



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 5 - Issue 6

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

June 2006

President's Report

A Life of Dedication

On May 15, 2006 Branch 599 lost our most dedicated member. Director of Retirees Jack Newman passed away suddenly while doing what he loved to do the most, which was working at the union hall. I know that may not be what many people would think of as their favorite pastime after retirement, but not many people are like Jack was. You see, not only was Jack the Director of Retirees for our branch, he was also the building manager and rental agent of the Tampa Letter Carriers union hall.

He was up in the loft in the back storage room of the union hall doing what an 80 year old man should not be doing, which was lifting heavy boxes, when he suffered a massive heart attack. But that was Jack. There was no slowing him down. There was no telling him that he should get someone to help him or to leave the heavy work for the younger people, he always did what had to be done himself. Some might say that his attitude toward work was wrong and that he should have been more careful, but I know that he wouldn't have done anything differently even if he knew what the results would be.

Jack was born in Columbus, Ohio on March 3, 1926. He lived in Cleveland for a while, which is my home town, so

many times in the early morning hours we would exchange stories about the old neighborhood. He joined the Army in 1946 and worked his way up to the highest rank of a non-commissioned officer, Chief Sergeant-Major. Jack was extremely proud of this accomplishment, though very humble, and used to tell stories of how he accompanied then Vice-President Richard Nixon on tours throughout the world. He was a highly decorated soldier, receiving a number of Purple Hearts for



injuries he suffered during the Korean War. He retired from the Army after twenty years of service in 1966.

In November of 1966 Jack started his career as a letter carrier in the Post Office (that's what it was called back then). He joined the NALC immediately, and served as a shop steward at the old Interbay Station. He was elected as Financial Secretary and served in that capacity for several terms, as well as a Director on the board of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., and as a long time chairman of the Bingo Committee. He retired from the USPS in March of 1988, but continued to be active in Branch 599 affairs. He was the Chairman of many Florida State Association

of Letter Carriers conventions held here in Tampa and spent numerous hours volunteering his time helping out during many of the branch's parties and picnics. He served as Director of Retirees from 2002 until his passing, and was always available to assist retired members in whatever way necessary.



by **Jim Good**

President - Branch 599

I could write a book about the contributions that Jack made to Branch 599, but I think you all get the picture. I have never met, and doubt that I ever will meet anyone more devoted to our union and the upkeep of our hall. A huge void opened up with the passing of this great man, and we need new carriers to step up to the plate to try and fill that gap. If any carrier out there, active or retired, wants to become more involved in our organization through working bingo, joining the board of TLC or just volunteering their time, please give me a call at the hall. I know Jack would be grateful.

No funeral or memorial services were held for Jack, according to his wishes. I know that God has taken him and that he is where he now belongs.

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Branch Meeting
June 1
7:30 PM
at the Union Hall

Branch 599 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
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VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516, cell 597-7396
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cindy Perez	(813) 766-1220
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	John Gebo	(813) 985-5474, cell 503-1256
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135

Branch 599 Shop Stewards

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Phil Chirico	(813) 657-3180
Carrollwood	33618	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Forest Hills Annex	33613	David Camuy	(813) 892-6553
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	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Interbay	33629	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
MacDill	33608	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 681-6890
Port Tampa	33616	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
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	Mike Sovan	(813) 872-0709
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Temple Terrace	33617	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914

Presidents Emeritus

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

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**RETIREES BREAKFAST
(In Tampa)**

First Monday of Every Month

9:00 AM at

The Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert

in Drew Park

**RETIREES BREAKFAST
(In Brandon)**

Second Tuesday of Every month

8:00 AM at

Buddy Freddy's

134 Gornto Lake Rd S.

in Brandon

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. Submit articles as .txt, .doc or .wpd documents attached to email sent to: newsletter@nalc599.com

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

Executive Vice-President's Report

by Detlev Aeppel

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

Become A Part Of It

Eleven of us recently attended the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers training seminar held in Jacksonville on May 5 – 7, 2006. We attended various technical training classes as would be expected. In addition, we attended several presentations concerning the e-Activist Network, COLCPE, and new contract negotiations set to begin this fall.

It was obvious from the beginning that COLCPE would be a major concern. As everyone should know by now, COLCPE is the Committee On Letter Carrier's Political Education. Put another way, it is the NALC's Political Action Committee (PAC). COLCPE is our political voice in congress. You may already be aware that Washington is overrun with lobbyists. It really doesn't matter if you approve or disapprove of the influence lobbyists have on our law makers. It is a cold hard fact of legislative life. Letter carriers contribute money to COLCPE so that our point of view will be heard on topics before congress that have a direct bearing on the quality of our lives and the security of our loved ones. These contributions must come directly from letter carriers themselves. It is important to note that absolutely no union dues may be used for political purposes.

Our national officers have kicked off a new automatic contribution drive with a program called *Gimme Five*. Carriers are being asked to contribute five dollars (\$5) per pay period via automatic contribution. Every one knows the usual reasons cited as to why carriers should contribute to COLCPE: it's the right thing to do, its responsible behavior, you should pay your fair share, its too important not to, our futures depend on it, etc. But now there is another reason to sign up for automatic contribution. If you sign up for automatic contribution by payroll deduction of at least \$5 per pay period or at least \$10 per month by Electronic Funds Transfer or at least \$5 per month from your retirement annuity or give an annual donation of at least \$120, you will automatically be entered in a raffle. The raffle drawing will be held during the National Convention in August. Prizes include iPods, flat screen televisions, and a one week vacation in Hawaii. The deadline for entry is July 15, 2006.

So why all the emphasis on automatic contributions? As explained by National Business Agent Judy Wiloughby, there are three reasons that automatic contributions are the preferred method. Automatic contributions improve NALC ability to plan

political contributions and grass roots activities. Automatic contributions provide administrative savings for NALC by lowering fund raising costs and lowering handling expenses. Automatic contributions make it easier for NALC to comply with Federal Election Committee regulations.



During the 2003-2004 election cycle the NALC through COLCPE raised \$1,230,500. That is less than what was raised by UPS (\$2,142,679), Teamsters (\$1,917,413), bankers (\$1,823,845), APWU (\$1,623,500), and FedEx (\$1,492,750). At one time the NALC was in the top ten. Now the NALC is number thirty seven.

If the *Gimme Five* program succeeds in the goal of doubling the number of carriers automatically contributing to COLCPE then the NALC will return to its previous status as a top ten PAC. Its what we need to make our voices heard. It's easy to sign up. If you need help signing up contact me or call the hall. Become a part of it today.

In Solidarity...

Muscular Dystrophy Street Corner Blitz

Branch 599's annual *Street Corner Blitz* will be held on Friday, June 16th from 3:00 until 6:00 pm. We need all the volunteers we can get. Last year because of your help we collected over \$17,000.00 in one three hour period. That was an increase of almost 50%, simply because the number of volunteers doubled. The more intersections we can cover, the more money we will collect.

So please, contact Branch 599 MDA Coordinator Eric Fleming at 237-4280, or 310-8274, to sign up to help us out in this very important event.

Health and Welfare Report

Larry Decos, retiree, in the hospital

Joe Oliva, retiree, in the hospital recovering from surgery

Jack Newman, Director of Retirees, Building Manager and Bingo Chairman, passed away.

June Meetings:

Thur 6-1-06 - Branch Meeting
Union Hall, 7:30 PM

Tues 6-27-06 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 6-29-06 - Executive Board Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

TLC, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Obst at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read. The financial report was given by John Gebo. The building manager's report was given by Jack Newman. There are only eleven Saturdays available for rent in 2006. The new ceiling will be installed beginning on May 20th. The new doors should be installed by June 1st. The three main air conditioning units in the hall will be serviced at a cost of \$85.00 each. A thank you letter was read by the Donation Committee from the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa for the \$500.00 donation to their organization. A motion was made and passed to donate \$500.00 to the Arthritis Foundation, provided that the funds are used locally. A motion was made and passed to raise the limit to \$750.00 for the purchase of a new desk for the branch treasurer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Jim Good, Secretary

Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

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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Unionism

by Brian Obst

Chief Steward - Branch 599

Communication

We are in the business of communication. As carriers we come to work and find that we are tasked with the responsibility of communicating with our supervisors what it will take for us to complete our assigned job tasks on a daily basis. The supervisors in turn must communicate with each one of us to get the tasks necessary for each days work completed. The most difficult thing we do each and every day is to communicate properly with each other.

Let us examine our daily work schedule. First we arrive at work and clock in and start our assigned duties for the day. The supervisor will generally make the rounds of the floor checking with each of us to find out how we feel about our time for the day. This requesting of the morning estimate is important communication between us and management. The morning estimate is communicated to the supervisor both verbally and with the help of the 3996 Carrier Auxiliary Assistance form. It is extremely important that this method of communication, the 3996, be as accurate as possible as this allows the supervisor to plan the operation for the day with some degree of accuracy. The directions for the proper filling out of the 3996 are located on the back of the form. If you are having any difficulty in providing proper estimates or filling out the form properly simply ask to see your steward for assistance. Remember if we fail to properly communicate this information in the morning we gen-

erally will find ourselves getting trips late in the afternoon.

Stewards have the task of communicating with both craft employees as well as management. This is made more difficult by the fact that both parties usually feel that they are both right when dealing with grievance issues. The steward has to be able to communicate to the craft employee when an issue may not have merit without making the employee feel you don't care about their issue. This can be best accomplished by referring to the manuals and publications to show if an issue is a valid one or not. Conversely, the steward is also tasked with communication to management when an issue has come up and must be rectified through the grievance process. Believe it or not if you take the time to properly communicate the issue and show where the problem/error happened you can usually get the issue resolved. Part of the effective use of communication in the grievance process is the education of both parties involved. Generally management needs to know that the steward is willing to work as a cooperative partner in grievances. Educating craft employees when they were involved in an issue that goes contrary to postal guidelines as well as educating management personnel when they did not have the proper knowledge in a grievance area.

Communicating with management in grievances is not "sucking up or selling out" as it is the goal of our Dispute Resolution Proc-

ess to minimize backlogs and settle grievances at the lowest possible level. While we will never get to a state of no grievances it is important that we strive to improve our communication skills which will help us to meet our DRP goals since we will all understand where the issues are and we will strive to prevent problems that give rise to grievances. Stewards remember it is our responsibility to represent our membership and enforce the contract. What better way to enforce the contract than teaching what the contract says when issues arise thus preventing the reoccurrence of said issues. Remember the communication with management doesn't stop after the informal A hearing, it will continue until the resolution of the grievance no matter how long it goes.

This is simply the thoughts of one individual but I believe that if we all learn to communicate better we will have less unresolvable issues to deal with and the workplace will be a better place for both craft employees as well as management. If you agree or disagree contact me and let's discuss the point and communicate.

Brian Obst

Shop Steward
Town and Country



Proposed By-Law Change

Article XI Funds

Section 5.

Currently reads: "In the absence of the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary shall be authorized to sign checks disbursing Branch funds, and make necessary deposits in the bank".

Proposed to read: "All checks drawn on the branch checking account will be signed by two authorized officers. These authorized officers shall be the president, treasurer and financial secretary. At the beginning of each new term of office the treasurer will ensure that the authorized officers are registered as a signer with the bank at which the branch checking account is held. Any one of these authorized officers may make deposits into the branch checking account."

Congressional District Liaison Reportby **Lance Jones***Congressional District Liaison - District 11****Are You
From Missouri?***

What happened in Missouri and why is important to letter carriers in Tampa?

We all know postal reform recently passed in the Senate and now we're looking forward to possible having real postal reform, the first in almost 35 years. But what is more important is that its postal reform that our national union has had a major role in forming.

But it might not have happened this year! In our democratic form of government Senators can stop bills from coming to a vote simply by placing a hold on them. It was very important for all of us that S622 (postal reform) passes unanimously so there would be no additions. Senator Bond from Missouri placed a hold on S622 because Hallmark Cards, headquartered in his home state of Missouri, was against this legislation. Over the next few weeks Senator Bond was approached and compromises were tried but Sena-

tor Bond would not budge or remove his hold.

When congress recessed last fall our union at the National level put its e-Activist program into action in Missouri. NALC President Bill Young met with our legislative department and our four Regional Field Coordinators(RFC) started with emails and phone calls to CDLs (Congressional District Liaisons) and branch presidents in four major cities in Senator Kit Bond's district. The RFCs were on there way to Missouri, phone banks were activated and in all four of those cities, and at Senator Bonds state offices, over three hundred city carriers showed up and participated in informational pickets. As a result of this, Senator Bond agreed to remove his hold on S622 when congress convened this spring. As you all know S622 passed the Senate unanimously.

President Bill Young created the e-Activist program well over two years ago and what a tool this has become. After S622 passed the Senate it's said that whispers passed through the halls of congress. The power of this tool is

recognized and respected.

Still we need to increase our network and make this great tool stronger. There are two ways we as union sisters and brothers can do this. First, if you are not an e-Activist, join now. It's easy. Just ask your steward for the form. If they don't have one handy, call the union hall or go online to <http://www.nalc.org>, where you can join right from the home page. The second way to help is to contribute monthly to the political activist fund (COLCPE) and that's easy too.

Think about it: The sorriest words spoken are, "I wish I'd done something when I had the chance." Please don't wind up saying this to yourself about your job. It won't help then. So help now; be active.

In unity...

**In Memory of Jack Newman**

Jack Newman: father, grandfather, friend, union brother. These probably describe Jack best. I have known Jack for close to 30 years, and when I say union brother, I mean 100% union brother. This was his life after a distinguished military career.

He held many branch positions, one of them as Financial Secretary for 16 years. After his retirement, I became Financial Secretary, Jack and his wife, Mary, invited me to their home to learn what the position of Financial Secretary entailed.

Whenever a problem arose, I could always count on Jack. He was more than just a union brother, he was my dear friend. Thanks, Jack, for the many happy times we shared at conventions, seminars and branch meetings. You will never be forgotten by me and so many other people that you have helped over the years.

May you rest in peace, Jack. We will miss you dearly.

John Gebo

And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

What A Feeling

As I write this, it is still mid April, however, the article has to be submitted by May 10th for the June issue. Some statements may seem out of date, so now you know why.

In the May article, I wrote about the passing of Retired Carrier, Ray Sullivan. Well, now I'm going to inform you that Brandon has lost another retiree, Bo Bolinski. Bo passed away two weeks to the day after Ray. Bo was only 59 years old. He was a diabetic and had heart problems as well. Bo transferred in from Connecticut eighteen years ago and was well versed in the Union Contract and served as Shop Steward with me for a while. His wife, Sharon, is a clerk in the Post office in Tampa, tour one. Again, it was nice to see the active and retired Carriers who came to his wake. We talked about yesterday and all wondered to ourselves, who is next? As Chuck Pullman said to me, "Ray, we have to live every day to the fullest as none of us knows when the good Lord will call us home". So, take the trip you have been putting off, spend some of that money, tell that lousy manager off, or the postmaster if you are in Brandon. Ha ha. NO! don't do that, think about it only. We want you to retire!

I'll never forget a carrier by the name of Sonny McBrayer, who became a Manager. He said to me, "Ray, the only reason I'm going into management is that when I retire, I will have a better retirement than staying a carrier. Well, I, myself, think it was because the "Big Son" hated to wear a seatbelt. However, you know what? McBrayer died very suddenly at a young age as an active postmaster. So, no matter what you may want for your future, things don't always go your way.

Retired Carrier, Helen McMaken, has been putting together the Brandon Retirees Luncheon. She is sending out the notice by way of email, postcards, phone

calls and arranging the restaurant. Thanks to Helen for doing all of this. Now, she needs a rest and I'm going to take it over. It used to be a monthly get together and as time went on, less and less came so now, it's going to be every 6 months. The last one was in January so the next one will be in June. I thought it would be nice to include the active carriers and clerks who would be off that day and would like to join us. You would all be more than welcome to join us. Some retirees have left the area so it would be nice to see you while you're still here.

This is a true story and one example of what a shop steward has to go through. It was an extremely heavy Saturday, so heavy that some could not get all of their mail in their Jeep. I had taken a small trip to do on my way back in that day. My route #12 went south on Kings, all of the apartments, then next to Van Gogh Deli, then El Greco, where I met three other carriers for lunch. At 1:00 p.m., I was back on the route. I went back on to Kings and did all the streets on Kings to Brentwood Drive. One of the last streets was Echo Drive and I was on that street when I saw the manager's car tailgating with two managers in it. It was about 4:00 P.M. My 10 minute break was on Echo and when I stopped, they asked what I was doing. I said, "I'm taking my 10 minute break". The reason they were following me was, at noon, Manager, Linda Wilson, was taking trays out to Bob Carter on Route #7. Oh her way, she noticed a mail jeep parked on Echo and on her way back, she noticed the jeep was still there. She got back to the Post Office and said, "I just saw Wallace on Echo at noon". At 4:00 p.m., they came looking to see where I was and I was delivering on Echo. On Monday morning the manager, Bill Kiser, comes to me and says, "I want to see you in the office." I think, "Uh oh!" Bill asks, "What were you doing on Echo Drive at noon on Saturday?" I replied, "You didn't see me there at noon! Hell, I was on Van Gogh, and El Greco". Then, he replied, "A manager saw you." I said, "I ate lunch at 12:30 on El Greco and John Moore with Grossman, Carter and "Big Son". He replied, "We

will question them." On Tuesday, Kiser says, "Yes, they said you were there but Linda Wilson said it was Wallace on Echo and a manager doesn't lie!" I said, "How could I go from El Greco to Echo and back and then do the whole route? It was not me." He said they were bringing charges against me for leaving my route. I was keeping our Branch 599 President, John Bailey, informed every day.



On my way home one day, I was telling a fellow carrier of this incident. John Brandon, who's father was a retired Postmaster from Panama Canal lived on Echo Drive. John said, "Ray, that was my jeep. I ate lunch with my dad that Saturday." I said, "Well, don't tell anyone and give me a written statement." He replied, "Sure." What a feeling! President, John Bailey, came to Brandon for the hearing with Postmaster, Marcum. No words can explain the high I got when President, John Bailey, showed them a statement from another carrier that it was him on Echo Drive at noon, not Wallace. The Postmaster almost swallowed his pipe. Linda Wilson turned white and said, "Oh, we made a slight mistake." I had gone through a week of stress and nothing I said mattered. Management was 100% correct.

This was just one example of what management will try to do, especially to the shop steward. Why didn't they take the jeep number? Let me say, years later, both Kiser and Wilson became postmasters; another example of the caliber of people you have running the individual post offices. From what I hear, you have the same type person as postmaster in Brandon now. God help you!

I will never forget when I got drafted during the Korean Conflict. My first day of basic training, the company commander said to all, "Give your soul to God, your ass belongs to me." Somehow, I can kind of relate this to postal management. Ha ha.

Around The Horn

by Tony Diaz

Financial Secretary - Branch 599

Chaotic Forwarding System

Brothers and sisters, once again I hope all is well. This month I wanted to write about a system we deal with daily, and quite frankly is somewhat chaotic. First the word chaotic or chaos is defined as “a) a state of utter confusion, (b) a confused mass or mixture...” But wait, when I think of chaos I still think of the famous crime fighter Maxwell Smart. He fought the evil empire called Chaos along with Agent 99 and did it in the state of utter confusion. This particular system I speak of is our own CFS (Computerized Forwarding System) or CFS (Chaotic Forwarding System), as I like to call it at my office.

This system (like many others) was put together seemingly without much detailed thought. As much as the system is intended to reduce carrier office time, does it really? When we had our Station briefing for the new CFS 11 several years ago, I remember there were many unanswered questions. The answer to many of these questions was, “...as the system gets going we will find the answers...” What? As we are all

finding out years later, there are still no concrete answers.

I know not actually writing down the address changes from the Change of Address Card (PS Form 3575) to the pink cards (PS Form 3982) has made it more difficult to remember the names of customers that have moved. Actually performing the task of transferring the address changes helped to make a mental note of the changes, which helped one keep up with the moves. Now I find myself referring back to my pink cards or the monthly printout for a refresher much more frequently. I know we also want to know when a move occurs before the date so we can begin the process timely, right? Unfortunately not, with the electronic/internet COA's being submitted by our customers, and without any notification, mail is being left in boxes for several days before even knowing there was a COA submitted. Then you either have the new owner approach and say these people do not live here anymore, or once you get the yellow label you mumble to yourself, “No wonder the mail has not been picked up and why there has been no one at home.”

Carriers are also responsible for correcting or rewriting the COA cards since the 3575s can

only have one name per card. Also the 3575s must be the updated version of the card, but here are still cards in the system that cannot be scanned. Another responsibility, the incorrect cards are returned to us from CFS with a note explaining reasons why we need to create a new COA. Whether to separate the names individually or rewrite a new updated card, these are time consuming practices. Why can't CFS rewrite the cards properly, by the time we get the incorrect cards back? The customers are mostly long gone anyway. So I ask, have you noticed the time being saved? How about the most important thing, the improvement in customer service?



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

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

Letter Carriers Food Drive Report

by Lori McMillion

Food Drive Coordinator - Branch 599

Food Drive 2006

I am happy to report a very successful food drive! All carriers (city and rural) have worked diligently to collect over **1,350,000 pounds of food** for the needy! What an excellent number to report. Every one of you deserves a heartfelt *thank you* and applause.

It all came together nicely. I visited a collection point in Temple Terrace and found eight carriers there to unload the food they picked up. It was an awesome sight to see people coming together and knowing that it is happening in all areas around the country. It is very heartwarming.

From my first meeting with former Food Drive Coordinator, Cheryl Clothier, getting me started with the information I needed, to working with President Jim Good and all the shop stewards, we all accomplished an event that was spectacular! The help of volunteered box trucks to take the load off

of carriers out on the street in the middle of the day was crucial. The box trucks were mostly from local food banks and businesses that donated the use of their trucks.

It has been quite an experience coordinating all the information needed to get the drive started. The selling of t-shirts, counting out and re-distributing the postcards and Publix bags, rounding up volunteers and getting the word out to save pallets & boxes at the stations was a challenging task. We made an awesome team of workers collecting food for the families who are so desperately in need.

I cannot leave out other areas of operation that played a special part in helping me. They are: the US Postal Service, including Tampa Postmaster Nancy Fryrear, Suncoast District Public Relations Manager Gary Sawtelle and his Tampa counterpart Bridget Robertson, Tampa Bay Harvest, who will distribute all the food and the Salvation Army (for the use of their warehouse, trucks and drivers). I also want to thank Cardinal Health for the use of their trucks and drivers, our own MVS drivers for

working so hard to finish their rounds and all the volunteers along the way. You all deserve a great big *thank you!*

Together we have made our 14th annual food drive the most successful ever! I have been told that there was a shortage of sandwiches on some of the box trucks. We went with the same amount we used last year as our guide for how many we would need per truck, but evidently more carriers showed up at the stops because of the large amount of food collected. I apologize to any one who missed out and I will make sure we have more than enough for you all next year. I hope everyone feels the great joy that you have brought to those families in need.

Lori McMillion
Branch 599 Food Drive Coordinator



2006 Letter Carrier's Food Drive



State Training Seminar - May 2006



Lance Jones, Rep. Jim Davis & Jim Good



John Giordano , Rep. Jim Davis & Judy Willoughby



Former NBA Matthew Rose



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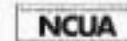
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