



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 4 - Issue 3

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

March 2005

President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

A History of Community Service

Throughout the 116 year history of the National Association of Letter Carriers, branches around the country have been deeply involved in community service. Letter carriers are perhaps the most visible group of public servants in our society today. Although it's true that carriers don't have quite the same relationship with their customers as they did in the past because of more curbside mailboxes and less park & loop routes, most letter carriers are very familiar with the surroundings of their delivery routes. Because they deliver to the same people every day, they become personally attached to the community they serve. The customers on their routes also become familiar with the carrier and often a personal relationship develops.

Perhaps the first organization that the NALC endorsed was the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 1952 the NALC designated the MDA as its official charity. In 1953 the first nationally coordinated campaign to raise funds for the MDA came during Thanksgiving week in what came to be known as *The Letter Carrier March for Muscular Dystrophy*. Since then branches throughout the nation have held various

types of benefits to raise money for this very worthwhile organization. At one point in our own branch's history, we were the highest fund raiser for our size, collecting over \$27,000.00 in donations.

In 1993 the NALC began what has turned out to be greatest community service activity in the entire labor movement, the Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive. This event, held every year on the second Saturday of May throughout the country, has given all postal patrons the opportunity to help the needy of their community by simply putting non-perishable food items by their mailbox for their letter carrier to pick up. Food banks have said that this one effort keeps their operations going throughout the summer months, when donations are normally low and the need is high because of the summer recess from school. Branch 599 has ranked in the top three for total pounds of food collected in our size class for at least the past three years, and collected more than 1,000,000 pounds in 2004. Combined with Branch 2008 (Clearwater) and Branch 1477 (St. Petersburg), we collected more than 3,000,000 pounds of food last year alone. The total for the entire country for 2004 was almost 70,000,000 pounds of food.

About six years ago our branch started a new venture based on the same system as the food drive. We became affiliated with the Marine Corps Reserve's *Toys for Tots* program. Postal customers could now leave new, unwrapped toys by their mailboxes to be collected by their letter carrier and turned over to the Marines for distribution to the needy children throughout their community. This program has blossomed and spread throughout the

surrounding counties and has brightened the faces of many, many children on Christmas morning.

I want to share with you one more charitable event that I attended on Saturday, February 5, 2005. Branch 2008 held their sixth annual *Gong Show* at the Jewish Community Center in Port Richey. A sell-out crowd of 600 people saw a local production of the old TV show, with twenty local acts, and enjoyed a dinner catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill. There was a 50/50 raffle as well as a silent auction. The proceeds of this benefit, over \$25,000, went to the Alzheimer's Disease Foundation. In the six years that Branch 2008 has held this affair, over \$100,000.00 has been raised to help find a cure for this terrible disease.

I'm writing this article to let all of the members of our branch know how much we, as letter carriers, do for our own community and how much the people of our community depend on us for help. Last year we renewed the street corner collection for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and collected over \$13,000.00. Not bad for the first year after ten years of inactivity.

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Branch Meeting

Thursday

March 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	Freddie Nimphius	(813) 968-7491
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	Alfonso Higareda	(813) 741-1687
Interbay	33629	Marie Brown	(727) 488-8434
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 Jimenez	(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****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 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

Giving Your Full Effort

The February issue of The Postal Record was very interesting reading. This issue contained the names of all the letter carriers that had contributed to COLCPE last year. The categories included automatic contributors, occasional contributors, and group contributors. These categories are self explanatory.

By far, the most important list of contributors was the automatic contributors. Automatic contributions are the meat and potatoes of the COLCPE program. This is money that COLCPE can count on to make plans with. Automatic contributions allows the union to set a spending budget for lobbying and campaign contributions. Occasional and group contributions provide a nice little spurt of money but the only way for our union to be effective in the brutal reality of Washington, D.C., is with a highly organized financial capability. Your regular contribution each pay period or each month provides that capability.

Regular contributions can be made by payroll allotment, automatic fund transfer, or annuity deduction. It is no longer enough to just stand around griping and expounding on Unionism. If you are not willing to be an Automatic contributor to COLCPE then you are not giving your full effort as a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. A dollar a week is all that is asked of you. During each monthly branch meeting there is a COLCPE drawing to raise money for the branch contribution to COLCPE. Frequently the winner of the drawing contributes the money back to COLCPE. I suggest if you are the drawing

winner that you keep the money, spend it on something you like, and sign up to be an Automatic contributor. Then I will applaud you.

Postal reform has once again been introduced into Congress. We all know that some sort of postal reform is essential to the survival of the Postal Service. Last year President Bush killed the postal reform bill that was before Congress and had already passed through the committee process. Currently the proposals are once again at the committee level. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) has been placed on the Committee on Governmental Reform. This is the house committee that will deal with postal reform. Soon, probably before the end of summer, postal reform will reach the floor of congress for debate.

Social Security reform is also a hot topic these days. The Bush administration has proposed privatizing part of Social Security. Any de-funding will have far-reaching effects on the benefits currently provided by the Social

Security system. Social Security is a vital element of retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for the 75% of letter carriers covered by FERS. Any changes to the current system must be carefully weighed and thoroughly debated.

Once more it will be imperative that letter carriers voices be heard. If you are already an e-activist then keep watching for the call to action. If you are still not signed up as an e-activist do it now. The future of all letter carriers will ride on these issues. This will apply equally to republicans, democrats, independents, and retirees.

I would like to thank all the letter carriers that contributed to the tsunami relief fund. Contributions totaled \$867. This money was forwarded on behalf of Branch 599 to the Salvation Army's S.A.W.S.O. fund specifically for this tsunami relief effort.

In Solidarity...

TLC



President's Report (from page 1)

This year I would like to collect on two days rather than one. I know that we can once again be a leader in assisting the MDA but it will take the cooperation of letter carriers to make it happen. I'm sure that we will once again be very successful with our collections for the Food Drive and the Toys for Tots. Branch 599 members have always been there to help when needed and I know this year will be no exception. If any member wants to volunteer to help out in any of these community service events, you can call Chris Albrecht, Chairman of the Welfare & Recreation Committee, through our Union office at 875-0599.

One final note: I am going to start making *scheduled station visits* to talk with all the carriers about any concerns you may have. Although I can't hold lengthy discussions on the workroom floor, I can answer your questions or schedule to meet with you at a later time. You will find a schedule of my upcoming visits elsewhere on this page.

TLC

Health and Welfare

Louis McEndree, father of George McEndree, Hyde Park carrier, passed away.

Alice Weimer, mother of Bill Weimer, Interbay carrier, passed away.

Carl Colby, retired Interbay carrier, passed away.

Michael Jordan and Jim Benton at the Brandon Customer Connect Breakfast. Benton turned in the most leads.



President's Station Visits

33604	SULPHUR SPRINGS	TUESDAY	3/8
33606	HYDE PARK	THURSDAY	3/10
33603	SEMINOLE	FRIDAY	3/11
33605	YBOR	WEDNESDAY	3/16
33610	PRODUCE		
33602	COMMERCE	FRIDAY	3/18
33607	T. C. A.	THURSDAY	3/24
33609			
33611/29	INTERBAY	WEDNESDAY	3/30
33616	PORT TAMPA		
33612	FOREST HILLS	TUESDAY	4/12
33613	FOREST HILLS ANNEX	THURSDAY	4/14
33614	HILLDALE	TUESDAY	4/19
33615	TOWN & COUNTRY	THURSDAY	4/21
33617	TEMPLE TERRACE	WEDNESDAY	4/27
33618	CARROLLWOOD	TUESDAY	5/3
33619	PALM RIVER ANNEX	THURSDAY	5/5
33634	HILLDALE ANNEX	WEDNESDAY	5/11
33510	BRANDON	TUESDAY	5/17
33570	SUN CITY CENTER	FRIDAY	5/20
33564	PLANT CITY	THURSDAY	5/26

Member's Assistance Program

Fellow Brothers and Sisters, for your information:

Alcoholics Anonymous - Tri County Central Office
(813)933-9722

Call for schedule and meeting times.

Narcotics Anonymous
(813)879-4357

If assistance is needed, please call me at (727) 791-7162

You can be assured of complete confidentiality.

Chris Albrecht

Branch 599 - MAPs Representative

Scholarship Application

fill out and return application

"Mary Lou Jackman-William Corbeau Scholarship Fund"

Name of Student _____ Female _____ Male _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

NALC Branch # _____ Member's name _____

This is to certify that the above named member of the FSALC is a member in good standing.

Signature Br. President or Secretary _____ date _____

Return all applications to:

Jesse A. Costin, FSALC Director of Education**232 Glen Eagle Circle****Naples, Florida 33104**

The following requirements must be adhered to in order to qualify for the scholarship.

1. Student must have graduated from an accredited high school or have a GED.
2. Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
3. The applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university.
4. Applications must be returned and received on or before June 1, 2005.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. Do not send transcripts or grade records until notified. There will be four scholarships awarded - two for a female, and two for a male - each in the amount of \$2000. The drawing will be held during the State Convention in Naples in June 2005.

Unionism

by Brian Obst

Labor Relations Representative - Branch 599

*Steward's Rights**Under The National Agreement*

Article 17 of the National Agreement deals with representation, more specifically union representation, and the information contained in this article details the rights of stewards in their representation of the carriers under their charge.

Under Section 17.3 these rights are spelled out and it is to these rights that we will direct our attention in the following paragraphs.

The first of the rights of the steward is *"The right to investigate and adjust grievances and problems that may become grievances"*. As a steward it is your responsibility to police and enforce the National Agreement. This is done in a variety of ways, including but not limited to taking grievances from members who feel they have been aggrieved, filing grievances on behalf of members when you become aware of a contractual violation, speaking with management about issues in an attempt to prevent grievable situations, and maintaining a proactive position in safety and service talks to prevent situations from becoming grievance issues. The ways available for the Steward to accomplish this are through investigation which can consist of interviewing carriers, management and other witnesses, reviewing relevant documents, files and records, as well as writing case statements. Remember that in investigations the word *relevant* is the key, as we may not simply go on a "fishing expedition". Any requests must be related to the issue at hand in our investigation. While we have the right to the information, management has a responsibility to provide us the information in a timely manner for our investigation or there can be consequences to them as the grievances progress through the system.

The next right is *"The right to paid time to conduct the previously mentioned activities"*. Simply stated, stewards are granted time on the clock for all reasonable activities including but not limited to, interviewing the grievant, supervisors and any other potential witnesses, filling out forms and writing briefs and statements, and reviewing records, files and documents to aid in the processing of the grievance. Management once again has an obligation to provide this on the clock time for grievance processing and failure to provide it will be the cause of other grievance issues and possible reprimand as the process progresses up the line. It is also important to point out that management may not determine in advance how much time a steward reasonably needs to investigate a grievance. Arbitration rulings have determined that *"the determination of how much time is considered reasonable is dependant on the issue involved and the amount of information needed for investigation"*. Also *"any employee must be given reasonable time to consult with his/her steward and such reasonable time may not be measured by a predetermined factor"*. As you can see, the National Agreement protects the right to perform the steward work on the clock and allows for reasonable time to be used. Let us ensure that we are not abusing this right.

The right to obtain management information, including supervisor's personal notes of discussions held with employees and Postal Inspectors' memos and personal notes, is detailed in more specific detail in Article 31 so I will leave this for another time. Suffice it to say that we have the right to various sources of information so long as the request is relevant to the investigation and management has a duty to provide the information in a timely manner.

Stewards enjoy the right of *super sen-*

iority when it comes to issues of transfer or reassignment. The basic idea here is that if a steward had to worry that he could be transferred or reassigned by management, he would have concerns about enforcement of contractual issues. Take away the fear of management retaliation and the steward can be secure in his/her position and do the job properly and without reservation.

Finally, let's look at the right of employees to have steward representation during an Inspection Service interrogation. This right falls under what is known as *Weingarten Rights* and comes from federal labor law. This right gives each employee the right to representation during any *"...INVESTIGATORY INTERVIEW WHICH HE/SHE REASONABLY BELIEVES MAY LEAD TO DISCIPLINE"*. This right only applies when the meeting is an *investigatory interview* – when management is searching for facts and trying to determine the employee's guilt, or trying to decide whether or not to impose discipline. This means that during an official discussion, the issuance of a letter of discipline, or a fitness for duty evaluation, the right to have a steward present is not in effect. The key term is *"a reasonable belief"* that he/she could be subject to discipline as a result of the situation and whether or not the belief is *"reasonable"* depends on the circumstances of each individual case. The steward needs to ensure that all carriers under his charge understand that the steward may not invoke *Weingarten* for the carrier; the carrier must make the request for the steward to be present for it to happen. Once this has happened the steward is there to assist the carrier and not just to be a silent observer so his presence should be helpful in the interview process, ensuring the rights of the carrier are not trampled by management.



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**Branch 599
COLCPE Donations**

James Deignan *	\$25.00
Pedro Jimenez	\$50.00
Jack Newman *	\$200.00
Brian Obst	\$52.00
Dook Ramotar	\$25.00
Jaime Rodriguez *	\$50.00
Julita Valdiri	\$10.00
Detlev Aeppel	\$270.00
Mike Anderson	\$30.00
Robert Blackert	\$42.00
James Boczarski	\$108.00
Mike Brousseau	\$108.00
Jay Casavant	\$126.00
Robert Desantis	\$240.00
Francis Fultz *	\$88.00
John Gebo *	\$35.00
Jim Good	\$270.00
Jack Hencoski	\$54.00
Lance Jones	\$40.00
Ken Lee	\$230.00
Alan Peacock	\$8.00
Chris Pesa	\$54.00
Stacy Shuffler	\$12.00
Mike Stewart	\$45.00
Branch 599 from Union Meetings	\$822.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2994.00

* Retiree

Proposed Bylaw Change Article 2, Section 4.

Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Reads: At the biennial meeting of the board of Directors, the Board shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, recording secretary and three (3) trustees, each of whom shall be members of the Board. No member may be a candidate for more than one elected office simultaneously. The board of Directors shall appoint a building manager and assistant building manager at their discretion. Remuneration for officers of the Board and the building manager shall be as directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Proposed Change: At the biennial meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, recording secretary and three (3) trustees, each of whom shall be members of the Board. To avoid any conflict of interest or impropriety no member may be a candidate for more than one elected office or appointed position of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. simultaneously, to include all members who are bingo workers and their elected committee due to sole control of their operation. The board of Directors shall appoint a building manager and assistant building manager at their discretion. Remuneration for the officers of the Board, building manager and assistant building manager shall be as directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. These requirements do not pertain to elected shop stewards and officers of Branch 599 NALC or its membership.

Signed By Members In Good Standing: Dook H Ramotar, Sr., Jaime R. Rodriguez, Alan W. Peacock, John A. Watts, Arnold Butch Smith, George R. McEndree, Matt Kokich

Important Branch 599 Meetings

February Meetings:

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

March Meetings:

Tues 3-1-05 - Shop Stewards Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 3-3-05 - Branch Meeting
Union Hall, 7:30 PM

Tues 3-22-05 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 3-31-05 - Executive Board Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Unionism (from page 6)

This information is taken from the 2004 edition of the JCAM (Joint Contract Administration Manual) and is available for review in every station. I suggest that if you have any questions that you read it completely and contact your steward to answer any questions you may have regarding these rights. Remember that your steward is just like you with the exception that he/she has volunteered to be there to represent you in your dealings with management for your benefit.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Brian Alan Obst

Steward - Town and Country

TLC

From The Chair

by Brian Obst

Chairman - TLC, Incorporated

Well, another month has passed and many issues have come and gone before the board of TLC, Inc. The basic information summary from our last meeting is posted elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to address several issues that were addressed for the benefit of the membership.

First, I am happy to inform the members that we have reached an agreement with the Pepsi-Cola people and February 15th a new soda dispenser was installed at the hall with a variety of flavors including Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew and Sierra Mist for the members. This was done at no cost to the membership and we are very pleased that we can move away from canned beverages and their high expense to the membership.

Secondly, now that our venture renting the hall to Alessi's Bakery is over, we have been able to remove their signage from our hall and are now able to put up new signage denoting this as the N.A.L.C. Branch 599 union hall. Without our own sign up there has been no way of knowing who this hall was owned and operated by and for, other than the words "Letter Carriers Hall" on the front of the building. We feel the new sign will provide our branch with recognition in the community and will help us foster our good image in the community as well.

I once again would like to extend my invitation to any and all members in good standing to come and attend our TLC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting each and every month. Please bring all your ideas on how we can make things better for the membership as a whole as that is what we are all about. If you cannot come out, please call myself or any member of the board so we can bring your ideas forward to the entire board for their consideration.

Representing the interests of the members of Branch 599,

Brian Alan Obst

Chairman

TLC, Inc.

TLC

TLC, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Summary

by Jim Good

Tampa Letter Carrier, Inc. - January 25, 2005 - Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Brian Obst.

Building Manager Jack Newman recommended that we install electric eyes on the gates to the parking lot at a cost of \$711.00. A motion was made to that effect and was passed.

Jack Newman said that a representative from Coca-Cola came to the hall and explained the cost for a new fountain system, with a representative from Pepsi to come tomorrow. He made a motion that we install the system that was the least expensive. Rental of system, if any, will be paid by the concession operator.

Jack discussed renting the hall at a reduced rate for meetings on nights not normally rented such as Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. A motion was made and passed to rent the hall on those nights if a profit of at least \$300.00 could be made.

Jack Newman has resigned as Trustee because of a possible conflict of interest concerning his other duties and the chairman appointed Mike Brousseau to replace him.

Correspondence was read from Jaime Rodriguez and NALC President Bill Young concerning Mr. Rodriguez's former position as Building Manager. President Young stated that he had no jurisdiction over TLC, Inc., as it is a separate corporation from the NALC.

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ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?

SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME

320 PATLIN CIRCLE EAST PHONE: 727-584-4307

LARGO, FL 33770-3063 CELL: 727-543-0705 FAX: 727-585-9367

wfm505@tampabay.rr.com

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

And The Beat Goes On

The Best Walking Trip Ever

Did you read President Jim Good's February article about getting hurt on the job? He said when he was a carrier in Cleveland, Ohio it was not unusual to fall once a week during the ice and snow storms. I wonder if he himself fell? I can't imagine some one as big as Jim falling and not getting hurt. No wonder he came to Florida. When Ohio management heard Jim was leaving, they called and asked him, "Do you need help packing your bags?" Ha ha!

But it's very true. No matter how small the injury you need to report it. If on Monday you don't report a injury and Wednesday night that injury starts to bother you, its kind of hard to write up a accident report on Thursday morning for something that happened that past Monday. You won't have a prayer. No one is going to look out for you except you..

Years ago shop steward Clark Alday and this writer, both Brandon shop stewards, were "punished" by management by spending a day in Tampa on the clock where we were forced to watch movies all day and listen to supervisors talk about safety. This was because we both had filled out what they thought was a excessive amount of CA-1's. We couldn't do our routes. It was *awful!* (Believe that and I'll tell you another one.)

I'll never forget one day, as I was getting ready to go home, manager Sonny Mc Brayer (now deceased, God bless him) called me over and said, "Ray, don't clock out. I have a trip for you." I replied, "Awww, I've put in a long day! I'm tired." Sonny said, "Sorry, Mr. Shop Steward. That's a order. Its a small trip on Pearl Circle."

It was getting dark and the trip was all walk ups. As I was coming down the home stretch, a car was pulling in the

driveway and I walked over to the driver as they were getting out of the car. Some one inside opened the house door and the poodle ran out. Seeing a stranger standing with a item in his hand, the dog did what he should do: protect his master. He bit the mailman on the leg. I pulled up my pants and blood was running down my leg. I showed the owners and then called my friendly manager. Sonny's first words were, "Can you finish the route and then go to the walk-in clinic?" He didn't even ask how I was. With only a few homes to go, I replied, "Yes..."

At the clinic they put an antiseptic on the small bite, then a band aid and the doctor gave me a paper for my manager. The paper said, "Wallace needs tomorrow off." Sonny said, "What?!? Damn!" The post office sued for the cost, not being able to make a profit on the injury. However, a few months later I received a check in the mail. For some unknown reason Big Sonny never gave me another walking trip but that last one turned out to be the *best* walking trip I ever went on.

Congratulations to Terry Franklin, Brandon's new shop steward, for the amount of active carriers he got to go to the Retirees / Installation Dinner-Dance on January 15th. I know it is no easy task to get the carriers to go anywhere and it was great to see and talk to them as I had not seen or talked to any in a long time. Also, it was great to see two retirees, Helen and Karen. Every one had a great time. The music was good and I hear that the Brandon folks danced till the end. The food was from "Catering By The Family" and it was great except the string beans were hard but a lot like them that way. Maybe next year we can get both?

It was great to see Tampa retiree David Bohanan. He lives in Georgia. He will

go any where for a free meal...only kidding. Jack Newman said 33 retirees were there.

I hear a new postmaster from the St Pete area is going into Brandon soon. Lets hope he is not as discipline-happy as the previous OIC, D.F. Thirty years ago discipline was the order of the day. I would think that 30 years later postal management would have learned that discipline only breeds contempt, not production. Will there be a party when Doug leaves?

Every one listened to President Bill Young talk about all we have today and how if we're not careful we will lose it all tomorrow. I know that we hear that all the time. We heard it from Vince Sombrotto for years, now Bill Young. You all are still making the big bucks and the overtime never stops. In fact, from where I sit you all have the best job in the USA. Believe it, you do.

The February union meeting was the best I've seen in the last three years---no in fighting and no telling off Jim, the president. When I pulled in the parking lot I thought it was cancelled. So come back and enjoy the meeting as it's supposed to be run.

Congratulation's to Don Thomas as he retired Thursday, Feb 3rd. How will his wife ever put up with him 24/7? Ha ha!

ATBGO

TLC



Around The Horn

by **Tony Diaz**

Financial Secretary - Branch 599

Unions Under Fire

Brothers and sisters, thank you for the responses I received via email congratulating me on my recent victory. I also received two emails pertaining to increasing attendance at our union meetings. The two ideas were 1. To make the meetings non-smoking and 2. To possibly have some incentives at the end of the year for having participated in a certain number of meetings. I believe these two suggestions are a good start toward forming a plan of action. Terry Franklin has offered to assist me with this project and any input will be considered.

My educational topic this month covers some of the problems that occur when submitting for choice vacation. I was afforded the time to review improperly submitted 3971s at my station last month to help carriers correct the forms before the due date. The main problem seemed to be carriers not understanding that a 40-hour week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday when applying for choice vacation. This is somewhat confusing since our actual work week starts on Saturday and ends on Friday. It is very important 3971s are filled out properly with the correct dates, in 40-hour increments, and with seniority date, choice number, signed

dated and legible. Your 3971 can be denied if not filled out correctly. Please take the time to read the information that should be available several weeks before the period to submit begins.

I just returned from frigid Madison, Wisconsin, where I was at a two day financial officer training seminar. While I really do not wish to return to Wisconsin in February, the training was very good and intense. My first question was why the university of Wisconsin for training this time of the year. Well come to find out, they are probably the biggest union teaching school in the world. They teach union finance and law to unions worldwide.

Back to the weather...being a Florida native, and with no experience with the sub freezing cold, I decided to explore some activities while awaiting our flight out. These included playing in snow, walking on a frozen lake and drilling a hole in the ice with an auger while getting an education on the sport (yes, sport) of ice fishing from some of the Wisconsin natives.

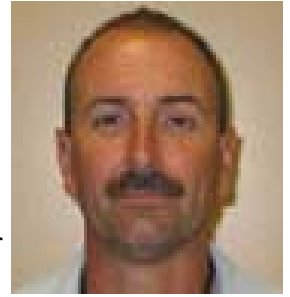
The training was very informative, covering the legal responsibilities of financial officers, bookkeeping, audits and

expenses. We had a computer lab going over the new tax forms and helpful web sites for the new union

accounting laws. These new laws are part of the targeting of unions all around this country by the Bush administration. Why? For not supporting the Bush presidential ticket. They now want a tighter grip on union activities and finances.

It is imperative reports are done properly and filed timely or unions will face penalties. Our own National Association of Letter Carriers in Washington has already been audited since the election. The audit showed everything to be in order but the point was made. The disturbing part of this is that small businesses are not being targeted the same way. These *hitmen*, as they are called, have an agenda as to who will be made more accountable for operations and procedures and unions are their targets.

Talk to you next time when we go *Around The Horn*.



TLC

TLC, Inc. Board Meeting Summary (from page 9)

The board discussed the contract signed in November between Mr. Rodriguez and the former board. The chairman then ruled that the contract was invalid because it violated the by-laws.

A motion was made and passed to print a by-law change in the March newsletter and vote on that change after the March Branch 599 meeting.

The chairman read a list of newly appointed committees and their chairpersons. He stated that each committee should meet monthly and give a writ-

ten report at the board meetings.

The board discussed allowing a letter carrier to park his private vehicle in the parking lot overnight on a permanent basis and decided it would not be allowed because of liability issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Jim Good

Secretary - TLC, Inc.

ATTENTION ALL

BRANCH 599 MEMBERS

Please notify the union office if you have been a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers for twenty-five years or more and have not been recognized.

Service pins are available for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 (Gold Card), and 60 years of service.



Tampa Postal Federal Credit Union

invites you to attend a Dinner Workshop on

“RETIREMENT”

Tend to Your Financial Future Today



March 10, 2005 - 6:00pm
Valencia Gardens Restaurant
811 W Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

Presented by:

Steve O'Steen CFP, and Lorena Hollahan, Registered Member Service Representative

There is no cost or obligation for the workshop, and a guest is welcome. But space is limited, so if you plan to attend, call Lorena at (813) 264-4969 x308 by Friday March 4, 2005. An individual need not be a member of the Credit Union to participate.

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