

# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 21, ISSUE I

NOVEMBER 2022

### 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, 2022, 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, 2023.

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, 2022, 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, 2022.

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
November 3
7:30 PM

### Official Notice

# of Nominations & Election of Delegates to the 2023 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention

Nominations for delegates to the 2023 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention in Naples FL will be taken at *regular Branch meetings* on October 6 and November 3, 2022; election on December 1, 2022, if necessary. Regular Branch Meetings are held at our Branch Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609, at 7:30 PM.

2023 FSALC Convention will be held at the Naples Grand Hotel – August 24-26, 2023

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. 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 the Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting in December.

### Branch 599 Office

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

Tony Diaz
President
tony\_diaz599@verizon.net
Office Hours
Monday – Friday

Rodna Kimelman Kirk Office Secretary nalc599@verizon.net

### Tampa Letter Carrier

Tony Diaz Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas Editor editor.nalc599@gmail.com

> Branch 599 Office 813.875.0599

National Association of
Letter Carriers, Branch 599,
3003 W Cypress Street,
Tampa FL 33609-1698,
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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@gmail.com and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> 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	tony_diaz599@verizon.net	
	cell 813.598.9635			
Vice President	Brian Obst	727.458.0679	erif_lor@hotmail.com	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Michael Brink	813.875.0599	nalc599@verizon.net	
Financial Secretary	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net	
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jjg7d7@aol.com	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Michael Williams	813.541.8327	mwilliams4215@gmail.com	
MBA/NSBA	Michael Anderson	813.967.1615	mikey020@msn.com	
Health Benefit Rep.	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914	dcaeppel@aol.com	
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	arob715@gmail.com	
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	lorraine.mcmillion@gmail.com	
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	joliva1938@gmail.com	
	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com	
Labor Management	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com	
	Clement Cheung	813.758.5910	ccheung@tampabay.rr.com	
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/Branc	727.458.0679			
Brandon	33510/11	Osceola Williams Sr.	813.661.1636	210.445.1369
Brandon	33510/11		813.661.1636	
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613		813.935.2954	
Hilldale	33614		813.879.4309	
Hilldale Annex	33634		813.879.4309	
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Victoria Reeder	813.831.2034	813.525.1685
Interbay/Peninsula	33629		813.831.2034	
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564		813.719.6793	
Produce	33610	Matt Rodkey	813.239.4084	813.562.8744
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Hyde Park	33606		813.873.7189	
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35		813.884.0973	
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

# Around The Horn from the President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters,

### Getting involved

As we conclude nominations for Branch 599 officers at the November meeting, is it time for you to get involved? Time for you to step up? Do you want to help lead? Can you make a difference? If you have contemplated a Branch officer position, but decided it may be too much of a first leap, maybe a station steward is a start. Learning the contract, learning to deal with different issues, addressing management, representing members in your office, these are duties you will encounter. Learning the contract would not only benefit you as a steward, but it would be beneficial for you personally. Most of your Branch officers began as a steward, and many have held both a Branch officer and a steward position. As we move forward, we must grow our leadership. We must train and educate our younger carriers to be prepared to lead this union. Please note: the top 5 Branch 599 officer positions are currently held by retirees. In addition, retirees hold 6 other Branch officer positions. While retirees have always been active and involved as Branch officers, and active in Branch activities, retirees will not be around forever. Station steward elections will be conducted in November, with elections in December. Let's get you started, let's get you involved. Steward training is held once a month. In addition, the Branch office will support you and officers can train you individually. Please consider this opportunity, as we have several offices without Shop Stewards. Stewards within an office (on

the ground) can address issues on the spot; there is nothing like having a representative in the building.

### Letter Carrier Concerns

As we are aware, the letter carrier job is a demanding one. I break a letter carrier's job into three aspects. The physical aspect, a mental aspect, and the elements aspect. On the physical side, you encounter lifting, carrying, loading, unloading, bending, stooping, climbing, sitting, standing, kneeling, reaching above shoulder, twisting, pushing, walking, simple grasping, fine manipulation, and driving, (did I forget any?). The mental aspect you encounter includes unreasonable expectations, micromanaging, arguing for auxiliary assistance you requested, instructions that make the job more difficult, forcing issues, working your SDO, working your holiday, disrespectful management, countless text messages asking where you are, unwarranted discipline being issued, paycheck and clock ring issues, annual leave issues and sick leave issues, broken down air conditioners, and scanning issues. The elements aspect you encounter are excessive heat, the cold, humidity, rain, flooding, lightning, and wind for 6 to 8 hours on the street. In addition to dealing with unruly customers, snakes, dog attacks, bees, wasps, blocked mailboxes, gunfire, and recently, robberies. These three aspects are a part of the day in the life of a letter carrier. All three aspects have become more difficult. The physical aspect has changed dramatically with the increased parcel volume alone, the job is more physical than before.

The elements aspect has changed with excessive weather extremities. The violent weather patterns have changed nationwide. There



Tony Diaz President Branch 599

are more natural disasters and severe weather occurrences than ever before. In addition, the elements include a more violent world, the streets are dangerous. The mental aspect of the job is what I believe has changed the most. There are more workplace issues than ever before. As much as we address the issues through the grievance procedure, management continues to violate the contract more than ever. I don't know if there will ever be a harmonious workroom floor; there are offices that are worse than others. We deal with inexperienced supervisors that do not know the contract, that do not know how to lead, that do not know how to communicate. They give instructions with limited experience; there is dysfunction on many workroom floors. This is not rocket science, running a workroom floor should not be this difficult. As we have attempted to work with supervisors and managers, some will never change their tactics.

### Quick Hits:

# Information you should know \*NALC supports organizing Delta flight attendants

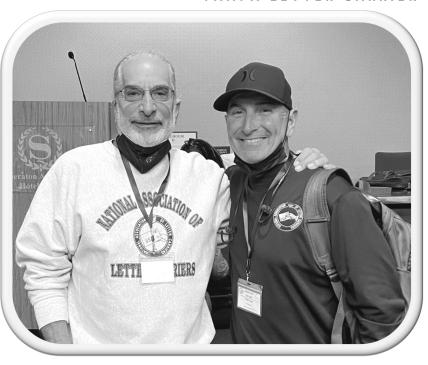
In June, a group of Delta flight attendants formed an organizing committee to take the next step in their

(Continued on page 4)

# NALC President Fred Rolando

Branch 599 President Tony Diaz is pictured with NALC President Fred Rolando at the Committee of President's Meeting in September. This was Fred's last COP meeting as National President. Fred has served as NALC President since 2009 and came to power at a time when the NALC needed direction for the future. We are all fortunate and appreciative for his leadership. The NALC is poised to thrive heading into the future, and is in a better than ever position heading into contract negotiations.

Thank you, Fred!



### Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

campaign to join the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO. The organizing committee wrote to their flying partners: We are the Delta Flight Attendants who are organizing Delta AFA. We're organizing for a real voice on the job, work rules management can't just change, and industry leading compensation to match our contribution to the industry's leading, most profitable airline.

We're working to form our union so all of us have a say in our workplace and a contract that locks in everything we love.

We're proud to be your flying partners. We're union proud. We're Delta proud. Join us. Together, there's nothing we can't achieve.

NALC is supporting the campaign and asking letter carriers interested in doing more to become a Delta AFA supporter and get involved.

-nalc.org October 12, 2022

# \*Update on NALC hurricane relief efforts

The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation has sprung into action to help union members affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. NALC officers and staff have been in daily contact with branch presidents in Puerto Rico, Florida, and South Carolina, assessing needs and providing aid. Dozens of emergency grants have already been wired to members who have lost homes, vehicles, and other property in the worst hit parts of Puerto Rico and Florida.

A delegation from the Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) will soon visit Florida to deliver donated letter carrier uniforms and other vital supplies from DRF stockpiles in our Atlantaarea facility.

The national union has made a sizable financial contribution to the AFL-CIO's disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico to help with the island's recovery. The Federation is also coordinat-

ing donations of urgently needed supplies with the assistance of the Seafarers International Union and the International Association of Machinists. Branches wishing to make donations can find information on nalc.org.

Lending a helping hand to brothers and sisters at their hour of greatest need is solidarity in action, President Fred Rolando said. Our thoughts and prayers are with our members and their families in all the affected areas – thanks to those of you who have contributed to the DRF, NALC in a position to help them through this difficult time.

-nalc.org October 6, 2022

Next month I will report on my experience with our Hurricane Relief effort for our South Florida NALC brothers and sisters.

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

# Unionism — Steward Elections and the Importance of Station Representation

It is that time of year when our station Shop Stewards are elected for the coming year. Our LMOU (Local Memorandum of Understanding) sets November each year as the month for this election and its importance cannot be understated.

The local Shop Steward is the first line of defense for the carriers working for the postal service. They are on the workroom floor and can see what actions management is taking and it is their job to ensure contract compliance from management. When there is no shop steward in the office it can embolden management to violate the terms and provisions of the contract that governs the work we do on a daily basis. It is like a lock on a door its purpose is to keep people honest; no lock encourages a thief to steal and while some thieves will just break the lock most will look elsewhere. The Shop Steward, as one of their duties, acts the same way by protecting the contract. Sure, some management types will violate even though the steward is there, most times they will look to not violate.

The Shop Steward is the first line of defense for carriers on the workroom floor and if you work with the steward, s/he can assist you if you are having difficulties at work. A good Shop Steward will learn to communicate with all the carriers they work with, to develop a relationship with them, ensuring that carriers will be able to come to them when they have issues that need addressing.

The Shop Steward will need to attend a monthly training session with all the other stewards as well as the President and Vice President. This monthly meeting is for training and the forwarding of new information to the stewards so they can pass it on it to the members on the workroom floor. The importance of this training cannot be underestimated. Each meeting will provide the stewards with information to assist them in their daily duties and it is a time to report issues and ask questions to better represent the members at your station. Additional training is always available; one need only ask and the President and/or the Vice President will schedule individualized training when requested.

I have heard many excuses through the years about why someone can't be a steward and while there are some reasons that might make it difficult for an individual, it is hard to imagine how an entire station has no one that can step up on a yearly basis. The position is year to year and if one takes the job and after a year, you don't feel you can continue, then help train the next person to help ensure local representation for all the members. I don't expect everyone who becomes a steward to remain one for 25 years like I did, but one never knows. It is so very important to just take the first step.

As union members, I'm sure that we have all heard the statement:

Union – without U doesn't exist. Let us remember that a union is an



Brian Obst Vice President Branch 599

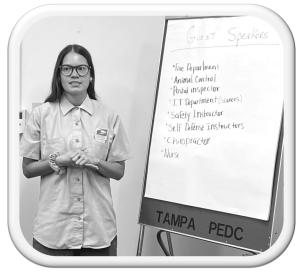
organization of likeminded individuals banding together for a

cause or purpose, like the 3 Musketeers – All for One and One for All. We all work together for the same goals and proper representation requires a local Shop Steward. While an outside steward can be assigned, that individual will not be on the workroom floor daily and will only be aware of issues when someone reports them, which in many cases is too late to properly address the issues.

As letter carriers, anyone can become a Shop Steward, the requirements are simple. One - be a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Two - have a willingness to learn and help protect your coworkers. Three - you must not have worked or applied for a position in management in the previous two years and you will have to have a letter on file stating so. If you had previously been in management or had an application pending, then you must submit a letter showing you have withdrawn yourself from management consideration and that letter must be on file with the Branch for 2 years before you become eligible for the position. Simple. Everything else we will teach you and we will be there to assist as you grow in experience and knowledge. You can be a Regular, PTF or a CCA, and in case I didn't mention it, there is a

# Quarterly Safety Captain Meeting





Tampa Safety Captains attended the first in-person meeting on Tuesday, September 13, at the airport conference room. It was a full day event. Meetings have been conducted through Zoom since the pandemic.

Quests included: a Postal Inspector (how to defend yourself and active shooter), Driver Training Instructor (Conducting a complete and thorough vehicle inspection and a demonstration at the training mirror station), and District Manager (discussing the importance of safety and the costs of accidents).

Breakout groups included: rollaway/run aways, motor vehicle reduction plan, dog bite prevention, and inviting quest speakers addressing letter carrier issues.

Pictured are Terrell Brown (TnC) and Geraldine Castano Dorado (Ybor City), both reporting on their respective group's action plan for their assigned topic.

It was great to have everyone together, nothing like the face-to-face meetings!



at nalc.org

Get involved! Your future depends on it!

# Unionism — Steward Elections and the Importance of Station Representation

(Continued from page 5)

monthly stipend you'll receive for the position.

I became a steward during my first year on the job and I can say that it was a rewarding position for my growth as a union member as well as a letter carrier. It was the start of my movement upward in the Branch and has opened many doors for education opportunities as well as advancement in the Union. I have developed many friendships through the years, and I have learned how to work with all parties to best represent the membership. As your current Vice President, I can only tell you that the Shop Steward is the most important position in the local union's hierarchy because it all starts with the steward.

I ask all members to give consideration to running for Shop Steward at your station/zone to assist the Branch in providing the best representation possible for our membership. Until next month I will leave you as always.......

Knowledge is the Key.

*Brian Obst*Vice President

# Delegate report on the 72nd biennial convention in Chicago

As a LCPF (Letter Carrier Political Fund) contributor, I wondered if continued contributions to the fund were necessary, due to the success we experienced recently in the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. I attended the workshop covering NALC's Legislative & Political Agenda and discovered that our lobbying needs to continue. Sixteen concerns were listed as being important to our political agenda. They include: properly investing money put aside for our retiree health benefits, vehicle funding, products & innovation, hazard pay, paid leave, childcare tax credit payments, electoral reforms, replacing the CSRS valuation method, and re-nominating Lee Moak to the Board of Governors when his term expires. Also, we need to keep our Congress members and Senators apprised of the following bills: Federal Retirement Fairness Act, HR 4268 (allows non-career employees to make catch-up contributions to FERS); Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82 & S.1302 (repeals social security provisions that unfairly reduce benefits); PRO Act, HR 842 (protects the right to organize, makes scabs contribute to unions, protects

labor issue whistleblowers, and prohibits employers from forcing attendance at anti-union meetings); Porch Pirates Act, HR 6852, DeJoy Act, HR 2230 (maintain service standards for 1st class in effect 1-1-21); Ensuring Oversight Access at the Postal Service Act, HR7674 (allows members of Congress to access postal facilities); and Ensuring an Accurate Postal Fleet Electrification Act, HR 7682 (USPS can't procure any Oshkosh vehicle until USPS issues a revised final environmental impact statement).

Other delegates attended workshops which clarified techniques to be used when pursuing the grievance procedures, branch communications, communicating our message to the public, managing branch finances, recruiting union activists, community service, retirement planning, CCA rights & benefits, and navigating the OWCP process. I myself was struck by one comment made by Philip Dine, the editor of The Postal Record, who spoke during a workshop called Communicating Our Message. If contacted by a news reporter regarding an issue or event about which we are not sure the union has



Jim Boczarski
on, be sure
Retired Member
Branch 599

formulated an opinion, be sure NOT to say No

comment. Saying No comment is often making a comment. It is far better to tell the reporter that you'll get back to him or her later. You should call the Branch office to let our officers know you were contacted and find out what you should do. As an officer, reflection and research are vital before any comments are made.

The first-time delegates expressed awe and respect for the procedures they observed in the general sessions, the democratic nature of the proceedings, the fervor of the guest speakers, and the feeling of solidarity evidenced by the great mass of delegates, even when an issue required a tally vote. They were also impressed by the two movies about the postal strike of 1970, one made in 2010 and another produced more recently. An antique three-wheeled delivery vehicle restored by Florida's own Matty Rose was on display, as well as the hull of the new NGDV truck. These two were good for pictures to send home.

### Remember to keep our office updated with your contact info.

You can do so via US Mail, email, or by calling. We'd appreciate your phone numbers, address, and email address.

nalc599@verizon.net • 813.875.0599

Sponsored by NALC Branch 599

# 9th Annual MDA

Charity Golf Tournament



THE CLUB AT CHEVAL
4312 CHEVAL BLVD
LUTZ, FL 33558



December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 8:00 AM SHOTGUN START
575 PER PERSON

**PLAYER REGISTRATION INCLUDES:** 

Round of Golf | Range Balls | Catered Lunch

**OPTIONAL PUTTING CONTEST** 

### Contact

- **L** Alan Robinson 813-843-9762
- *L Tony Diaz* 813-598-9635
  - *Office* 813-875-0599
- ✓ NALC599@verizon.net



# **Sponsorship**

# Application Form DUE BY NOVEMBER 18,2022 BUSINESS NAME INDIVIDUAL NAME ADDRESS PHONE EMAIL MESSAGE ON SIGN SELECT YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE: 9100 HOLE SPONSOR 9200 LONG DRIVE 9200 CLOSEST TO PIN 9200 PUTTING CONTEST 9500 TEAM SPONSOR 91000 SILVER SPONSOR 91000 SILVER SPONSOR 91000 SILVER SPONSOR 91000 SOLD SPONSOR

Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599 MDA  $\!\!/$  3003 W. Cypress St. Tampa, FL 33609

### Players Registration Form Due by NOVEMBER 18, 2022

GOLFER 1

GOLFER 2

GOLFER 3

GOLFER 4

MDA Federal ID # 13-1665552

Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599 MDA / 3003 W. Cypress St. Tampa, FL 33609

# Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Marianne & Tony Diaz [President] at the passing of her mother, Marianne, September 28; to Jaime Rodriguez [retiree] and family at the passing of his father, Esteban, September 6; and to Andre Belton [Sun City Center] and family at the passing of his father, Belton, September 29.

# Please Support Our Golf Tournament!

You can help our tournament set a new record this year by donating raffle items, sponsoring a hole, and/or joining us as a golfer. You can pool funds with coworkers, friends, or family to be sponsors; see the brochure on page 7 of this newsletter. If you are a continuing sponsor, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Each year we have a very special guest, Ardin Fisher. He and his family have attended our tournament for the past 6 years. Ardin was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy 8 years ago. This young man has been an inspiration to all of us. Please help us *Deliver the Cure* for all kids, like Ardin, whose lives have been affected by this horrible disease.

For more information, you can contact Tournament Chair, Alan Robinson. Thank you for whatever way you can help us support the Muscular Dystrophy Association!



6th Daylight Savings Time Ends

8th Election Day

11th Veterans Day – We appreciate your service.

24th Happy Thanksgiving!

### You can find EAP info at nalc.org

Choose Workplace Issues, hover over Safety & Health, and choose Employee Assistance Program.

### Veterans Crisis Line

veteranscrisisline.net or dial 988 & press 1 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

### Who am I?

I wake up daily and report to work helping people communicate the world over.....

I care about those less fortunate than myself.....

I keep an eye on others to help provide a safe environment for all.....

I support those I work with to create a more harmonious work environment.....

I seek out ways to improve myself and the job I perform.....

I look out for safety issues that affect everyone in the workplace.....

I am an essential worker and people depend on me to provide my service daily.....

I am a part of a team that works to help others.....

I am trusted and respected by a majority of people in the country.....

I am all of this and so much more.....

Who am I?

I am a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service.



Our union established the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation to alleviate the suffering of members affected by natural disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. You can donate at nalc.org:

Choose menu item ... Member Benefits

Then ... NALC Disaster Relief Foundation

NOTICE	– Meetings are sub	piect to change due	to any upsurges	of COVID.
	i recurrige are suc	Juct to change due	, co any apsarges	OI COVID.

Shop Stewards	Tuesday	November 1 November 29	7:00 PM 7:00 PM
Executive Board	Thursday	November 3 December 1	6:30 PM 6:30 PM
Branch 599	Thursday	November 3 December 1	7:30 PM 7:30 PM
<b>Retirees Breakfast – Tampa</b> Denny's Restaurant at D	Monday ale Mabry & Spruce	November 7  • 2004 N Dale Mabry	9:00 AM y Highway
Retirees Breakfast – Temple Terrace	Tuesday	November 8	10:00 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher • 12272 Morris Bridge Road



A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599

National Association of Letter Carriers 3003 W Cypress Street

Tampa FL 33609-1617 813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599

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