



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

Official Notice

of Nominations & Elections of Delegates to the 70th Biennial NALC National Convention in 2016

Nominations for delegates to the 2016 NALC National Convention that will be held in Los Angeles CA, August 15-19, will be taken at regular branch meetings on October 1 and November 5, 2015, 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 3, 2015.

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Branch 599 Meetings

Thursday
October 1
7:30 PM

21 on 22

Brothers and Sisters, I first want to congratulate our 21 new regular career carriers. The long road is over, they have endured the rigors, they have survived multiple supervisors and managers, they have been the Sunday Amazon Warriors, and many had wondered if the day would

ever arrive. The new regular carriers were converted from CCAs on August 22, 2015. The 21 conversions are the largest number of CCAs to regular career status in a single day. I have heard from many of the new regulars and they are ecstatic. It has also given the current CCAs a boost, all

having moved up the seniority (relative standing) list by 21 spots... that is huge! It has brought new optimism and



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

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at nalc599@verizon.net
no later than the
5th of each month
in order for us to meet our
time limits to the publisher.

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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	Eddie Berroth	813.961.2962	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Detlev Aeppel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914
Forest Hills/Annex	33612/13	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	Joe Bitz	813.873.7189	813.465.0004
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
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	Christopher Woodside	813.719.6793	813.924.6869
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/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	347.403.1644
TCA/West Tampa	33607	John Lacko	813.873.7189	347.453.4562
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 Aeppel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

anticipation, a ray of hope to become a career United States Postal Service Letter Carrier. To top that, about fifteen days after the 21 were converted, they were paid for their first holiday, and that was Labor Day. August 22, 2015, will be a day 21 regular career carriers will always be connected!

2015 Labor Day Picnic Update

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate Labor Day at the union hall on Sunday, September 6. It was our first Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic in four years. It was a fun day, plenty of food, beverages, dessert (3 cakes), music inside and outside, and we had a photo area. It was great to see our members and their families sitting and interacting with coworkers and friends, both active and retired. For the kids there was a balloonist that stayed busy the entire 3 hours she was there, two bounce houses, and push-up popsicles. The building looked great and I heard many times how good the new air conditioners felt. The rain showers held off until 3:30 PM, just before the picnic was ending. I heard a lot of positive feedback, Lupton's BBQ did a wonderful job; the chicken, burgers, and hot dogs were all eaten. We collected close to \$600 for MDA. These collections will be combined with the proceeds from our November 22, 2015 Golf Tournament for our grand total donation.

I hope everyone who attended will go back to their respective offices and tell their fellow brothers and sisters what they missed, and the retirees will pass the word to fellow retirees. If the membership should vote to hold and support a 2016 Labor Day Picnic, we will do this all over again! Next year we will entertain having a tug-a-war competition between stations, with a first annual trophy going to that station. Stay tuned.

Shelving in LLVs

Carriers will be opening rear cargo doors in the next couple of months to find shelving has been added to their LLV. The shelving was originally tested in 2013 outside Washington DC, with the NALC's involvement. The Sun-coast District has ordered a significant amount of the shelves to combat the anticipated heavy volume of parcels for the holiday season. Two shelves are being installed on each side of the back cargo area, slanted slightly up to avoid the parcels falling off. The new LLVs scheduled for operation in 2018 will also have shelving and a high ceiling in the rear cargo area to allow a carrier to fully stand up.

PS Form 3996 (help slip)

We are still having issues with help slips, PS Form 3996; the requesting and the completion of the form. Carriers are still not using the forms to cover their requested overtime. This information was provided to the membership in my December 2014 article; I feel it needs to be presented again.

Section 122.33 of the M-39 Handbook requires the supervisor/manager to provide you with a 3996 when you request one.

122.33, The employee, upon request, will be provided a Form 3996, Carrier - Auxiliary Control, after the supervisor has been verbally informed as to the reason for the request. The employee shall not be denied the form and, upon request, a duplicate of completed form will be provided the employee.

So in the morning you evaluate your workload for the day, you realize you cannot complete your duties/route/assignment in 8 hours. You request a 3996, no matter what your supervisor/manager says to you, say the words *I am requesting a 3996 and*

explain the reason(s) for your request. Your supervisor/manager will push back, so when you hear *this is your demonstrated performance and you are not making standards or just pick up the pace a little...* these are not legitimate and do not change the situation you are in. Those comments, while frustrating, personally insulting, and intimidating to many, can never get under your skin; keep your cool. This is your estimate, you need to stay on course, if you are denied the 3996, immediately request to see your Shop Steward. In addition, you then need to politely ask your supervisor/manager, *In the event that I cannot deliver all the mail by the time you want me back, what should I do with the mail?* It would also be beneficial if a coworker hears the exchange you are having during the exercise. This information will assist your steward when s/he is building your defense/case in the event management issues discipline for an unprofessional estimate when you return late.

Safety and Health

It has been a summer of tremendous heat, humidity, and an abundance of rain. Two carriers needed treatment over the summer for heat exhaustion and we are not done with the heat and humidity yet. Know your body and the signs of dehydration. I know you have heard this before, but it is imperative when you are spending six to eight hours in the elements. Fluids, fluids, and more fluids! If necessary take an extra few minutes to hydrate and get out of the sun. In addition, with the extremely wet summer season comes more mold and mildew than normal. Slips and falls can happen easier; two carriers were injured due to these conditions. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety.

Here is an excerpt from a statement made by the Occupational Safety and

(Continued on page 4)

Salute to Labor Dinner

Vice President Alan Peacock [NALC Congressional District 14 Liaison] standing in center of back row, attended the Salute to Labor Dinner, as did Congressman Kathy Castor [front row, second from left], Florida State Association of Letter Carriers President Al Friedman [front row, third from left], along with friends and family.



Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

Health Administration on the importance of being prepared:

Whenever there is high heat, outdoor workers are at increased risk for heat-related illnesses and deaths. In fact, every year thousands of workers experience heat-related illnesses, and dozens more are killed by heat, and it happens in every part of the country...

The workers most at risk for heat-related illness are in construction and agriculture, but there are many outdoor workers in other industries that are at increased risk as well. These include workers in transportation, sanitation and recycling, building and grounds maintenance, landscaping services, oil and gas operations, and anyone else who does strenuous work in the open air.

Training is vital; every year before the summer heat arrives there should be training on symptoms of heat illness—and what to do if you see a coworker showing signs of dehydration or heat stroke.

Here are key pieces of advice from safety talks that should have been occurring before the summer began:

- Hydrate before, during, and after work. Prevention is important, so make sure to maintain good hydration by drinking at least 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes.
- Dress appropriately for the weather. On warm days, make sure to wear light colored, loose fitting, breathable clothing to keep body temperatures down.
- Utilize shade to stay cool. When possible, use shaded areas to stay out of direct sunlight.
- Know the signs of heat stress. You should understand what heat stress is and how it can affect your health and safety.
- Finally, it's important to notify your supervisor or call 911 if you're experiencing signs of heat-related illnesses (see below).

**Next work party will be
October 4, 2015.**

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Rentals of the Letter Carriers Hall continue to thrive; we are thinking outside the box for rentals. Conferences, training, wrestling, baby showers and job fairs are in addition to our normal rentals. We offer Wi-Fi and

advertise on Facebook, a webpage, an upgraded sign and several other methods. Our facilities have been upgraded with new air conditioners and a new roof. The building is clean and well maintained and our prices are competitive. Remember, members will receive a \$500 discount with a family rental.

*) NALC announces Letter Carrier Political Fund. NALC President Fredric V. Rolando formally announced the new name of NALC's political action committee (PAC). The name change comes as a result of an effort that began at the NALC convention in 2014, where hundreds of letter carriers submitted proposed new names for the former Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education.

*) The process of distributing uniform allowances for CCAs and newly converted regulars is much more effective than in the past. The spreadsheet currently being utilized is much easier to manage to distribute the allowances correctly.

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

The Birdseye View

We have ended the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2015 and with the report of the final quarter that will be released sometime in October or November we will see the results of all your hard work that continues to show a profitable Operating Profit for three consecutive years. This news is great, but now is the time for Congress to open its eyes and get their monkey off your backs and enact sound and futuristic legislation for USPS postal reform. The sacrifices have been many and some have even caused the loss of life. The need for a safer work environment is crucial and that means one where the employees are worth more than the desired result on computer manufactured reports. When true leadership exist the results will be greater due to the return of investment in the greatest asset which is grateful employees. We all understand our role and it will never be a cushy office job without enduring climate and other hazardous conditions that we will face on a daily basis, but we took this job understanding what it entails. We are just asking for the dignity and respect that we earn from our tremendous and laborious efforts.

Moving on, this also begins the new Fiscal year with new and even greater challenges. Our competitors in the shipping industry have already announced they were cutting back on the holiday shipping rates (or lower rates during holiday season) for this year. You ask, what does that matter to us and our business? Last year we delivered more packages during the holiday season than UPS and FEDEX combined and without the incentives they gave last year we can expect an even greater piece of the package delivery this season. Yes, that means more demand on us and the challenge as always will be met. This is the quarter of every fiscal year that sets the bar for the remaining three quarters to out-perform the previous fiscal year. This is the task we

take on for the future of our careers and the benefits we receive through our efforts for the US Postal Service and serving our customers as well as providing for our families.

This may be one of the most important quarters for the next several years as we head toward the end of our current contract which expires May 20, 2016. Currently, the American Postal Workers Union and The National Rural Letter Carriers Association are both at the mediation level with possibility of heading to arbitration on their contract negotiations. This is the example of how even with the concessions made in their last contract, was not enough to settle a new one without more exhausting and expensive negotiations. We have always said never give back and now we see the disrespect of having one union giving back and the spiral it has had on all of the other hard working employees that are treated like they are overpaid for all their efforts and labors. You have shown them that your hard work has put them into several consecutive years of operating profit and you will continue to show them and now it is their turn to *show me the money* as the saying goes because you have earned it the old fashioned way!

Legislative Update

During the current 114th Congress there have already been 28 bills introduced that affect the US Postal Service and/or its employees; out of that 28, only 2 or 3 possibly have enough co-sponsors to actually become acted upon or passed into legislation. Many of these are bills that are currently active and have an effect on all federal employees as well. Some of this legislation has failed to gain any support in committee much less pass the House or the Senate. The three that have shown the most interest for support are: the continuation of 6 day delivery, continuation of door delivery for

business and residential customers, and restoring the service standards that would counter the

almost half billion more pieces of mail delayed in only the first six months since vacating the overnight service standards, above the same period prior to the change. The bill that has gained some support that concerns saving door delivery for current residents and businesses that rely on service to the door; hopefully they will understand this can lead to a big problem trying to fight many local governments that have ordinances that require door delivery and deny curb or cluster box delivery. The latest and greatest bills introduced has been the Postal Innovation Act that enhances safety and environmental protections in postal vehicles and the Shipping Equity Act to permit the USPS to ship and deliver beer, wine, and alcoholic beverages. You have to wonder if these were designed to support each other. It is always amazing to see what comes out of the legislative agendas.

Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599



CCA to Career Carrier

Nationwide there have been over 18,000 CCAs converted to career since the Das Arbitration award and with the numbers of eligible carriers that will retire soon that number is sure to increase before this current contract expires. For your information, once you become career you have a lot more opportunity to decide how much overtime you want, if you want any at all after working like dogs and often without days off for weeks at a time. Once you are career for 90 days all your annual leave that is advanced for the remainder of year becomes available to you. When the choice leave selection takes place prior to the

(Continued on page 6)

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to Warren Sumlin and family at the passing of his father, August 25.



Congratulations! Jamil Williams

Congratulations to Produce carrier Jamil Williams, recognized for a *Customer Connect* lead that resulted in \$85,350 in revenue. Joining Jamil are President Tony Diaz, Business Connect Representative Trish Perry, and Manager Lewis Kindle.

The Birdseye View

(Continued from page 5)

next calendar leave year you will have the opportunity to select a vacation period up to three weeks for the year. Make sure you get a leave calendar that has your day-off rotation so you can try to plan to take advantage of maximizing your leave in conjunction with your days off and holidays. Remember that the selection always takes place by seniority, so don't expect you will get the prime holiday slots, if any at all, depending on your allowed complement percentage for choice periods as well as the percentages for incidental after choice selections are completed. Congratulations to all the CCAs who have been converted to career and enjoy the accelerated pay increases that will have you to top grade pay that all other career carriers receive; you have definitely earned it!

Labor Day

The Labor Day Picnic was well attended and enjoyed by all and the

food from Lupton's BBQ was excellent! Hopefully, we will continue to have this event to salute all our members who make the effort to attend for all the labor you do that is recognized on Labor Day weekend. Also on that subject, Congresswoman Kathy Castor who represents our branch's district which is in District 14, hosted a *Salute to Labor* dinner for representatives of unions from the West Florida Central Labor Council. This event was an enjoyable evening in a family style setting at the Yummy House on Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa. We had the opportunity to discuss a lot of our political concerns and interest that pertain to middle class working people and the different candidates that we will elect to represent us. Congresswoman Castor has always been a strong advocate for working class and has a great record in promoting good jobs and training to improve opportunities for her constituents to have greater chances to achieve in today's econ-

omy. As the NALC Congressional District Liaison, I have always had access to discuss our legislative concerns with Kathy Castor and her staff, and they have always been very supportive for the continued support of the US Postal Service and those that serve the American public.

Fraternally in Support of Unions and American Working Families,

Alan Peacock

Vice President NALC Branch 599
NALC Congressional District 14 Liaison



A Blunderful Blizzard of Boz

I'm sure you've encountered national media stories about wacky Florida. Wacky stories do not always come from Florida. They come from all over, including my own hometown area, Buffalo and Western New York. The folks up there are proud of their city's history and culture, they revel in its reputation, and they laugh at the wackiness with everyone else.

On Friday, October 22, 1971, a fellow named Robert Leroy Wayne Jackson committed suicide by hurling himself from the observation deck atop Buffalo's city hall. Fate intervened to make this simple act one of spectacular proportion. A gust of wind guided the rapidly descending Mr. Jackson right onto a flagpole mounted on the much wider second story roof, securely impaling him and causing passers-by to stop dead in their tracks to observe. First responders could not cut through Jackson's body until he was pronounced dead by the coroner, who had to be lifted up to the body in a fireman's bucket.

On June 28, 1971, popular disc jockey and television weather reporter Frank Benny robbed a bank, citing gambling debt as his excuse. This is the same weatherman who wore a green tie during a green-screen camera shot, causing the middle of his chest to appear transparent. He was forced to hold his hand up to his chin with his elbow resting in the other hand, making him look like his namesake, Jack Benny.

WKBW Channel 7 used to begin its late newscast with a voiceover saying, *It's 11 o'clock, do you know where your children are?* Sports director Rick Azar put a sign in his cubicle saying, *It's 11 o'clock, do your children know you're here?*

WGR Channel 2 premiered a local game show called *On Target*. A

television camera was outfitted with a crossbow. The cameraman was blindfolded and a viewer at home gave instructions to the cameraman by phone, attempting to sever a rope attached to a weight. If the weight dropped, the viewer would win a luxury automobile. The arrow hit the rope perfectly, but the rope was wider than the arrowhead and the weight did not fall. While on air, guest celebrity Marty Ingles urged the producers to at least give the viewer a motor scooter. That was the last we ever saw of *On Target*.

In 1901, the US Post Office Department issued a series of six postage stamps celebrating transportation; one of the themes included Buffalo's Pan American Exposition. In a small number of these stamps, the central image was accidentally printed upside down. These inverted stamps have become collectors' items. In 2001, the Postal Service reissued four of the stamps to celebrate the Exposition's centennial. Guess what? The central images are inverted.

My great-uncle Kaz Urban lived near the corner of Clark and Kent. He was a super man, but he wasn't Superman.

While most of us are used to neighborhoods with cute developer-issued names such as *Flamingo Trail* or *Whispering Palms*, Buffalo's neighborhoods are identified by the Catholic Church nearby. If someone tells you he's from the East side, you need to ask: *St. Stanislaus, Corpus Christi, or St. Adalbert?*

Buffalo has a subway system. The system has only one line. And it is only 6.4 miles long.

A number of items were invented or perfected in Western New York. These include: grain elevators, jet aircraft, rocket belts, electric chairs, air conditioners, bubbler-type drinking fountains, Pierce Arrow motorcars,

the song *Buffalo Gals*, metal kazooes, windshield wipers, Jell-O, implantable pacemakers, coffee breaks, hamburgers, beef-on-weck sandwiches, chicken wings, the cocktail, and city streetlights.

A number of celebrities came from, or lived part of their lives in the Niagara Frontier. They include: Tim Russert, Taylor Caldwell, Elbert Hubbard, Spyro Gyra, Christine Baranski, Amanda Blake, Buffalo Bob Smith, Mark Russell, Chief Justice John Roberts, Nancy Marchand, Dick Shawn, Michael Bennett (wrote *A Chorus Line*), Harold Arlen (wrote *Over the Rainbow*), James Whitmore, Wolf Blitzer, Bob Lanier, Sorrell Booke (Boss Hogg), F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain, Fran Striker (creator of *Lone Ranger*), Jesse White (Maytag repairman), Ray Evans (wrote *Mr. Ed Theme Song*), Grover Cleveland, and Millard Fillmore.

So whether you consider your hometown famous or infamous, CARRY ON! -Boz



Jim Boczarski
Sulphur Springs
Member
Branch 599

Retirees Banquet

January 16, 2016

Save this date on your calendar!

Branch 599 Members Can Join Our Facebook Group

After logging into Facebook,
you will find us here:
facebook.com/groups/nalc599



2nd Annual

NALC Branch 599 MDA Charity Golf Tournament

at
Heritage Isles Golf & Country Club

Help Letter Carriers support the Muscular Dystrophy Association
Sponsor a hole at NALC Branch 599 MDA Charity Golf Tournament

Sponsor includes hole sign at tee box or
Putting and chipping contest
Hole Sponsor: \$100
Putting Contest: \$150
Chipping Contest: \$150

Business name or Individual name:

Address:

Phone:

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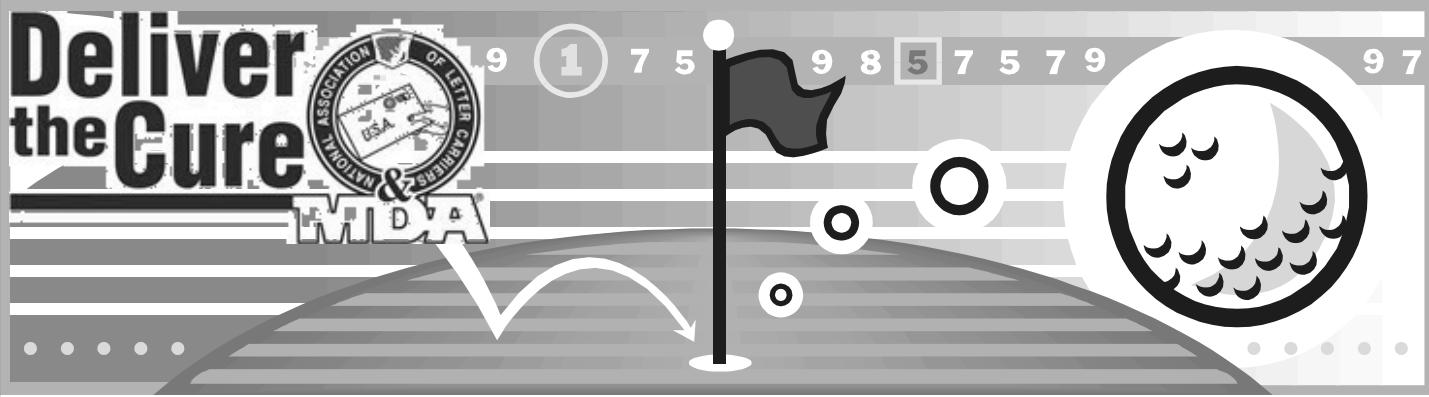
Message on sign or attach business card:

Make checks payable to NALC Branch 599/MDA

Mail to: 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609

Contact info:

Tony Diaz, President 813-875-0599 office | 813-598-9635 cell | Alan Robinson 813-843-9762



2nd Annual NALC Branch 599 Golf Tournament

Help Letter Carriers support MDA

Heritage Isles Golf & Country Club
10630 Plantation Bay Drive, Tampa FL 33637

November 22, 2015

8 AM Shotgun Start

\$60 per person

Includes Round of Golf • Driving Range • Lunch • Long Drive Contest • Closest to Pin Hole in One, Free Truck Giveaway courtesy of Rivard Buick-GMC

Also available

Raffle Prizes • \$5 donation Putting & Chipping Contest

Breakfast available in clubhouse for additional charge.

----- Cut Here (please Print) -----

Golfer 1 _____

Golfer 3 _____

Golfer 2 _____

Golfer 4 _____

Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599/MDA
Mail to: NALC Branch 599, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609
Branch Office 813.875.0599 • Tony 813.598.9635 • Alan 813.843.9762

Payment Due by November 14, 2015
Pin Sponsors and Raffle Gifts welcome

Labor Day Picnic was enjoyed by all!

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Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

September 29
November 3**Executive Board Meets**

Thursday 6:30 PM

October 1
November 5**Sunday
Work Party
at our Hall**

9-11 AM

October 4
November 8*Location
Change***Retirees Breakfasts**

Monday October 5 9 AM

Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday October 13 8 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon**ARSLAN UNIFORMS***Bill & Shirley Moran*

Gold Card Member Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

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Membership Has Its **PERKS!**



- Lower Rate Loans
- Higher Investment Yields
- No Excessive Fees
- We Approve Loans Differently
- We're Everywhere You Are!

Join Today!



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