



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 11
NOV 2019

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
November 7
7:30 PM

Official Notice

of Nominations & Elections of Officers of NALC Branch 599, Tampa FL

Nominations for the election of officers of Branch 599 will be held at regular Branch meetings on October 10 and November 7, 2019, at our Branch hall located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

Candidates must accept nominations at the time made or, if absent, in writing. Candidates may accept nomination for only one office. Self nominations are acceptable. Nominations will be held for the following Branch offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, three (3) Trustees, MBA/NSBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative, Director of Retirees, and two (2) Labor Management Representatives. The term of office will be three (3) years beginning January 18, 2020.

Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.

Election will be conducted by secret ballot on December 5, 2019, at our Branch hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. **The polls will be open 2:00–7:30 PM.**

Any member who is in line at 7:30 PM will be allowed to vote.

Any member who for any reason will be unable to vote on December 5, may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots should be made by telephoning the Branch office at 813.875.0599 [7:30 AM – 4 PM] beginning November 8 through November 22, 2019.

Official Notice

of Nominations & Elections of Delegates to the 72nd Biennial NALC National Convention in 2020

Nominations for delegates to the 2020 NALC National Convention that will be held in Honolulu HI, August 17-21, will be accepted at regular branch meetings on October 10 and November 7, 2019, at our Branch hall located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

Members must be present to accept nominations or have a written notice on file prior to the time and the presiding officer declares nominations closed.

Members must have attended 8 Branch meetings per year for the 2 years prior to the convention to be eligible as paid delegates; others nominated/elected will need to cover all of their own expenses.

Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.

In the event the number of nominations exceed the number of delegates allowed to our Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting on December 5, 2019.

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617
813.875.0599
Fax 813.870.0599
www.nalc599.com

Tony Diaz
President
tony_diaz599@yahoo.com

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
7:30 AM – 4 PM

Rodna Kimelman Kirk
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Tampa Letter Carrier

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National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1698, 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.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

Position	Officer	Phone	Email
President	Tony Diaz	813.875.0599 cell 813.598.9635	tony_diaz599@verizon.net
Vice President	Brian Obst	727.458.0679	
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.875.0599	
Financial Secretary	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apecock.nalc@verizon.net
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jig7d7@aol.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
Health Benefit Rep.	Detlev Aepfel	813.505.7914	
Director of Retirees	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	retirees@nalc599.com
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	
	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com
Labor Management	Nick Cullaro	813.541.8159	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good • Alan Peacock		

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.961.2962	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Wantje	813.879.4309	941.979.6485
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Jonathan Jones	813.831.2034	813.293.2208
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	Frank Webb	813.239.4084	813.340.0300
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Bert Fristad	813.634.1403	813.352.0864
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoads	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	Steve Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Michael Smith	813.873.7189	813.326.0717
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Michael Cipriano	813.988.0152	
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

Around The Horn from The President's Desk



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

Brothers and Sisters,
Most of us have heard the famous creed: **Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds**, has long been associated with the American letter carrier. The history of the United States Postal Service is an ongoing story of enormous depth and size, rooted in a single, great principle: that every person in the United States – no matter who, no matter where – has the right to equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service. For more than 200 years, the Postal Service has delivered on that promise, transforming itself to better serve its customers. Letter carriers are in every neighborhood 6 days a week. Letter carriers are part of communities throughout this country. Letter carriers are an American Institution, helping make up the fabric of America. Letter carriers are mentioned with baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet. In saying all that, the armor, the shield, the myth, the invincibility, the respect of the letter carrier has taken a punch over the past few months. Did you know, assaulting postal employees can have serious consequences? It is a federal crime that is prosecuted under the same law as assaulting an FBI agent. Attacking federal employees while they're carrying out their duties, carries punishments that range from 1 to 20 years in prison.

Recent murders of letter carriers in Odessa, Texas and South Carolina are disturbing and while uncommon, very alarming. I always felt safe wearing the blue uniform, respected by my customers and the public. You feel safe being part of a neighborhood and community. However, I have noticed a change over the years with the respect aspect. I have also noticed

that same change in regards to the respect shown to law enforcement personnel. The invincibility associated with the postal blue uniform, with the postal white truck is not as powerful as in days past. Letter carriers must always be aware of their surroundings, aware of a potential dangerous situation. Walk away from conflict, do not engage, and call authorities if necessary. If you find yourself in a dangerous situation, leave the area, call authorities, and then call management. If it is a delivery issue, briefly discuss and inform the customer to call your supervisor. Do not rely on the postal blue uniform to be your shield and protect you—protect yourself first. Remember, no one is invincible, do not try to be a hero, your safety matters.

—Some material used from Wikipedia

Branch 599 Recognized 3 – 1st Place awards!

Branch 599 was recognized at the



Tony Diaz and Brian Obst show off 3 Awards!

October Region 9 RAP Session attended by President Tony Diaz and Vice President Brian Obst in Atlanta Georgia. Branch 599 was recognized for 2018 achievements in three categories in branches with 1,000 to 1,499 members.

The first of the 1st place awards was

presented for the percentages of branch members that contribute to the Legislative Political Fund, formerly COLCPE. While our percentages are not where we want them to be (only 8%), many branches struggle to reach that level.

The second 1st place award was presented for contributions to the Muscular Dystrophy Association; last year we collected \$9,314.71.

The third 1st place award was for the incredible amount of food we collected for the 27th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, 1,350,000 pounds.

Thank you to all who contributed to all or one of these categories. These first place awards take all of our members' efforts to be successful. It was an honor to accept these awards on behalf of all Branch 599 members!

National Contract Negotiations – Update

On September 20, 2019, negotiations for a new collective-bargaining agreement between and USPS came to an impasse. The current collective-bargaining agreement remains in force pending final resolution of the parties' collective-bargaining dispute. The next step is a mandatory 60-day mediation period required by statute. The parties will use the mediation period to continue negotiations while simultaneously attempting to agree on a neutral arbitrator in the event the parties remain at impasse after the 60-day period. That

(Continued on page 4)

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

neutral arbitrator will chair an arbitration board that will also include one management and one union arbitrator. The parties continue to have unresolved differences over major issues, including—but not limited to—letter carrier compensation, the non-career workforce, subcontracting, no-layoff provisions, and various memos regarding safety, city delivery, workplace intervention, route evaluations, route structure and wage theft. Issues that remain in dispute after the mediation period will be addressed through the interest arbitration process, which will result in a final and binding decision on the contents of a new national agreement. —nalc.org

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*The 6th Annual Letter Carriers / MDA Golf Tournament will be held November 3, at Heritage Harbor Golf and

Country Club. Last year, Branch 599 was the #1 contributor to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the State of Florida for the Branches with 1,000–1,499 members. This golf tournament is our number one source for our yearly donations.

*The CCA hiring freeze in the Suncoast District has been lifted. Hiring should commence again, just in time for the holidays.

*PMG Brennan announces retirement National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando issued the following statement on the retirement of United States Postmaster General Megan Brennan: *NALC congratulates*



Tony Diaz, NALC President Rolando, and Brian Obst at RAP Session

Postmaster General Brennan on her retirement after 33 years of public service. We extend our best wishes in her future endeavors.

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

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3.

Thank you for your service, Veterans Day, November 11.

Thanksgiving Day 🦃 November 28

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations to Andreana & **Carlos Jimenez** [Town 'N Country] on the birth of their son, Milo Andre, who was born October 8; and to Margaret & **Kwame Montague** [Town 'N Country] on the birth of their son, Kingston Messiah, who was born October 12.

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Kathy & **Mike Anderson** [President Emeritus, retiree] at the passing of her mother, Dorothy, September 30.

Rescheduled Branch Picnic was a big success!

Great crowd, great weather, great food, and great fun for the kids! *Thanks* to all who attended and volunteered at the rescheduled Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, October 13. The Labor Day Picnic, originally scheduled for Sunday, September 1, was cancelled due to the unclear oncoming path of Hurricane Dorian. The rescheduled date which was the Columbus Day weekend, saw 40 more members and families sign up than the Labor Day date, 260 to 220. More kids attended than any other Branch party in years.



**RE-ELECT
JOHN GEBO
FOR
TREASURER**



The EXPERIENCED Incumbent
41 Years as a member of NALC Branch 599
14 Years as Financial Secretary ★ 6 Years as Branch Treasurer
7 Years as Recording Secretary
41 Years as an NALC Health Plan Member
Past: Shop Steward, Trustee, Director of Retirees

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am up for re-election for TREASURER of Branch 599. On December 1, 2019 I am asking for your support and vote. As I have in the past, I will continue to work for the best interest of the Branch and all members.

My thanks to each and every member for the support you have given me over the years. Once again, I am asking for your support for my re-election. Thanking you in advance for your support and hopefully your vote.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
John Gebo



Paid Political Advertisement

Parker and Camacho Retired!



Steve Parker and Tony Diaz



Harris Camacho and Tony Diaz

Congratulations to
Steve Parker
[Forest Hills],
and to
Harris Camacho
[Interbay];
who received their
retirement pin and gratuity
from President Tony Diaz
during our October
Branch meeting!

Branch meetings...

November 7 • December 5 • January 9 • February 6
March 7 • April 4 • May 2 • June 6 • July 11 • August 1 • September 5

**RE-ELECT JOE OLIVA FOR
TRUSTEE**

The Incumbent with Experience
52 years as a member of Branch 599
35 Years as Trustee
52 Years as a NALC Health Plan Member

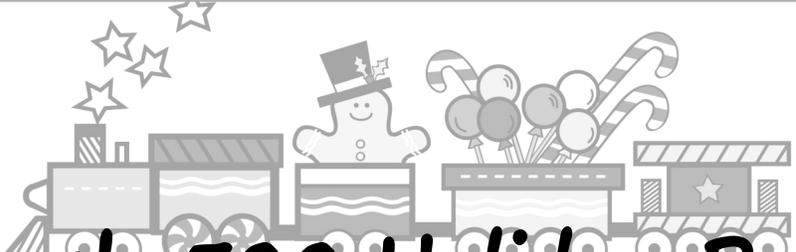
I am once again up for re-election for Trustee of Branch 599. I am asking for your support and vote on December 1, 2019. As in the past, I will continue to work for the interests of all the members and this great Branch.

My thanks to each and every member for all your support you have given me over the years.

Thank you in advance for your vote and support.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Jose Oliva,
Trustee, NALC Branch 599

Paid Political Advertisement



Branch 599 Holiday Party

Sunday December 15 11 AM-3 PM

Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, 3003 W Cypress Street

*Santa Claus ❖ Face Painting ❖ Balloon Figures ❖ Craft Table ❖ Bounce House
Toys for Each Child ❖ DJ ❖ Refreshments/Snacks*

**RSVP by December 9 to your Shop Steward
or call the Branch Office 813.875.0599**

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
November 5
December 3

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday 7:30 PM
November 7
December 5

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
November 7
December 5

Sunday Work Party

at our Hall 9-11 AM
November 10
December 8

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday November 4 9 AM
Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday November 12 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher
12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Gold Card Member Branch 1477 St. Petersburg
Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

**NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?
SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME**

320 Patlin Circle East, Largo FL 33770-3063
BILL'S CELL 727.543.0705 ▪ SHIRLEY'S CELL 727.543.0708
FAX 727.585.9367
bilmor11@gmail.com



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Tampa Letter Carrier
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