



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

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 6 and November 3, 2016, 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 21, 2017.

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 1, 2016, 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 1, 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 4 through November 18, 2016.

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
September 1
7:30 PM

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Happy Labor Day to all the Brothers and Sisters and families of Branch 599. This Labor Day holiday will be special for another 6 CCAs being converted to regular career carrier

as of August 20. Their first paid holiday. Congratulations!

Brothers and Sisters, lately I have received questions regarding uniforms, requirements and rights. In regards

to the uniform allowance issues we have dealt with in the past, a spread



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

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Branch 599 Office

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Tampa FL 33609-1617
813.875.0599
Fax 813.870.0599
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Tony Diaz
President
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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@yahoo.com
Vice President	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1636	recording.sec@nalc599.com
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.405.8424	financial.sec@nalc599.com
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jjg7d7@aol.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
Health Benefit Rep.	Lance Jones	813.264.9801	
Director of Retirees	Don Thomas	813.963.0653	retirees@nalc599.com
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	
	Maggie Lancaster	813.317.7522	joelunaticplayer@aol.com
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	
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	Grant Daniels	813.661.1636	850.210.4906
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	813.961.2962	813.263.7895
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jiminez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Forest Hills	33613	Ed Humphries	813.935.2954	813.787.3914
Hilldale	33614	Darrick Smith	813.879.4309	813.446.5555
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Jackie Allen	813.831.2034	813.508.1440
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	Todd Soular	813.719.6793	508.615.6517
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.239.4084	646.346.3288
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoades	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	Steve Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Alan Robinson	813.873.7189	813.843.9762
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Mike Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Smith	813.873.7189	813.326.0717
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

sheet was created and this has diminished the issues significantly, both for CCAs and newly converted regular carriers. We have very few uniform inquiries about missed uniform allowances. The ones that are received, are generally reviewed and responded to within a day, either with the last allowance date on record or a uniform allowance notification is sent out. Hopefully at the NALC National Convention, August 15-19, we will learn more about the testing on new uniform materials and designs.

Article 26 of our National Agreement addresses uniforms.

ARTICLE 26 UNIFORMS AND WORK CLOTHES

Section 1. Uniform Control Committee

All employees who are required to wear uniforms or work clothes shall be furnished uniforms or work clothes or shall be reimbursed for purchases of authorized items from duly licensed vendors.

Uniform Allowance. Each employee required to wear a uniform receives a uniform allowance, increased annually as listed above, and credited on the employee's uniform allowance anniversary date (ELM Section 935.11). The credit may then be spent at approved uniform vendors who sell approved uniform items. Full- and part-time letter carriers who work at least four hours per day performing letter carrier duties are eligible for the allowance. Newly eligible career employees receive an additional credit as listed above. A CCA converted to career status will receive the additional credit upon their first anniversary date after being converted.

Section 2. Annual Allowance

Effective November 21, 2015 the annual allowance for all eligible employees shall be increased from **\$409** per annum to **\$420** per annum. The

increase shall become effective on the employee's anniversary date. **A newly eligible employee** entering the reimbursable uniform program will receive an additional credit to the employee's allowance as follows:

Effective November 21, 2015 - \$97 if entitled to \$420 per annum.

An eligible employee cannot receive this additional credit more than once; however, the current procedures regarding employees transferring from one allowance category to another shall be continued.

Uniform Allowance. Each employee required to wear a uniform receives a uniform allowance, increased annually as listed above, and credited on the employee's uniform allowance anniversary date (ELM Section 935.11). The credit may then be spent at approved uniform vendors who sell approved uniform items. Full- and part-time letter carriers who work at least four hours per day performing letter carrier duties are eligible for the allowance. Newly eligible career employees receive an additional credit as listed above. A CCA converted to career status will receive the additional credit upon their first anniversary date after being converted.

Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) also addresses uniforms. (See highlighted areas)

930 Work Clothes and Uniforms

931 Uniforms

931.1 Entitlement and Allowances

931.11 Entitlement

Certain employees must wear prescribed uniforms in performing their duties.

These employees are entitled (a) to a uniform allowance to purchase authorized uniform items or (b) to be furnished uniforms that meet Postal Service specifications.

931.12 Allowances

The annual allowance authorized each employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement is determined by

the terms of that agreement. Allowances for other employees are set as a matter of policy.

931.2 Purpose and Scope

931.21 Uniforms

Uniforms are provided to certain employees for the following reasons:

- a. To provide immediate visual identification with the Postal Service to the public.
- b. To project an appearance to the public that is neat, professional, and pleasing.
- c. To help develop in the employee a feeling of esprit de corps.
- d. To meet standard professional practices (doctors, nurses, etc.).

931.22 Work Clothes

Work clothes are provided to certain employees:

- a. **Who perform dirty work or work with toxic materials.**
- b. **When it is important that they be recognized and identified with the Postal Service, work clothes are provided for employees who work in public view.**
- c. To certain full-time employees working full time in areas where work clothing is essential.

931.23 Personal Appearance

Supervisors are responsible for continually observing the uniforms of employees and taking appropriate corrective action, when necessary, to ensure employees are properly attired.

931.26 Responsibility of Employees

931.261 Appearance

Postal employees are responsible for being adequately and properly dressed for duty. They are expected to maintain high standards of appearance, representing to the public the best tradition of service and efficiency while performing their official duties. Uniform garments should be properly fitted and maintained in a clean,

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neat, and serviceable condition.

Jeans, shorts, sleeveless tops, T-shirts, sweats, spandex, etc., are not appropriate attire for employees working at a retail counter. This list is not meant to be exhaustive.

931.262 Conforming With Regulations
Uniformed employees are responsible for conforming with all uniform regulations.

931.263 When to Wear Uniforms
Uniforms are worn as follows:

a. *General.* **A uniform is worn only while the employee is on duty**, in connection with approved activities directly related to postal employment.
b. *Special Authorization.* Postmasters may authorize wearing postal uniforms for activities in which the Postal Service participates, or which it sponsors, where identification with the Postal Service is beneficial to the Service, and while the employee is traveling directly to and from work.

c. *Restrictions.* **In no other case may the postal employee's uniform, or any part of it that identifies the garment or wearer with the Postal Service, be worn in nonpostal employment or activities.**

931.264 Postal Service Emblem
The Postal Service emblem may not be worn except by uniformed postal employees as part of the prescribed uniform except in the following circumstances:

a. Postmasters and other installation heads may permit the voluntary wearing of the Postal Service emblems by a postal employee who has daily personal contact with the public, but who is not required to wear a uniform.

Labor

932 Uniform Requirements

932.I Employees Required to Wear Uniforms and Work Clothes

932.II Regular Uniforms

Employees in the following categories meeting the following conditions wear the prescribed uniform while performing their duties:

a. City letter carriers and clerk/special delivery messengers whose tours of duty during the course of a year average 4 hours or more a day performing carrier or special delivery duties.

935 Uniform and Work Clothes Allowances

935.I When Allowances Take Effect

935.II Anniversary Date

Allowances take effect on the earliest date an employee is required to wear the uniform following completion of the 90-day probationary period. This date is known as the employee's anniversary date.

Note: Nationally, Management has begun steps to *improve the brand* regarding uniforms with stand-up talks aimed to inform carriers about the importance of their appearance. As Section 931.23, Personal Appearance and Section 931.26 Responsibility of Employees explains above, **Uniform garments should be properly fitted and maintained in a clean, neat, and serviceable condition.** If your office has not received a stand-up talk regarding uniforms, expect one. Spend your uniform allowance wisely, hopefully you get to the point where you can accumulate extra uniforms should the need arise to change out a shirt or shorts/pants.

Amazon News from Bloomberg Business Week July 30:

In cities such as San Francisco and New York, letter carriers have been showing up on people's doorsteps as early as 3 a.m. bearing unusual cargo: milk, eggs, and other perishable items. The U.S. Postal Service has been delivering groceries to customers of Amazon.com in selected areas since October 2014. *It's just leveraging our infrastructure*, says Megan Brennan, who was sworn in as America's 74th postmaster general in March, becoming the first woman to hold the job in the institution's 240-year history. *We're on people's doorstep six days a week, seven days a week in some cases. It's just*

a logical progression.

A former letter carrier from Pottsville, Pa., Brennan is trying to transform the USPS into a delivery service for the e-commerce era. That means hauling fewer letters and more packages. It means showing up with them at once-unheard-of hours and even on Sundays. *Amazon is the first*, Brennan says. *But we're obviously looking to get additional customers who are interested in that type of customized delivery.*

Brennan's predecessor, Patrick Donahoe, announced in November 2013 that the Postal Service would do deliveries for Amazon seven days a week. Since then, the Seattle giant has assembled a network of more than 15 facilities where it sorts packages it then trucks to nearby post offices, so letter carriers can take them the rest of the way. Amazon said in a recent regulatory filing that it plans to build more of these sorting centers this year.

How Amazon Gets to Your Door

USPS	UPS	FedEx
40%	20-25%	15-20%

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) *NALC evaluation of H.R. 5714:*

Unacceptable door delivery cuts: The bill proposes significant cuts in door-to-door delivery, a major reduction in the quality of service that would undermine the Postal Service's health in the future. It would give USPS the discretion to mandatorily convert 5.5 million business delivery points from door delivery to centralized delivery. It also would allow the Postal Service to convert a significant number of residential door deliveries to cluster-box or curb-line delivery on a voluntary basis. Such conversions not only would place the Postal Service at a competitive disadvantage in the delivery of parcels, but it also would undermine the value of direct mail.

Indeed, read-and-response rates are

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The Birdseye View

Legislative

We are in the final month of the 2016 fiscal year and Congress is off its summer break and there is great hope for some badly needed postal reform legislation. NALC is closely monitoring the different bills in the House and the Senate and will discuss with all parties their primary concerns. Their main emphasis is on prefunding retiree's health care cost, restoring service standards and maintaining door delivery for business and residential customers. There are supporting numbers that could make all three of these issues successful, but we can never take anything for granted in this political climate. As the Congressional District Liaison for Congressional District 14, I plan to visit with our representative and discuss the concerns of these bills that are good but not perfect by any means. Our major area is the healthcare insurance cost and prefunding that affect all of us, the investment strategy that would improve earnings other than only low interest treasury bonds that prevent increased revenue and service and door delivery protection in conjunction with the needs of e-commerce that help us to be more viable. Hopefully we accomplish something long overdue before the November elections. Speaking of which, this newsletter will also contain the latest endorsements for the

August 30, 2016 local elections and also any runoff for federal offices of Florida for the November 8, 2016 election.

Labor Day Events

Labor Day events are by county this year; see information and fliers for the event by county and contact our local office for ticket information and payment made to West Central Florida Federation of Labor. Other branches are joining in with the host union to make this a combined Labor Day Picnic with our fellow brothers and sisters in all labor organizations.

Contract Negotiations

With the National Convention that took place August 15-19, in Los Angeles, we should have plenty of new information regarding our continued contract negotiations and possibly one that is settled between us and the USPS for us to accept by vote. There have been very little gains during the current contract but many sacrifices especially for the supplemental workforce. Other contracts settled and arbitrated by our associate unions have made some headway with continued COLAs and periodic wage increases as well as some sick leave and paid holidays for the supplemental non-career employee's.

Let's Be Safe

Hopefully everyone has had some

enjoyment and a little R & R this summer, especially since it has been the hottest on record since 1932. Now we are heading back

to the fall and with school back in session we need to focus on increased traffic as well as the safety of school children. Also the peak hurricane season is upon us and we all need to be prepared in case of one heading our way. Planning ahead just for the possibility of power outage or other survival needs like water and non-perishable food and basic needs that we take for granted. In the event you live in a flood or evacuation zone, allow yourself sufficient time to make a safe travel to shelter. No one looks forward to dealing with hurricanes, but when you live in this state it is just a matter of time.

Wishing all of you the best for a grateful and thankful Labor Day holiday and know unions are the reason we celebrate this one as one of the fruits of all labor and working families.

Fraternally in Support of Unions and American Labor, We Are One,
Alan Peacock
Vice President NALC Branch 599



Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

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four times higher for Standard Mail pieces delivered to doors rather than to cluster boxes. The resulting loss of package and direct-mail volume, and the associated revenue loss, likely would overwhelm any cost savings.

NALC will mobilize its allies on

Capitol Hill to oppose these door delivery cuts. More than 200 representatives in the House of Representatives have co-sponsored a resolution (H.Res. 28) calling for the preservation of door delivery services. We will seek to increase this number over the summer recess and work to pass an

amendment to remove the door delivery provision (Section 202) from the bill.

—NALC Bulletin

Look forward to talking to you again on the next *Around The Horn from the President's Desk*





Labor Day Celebrations!

Admission is Free

Meal Tickets Must be Paid for by August 31 to Branch 599's Office

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Hillsborough County Celebration!

Monday September 5 11 AM—3 PM

Food served 12-2 PM

\$10 per person

IBEW 915, 5621 Harney Road, Tampa

- ◆ Music ◆ Bouncy House ◆ Horseshoes ◆ Cornhole ◆ Great BBQ ◆ Bloodmobile ◆ Family Fun!
- ◆ Endorsed Candidates & Elected Officials
- ◆ Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and canopies...don't forget sunscreen & bug spray!

.....

Pinellas County Picnic!

Sunday September 4 12—4PM

\$5 per person if you're a dues paying union member for all you can eat.

War Memorial Veterans Park, Shelter 2, 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, St. Petersburg

- ◆ Great Food ◆ Bring your union banners, wear your union T-shirt
- ◆ Live Music ◆ Bring your camping chair, sunscreen & bug spray
- ◆ Spirited Political Discussions with all of our Candidates & Elected Officials
- ◆ Want to share? Bring a dish, non-alcoholic beverages or ice, but it isn't required.
- ◆ Just show up with positive energy to share with all and to celebrate the *holiday that Labor made!*

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Sarasota County Day at the Beach!

(Sarasota, Manatee)

Monday September 5 11 AM—3 PM

\$5 per person

South Lido Beach, 1100 Benjamin Franklin Drive, Sarasota

- ◆ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Fixings ◆ Sodas & Waters provided ◆ Bring a Covered Dish to Share
- ◆ Endorses Candidates & Elected Officials ◆ Music with open mic for musicians & artists
- ◆ Show your union pride: bring your union's banner, wear your union swag
- ◆ Don't forget your beach gear: sunscreen, beach towels, lawn chairs, canopies

(Events continued on page 10)

Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers

Duties of the President

Section 1: Currently Reads:

- (D) The President of AR “Tony” Huerta, Branch 599, N.A.L.C., shall serve on a full -time basis and shall receive yearly salary of \$63,000.00 and he/she shall receive all other benefits equal to letter carriers. The Branch shall pay his/her Civil Service Retirement if he/she is a CSRS employee or his/her Federal Employees Retirement if he/she is a FERS employee. If he/she is a FERS employee and he/she makes contributions to the Thrift Saving Plan, the Branch shall match up to 5% of his/her contributions, not to exceed the percentage he/she has consistently and continuously contributed in the past three years as a TSP participant prior to his/her initial election to office. If re-elected to subsequent terms, the President may then elect to increase his/her percentage at that time, to the maximum of 5% if he/she had not previously been contributing the maximum of 5% to the TSP. Due to the nature of the position, President of NALC Branch 599, “it shall be a requirement of the job that he/she, if maintaining health insurance, must be a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan if the Branch is to pay his/her Health Benefits premiums, self or family option, whichever option was in force at the time of his/her election into office of President. The Branch as the employer and the President as the employee shall each pay their respective portions of all other requirements of applicable state and federal laws.

Section 1: Proposed to Read:

- (D) The President of AR “Tony” Huerta, Branch 599, N.A.L.C., shall serve on a full -time basis and shall receive yearly salary equivalent to top letter carrier pay of CC 2 Step O plus additional 10% which is currently, \$67,207.00. He/she shall receive all other benefits equal to letter carriers. The Branch shall pay his/her Civil Service Retirement if he/she is a CSRS employee or his/her Federal Employees Retirement if he/she is a FERS employee. If he/she is a FERS employee and he/she makes contributions to the Thrift Saving Plan, the Branch shall match up to 5% of his/her contributions, not to exceed the percentage he/she has consistently and continuously contributed in the past three years as a TSP participant prior to his/her initial election to office. If re-elected to subsequent terms, the President may then elect to increase his/her percentage at that time, to the maximum of 5% if he/she had not previously been contributing the maximum of 5% to the TSP. Due to the nature of the position, President of NALC Branch 599, “it shall be a requirement of the job that he/she, if maintaining health insurance, must be a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan if the Branch is to pay his/her Health Benefits premiums, self or family option, whichever option was in force at the time of his/her election into office of President. The Branch as the employer and the President as the employee shall each pay their respective portions of all other requirements of applicable state and federal laws.

Signed by: Alan W. Peacock, Brian A. Obst, Harold Lance Jones, and Jose R. Oliva



Central Florida Labor Council, AFL-CIO

2016 Endorsed Candidates as of August 2

U.S. Congressional Candidates:

- CD 14 (Hillsborough County).....**Kathy Castor** 301 W Platt St #385 Tampa 33606
- CD 13 (Pinellas County) **Charlie Crist** PO Box 1547, St. Petersburg 33731
- CD 17* (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, & Polk Counties) **April Freeman** PO Box 152198, Cape Coral 33195

*Endorsement limited to advocacy where there are overlapping races with an endorsed candidate

Florida Senate:

- District 18 (Hillsborough County) **Bob Buesing** PO Box 173727, Tampa 33672
- District 19 (Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties) **Ed Narain** PO Box 4835, Tampa 33677
- District 22 (Polk County) **Debra Wright** 2575 Gerber Dairy Rd, Winter Haven 33880

Florida House of Representatives:

- District 36 (Pasco County)..... **Amanda Murphy** PO Box 1379, New Port Richey 34656
- District 41 (Polk County) **Robert Doyel** PO Box 987, Winter Haven 33882
- District 59 (Hillsborough County) **Naze Sahebzamani** PO Box 706, Brandon 33509
- District 60 (Hillsborough County) **David Singer** 712 S Oregon Ave, Ste 200, Tampa 33606
- District 61 (Hillsborough County) **Dianne Hart** 2912 N 26th St, Tampa 33605
- District 63 (Hillsborough County) **Lisa Montelione** 9814 N Pawnee Ave, Tampa 33617
- District 69 (Pinellas County) **Jennifer Webb** PO Box 10640, St. Petersburg 33733
- District 70 (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee & Sarasota Counties)..... **Wengay Newton, Jr.** PO Box 11551, St. Petersburg 33733
- District 72 (Sarasota County) **Edward James III** PO Box 1011, Sarasota 34230

Amendment 4 (Tax Exemptions for Solar Devices) **Support**

Municipal Races:

- Hernando County Commission, Dist. 1**Jimmy Lodato** PO Box 194, Brooksville 34605
- Hernando County Commission, Dist. 3 **Diane Rowden** 10350 Fulton Ave, Weeki Wachee 34613
- Hernando County School Board, Dist. 4..... **William Vonada** 13298 Asbury St, Spring Hill 34609
- Hillsborough County Property Appraiser **Bob Henriquez** 1535 W Park Ln, Tampa 33606
- Hillsborough County Court Judge, Grp. 10..... **Miriam Velez Valkenburg** 214 S Armenia Ave, Tampa 33609
- Hillsborough County School Board, Dist. 1..... **William Person** 3623 Marco Dr, Tampa 33614
- Hillsborough County School Board, Dist. 3..... **Cindy Stuart** PO Box 271218, Tampa 33688
- Hillsborough County School Board, Dist. 7..... **Alan Clendenin** 614 W Swann Ave, Tampa 33606
- 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County) State Attorney **Mark Ober** PO Box 18987, Tampa 33679
- 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County) Judge, Grp. 3..... **Carl Hinson** 2401 W Platt St, Tampa 33612
- 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County) Judge, Grp. 24..... **Melissa Polo** 3802 W Bay to Bay Blvd, Ste 12, Tampa 33629
- Pasco County Clerk of Court..... **Paula O'Neil** PO Box 7110, Bayonet Point 34674-7110
- Pasco County Court Judge, Grp. 4 **Debra Roberts** 8138 Massachusetts Ave, New Pt Richey 34653
- Pinellas County Commission, District 3..... **Charlie Justice** PO Box 40234, St. Petersburg 33743
- Pinellas County Court Judge, Grp. 9..... **Dwight Dudley** 1127 – 9th Ave N, St. Petersburg 33705
- Pinellas County School Board, Dist. 1 (Co-Endorsement) { **Joanne Lentino** PO Box 281, Bay Pines 33744
- Pinellas County School Board, Dist. 1 (Co-Endorsement) { **Matthew Stewart** PO Box 56454, St. Petersburg 33732
- Pinellas County School Board, Dist. 4 **Eileen Long** 2019 Southpointe Dr, Dunedin 34698
- Pinellas County School Board, Dist. 5 **Eliseo Santana Jr.** 1400 Byram Dr, Clearwater 33755
- Polk County Commission, Dist. 3 **J.C. Martin** 3903 Cypress Landing E, Winter Haven 33884
- Polk County School Board, District 1 **Billy Townsend** 818 Johnson Ave, Lakeland 33801
- Polk County School Board, District 2 **Ronnie Clark** 49 Pine Forest Dr, Haines City 33844
- Polk County School Board, District 4 **Ed Smith** 380 E Sanford St, Lake Alfred 33850
- Sarasota County Commission, Dist. 1 **Fredd "Glossie" Atkins** 1679 – 35th St, Sarasota 34234
- Sarasota County Hospital Board, Central District, Seat 1 **Jody Davenport** 2532 Clipper Ship Way, Sarasota 34231

A Blunderful Blizzard of Boz

It wasn't soon enough in the year for the Santa Ana wind to bring its dusty, dry, dirty desert air to the City of Angels. Yet the persistent California sunrise still had to force its way through the smoggy haze in the east. I was in a third floor room at the Sheraton, mindlessly gazing at the incessant blinking of a neon beacon, its presence testifying to the relative vacancy of my accommodations. Through my weary bloodshot eyes, I spied the husky slumbering body of my traveling companion. He was a congenial fellow with a strange Germanic name and possessed of a sincerely avuncular demeanor. But why was I here? It didn't add up. And then it came back to me, like a boomerang thrown in the great Outback down under.

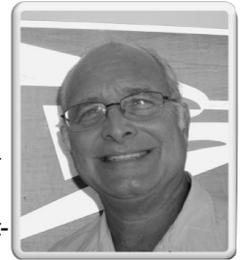
I had been resting my dogs on the blotter of the weathered wooden desk of my digs at the Acme Building, with an unopened pack of Luckies and a half-empty bottle of cheap gin to keep them company. There was an impatient knock at the office door. The classy dame who then strode in turned my shabby gumshoe bureau into the most spectacular palace this side of the Tampa airfield. Her auburn hair tussled in the gentle breeze of my Westinghouse electric fan. She wore a string of oyster fruit around her pulchritudinous neck. Her aquamarine peepers sparkled in the light coming from the transom window above my door. Her nose made a slight upturn like a delicate Scotch-Irish sprite. And her gams, they possessed the same perfect curves as the rest of her shapely frame. I couldn't help but ask if she had been a Rockette. *No, Mr. Danger, I am a letter carrier from Branch 599, she replied. My name is Caroline and I have a business proposition for you. We have reason to believe that a mole will be infiltrating the NALC's 70th convention in Los Angeles and we'd like you to give him the bum's rush. Catch my drift? We sealed the deal, and before*

long, I was a delegate to the flatfoot messengers' big biennial bash.

The week's activities began with a reception. And there I began scouting potential suspects. Usually I wear iron, but I stashed my bean-shooter 'cause the Brunos nixed it. There were Janes and Jaspers there from all parts. And too many of them looked suspicious. My eyes must have conned me when I spied the likes of Mike Hammer, Sam Spade and Philip Marlowe. I did bump gums with the Thin Man. He called himself Eddie. Soon I spotted a big lug with a brown uniform jump into a brown truck and drive away with his door wide open. I tailed him up Sunset Boulevard and down Mulholland Drive. He ended up at *Pink's* hot dog emporium, where he coughed up a fin and bought a chocolate *maltes* for a tomato in a *Ford Falcon*. *Wrong film noir*, I said to myself. Anyways, the gal said she was no chippy, did not need his sugar and told him to breeze off.

At the convention itself, I turned my attention to the proceedings at hand. Every delegate had the opportunity to vote on amendments to the NALC constitution, covering issues such as the time and place of future conventions, eligibility of candidates for office, and distribution of revenue. Various resolutions were approved or disapproved. Reports were given on topics such as contract negotiations, the food drive, MDA, and the upcoming government elections. Awards were distributed. And guest speakers pontificated. An hour slid by like a sickly slug. I was anxious to hear General Sessions speak, that is, until my new best friend Susan, from Buffalo, set me straight. *You big Palooka*, she chided. *That big sign says GENERAL SESSIONS. It's our location, not the name of a speaker!*

Mornings and afternoons were spent attending some of the many workshops available. My choices were



Jim Boczarski
Retired Member
Branch 599

Communicating Our Message, Will You Be Ready?, Negotiating Techniques, The Future of Last Mile Delivery, NALC History of Video, NALC Health Benefit Plan, and the NALC History Jeopardy Challenge. Evenings were spent sleuthing, sightseeing and dining. My favorites were Grauman's Chinese Theater, La Brea Tar Pits, and the Magic Castle.

By the fifth day of the mole inquiry, a squealer sang and coughed up some inside dope. Enough to crack this case wide open. The mole was not a mole at all, but a pacific kangaroo rat (*dipodomis pacifica*) found weeks ago in a Beverly Hills parking lot. Rather than outfitting that rascal with a cement overcoat, showering it with Chicago lightning, inducing the big sleep, or even confining it to the Big House, Mr. Big and his associates released it far away from the opulence of Tinseltown. So now the creepy intruder dances in the dank, dreary, dismal, dimly lit underbelly of the celebrity paradise. It skirts along the grimy sewers. And past the narrow alleys, two-bit dives, greasy hash houses and the four missing letters from the HOLLYWOODLAND sign. Take that, you dirty rat!

And so ends another tantalizing tale from the diary of Jimmy Danger, convention delegate. Carry On.

Enjoy your Labor Day holiday and remember that labor unions created it!

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. **Babade Jegede's** [Forest Hills] on the birth of their baby boy!

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to the family of **Michael A. Stuart** [retiree] whose passing was July 29; to **Ruben Cuesta** [TCA] and family at the passing of his daughter, Melissa, June 19; to **Chris Bazinet** [Carrollwood] and family at the passing of his father, Lewis, May 20; to Marilyn & **Jim Good** [President Emeritus] and family at the passing of her mother; to **James Chase** [Palm River] and family at the passing of his father, George Jr., July 27; and to **Jeff Daoust** [Forest Hills] and family at the passing of his father. Delmer, August 8.

NALC statement on USPS' FY2016 Q3 report

The U.S. Postal Service has announced its financial results for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2016, covering April, May and June.

Here is a statement from NALC President Fredric Rolando:

Today's quarterly report puts the year-to-date operating profit of the Postal Service at \$1.3 billion, demonstrating the overall strength of the postal turnaround. Operating profits for each of the past two years have exceeded \$1 billion, and the Postal Service is now into its fourth straight year of operating in the black. The year-to-date operating profit is up by \$100 million from 2015's first nine months. And the postmaster general today said she expects a robust fall season with political mail, followed by the peak holiday season.

The third quarter's \$522 million operating loss reflects the typical slowness of Q3 plus the first stamp price rollback since 1919, with the ending in April of the *exigent* price increase—which lowered the quarter's revenue by about \$450 million. That rollback makes little financial sense, since USPS already has the industrial world's lowest rates.

Nonetheless, the adverse effect on postal revenues should be short term, with the Postal Regulatory Commission's legally mandated review of the postage rate-setting system starting early next year. We are confident that the PRC will restore rates to sensible levels before implementing a new system.

The big picture is that USPS operations are \$4.4 billion in the black since 2012. That's an impressive performance for a government entity that gets no taxpayer money—earning its revenue instead by selling stamps—and that enjoys widespread public support while providing Americans and their businesses with the industrial world's most-affordable delivery network.

Equally important is that these operating profits stem from two ongoing structural factors: As the economy continues to improve from the worst recession in 80 years, letter revenue is largely stabilizing. And as the internet drives online shopping, package revenue is skyrocketing, auguring well for the future.

—nalc.org

(Events continued from page 6)

Admission is Free

Meal Tickets Must be Paid for by August 31 to Branch 599's Office

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Hernando County

(Citrus, Sumpter, Hernando, Pasco)

Monday September 5 11 am—3 pm

\$10 per person
Marker 48 Brewery

12147 Cortez Boulevard, Spring Hill

- ◆ BBQ
- ◆ Music & Games!

Polk County

(Polk, Hardee, Highlands)

Monday September 5 11 AM—4 PM

\$5 per person
Lake Parker Pavilions

910 Granada Street, Lakeland

- ◆ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- ◆ Music & Games!

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
August 30
October 4

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday 7:30 PM
September 1
October 6

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
September 1
October 6

Sunday Work Party

at our Hall 9-11 AM
September 11
October 9

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday September 12 9 AM
Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday September 13 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon

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