



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2021

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

8 CCAs converted to fulltime regular on February 13!

Congratulations to the 8 top Relative Standing Tampa CCAs, finally being converted to career/fulltime regular carriers. These 8 converted CCAs added to the 1 conversion in January gives Tampa 9 conversions for the young 2021 year. The conversions were well deserved after serving right at 41 months as CCAs. All began in September 2017, the longest period since the inception of CCAs and the beginning of conversions. **Again, congratulations to the new fulltime regular carriers!**



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

❖ I want reemphasize the seriousness of COVID-19. The damage that COVID-19 can inflict is not completely known yet, as it can vary from one person to another. Please take COVID seriously for yourself and your family, and comply with CDC guidelines as best as you can... everywhere.

Brothers and Sisters, Something to pay attention to is the intent to destroy the United States Postal Service by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. First reported by the Washington Post, dated February 12, 2021, and later was available on postalnews.com, dated February 14. With the headlines that read: **Fire DeJoy Before He Burns Down USPS: Postmaster General**

Pushes Plan for Slower Mail, Higher Prices and Postmaster expected to consolidate first-class mail in anticipated slowdown.

The legislative plan must be to put intensified pressure on newly elected President Joe Biden to take decisive action before DeJoy inflicts any more damage on the most popular government institution in the country. This man, is undeterred by the backlash and widespread delays that followed his disruptive operational changes at the U.S. Postal Service last year. The Post reports, while the plan has not been completed, the Postmaster General plans to lump all first-class mail into a single delivery category as part of his decade-long plan for the agency in a move that would slow the transit of

such mail. Citing two people briefed on his strategic plan for the US Postal Service, The Post reported that DeJoy has outlined getting rid of a type of two-day-delivery first class mail, which includes envelope-sized mail sent locally. All first-class mail would thus be sent in the three to five-day range currently set for non-local mail. That class of mail is already struggling; only 38 percent was delivered on time at the end of 2020, the Postal Service reported in federal court. Customers have reported bills being held up, and holiday cards and packages still in transit. Pharmacies and prescription benefits managers have told patients to request medication refills early to leave

(Continued on page 3)

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599
Meeting
Thursday
March 4
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

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National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599,

3003 W Cypress Street,
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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.

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Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock		

Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Brandon	33510/11	Luis Cruz	813.661.1636	813.431.3223
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	Juan Andujar	813.935.2954	813.377.7266
Hilldale	33614	Brian Obst	813.879.4309	727.458.0679
Hilldale Annex	33634	Latoya Dupuy	813.879.4309	305.414.3527
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	Warren Sumlin	813.719.6793	813.486.7612
Produce	33610	Jerry J.D. Lewers	813.239.4084	813.528.5519
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	Stephen Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606		813.873.7189	
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Lori McMillion	813.988.0152	813.263.7101
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

additional time for mail delays. In addition, a push to increase postal rates also is in the works. Corporate mail senders such as banks and retailers are concerned that it will worsen existing bottlenecks on non-local mail. Mail industry officials told The Post that delivery lags plus rising prices could push commercial mail senders to use the already struggling Postal Service less often and in turn put pressure on the Postal Service to further slash services or raise rates. The plan would also bar first-class mail being transported via airplane. Savings of 50% may not even make up for lost revenue from reduced mail accelerated by the cuts in service. Let's see, slower service and higher rates, sounds like a plan for disaster. This is exactly what his past stints at various companies have produced. Stay tuned.....

A few important items that again warrant review...

You have a supervisor or manager who is dictating what your office times and return times are rather than asking you for your estimate and allowing your reporting requirements. This is a violation of your reporting requirements. **Article 19, Handbooks and Manuals, the language has not been changed or modified.** The Reporting Requirements covered in the M-41 are clear, **Section 131.41** It is your responsibility to verbally inform management when you are of the opinion that you will be unable to case all mail distributed to the route, perform

other required duties, and leave on schedule or when you will be unable to complete delivery of all mail. **This means when you are aware you cannot complete your route in 8 hours.**

131.42 Inform management of this well in advance of the scheduled leaving time and not later than immediately following the final receipt of mail. Management will instruct you what to do. **If all the mail has not been worked and is not available, you cannot make a professional estimate.**

131.43 Complete applicable items on PS Form 3996, Carrier-Auxiliary Control, if overtime or auxiliary assistance is authorized in the office or on the street. **Form 3996 or a help slip must be filled out completely if auxiliary assistance is requested. This form will protect you even if the supervisor denies your request for overtime.**

Following a direct order

ELM - 665.15 Obedience to Orders
Employees must obey the instructions of their supervisors. If an employee has reason to question the propriety of a supervisor's order, the individual must nevertheless carry out the order and may immediately file a protest in writing to the official in charge of the installation or may appeal through official channels (grievance procedure).

This is covered in the Handbooks and Manuals, which falls under Article 19 in the JCAM.

There seems to be a growing trend

with more situations where carriers are ignoring and/or refusing direct orders from their supervisors and/or managers. It is advised that all carriers follow a direct order unless the directive involves a safety violation or instruction to steal (pilferage). If you feel you have been aggrieved, see your steward first and if s/he is not available call our Branch office. The situation will be addressed and if need be, investigated for a violation(s).

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

Letter carriers in the spotlight: Despite PMG DeJoy

* Under court oversight through the election season, USPS delivered and processed more than 135 million blank and completed ballots and said 99.89% were delivered to officials within a week.

* USPS reported \$318 million of income for the quarter ending Dec. 31, delivering a record **1.1 billion holiday season packages** even as first-class mail revenue decreased by \$177 million, or 2.7%.

* Shipping and packages revenue increased by \$2.8 billion, or 42.1%, on a volume increase of 435 million pieces, or 25%.

* The Postal Service reported quarterly total revenue of \$21.5 billion, an increase of \$2.1 billion, or 11.1%, compared to the same quarter in 2019.

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

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Karen and family at the passing of her husband, **Tim Marx** [retiree], October 26; and to **Don Renner** [retiree] and family at the homegoing of his wife, Kathleen, January 22.

Hall and Molina Recognized!



Jorge Molina, Acting Postmaster Keith Pierle, and Steve Hall

Sulphur Springs letter carriers, Steve Hall and Jorge Molina Jr., are being recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty.

A postal customer wrote a letter to Tampa Postmaster Keith Pierle about these two carriers and the special treatment they give their adult autistic son. Their son, who has an extreme obsessive-compulsive behavior

issue associated with thinking that every time he sees a U.S. mail delivery truck, he thinks that there are packages/presents for him inside. Steve (the regular on the route) and Jorge (his T-6) have handled this situation in a very caring way.

Mr. Hall worked with us to have Michael stand next to the truck with his hands out. Mr. Molina, who fills in for Mr. Hall has been a great reinforcement. High fives or fist bumps greet both carriers, allowed even though most individuals are understandably reluctant to high-five nowadays.

These stories are how letter carriers throughout this country have become such a big part of neighborhoods and communities.

Jorge and Steven are pictured with acting Tampa Postmaster, Keith Pierle. Both accepted a special thank you letter from the postmaster and the letter the customer wrote on their behalf. Great job guys, *congratulations!*

May 8

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION
IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

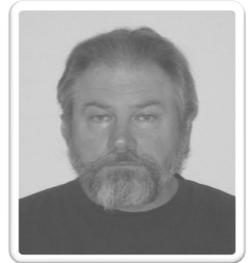
National Partners



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**



Unionism – The Local Agreement (Local Implementation) Article 30



Brian Obst
Vice President
Branch 599

Local Implementation – Article 30 of the National Agreement enables the local parties to negotiate over certain work rules and other terms and conditions of employment. Since the start of full postal collective bargaining in 1971, however, some subjects have been left to the local parties to work out according to their own preferences; most of the letter carriers’ contractual rights and benefits have been negotiated at the national level, and particular circumstances. A period of “Local Implementation,” has followed the completion of each National Agreement.

This language is taken word for word from the text of **Article 30 – Local Implementation**. Article 30 takes the negotiated contractual language and allows for local parties in installations around the country to locally negotiate 22 separate items, where there is flexibility on specifics, which the national parties agree may be decided by the local parties to the best interest of their local areas.

As stated above, at the end of the ratification process, there is a 30-day negotiation period set for the local negotiations covered in Article 30. The period set for this contract, if ratified, is April 29 through May 28.

Your branch leadership looks to the membership as to whether the membership wishes the current agreement to be renegotiated and if so, what specific items does the membership wish branch leaders to attempt to renegotiate. This is said with the understanding that if either party raises an item for negotiation that is one of the listed 22 items then both parties are bound to discuss them in good faith as they are considered mandatory subjects of discussion if raised. There are other subjects available for discussion, however, they are not mandatory so both parties must agree to discuss subjects outside the listed 22 items contained in Article 30. I recommend all members read the 22 items listed starting on page 30-2 in the JCAM for an understanding on what your leadership is going to be

negotiating on your behalf.

It is important to point out that any locally negotiated provision may not be inconsistent or in conflict with the National Agreement.

It is recommended that all members of the branch should take the time to read and understand the language of Article 30 and then review the current LMOU (Local Memorandum of Understanding) so they can speak to the branch leadership to provide insight into any thoughts on what is best for carriers as well as any concerns that could be addressed in these negotiations. These negotiations will help govern local issues for the term of the ratified contract so I cannot understate their importance.

Until next month I leave you
Knowledge is the Key!

Brian Obst
Vice President

Help your NALC family affected by natural disasters



The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation provided hands-on relief for carriers affected by natural disasters.

NALC response teams throughout the country are activated to go to disaster locations and other assistance to

NALC members and their families who live in the same household. Basic supplies, including uniforms and food, are available for those who need assistance.

Financial support may be available depending on the availability of funding and qualifying criteria. Any regular member of NALC who has faced hardship as a result of a natural disaster will be able to apply for assistance.

–Postal Record

Make a donation by sending a check or money order to:
NALC Disaster Relief Foundation
100 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington DC 20001-2144

The foundation is a 503(c)(3). Your contribution to the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation may be eligible for a tax deduction. It is recommended you seek further advice from your tax advisor.



"Mary Lou Jackman - William Corbeau"
2021 Florida State Association of
Letter Carriers Scholarship Application

Al Friedman, President

****PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS APPLICATION, AND PRINT LEGIBLY****

Name of Student: _____

Male Female (You must select only ONE box. If more than one child is eligible, please use a separate/additional forms.)

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NALC Branch Name/Number: _____

Branch Contact Phone Number: _____

NALC Branch Member's Name: _____

By signing below, I certify the above named member of the FSALC is in good standing. _____

To qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) The student must have graduated from an accredited High School or have a GED.
- 2) The Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
- 3) Applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. Winners will be notified by mail. **DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF OF ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME.**
- 4) **Applications must be postmarked on or by July 15, 2021.** Entries received with a postmark after July 15, 2021 will not be open or returned.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be a total of four (4) scholarships awarded - two for female applicants and two for male applicants - each in the amount of \$2000.00. This drawing will be held during the 2021 FSALC Convention August 12 - 14, 2021, in Orlando, Florida.



RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS TO:
FSALC Director of Education, John W. Mitchell
C/O Branch 1779 NALC
2434 Golfview Street
Lakeland, FL 33801





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<http://www.mrtherapycenter.com>

NOTICE

Meetings are subject to change
due to the upsurge of COVID-19.

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

March 2

March 30

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

March 4

April 1

Branch 599 Meetings

Thursday 7:30 PM

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 8

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday *Date to be Announced* 9 AM

Denny's Restaurant

at Dale Mabry & Spruce

2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday *Date to be Announced* 8 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher

12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637



A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599

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**NONPROFIT ORG
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*Must use Tampa Postal FCU's Online Auto Center to locate and apply for your vehicle. Restrictions apply. Contact credit union for complete details at 813.264.4969 or 800.782.4899.

