



Tampa Letter Carrier

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

A new beginning starts with all of us being committed to each other. No matter how plentiful the harvest, it will not be fully cultivated without the laborers to get the job done. This is a member-driven organization, no matter what its leaders, stewards and officers do, without the effort of all the members little will be accomplished.

As we go through the period of transition and change, we need your feedback, cooperation and constructive criticism. Your concerns are our concerns and they will not be dismissed or ignored. As members you are the stockholders and owners of all property and assets. What is being asked of you, is to let us know if you have skills that can be utilized in the task and

responsibility we have as caretakers of our property. The legacy that has been given to us from many of our retired brothers and sisters, some who are no longer with us, only came about from great labor and respect for each other. What will be our legacy—allow what they built to be destroyed or continue to add to what they achieved?

We are challenged every day to give more for less. Our burdens may be many, but if we expect to see better days we will have to be supportive of each other. As your advocates, the stewards and officers need each of you to be watchdogs for your fellow brothers and sisters. We will not only expect, but will demand that we have an atmosphere that

Let's count our blessings and not our problems, be thoughtful of those less fortunate, and be more tolerant and patient in all our relationships.

conducts itself with mutual respect and where all employees are treated with human dignity. Let's do our part every day to make our workplace better.

In spite of all the challenges the Postal Service has been dealt by Federal legislation and the demands from the Office of Personnel Management, our employees do an outstanding job processing and delivering the Nation's mail. We have gone through hoops and jumped over many hurdles to accomplish our task. The demands on us will not begin to ease any time soon unless our Nation's economy begins to show signs of growth, promise and hope for more prosperous times. A newspaper headline I

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
February 3
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599 ☎ Fax 813.870.0599

www.nalc599.com

Alan W. Peacock
President
apeacock.nalc@verizon.net

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 5 PM
Rodna Kimelman Kirk, Secretary
nalc599@verizon.net

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
February 1 • March 1

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
February 3 • March 3

Tampa Letter Carrier

Alan W. Peacock
Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas
Editor

Branch 599 Office – 813.875.0599

National Association of Letter Carriers
Branch 599, 3003 W Cypress Street,
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Please submit any and all articles to be
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to the Editor via email at
editor@nalc599.com
no later than the 5th of each month
in order for us to meet our time limits
to the publisher.

Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Cell</i>	<i>Home</i>
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.892.9378 office 813.875.0599	813.962.0646
Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	813.872.1542
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.382.1596	813.681.5360
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas		813.855.0516
Treasurer	Ray Garcia	813.787.3640	813.243.9513
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	813.621.1976
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967	813.621.7931
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061	813.657.9690
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	813.264.9801
Trustee Chair	John Gebo	813.503.1256	813.985.5474
Trustees	Joe Oliva	813.299.8442	813.849.1100
	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	813.968.7650
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • Lenin Perez • James Good		

Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061
	33511	John Lykins	727.542.4092
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Julio Acosta	347.538.9381
Hyde Park	33606	Tom Cobert	813.694.0711
Interbay	33611	Loney Cason	586.668.0131
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Jim Tremblay	813.323.6534
MacDill AFB	33608	Loney Cason	586.668.0131
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.621.1976
Plant City	33565	Varick Reeder	315.491.6234
Port Tampa	33616	Loney Cason	586.668.0131
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Jack Hencoski	813.685.9034
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Tom Cobert	813.694.0711
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Don Wiseman	813.713.6273
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914

Around the Horn



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

Brothers and Sisters, I hope your New Year has begun in a positive fashion!

This month I want to discuss the importance of personal statements and their affect on a grievance. As a Shop Steward, I can tell you, a solid statement can be vital to the success of a case. Statements are the starting point to a grievance. This is your opportunity to tell what you saw or witnessed, this is the grievant(s)'s side of the story.

Whether it is for a situation involving you or a fellow carrier, your statement matters. I have one solid piece of advice and it is the best advice I can give to anyone writing a statement—tell the truth, tell the truth, and tell the truth. Do not fabricate a story, do not stretch the truth, do not make assumptions, and do not make allegations. Remember, should management challenge or dispute your statement, it is imperative that your side of the story is precise, consistent, and accurate. The integrity of your statement can make an impact on the case. Pay attention to detail; the little things may be important. So, how is the most effective way to insure a statement is as factual and precise as possible? Write it the day a *situation* occurs, or as soon as possible while your thoughts are fresh in your mind. If you

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have a memory like mine, this is the best way. However, if this is not possible, then write down notes or specifics about an incident that will trigger your memory for when you are able to sit down and write it. Reminders such as a date(s), a time, who was involved (names), what was actually said, a street name, an address, a tag number, who else might have been a witness, a time line, what may have caused an incident, etc. Again, keeping these thoughts fresh in your mind will

eliminate any uncertainty. Uncertainties such as: well I think I saw this, or I believe it was the 3rd of the month, or was it him/her or the other guy, was this said first or was that

said first, I think I had 5 certified letters that day.

Your statement can also become a source for who a steward may want to interview. If you identify others who also witnessed what you saw, heard, or have previously experienced a similar situation; the steward would want to interview them. This witness could shed additional light on the case and verify a position or direction a steward may be leaning towards.

Begin by writing a rough draft of your statement with all of your thoughts and data. Let your steward review your

rough draft before finalizing your statement. There may be some information in one part of your statement that contradicts another part. Your steward may also question a part of your statement and ask if you are absolutely sure you saw this or are you sure you heard that. There may be information that is irrelevant or inappropriate or simply not needed to include.

Hopefully this article emphasizes the significance of a statement and is helpful in organizing your thoughts.

If you have any comments please email me at dcoach9@tampabay.rr.com.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Grievance facts, as of early December, the Step B teams nationwide had adjudicated about 28,834 cases in 2010. In 2009, the Step B teams nationwide handled 32,620 cases and in 2008 they handled 30,957 total cases. Overtime issues accounted for slightly more than 28 percent of the contractual grievances, making that the top contractual subject in 2010. (Reference - *Postal Record*, January 2011)

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

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

recently read stated, *Brighter Forecast for CEO's in 2011*. When was the last time or even the first time there was a CEO standing on one of our street corners? The headline I hope and pray for is: *Forecasts Looks Brighter for 14*

Million Unemployed and the entire American Workforce!

Until then let's count our blessings and not our problems, be thoughtful of those less fortunate, and be more tolerant and patient in all our relationships. Wishing all of you and

your families good health and happiness throughout the year.

Faternally Yours,
Alan W. Peacock
President Branch 599

New Jobs

By the time you receive this article, I will be in my new position as Financial Secretary. After being Vice President for 4 terms, for a total of 10 years, this will be a brand new experience for me. I'm looking forward to the new experience for our Union. I know that I will receive as much help as I will need to adjust in this new job because of my past friendship with Mr. Tony Diaz. Mr. Diaz can also expect to receive any help he might need in his new position as Vice President. I hope that we can all come out as Union members and pull in the same direction in order to help this new team achieve success for everyone concerned. We will have new officers in almost every position so there will be a lot of on the job training for most of us. There is a lot of experience by those officers who were elected so we can help each other. So, please be patient with these new officers, but also remember that they will help you solve your issues. I am looking forward to working with

No one was born with knowledge that is achieved through hard work and some mistakes along the way.

my old friend and newly elected Treasurer, Mr. Ray Garcia. We will be looking over all the expenditures for the Union and signing all the salaries for the officers. Mr. Garcia and I didn't allow age or fear to prevent us from applying and getting elected to these new positions. So, as the old saying goes *Try to lead by example*. Everyone should know that they too can apply and possibly be elected if they only would get over the fear and just try it. Mr. Garcia and I worked together back in 1985-1989 as Shop Stewards at Hilldale Station when there were two elected Stewards in the building. You will gain a lot of experience as a new Steward because management always feels that they can get away with any violation of the contract but when two Stewards can work together in a building, you can usually come up with the right solutions. Two heads are better than one. We also will have a new editor for our Tampa Letter Carrier newsletter, Mrs.

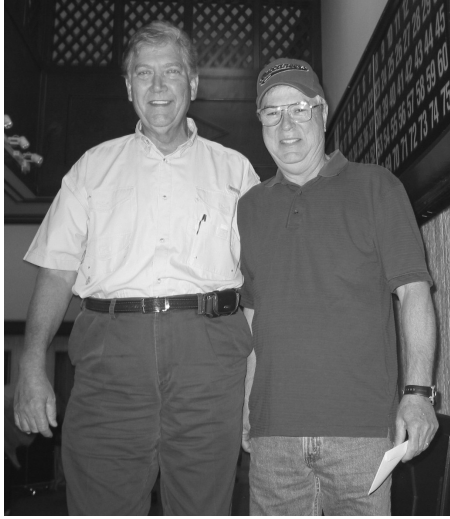


Gilbert Cabanas
Financial Secretary
Branch 599

Phyllis Thomas. I don't believe that the quality of our paper will suffer, as Mrs. Thomas is very experienced on the computer. I also don't feel that the new board will need luck to succeed, as hard work and determination are the real key to achieving anything in this world. One cannot succeed by wishing and hoping, just get over the fear and dig into your new job. Remember, no one was born with knowledge that is achieved through hard work and some mistakes along the way. With the experience of some of our older officers, many mistakes will be avoided and many issues will now be solved. So, let's get together and start going to the Union Hall in 2011. Allow these new officers a chance to achieve better changes for all of us. In closing, I want to congratulate one of my best friends, Mr. Jerry Sainz on his recent retirement on January 3, 2011. Good health to you always.

Sharing Our Members' Joys & Sorrows

William Kirk retired!



Jim Good & William Kirk

William Kirk was recognized and presented with a check from the Branch for his retirement [Sulphur Springs/ Seminole Heights] during our Branch meeting on January 6.

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to William Travis (retiree) and family at the passing of his sister, and to Sean John (TCA/Hyde Park) and family at the passing of his father.

Retirees Breakfast
Monday February 7 9 AM
Coffee Cup
4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

TLC will Meet
Tuesday February 22 7 PM
Conference Room
TLC Members
All active and retired members of Branch 599 are also *members of* Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.
Meetings
TLC's regular meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Treasurer's Report

January 17, 2011 will officially be my first day holding the office of Treasurer for NALC, A. R. 'Tony' Huerta Branch 599 AFL-CIO. I want to thank former Treasurer, Michael Anderson, for all his help in trying to familiarize me with the bookkeeping and accounting of the branch's finances. He has been a great help during this transition period and hopefully he will assist me with any problems that may occur at a later date. Those officers that were not re-elected are extremely important and viable to the continued wellbeing of our local. Their knowledge of issues should be utilized to the fullest. Once again I want to thank those individuals that supported my efforts to

Officers that were not re-elected are extremely important and viable to the continued wellbeing of our local.

get elected to this very important position.

I hope everyone attends the Installation and Retiree Banquet on January 15 in order to have an enjoyable and pleasant evening. The swearing in of the new officers of our branch will take place at this banquet. Hopefully all the newly elected officers are able to be present for this festive occasion.

February 27 through March 1 of 2011, the National Association of Letter Carriers' Secretary-Treasurer, Jane E. Broendel, is conducting three days of training in Orlando at the Double Tree Hotel. Ms. Broendel has written a letter of confirmation for our

registration for participation. The confirmation for our local includes the president, treasurer and financial secretary. This is an extremely important session because it will update any new provisions and laws the IRS, etc. have made that each of these officers must be familiar with. All reservations must be made by Saturday, February 5. The National has been given a special rate of \$129 plus tax per room single/double at the hotel.

One of the saddest things is, the only thing a man can do for 8 hours a day, day after day, is work. You can't eat 8 hours a day nor drink 8 hours a day, nor make love for 8 hours. -William Faulkner



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

Retired but Not Tired

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Branch 599, Here it is already February 2011. How fast the time goes by the older you get. Remember when you could not wait to be sixteen so you could drive; then couldn't wait until you were twenty-one so you could drink legally; then waiting until you had enough seniority to get your own route; then the big one, retirement. Yes, *life goes on and this whole world will keep on turning*. Taken from Ray Price's song. We all have had our ups and downs. Staying strong as individuals and union brothers and sisters helps us get through the troubled times.

No one likes to be a loser; whether it is a game, debate or an election. Someone wins, someone loses. Disappointment for the defeated. Joy for the winners. That's natural. To blame others for your loss

is not right. You control your own destiny by decisions that you make.

In the January edition of the *Tampa Letter Carrier* there was an article written by an individual who will resign his position on January 14, 2011. He went on to say that he had hoped to carry on doing his job for the foreseeable future. I guess this meant if President Good got re-elected. Later on in his article he writes about character and integrity of some of the newly-elected officers. Resign or quit? A good Union Brother. Not.

On January 3, 2011, the Retiree's

Breakfast was held. We were honored with the presence of newly-elected President Alan Peacock. There were also sixteen retirees in attendance. One new face – Walt Azert. One old face – Henry Dupree. Henry had been MIA for a few months. It was great to see him in attendance. Had great conversation with him about the *good old days*.

February 7, 2011 will be the next Retiree Breakfast at 9 AM at the Coffee Cup, 4407 N. Hubert Avenue in Drew Park. Let's have a big turnout for Lance Jones, our new Director of Retirees.

So, as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans' song went, *Happy Trails to you, until we meet again!*

Fraternally,
John Gebo



John Gebo
Trustees Chair
Branch 599



As I start to write this article, the future for Branch 599 has never looked so promising! We have a newly elected president as well as others in newly elected positions. Change is not always bad. It is good to have fresh ideas and new officers from time to time. The new Executive Board brings a well balanced group of leaders together to work to improve our Branch—let's all get behind our new officers and move forward.

On January 1, 2011, I started serving you as Chairman of TLC [Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.] with a new Board of Directors. We look forward to bringing about positive change to improve our Hall. As you have heard over the past year, a lot needs to be done to our aging Hall. There are no easy answers for these repairs, however, all of us working together can do what is needed. Should you have any

We look forward to bringing about positive change to improve our Hall.

ideas or talents that you are willing to share with the Board, we want to hear them. The TLC Board of Directors is a small part of our membership; you the members of Branch 599 are the majority and who the Board is elected to serve. Let's all pull together as one and get this done, as has been done in the past and needs to be done again. We can do this working as one!

My wife, Phyllis, is the new editor of our newsletter. I'm sure you will see a difference in our publication, as every editor brings a personal touch to their work. We encourage each of you to write articles for our newsletter; this is the best way to say what you want to express to our brothers and sisters. Your articles are published for free in our Branch's newsletter. Share with us what is on your mind and going on in your station

so we can all learn from each other.

This year your national and local officers will be hard at work as they negotiate a new contract for the membership. In these times it will not be easy—they will all need our support and prayers. As in the past they will get the best possible contract for the members, but how good that will be remains to be seen. We have strong union leaders at the National and Local working for us and that is the best we can ask for today.

What can you do or are you willing to do for your Local and National Union? All of our officers at all levels of the NALC need our help. We, the members, are the strength behind our elected officers!

Tampa Letter Carriers
present

BINGO

Come Join the Fun!

Every Wednesday and Friday

Doors Open at 5:30 PM • Early Bird Session starts at 6:30 PM • Regular Session at 7:30 PM

Tampa Letter Carriers Hall

3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609 • 813.877.4785

Toys for Tots was huge success!



Lori McMillion
Trustee
Branch 599

Dear Members,

December 4, 2010 was a success as Letter Carriers all over Hillsborough County collected toys from mailboxes. Our Letter Carrier day is the official local kick-off for the Marine Corps' *Toys for Tots* program. With the effective help of our news channels and informative reporters [Channel 13 with Mark Wilson and Channel 10 with Jennifer Stanton]

we brought in an estimated 20,000 toys! The Marines were still counting toys through the following week! The Flyer magazine is a

huge help in alerting our neighbors with advertising of this need in our community. We are fortunate to have these companies assist us and we thank

them tremendously! Rural Carriers, contract carriers, temporary employees, dock workers, mail handlers, and clerks all have a generous hand in the outcome for such needy children. Thank you all! Assistance was also provided by OIC Debbie Gornik for support, OIC Secretary Jean Carlton for emails, PR Gary Sawtelle for media attention, Branch 599 President Jim Good for support, all station managers/

We brought in an estimated 20,000 toys!

supervisors for patience and info, and especially Paul Swindasz for pallets and boxes. There is so much help behind

the surface. We need to thank the Rough Riders for their assistance on our docks. Also thanks to volunteers and the truck companies and drivers for their

time and hard work of finding our offices to pick-up toys and for delivering them to the warehouse. They are Electric Supply, Cardinal Health/Penske, and Bay Area Disaster Kleenup. A great big thank you! This year worked out very smoothly and I hope we can do this again in 2011! Happy New Year to everyone and good health!

In solidarity,
Lori McMillion
Branch 599
Toys for Tots Coordinator

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

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bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



Branch 599 NALC
 3003 W Cypress Street
 Tampa FL 33609-1617

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 www.nalc599.com

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