforts must be made to provide work for the individual within their own craft as near as possible to their normally scheduled hours and as close to their assigned station as possible so as to prevent any undue hardship on the individual.

Remember that management doesn't get carte blanche to simply say that there isn't any work for the individual. They are under obligation to prove that no work exists before implementing any new job offer that would violate the order of assignment as laid out in the ELM. Be observant and watch what is happening in your station so you can inform your shop steward if management attempts to violate proper procedures when assigning you to a job offer.

Never forget that your shop steward is there to protect you and your rights under the National Agreement. If you are not sure whether or not management is treating you fairly under the agreement fill out a 0-13 form asking to speak to your steward at the earliest possible time available and always ensure that

you keep a copy of your request. Management will ensure that you see your steward at the next time frame available.



While we expect to always be treated fairly by management, please remember the words of a wise man:

'Forewarned is Forearmed'.

Let us never be caught unaware.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Brian Obst



January Meetings:

- Tuesday 1-25-05 ...TLC Board of Directors Meeting -Union Hall, 7:00 PM
Thur 1-27-05 ...Executive Board Meeting - Union Hall, 7:00 PM

February Meetings:

- Tues 2-1-05 ...Shop Stewards Meeting ...Union Hall, 7:00 PM
Thur 2-3-05 ...Branch Meeting Union Hall, 7:30 PM
Tues 2-22-05 ...TLC Board of Directors Meeting ...Union Hall, 7:00 PM
Thur 2-24-05 ...Executive Board Meeting ...Union Hall, 7:00 PM

## Personal Wellness

### *Get the Facts to Fight Flu Symptoms*

As the temperature drops and flu season arrives, people like you are starting to worry about getting sick -- with good reason! With this year's major flu vaccine shortage more people may come down with the flu and it is important to get the facts about fighting flu symptoms.

If you do get the flu this year, you won't be alone. Experts say the flu, which is caused by a contagious respiratory virus, afflicts millions of people each year and it has already begun to take its toll this season. In an average year, 5 to 20 percent of the population gets the flu, and this season 28 states have already reported flu activity.

As luck would have it, the holidays fall right in the middle of flu season, which can begin as early as October and end as late as May. If you get sick over the holidays, knowing how to treat your symptoms early can prevent the spread of illness to friends and family.

The first step to effectively treating symptoms is to distinguish between flu and cold symptoms since they can easily be confused. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with the flu, symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and coughing are more common and severe. Colds, however, are milder and more likely to cause a runny or stuffy nose. Those who do come down with the flu may suffer from a range of symptoms, including high fever, headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches and even nausea, vom-

iting and diarrhea.

Now that you know what the flu symptoms are, the second step is to be aware of how and when the virus can be spread. Droplets from coughing and sneezing spread the flu by person-to-person contact or by touching your nose or mouth after coming in contact with a surface that had the virus on it.

People can pass the flu along even before they realize they're sick. "Once symptoms start, it is important to treat them with over-the-counter medications -- they make you feel better and can help to prevent the spread of the flu," says Dr. Holly Atkinson. Advil Flu and Body Ache, for example, relieves body aches and pains, fever, headache and nasal congestion associated with the flu. To help prevent the spread of the flu, Robitussin DM helps people with coughs that are more frequent and non-productive stop coughing. If you have a cough plus other flu symptoms, Robitussin Flu treats the cough and symptoms like headache, fever and body aches.

In addition to over-the-counter medications, the following tips may help you fight the flu this year:

- \* Get lots of rest and avoid physical exertion
- \* Drink plenty of liquids
- \* Avoid using alcohol and tobacco
- \* Rub ointment on and around a



Courtesy of Comstock Images and ARA Content

nose that is red and raw from sniffing

- \* Use a humidifier in your bedroom and take hot showers to clear a stuffy nose
- \* Have some chicken soup -- it has been proved to have a clinical benefit
- \* Dress in layers; when you feel warm remove a layer or two, and when you feel chilly, layers can be easily added
- \* Stay home and treat your symptoms to prevent spreading the flu to others

To find out when cough, cold and flu are in your area, sign up for Cough, Cold & Flu Alerts at [www.robitussin.com](http://www.robitussin.com) and get \$1 off any Robitussin product. For more information on Advil and Robitussin or the flu, talk to a doctor or pharmacist, or visit [www.advil.com](http://www.advil.com) and [www.robitussin.com](http://www.robitussin.com).

*Courtesy of ARA Content*

**TLC**



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**JW Noni Distributors, Inc.**



2005 Retirees - Installation Dinner



NALC President Bill Young, Branch 599 President Jim Good, Branch 599 Executive Vice-President Detlev Aeppel, NALC RAA Kenny Gibbs



Bill Young hands the gavel to Jim Good



Branch 599 Officers



Happy Dinner Attendees

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# TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS PRESENT

# BINGO

COME JOIN THE FUN

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

GAMES START AT 6:30

AT THE TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS HALL

3003 W. CYPRESS St.

Tampa, Fl. 33609

813-877-4785

## From The Chair

by Brian Obst

*Chairman - Tampa Letter Carriers Incorporated****Your TLC, Inc.***

If you were at the January branch meeting you may have heard that there was an election for the *Board of Directors for Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. (TLC)* in December and that the new Board was installed for the next two years. When the new board met to elect officers, I was elected as Chairman for this term lasting until the next election in December 2006.

This is the first of what will become a regular newsletter column dealing with the happenings at the *TLC* monthly meetings. As the new chairman I would like to let all members of *TLC* (all members of the branch in good standing are also members of *TLC*) know that their presence at our monthly board meetings is not a distraction or a hindrance and it is something that

we welcome with open arms. Your ideas and thoughts are a welcome addition to our proceedings and will be received with interest and enthusiasm.

I want all members to know that we on the board take the responsibility of representing your interests seriously and, not only do we want to hear from you, I think that we *need* to hear from you to ensure that we are addressing any concerns that you may have. Please take an active role in letting us know of any concerns you may have, or any ideas you might come up with, so that we can examine and address them for the benefit of all of our members.

If for some reason you can't make it to the meeting but you would like to pass on ideas or concerns, you can

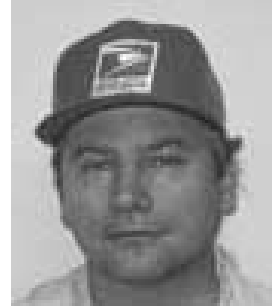
reach me through the mail by sending your thoughts to the branch office address, *Attn: TLC Chairman*, and they will be directed to me.

Check the date for the next *TLC* board meeting which is posted elsewhere in this newsletter. Keep your eye on this and other columns dealing with *TLC* for the latest information.

Once again I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent your interests and I look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings.

Your Chairman,

Brian Obst



TLC

### Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. Elects Board of Directors

At the Biennial Meeting of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., on December 14, 2004, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.:

Joe Oliva	Kit Kelley
Cheryl Clothier	John Watts
Tony Diaz	J.C. Howard
Jack Newman	Dean Minter
Gilbert Cabanas	Jim Cantrell (1st Alternate)
Brian Obst	Adam Noble (2nd Alternate)
Jim Good	Mike Stewart (3rd Alternate)
Fernando Quintanilla	
Detlev Aepfel	Also on the Board and still serving their previous terms are:
John Gebo	
Al Guice	
Dook Ramotar	Alan Peacock
Lance Jones	Michael Brousseau.

At a Special Meeting of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. on December 21, 2004, The Board of Directors elected the following officers to the Board of Directors:

Chairman: Brian Obst  
 Co-Chairman: Detlev Aepfel  
 Recording Secretary: Jim Good  
 Treasurer: John Gebo  
 Trustee: Joe Oliva  
 Trustee: Fernando Quintanilla  
 Trustee: Jack Newman

The next meetings of the Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. Board of Directors will be Tuesday, January 25, 2005 and Tuesday, February 22, 2005, at 7:00 PM at the Union Hall. All members of Branch 599 are welcome to attend the *TLC, Inc.* Board of Directors meetings.

## Around The Horn

## Getting Educated & Involved In 2005

**H**appy New Year, Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone has a great 2005!

I wanted to take a moment to *thank all of you* who supported me during our union elections. The saying "*every vote counts*" was never more true than on Branch 599 Election Day. I won the Financial Secretary position by a narrow margin over an opponent who served in the position for over a decade. I was very pleased with my victory and I am ready to begin serving as your new Financial Secretary. Special thanks to Mike Anderson for working with me to ensure my transition into my new position is a smooth one.

I want to congratulate all the candidates

who won their respective positions and I hope the candidates who were not as fortunate continue to stay active and work as tirelessly as always.

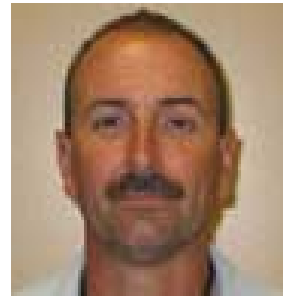
We will be faced with many obstacles and changes in 2005 and it is imperative that we educate ourselves, as well as our fellow brothers and sisters.

How do we do this? By getting all union members more involved, beginning with attending our local union meetings, by reading bulletin boards, local and national newsletters and your national contract. Care about your job and career!

If you have any suggestions on how to

get more members involved, to get more members to union meetings, to get more members educated, or, if there is a topic you would like to comment on, please contact me through the union office or e mail me at [dcoach9@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dcoach9@tampabay.rr.com)

Again, thank you for the support. I look forward to talking to you again in the next *Around The Horn*.



by Tony Diaz

Financial Secretary - Branch 599

TLC

## Watts Line

## Stay Informed In 2005

**H**appy New Year. I hope everyone had a happy and health holiday season.

I would like to congratulate all of the newly elected officers of our Branch. I would also like to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as your vice president and executive vice president for the past 8 years. I am sure the New Branch officers will serve you, the membership, in the same professional way as the past officers and carry on the great tradition of Branch

599.

The next couple of years will be crucial for letter carriers all across the country. The way routes are inspected and adjusted are one of the main concerns of this union, let's be careful. Management pulled out of the Route Adjustment Memo because they are convinced that DOIS can eliminate another 2000 routes throughout the country; stay informed and stay involved.

The Postal Service has signed contracts with all of the Labor Unions ending in November of 2006. This is

an interesting scenario. I truly believe this will be a contract to get rid of all CSRS Employees. Hopefully a generous buy out package will be offered.

P.S. On a great note, Mr. Lavender is leaving the city of Tampa and going to Alabama.

Mr. Lavender- Good Luck and May God bless.



by John Watts

TLC

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