



Tampa Letter Carrier

Important info & a change of time on page 4

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Whose money do we look out for? After returning from the Secretary/Treasurer training in Orlando...if we didn't already know that it is your money,

then we know it now. I along with our Treasurer,

Ray Garcia and Financial Secretary, Gilbert Cabanas, attended the training provided by National Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel, entailing all

the new requirements pertaining to Department of

Labor regulations for the current reporting rules. This training that was provided to us, was one of, if not the best training I have ever attended in more than thirty years that I have been involved with our union. The instructors

were from NALC head-quarter's office and from the private sector as well, such as the CPA who audits all the books for National; they were outstanding. I personally want to thank you, the members for sending me to this training because you are my boss and our National Officers told us that we are their boss as well. The main objective of the new ruling that has come down from the Department of Labor is that they expect transparency in all of our

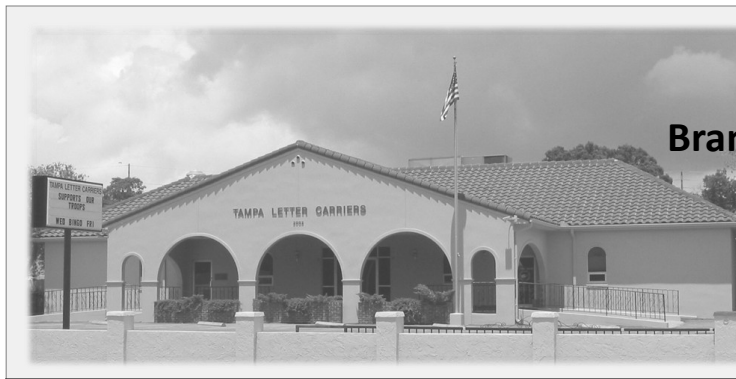
When you have the power to decide your own destiny with no regard for the average worker, you lack the understanding of what collective bargaining stands for.

accounting practices in order to protect the mem-

bers' money. What they ask of us is to account for all total receipts and all total disbursements. The first rule instructed was: *no receipt—no reimbursement*, and no exception! This rule entails a lot more than the average person

might expect. One example given was, if you have a 50/50 raffle and you take in \$100, and you give half to the winner, the total receipt is \$100 and the total disbursement would be \$50. How simple would it be for the average person to assume that you only have to account for the half the nonprofit actually received? There is a great deal of scrutiny that is being placed on unions for various reasons. There are political and philosophical reasons, there are economic reasons, but the right of workers to select representatives to bargain collectively for our wages, working conditions and benefits in a democratic society should not be the main focus of such scrutiny. If all our elected leaders in Congress and the Senate

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
April 7
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
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8 AM – 4:30 PM

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599 office 813.875.0599
Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1639
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516
Treasurer	Ray Garcia	813.787.3640
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292
Trustee Chair	John Gebo	813.503.1256
Trustees	Joe Oliva	813.299.8442
	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595
	John Rowland	813.770.7769
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good	

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
April 7
May 5
June 2
July 7

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
April 5
May 3
May 31
July 5

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	John Lykins	813.661.1639	727.542.4092
Carrollwood	33618	Vacant	813.960.8894	
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli		813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Julio Acosta	813.889.3913	
Hyde Park	33606	Tom Cobert	813.873.7189	813.694.0711
Interbay	33611	Loney Cason	813.831.2034	586.668.0131
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Jim Tremblay	813.831.2034	813.323.6534
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Port Tampa	33616	Loney Cason		586.668.0131
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Jack Hencoski	813.634.1403	813.928.9034
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	J.R. Harazin	813.873.7189	727.418.8090
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Don Wiseman	813.873.7189	813.713.6273
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.899.2405	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

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

would show an example of leadership by applying an amendment to the Constitution that all laws they enacted would apply to them as it does to all citizens, then the scrutiny passed down might be more acceptable. The average citizen, public or private, does not have the power to decide or vote for their own wages or benefits.

The first rule instructed was: *no receipt—no reimbursement, and no exception!*

When you have the power to decide your own destiny with no regard for the average worker, you lack the understanding of what collective bargaining stands for. The legacy of the American Dream starts and ends with middle class working Americans. There never has been a greater need for this country than now, to produce more jobs for the middle class and not destroy the fabric that holds us together. Maybe term limits would be a good way to start producing more middle class jobs!

There is no doubt that the Postal Service has been placed in a situation where economically, the playing field with the private sector is on an un-level scale. The cost-cutting measures in effect are mainly due to inaccurate funding procedures that are mandated by the Office of Personnel Management. The proposed budget that was presented on Valentines Day calls for some relief from these funding errors and preserves Saturday delivery for fiscal year 2012. This battle is far from over and this is a proposal that has to be

No one can make you rush or violate any safety rule.

enacted by legislation. We all know what a tough economy we are dealing with and unlike the private sector, the Postal Service doesn't have the authority to make rate changes or add surcharges when gas prices change or other expenses change above the rate

of inflation. These are the kinds of problems that put a tremendous burden on the cost of doing business. However knowing all that, what I constantly hear from the members is that they feel the pressure always falls on the craft employees and that they

are pushed to make up the shortfalls. As representatives, we emphasize the fact that we have a contract and

that we will protect your rights in accordance with that contract as well all the laws that apply to that contract.

We, all the stewards and officers, want to emphasize how important it is that all employees work in a consistent manner and exercise proper clock ring hygiene. When we perform in that manner, the data that is constantly collected

on us will be more accurate, which results in better route adjustments for all of us. This performance also entails work that is done in a manner that protects your safety; haste does make waste. No one can make you rush or violate any safety rule. Know your rights and do all things in a responsible manner and let your stewards deal with concerns that you cannot resolve between yourself and management. The latest inquiries have been in regard to the form coming from the Southwest

Always ask for a copy of your 3996 for your records...carriers have proven their own case by providing those copies.

Area, the 1017-B which pertains to unauthorized overtime. The use of this form may lead

to some similar cases like the way DOIS [Delivery Operations Information System] was used to coerce carriers or challenge their request for auxiliary assistance. Remember, there are manuals and federal laws that can come into play over how this form is

used. The *M-41* is the carriers guide for filling out and reporting your request for help in completing the duties on your route; if you can't complete them in eight hours, then you request a 3996 and report on the amount of time it will take to complete duties up to your end tour. This time is an estimate and it may vary and there have been many decisions in regard to the fifteen minute leeway as well. Hopefully, management will have good judgment in the use of this form and not promote situations that can create an unsafe work practice. Remember to always ask for a copy of your 3996 for your records; this is something you are entitled to and there have been occasions where carriers have proven their own case by providing those copies. Don't assume that your time is authorized

unless your supervisor has approved your estimate on your 3996. There will always be two sides to every matter that we

have to deal with, but with level heads it will be dealt with.

Our organization may be going through some changes also. As our branch keeps you abreast of these changes I am sure there will be disagreements that may arise. First and foremost, you the membership, will have the final say in all matters pertaining to your branch. There may be a call for members to volunteer and be more active, and the amount of your participation will ultimately determine the decisions of our future. As Mohandas Gandhi stated: *Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.*

Fraternally Yours,
Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Treasurer's Report



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

EXPENSES – February 2011

Monthly Salaries after Deductions

President	\$4,002.56
Branch Office Secretary	1,956.54
Vice President	
Labor Reps (2)	
HBR	
Sergeant-at-Arms	
Stewards/Officers	1,795.78
MBA/NSBA	47.18
Stewards	1,788.46
Recording Secretary	94.35
Financial Secretary	541.58
Outgoing Treasurer	410.90
Incoming Treasurer	359.91
Director of Retirees	11.79
Trustees (3)	87.27
Total	\$11,096.32
Branch Meeting	
Refreshments	\$73.11
Security Guard	45.00
Total	\$118.11
Office Expenses	
Rent	\$600.00
Branch Secretary HBP	190.00
Rust (Bonding)	350.00
Akita Copy Products	35.00
FL Dept of Revenue	121.44
CIT Tech	579.21
NALC Sec/Treas Per Capita Tax	114.95
Petty Cash	200.00
Total	\$2,190.60
Miscellaneous Expenses	
Ink Refund for Vice President	\$37.43
Training, Orlando FL (3)	542.63
Rap Session, Myrtle Beach SC	340.80
Retiree Rebate	20.00
Total	\$940.86
Grand Total	\$14,345.89



It is imperative that Branch 599's members show up for the **We Are One** rally to support public workers' rights to collective bargaining.

Monday April 4
Al Lopez Park

There will be two sessions:
9-10 AM and 4-5 PM

The park's entrance is on Himes Avenue between Hillsborough Ave. and Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Parking is near the corner of Himes and MLK Jr. Blvd. [southeast corner of the park].

More info on the web:
<http://local.we-r-1.org/weareone/events/show/45>

Time Change
for after rally

Retirees Breakfast

Monday April 4 10 AM

Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, as I have stated many times in my past articles, it is imperative to educate yourselves in regards to your jobs. As you all know, we are being scrutinized for every second of our time. It is time to use the resources available to you and become more familiar with your profession.

There are several ways to go about retrieving the information available to you. One is the National Association of Letter Carriers website:

www.nalc.org. For those who have never visited this website, here you will find all the learning material you will need. In addition, while you are on the site you can also familiarize yourselves with legislative news and updates, safety and health, pay charts, and even facts and history about the NALC. It is very simple, once you are on the website, click menu

item *Departments* and choose *Contract Administration*. On the left hand menu, click *USPS Manuals*. You will find the handbooks, *M-41*, *M-39*, as well as the *Employee and Labor*

Relations Manual (ELM). The *M-41*, *City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities* is where you will locate everything about your duties. For instance, in Chapter 1, you will find:

11 Responsibilities of Carrier, *12 Basic Carrier Duties*, and *13 Delivery and Collection Rules*, just to name a few. Once you have clicked onto the *M-41*, on the left hand side, you will find its contents. Should you want to become more familiar with a certain part of the delivery duties, click directly to the section. The *M-41* should also be found in your route books located directly beneath your case ledge. Please review the *M-41*

...use the resources available to you and become more familiar with your profession.

wherever you find one. In addition, your route books contain the S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedures). You should also become familiar with the S.O.P. for your offices.

In the meantime, the following is a compiled list of what management considers poor work habits. Just as a refresher, things we should know, but we may not always carry out:

Office

1. Not going directly to the case after clocking in or after vehicle inspection.
2. Excessive talking, laughing, noises, etc.
3. Wandering around engaging in unnecessary conversations.
4. Leaving case unnecessarily.
5. Stop casing while conversing with others.
6. Reading letters, magazines and postcards.

7. Unnecessary handoffs.
8. Unnecessary body motion while casing.
9. Unnecessary trips to the locker room.
10. Union business without permission.

11. Personal phone calls.
12. Sitting down while casing.
13. Casing slowly, deliberately and methodically.
14. Casing mail with a pencil/pen in hand, hampering grasping of mail.
15. Tapping letters on hand, case or case shelves while casing.
16. Picking up letters one at a time from the case ledge.
17. Not holding 6" of flats in arms while casing flats, casing flats from the ledge.
18. Not cutting bands and straps on bundles at one time.
19. Unstrapping sequence bundles in office.

20. Placing pulled down mail in tray behind the carrier.



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

Street

1. Moving vehicle to dock to load.
2. Not loading vehicle properly.
3. Taking unauthorized breaks or extending breaks.
4. Not taking lunch at pre-approved authorized locations.
5. Extending lunch.
6. Unauthorized deviation from route for lunch, breaks, etc.
7. Combining comfort stop with lunch or break.
8. Not using skulch tray and separate mail as you go.
9. Locking vehicle unnecessarily.
10. Not returning to delivery unit immediately upon completion of street duties.

How many on the list are you aware of? Are all a part of your daily routine? Take the time to learn—it's your job!!

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) I will share a full report in next month's article from the upcoming RAP session in Myrtle Beach SC. National President Fred Rolando will address the assembly.

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



A Point of Personal Privilege



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

Clueless

The population of the state of Florida should be ashamed of electing Rick Scott as governor. More to the point are those public employees, such as firefighters, police officers, teachers, etc. that may have voted for this individual. What is really difficult to comprehend is the individuals that did *not* vote. It should also be embarrassing to those of us in the Democratic Party that did not organize a better grassroots organization to defeat him and get out the vote for Ms. Alex Sink.

Governor Scott or *Let's Get to Work*...wants to cut the state workforce by 5%.

The governor-elect was the former CEO of the nation's largest for-profit hospital chain in the United States, Columbia/HCA. This is a company that kept two sets of books in which one showed the reimbursements actually submitted to Medicare and Medicaid. The second book detailed charges that they knew and which would likely be rejected if caught by the federal government. Columbia/HCA was eventually charged with fraud and paid a fine of \$1.7 billion. However, during the Department of Labor's investigation, former CEO Scott, when questioned by investigators, pled the Fifth Amendment 73 times! He even could not identify his own signature on much of the paperwork!

Governor Scott or *Let's Get to Work* is working extremely hard to do the exact opposite. He wants to cut the state workforce by 5%. Who pays those unemployment compensation benefits for the approximate 20,000 lost jobs? Maybe the multimillionaire governor (Scott) will pay those benefits, after all, he owns a \$9 million home in Naples, Florida.

Maybe he has some money left after expending \$73 million of his own money to get elected. How about the lobbyists and business interests that contributed \$3 million to the governor's inauguration party chipping in a couple of million? Gosh, Governor Scott could contribute some more moneys from his \$10 million severance pay and some of his stock valued at over \$300 million that he received from Columbia/HCA?

Another of Scott's proposals is to phase out Florida's business income tax and further slash property taxes. He wants to slash \$1 million from state prisons and reform the state's pension system. Scott is seeking to veto the legislation that was passed to keep teachers' tenure and has even withdrawn a request to the US Department of Justice to approve the voted-for amendment which bans *gerrymandering* of congressional and legislative districts. The governor has

been awarded a decision from the Florida Supreme Court regarding the \$2.4 billion high-speed rail allocated moneys from the Department of Transportation. Estimates are that this would have created 20,000-30,000 living-wage jobs in Florida. However, he has enough moneys in the Florida budget to contribute \$77 million to deep dredge the port of Miami?

Republicans in the US Congress want to give more tax breaks to big oil, but they want to cut education funds to the tune of \$40 million. They are refusing to increase funding for police, firefighters, and teachers. I guess we should feel sorry for poor big oil's quarterly loss of profits from 2008 to 2009? In 2008, Exxon-Mobile's net was \$45.2 billion, but 2009 was just \$19.2 billion. BP's net was \$21.1 billion compared to 2009's \$15.6 billion. In 2008, Chevron's was \$23.9 billion and Shell's was \$26.2 billion, but no figures were released for 2009. I am sure their quarterly net profits will be on the rise for 2011 because the gasoline prices at the pumps since January 17, 2011 were \$3.039 a gallon, but as of March 6, 2011, they rose to \$3.459 a gallon. Have your wages increased over a 3-month period like this?

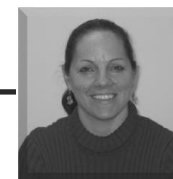
Come on Man!



Time to Order T-shirts!

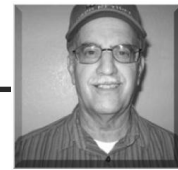
Our annual food drive will be Saturday, May 14.

Shop Stewards will have T-shirt order forms at the stations; forms can also be found on Florida State Association of Letter Carriers' website: www.fsalc.com. **Deadline for forms/money to be at the Branch office is April 9;** ordering through Branch 599 will save you the additional cost of postage.



Lori McMillion
Trustee
Branch 599

Things You Should Know



Gilbert Cabanas
Financial Secretary
Branch 599

On February 27 and 28 and ending March 1, President Alan Peacock, Treasurer R. Garcia, and I attended a financial secretary/ treasurer training seminar in Orlando. Two of the instructors who taught most of the classes were professional CPAs. These two instructors have also inspected our National assets/ liabilities and have been called in when there were any discrepancies in any labor law union books.

Every class was on a different subject, such as department of labor guidelines and rule/ payroll per diem along with reimbursement/travel expenses.

We also covered IRS reporting taxes and forms; these forms must include all assets and liabilities which must be completed within 90 days of the end of the year. All unions must file a 990 report, which is the annual financial report of its operations for the preceding fiscal year.

Another class was on the fiduciary duties of the officers, which is the most important part. This is on how to manage, invest, and report all the expenditures with the Branch money. We even went over which Branch

reports must be kept and for what length of time.

Our final class was on membership and dues, which covers who is a health plan member. Such as...when a member transfers in and out, is separated, cancels or retires. There are different forms to be filled out for each of those occasions in order to keep track of those carriers. All these records are kept by National on a branch roster which are updated every 2 weeks and also quarterly and

Without a receipt, there cannot be any reimbursements at any time.

then mailed to each branch. Remember, all retirees must fill out an 1189 form in order to retain their membership in the Union; their dues are \$20 per year.

As you can see, there is a lot to learn in order to manage the Branch's money. There is even more to learn when complying with all the labor laws and reporting all assets and liabilities on the proper forms. We are all very glad that we attended this seminar in Orlando because you cannot be too careful when handling the Union's money. The classes were very informative and interesting; the instructors explained all forms properly in order to comply with the law.

During the last 3 pay periods, our payroll dues were lost and late in the mail for our biweekly deposits. This prevented us from meeting our monthly expenses on time. In order to avoid these mishaps from happening again, President Alan Peacock has applied for direct deposit from National on those biweekly checks. Our biweekly roster with all the updates from National will still be mailed to us.

Now for some great news! Our property across the street from the hall has been sold. This money will be used to rebuild, replace, and probably pay off our current loan. This will place us in a much better financial position for the future. So I believe this month has been very educational and also peaceful time for all of us.

In closing, I will keep remembering the instructor's words during all of our classes, *The money belongs to our members*. The officer's job is to carefully manage, invest, and report all Branch expenditures. So without a receipt, there cannot be any reimbursements at any time.

Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Proposed Amendment to TLC's Bylaws

ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS – Paragraph 1 Section 3.

Now Reads as follows: A meeting of the members of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., will be held on the first Thursday of each month at the Union Hall, immediately following the Branch 599 meeting. The minutes of the previous month's Tampa Letter Carriers' Board of Directors meeting will be read at this time.

***Proposed to Read as follows:* A meeting of the members of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Union Hall, immediately following the regular meeting of the Board of Directors. The minutes of the previous month's Tampa Letter Carriers' Board of Directors meeting will be read at this time.**

Signed by: John Gebo, Leslie Ray Garcia, Ray Wallace, F. Quintanilla, William Travis, Silven Zimmerman, and Jose Oliva.

Unionism

The Trick is in the Details

When you have an issue that needs to be addressed and you need to file a grievance you must remember one thing, Details. Your steward must have details from you on the issue at hand as they must be able to weave the story to present your grievance in the Dispute Resolution Process hearings (i.e. Informal A, Formal A, Step B and Arbitration if needed).

In all cases where you are going to file a grievance there are things you should do to prepare for the

investigation to come. First you should write a comprehensive timeline of events so the steward will know what happened and when it happened. This will help the steward in his investigation of the incident. Second you should prepare a statement of what your grievance issue is about; this will include the timeline above. This statement is extremely important to your grievance, as should it end up at arbitration, your words carry more weight with an arbitrator. It is important that you take time to properly write this statement and I recommend that you sit by yourself and brainstorm about it first.

Brainstorming is a process where you write down all the important bits and pieces that you can remember without concern for the order, just to get them down on paper. Then go back and look over the things you have written and begin to construct the statement in a proper order. This method allows you to help yourself remember details that you might forget if you simply start to write from the beginning. Remember the statement is fluid, meaning that until

it is turned in, changes can be made if you remember something that you initially missed.

After the statement you want to notify your steward of any pertinent documents that should be included in your case (such as: previous settlement agreements, 1571s, 3996s, management related paperwork and the like). Remember at the Informal A step of the process, this is your

...our stewards can only do as good a job with a grievance as the completeness of the case presented to them.

grievance and you should be an active participant, working along with your steward to ensure that your grievance is put together as well as possible. It is important that you do these things as our stewards can only do as good a job with a grievance as the completeness of the case presented to them. While our stewards receive many hours of training, nothing replaces having all the facts in a complete package and you should be able to assist your steward in this endeavor.

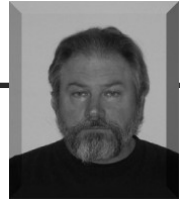
Another thing that seems to get lost in the grievance process is the aspect of *LISTENING*. While the grievance still belongs to the grievant (you) at the Informal A step of the process, your steward is trained to know and understand the contract. When your steward is talking to you, listen to what he has to say. Everyone who files a grievance feels they are right, however, sometimes our perception of what is contractual or not is clouded by our personal involvement in the situation. Your steward will try to explain to you whether your issue is indeed a contractual violation or not, and if they are unsure they will always seek counsel from others in the Branch hierarchy. If, after listening to the explanation from your steward, you still feel that you want to

continue with your grievance, let your steward know and he will properly process the case forward. The reason we do this is we don't want to clog the system with meritless grievances and this is an agreement with the National level of the NALC and Postal Management at **Step 4 M-01492 July 2003** where it states in part:

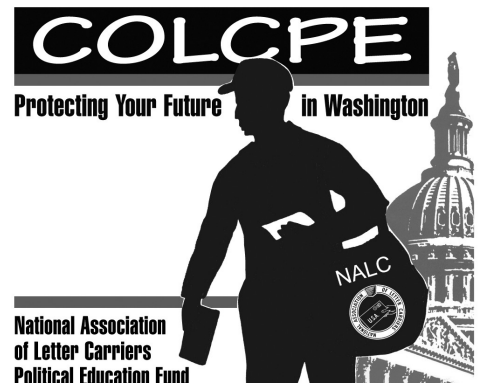
We are committed to eliminating abuses of our grievance-arbitration procedure, such as the filing of unwarranted grievances to clog the system or a refusal to resolve grievances even where there are no legitimate differences of opinion between the parties.

In conclusion, again, it is important that you pay attention to the details for a successful resolution to any of your grievance issues. If you follow these guidelines it should go a long way toward helping you and your steward process your grievance issues

I shall leave you as always –
Knowledge is the Key.



Brian Obst
Chief Steward
Branch 599



And the Beat Goes On

Ray Wallace
TLC Board
Branch 599

It was nice to read interesting articles from all of the new Branch 599 Officers who have all been involved in one way or the other in some aspect of the Branch for all of the time they have been in the NALC. It is a shame though that there is no *New Blood* that want to get involved with the Union. We see the same in the amount of carriers that won't spare two (2) hours out of a month to go to a Union Meeting and also will not spare five dollars out of their pay check to give to COLCPE.

The way this writer sees it, it's the world we live in today and that the new breed of carriers in the Post Office; most have never seen low wages or the lack of most benefits. I

guess it's not their fault; they came into a good paying job with good benefits and it's all there, so why go to any union meetings or give their money to anything??? Does anyone read union publications? Who knows, but I'm sure most don't. That's the problem, but you have to be blind not to realize how bad things look for the future of the Post Office. The lack of mail is number one and like always, the carrier is their own worst enemy. How many of you buy stamps and send your bills in the mail? The computer has ruined the Post Office. Before that, postal

How many of you buy stamps and send your bills in the mail?

management gave away packages to United Parcel and every Tom, Dick and Harry who has come along with a panel truck. The Post Office was the only kid on the block at one time, but it was a pain to do, so let someone else do it. We've been overrun with managers from day one, all getting the big bucks for doing as little as possible. When they were in craft they were the biggest goof-offs of all time and to them, every carrier is the same as they once were.

I have to tell you a true story. A carrier transferred into Brandon from up north and we got to be good friends. One day he came out to help me on my route and he handed me an ice cold beer; this was in August.

I said, *I can't drink that* and he replied, *Why not? I do all the time.* I said, *Well, #1, it's against postal regulations, #2, and I'd be drunk in this heat...no way will I take that.* At that time the Post Office was keeping track of each mile we all drove every day. He said to me, *Ray, do you go anyplace extra?* I said, *How can I, the Post Office looks at my mileage daily.* He said to me, *Ray, look at this.* He reached under my dash, unhooked the speedometer cable and said, *I go anywhere I want, Ray.* Well to make a long story short, this carrier transferred to the east coast; my wife and I spent a weekend

with him and his wife and he told me, *Ray, guess what? The postmaster has taken a liking to me and I'm invited to a cookout at his home.* I replied, *Wow, you're kidding...you're going?* A few months later, Branch 599 sent a few shop stewards to the east coast for training with Matty Rose and while there I saw the shop steward of the office where my friend had gone. I said, *I'm from Brandon, and a friend of mine transferred to your office, do you know "John Doe"?* He replied, *Are you kidding...do I know him? He is one rotten SOB...we have more grievances against him then we ever had with any manager. He hides behind stores and times the carriers on their breaks. The postmaster made him a 204B and he is the worst of the worst.* This writer never had contact with that carrier again.

Well the handwriting is on the wall and it's going to be a tough road at the next contract. The Union needs your help to keep all you now have, due to the sacrifices and hard work of your brothers before you. Give a few bucks to COLCPE; who cares where it goes as long as it helps to save your job.

It was great to be at the February meeting where the membership gave our branch's office secretary, Rodna, health benefits after working at the branch office for 4 years with none.

Looking from the Outside

(Continued from page 11)

My heart goes out to retiree Ray Wallace for being a dedicated shop steward at his station in Brandon for many years. Take care of yourself,

brother.

Our branch has been under a lot of duress and scrutiny for many years; I am not going to be critical of any person in particular, however, we

need to pull together and move forward for the betterment of our Union.

I wish everyone well...take care,
Jaime

State of the Union

Don Thomas
TLC Chair
Branch 599

We will be closing on our property across the street by April 15 or sooner; our buyer is eager to start building. We will soon have money to make needed repairs and possibly pay off the restroom renovation loan. This will get us off to a new start—building for the future of Branch 599. What is the future of Branch 599? That is the question which must be answered at this time by our membership.

We no longer operate Bingo at our Hall. This will change how things are done. Bingo was very good for Branch 599 for a long time, but has significantly diminished in the last few years. The Branch will now have to come up with new thoughts/plans for our future. This will not be easy, however, it is something that is very realistic. As the membership before us found ways...so will we today.

A motion to disband TLC and turn everything over to Branch 599 will be made at the April Branch Meeting.

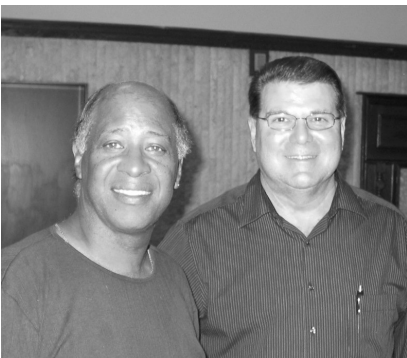
A motion to disband TLC [Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.] and turn everything over to Branch 599, NALC, will be made at the April Branch Meeting. TLC was formed early on, to protect the Branch; the reasons no longer apply today. With that thought in mind, dissolving TLC would put control of the future in the hands of the general membership of Branch 599. Currently, TLC has a Board of Directors to take care of business; this change would put that authority back to all members of Branch 599. It would also save money and assist in our new report requirements to the Department of Labor. This meeting is extremely important. We need as many members in attendance as possible to make this decision. If you are one that does not normally come to Branch Meetings...this is one that you should try to be present for. This

change would mean that *any new loans* and *all business* of Branch 599 would come before our entire membership for a vote instead of the 19 TLC Board members. As Brother John Gebo says, *The will of the membership is supreme!* Come to this meeting and vote what you believe is the best direction for Branch 599. As in any vote...not voting is a waste of your vote! Do not waste your vote, your opinion counts and is needed.

Any member wanting to work Hall rentals needs to contact our Building Manager or Don Thomas at 877-4785. This is a paid job; you will need to fill out a W-4. The pay is \$125 per 8-hour event [3-hour set up, 4-hour event, and 1 hour to get all their stuff out of hall]. For additional hours you are paid \$22 per hour. We will set up a training session once we know how many are interested in working. The hours are sometimes late at night.

Sharing Our Members' Joys & Sorrows

Ronald A. Cook, Daniel Vargas and Thomas W. Booth retired!



Ronald Cook and Alan Peacock



Daniel Vargas, Alan Peacock, and Thomas Booth

President Alan Peacock recognized **Ronald A. Cook** [Ybor City], **Daniel Vargas** [Sun City Center], and **Thomas W. Booth** [Sun City Center] and presented them with a check from the Branch for their retirement during our Branch meeting on March 3.

Recovering **Michael Crowder**

[Interbay] was moved to Sable Palm Health Care Center in Largo and can have visitors.

Steve Longworth [retired] is recuperating from surgery.

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to **Joseph Mills** [Temple Terrace] and family at the passing of his mother, March 12.

Looking from the Outside

Jaime Rodriguez
Retiree
Branch 599

Retirees are a great part of this Union and they are essential to the wellbeing of our branch. Through their active career they created a stronghold for new generations of young letter carriers that will carry on after we leave. We should give special thought to the letter carriers, that with their own foresight and effort, made possible the great Tampa Letter Carriers Hall for us to use and share today.

Retirees are always involved in the programs that serve our communities; organizations like Toys for Tots, Food Drive, Muscular Dystrophy Assn, Tampa Letter Carriers Charity Foundation and their involvement as Political Activists. They give a lot of time and effort in making these endeavors a success for our branch and have fun doing it...please continue.

Retirees and active members of our branch need to work together...

Retirees and active members of our branch need to work together in order to keep our Letter Carriers Hall viable and healthy for many years to come. We have seen and entertained many memorable activities at the Hall going back years. For me personally two of my children celebrated their weddings at the Hall and we had fun.

The Hall continues to be available to all members of our branch, not to mention that the new administration of TLC has reduced the price of the rentals for members and has created more flexibility for the use of the Hall in their rentals for all. We have a piece of Tampa that is outstanding that could be used for activities that beats location and price with any in the city.

I found myself amazed when I heard that Letter Carriers Hall and the land across the street that belongs to TLC was put on the selling block by the past TLC Board because of the financial condition they were under. The result was that the land be sold to the current interested party and the moneys from the sale will be used to fix the Hall and pay off existing liabilities. Gladly, the new elected TLC Board is working hard to avert the sale of our Hall.

My congratulations go out to our newly elected TLC Board. It takes a lot of wisdom and integrity to run a complex operation like TLC and you provide a service with little or no reward. If you are strongly involved in unionism, this is what it is all about.

(Continued on page 9)

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Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

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