



# Tampa Letter Carrier

## From the President's Desk

As most of you know by now, the membership has selected to hire a CPA/Tax Attorney, to assist us in making all our reports to the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service accurate for the period of 2005-10. The membership's wisdom in this decision is an exercise in fiscal responsibility that guides our branch into a more frugal future. Many more decisions by the members will be required as we move toward whether the members want to solidify our organization under one body, which would require us to dissolve Tampa

Letter Carriers, Inc. Currently, the bylaws committees of both parts of the organization are looking at bylaws that would have to be put in place as determined by the members

to protect our assets and our building. The constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers will be the guiding document for this endeavor. While we are on the quest to right our ship, we must never forget the great labor our retired brothers and sisters put forth in building



Mayor Bob Buckhorn presented the City's proclamation for Letter Carrier Food Drive Day to our Food Drive Coordinator Lori McMillion and President Alan Peacock.

this branch into one of the finest in all of the NALC. Their burdens were many as well were their sacrifices for the good and welfare of all their fellow members. We should always honor and respect



**Alan W. Peacock**  
President, Branch 599

them for what they accomplished and for the groundwork they laid that is too often taken for granted. They took up the mantle and they never swayed from their goal. Now the baton is in our

hands and as members ask *what is the union doing*, well the answer should be: *you are the union*. When the question asked is for more members to participate in COLCPE, it's not for us, it is for all of us for the fight to protect what was so hard-fought to get. Taking things for granted is a mis-

take and a weakness, one that is usually followed by...I never thought it would be us they wanted to cut out or reduce our benefits. It is not just time to AWAKE the State it is

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Branch Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**June 2**  
**7:30 PM**

## Branch 599 Office

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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 5<sup>th</sup> of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

## Officers

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<b>Health Benefit Rep.</b>	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Lance Jones	813.220.1292
<b>Trustee Chair</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256
<b>Trustees</b>	Joe Oliva	813.299.8442
	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101
<b>Labor Management</b>	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595
	John Rowland	813.770.7769
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good	

## Executive Board

### Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM  
June 2  
July 7  
August 4  
September 1  
October 6

### Shop Stewards

#### will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM  
May 31  
July 5  
August 2  
August 30  
October 4

## 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	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
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

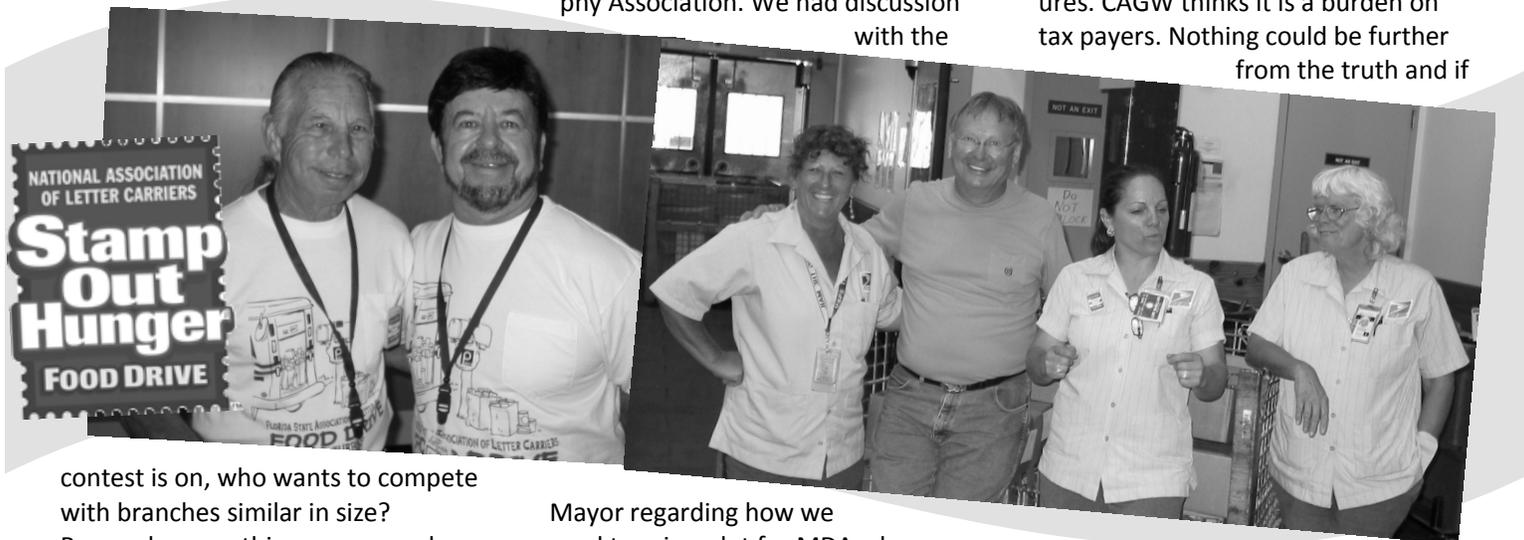
# From the President's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

time to AWAKE the nation. Look at the legislation in the states and notice who is making the sacrifices, as usual the working class and the disadvantaged. If this effort was not important then why would our national office offer reward to the branch to compete for new members in COLCPE; the

worker. The visit involved receiving a proclamation for the NALC food drive. We all should wish him well as our new mayor and look forward to a great partnership on Carriers' community efforts. As soon as the food drive is over we need to start planning projects for raising contributions for our national charity, the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We had discussion with the

Postal Service agenda on these issues differ greatly. A recent demand by the Citizens Against Government Waste [CAGW], requested Congress to grant the US Postal Service their request to eliminate Saturday delivery. In spite of the report from the Postal Regulatory Commission, refuting the Postal Service's suggested cost-cutting measures. CAGW thinks it is a burden on tax payers. Nothing could be further from the truth and if



contest is on, who wants to compete with branches similar in size? Remember one thing, we can only compete with the more privileged by doing it together or the middle class will slowly dwindle away.

During the past few months, there was a great deal of planning that went on behind the scenes leading up to the national food drive. I would like to acknowledge Lori McMillion for her dedication, sacrifice and tireless efforts in coordinating our food drive and the commitment she gives to our community. In addition I would like to thank the people who gave some helping hands: Marianne Baab, retired rural carrier; Lori's daughter, Alaina; her neighbor, Max; and Jim Good for helping with the processing of the Publix bags. There was also help from Debbie McEndree, Maggie Lancaster, John Derosa and Don Thomas during the processing of the Campbell's Soup cards. Job well done by all! Lorie, Don and I also met with Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, who once was a postal

Mayor regarding how we used to raise a lot for MDA when we had stop light blitzes, but the current economic situation makes that difficult. The Mayor explained that a Supreme Court decision requires street corner blitzes to be open to everyone or no one. We must look to be creative by challenging each other to come up with alternatives to help our national charity; maybe bowling, golf, and/or fishing tournaments. One brother has suggested for all our motorcycle riders to join the NALC motorcycle club for MDA, do a poker run and have a dance at the end of their ride. I mentioned this to our state President Matty Rose and he said he would look into having east coast riders meet west coast riders in Orlando. If anyone has interests in this, contact me as soon as possible.

In regard to many questions I have fielded on possible incentives or eliminating Saturday delivery, I can only say that our agenda at NALC and the

they were correctly informed, they would know that the Postal Service is the only federal agency pre-funding an over-funded retirement system. In addition, the basis of the report by the Postal Service in regard to their current losses neglects to inform the media that they actually had almost net operating profit of close to one billion dollars. There was also a report that the volume of mail has actually shown a slight increase for the first time in four years. The truth will set them free if they would just do the right thing other than rewarding themselves with platinum parachutes and deferred income when they retire, like Potter's 5.5 million. If we are a federal agency, then why are we treated like a cash cow for those agencies that don't produce any revenue?

The APWU has ratified their contract,

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# From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

establishing a two-tier pay scale, thirty-hour regular positions and other provisions that give more flexibility in assignments. Management will take advantage of this agreement, perhaps to the detriment of the negotiations for the other Unions. The rural carriers are next in line for either an agreement or interest arbitration.

The NALC and NPMHU [National Postal Mail Handlers Union] negotiations will begin prior to the contracts that expire in November of this year.

Many of you are dissatisfied with current conditions and need to understand the process that takes place involves all of the parties and not just one individual. Be patient, be in-

involved, and be supportive of each other.

As Ben Hogan stated, *as we walk down the fairway of life you must stop and smell the roses because you only get to play one round.*

Fraternally and In Solidarity,  
Alan W. Peacock  
President, Branch 599

## Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, I felt the need to revisit a subject that is as bad as I have ever seen it in my 30 plus years with the United States Postal Service. With all the changes, restructuring, and uncertainty about the future of the Postal Service it is very evident and prevalent. The subject is stress, a normal physical response to events that make you feel threatened or upset your balance in some way. Change alone may create stress by being out of a certain comfort zone. The stress response is actually the

and maintaining a marriage can be challenging. Stress with many people is so commonplace that it has become a way of life. Everyone handles stress or a stressful situation differently. You can see it in the work place, something you think is minor or not an issue may actually be viewed as stressful by a coworker. The body does not distinguish between physical and psychological threats. When you are stressed over a busy schedule, an argument with a friend or family

So how do you handle stress?

Am I in control of stress or is stress controlling me?

- When I feel agitated, do I know how to quickly calm and soothe myself?
- Can I easily let go of my anger?
- Can I turn to others at work to help me calm down and feel better?
- When I come home at night, do I walk in the door feeling alert or relaxed?



**Tony Diaz**  
Vice President  
Branch 599



body's way of protecting you. When working properly, it helps you stay focused, energetic, and alert. The stress response also helps you rise to meet challenges. Outside of work, hassles, demands, deadlines and frustrations can become stressful. Balancing our jobs while raising kids

member, a traffic jam or a mountain of bills, your body reacts just as strongly as a life or death situation. If you have a lot of responsibilities and worries, your emergency stress response may be on most of the time. Long-term exposure to stress can lead to serious health problems.

- Am I seldom distracted or moody?
- Am I able to recognize upsets that others seem to be experiencing?
- Do I easily turn to friends or family members for a calming influence?

(Continued on page 5)

# Around the Horn

(Continued from page 4)

- When my energy is low, do I know how to boost it?

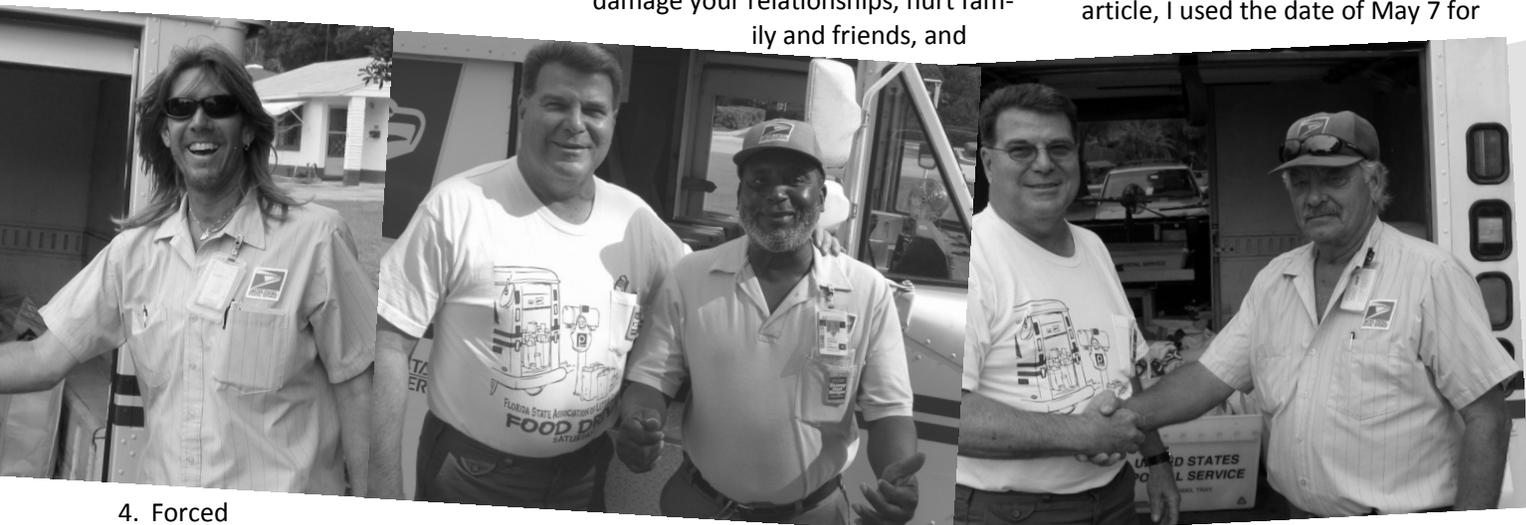
Positive events such as getting married, buying a house, going to college or receiving a promotion can cause stress just as negative events do. Both put high demands on you and forces you to adjust. The following is a list of the top ten stressful life events:

1. Spouse's death
2. Divorce
3. Marriage separation
4. Jail term
5. Death of a close relative
6. Injury or illness
7. Marriage
8. Fired from job
9. Marriage reconciliation
10. Retirement

Do you agree? How many of these does your top ten include?

Here are some Postal terms I thought of that may cause you stress, not found on the list.

1. Estimates
2. Under time
3. DOIS



4. Forced Overtime
5. Letter of Warning
6. Productivity
7. 1700 window of operation
8. Trips
9. Contract negotiations

10. NRP
11. 5-Day delivery
12. JARAP

Do you agree? Can you add more?

Not all stress is caused by external factors, Stress can be self generated. The following are common causes: Inability to accept uncertainty, Pessimism, Negative self-talk, Unrealistic expectations, Perfectionism and Lack of assertiveness.

One question you must ask yourself is...how much stress is too much? Because of the widespread damage stress can cause, it is important to know your own limit. This differs from person to person. Some people roll with the punches while others crumble with the slightest hint of frustration. Some people seem to thrive on the excitement and challenge of the high stress lifestyle.

Where do you fit in? It is important for you to know this.

Stress can wear down and tear apart your body leaving you feeling tired, drained, and empty inside. Stress can damage your relationships, hurt family and friends, and

make it tough to succeed. It's hard to feel better when your mood is constantly bringing you down. Every day can be a struggle.

Keeping yourself informed with the

latest news facing the NALC and the Postal Service can be a stressful ordeal. For instance, in the latest Postal Record, Congress takes aim at Postal Employees. Other articles, Postmaster General announces redesigned Postal Service, Protecting our 6-Day mail delivery, and talking with your family about changes at work, to mention just a few.

Exercise and diet can help manage stress and a good laugh is very healthy. Do not allow stress to reach an unmanageable stage. Reach out to your family and friends; motivate yourself to fight off stress. If these steps are unsuccessful and you find no escape from your stress, seek a professional. Do not allow stress to ruin your life.

### Sources:

*The Language of Emotional Intelligence*  
by Jeanne Segal, Ph.D.  
helpguide.org  
Holmes-Rahe Life Stress Inventory

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

\*) One correction from last month's article, I used the date of May 7 for

the NALC Food Drive; the date was May 14, thank you for the mention.

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

# Florida AFL-CIO • Working Families Lobby Corps

## Legislative Brief

135 S Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32301 • 850.224.6926 • FAX 850.224.2266 • www.flafcio.org

**Please Note:** *The following is merely a brief look at the final disposition of some of the major bills we were following during the 2011 Legislative Session. A more detailed report will be made available following the publication of the House and Senate Session Summaries.*

<b>Worker Gag Bill</b> SB 830/HB 1021 ..... <i>(Prohibition of dues deduction/Prohibition on political expenses)</i>	Failed
<b>Teacher Merit Pay</b> SB 736/HB 7019 ..... <i>(“Son of SB6”)</i>	Passed
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b> SB 728/HB 7005 ..... <i>(54% reduction in benefit weeks/easier to terminate employees without benefits/changes in law to disadvantage employees during unemployment hearings)</i>	Passed
<b>TABOR</b> SB 958/HB 7221 ..... <i>(Constitutional amendment to place a cap on state revenues)</i>	Passed
<b>Automatic Decertification</b> SB 1720/HB 1025.....	Failed
<b>Medicaid Privatization</b> SB 2144/HB 7107 .....	Passed
<b>Labor Practices on Public Construction Projects</b> HB 923/SB 1352..... <i>(Prohibition of Project Labor Agreements, Local Hiring Ordinances, and Prevailing Wages)</i>	Failed
<b>Immigration</b> SB 2040/HB 691..... <i>(An “Arizona Like” Immigration package)</i>	Failed
<b>Elections</b> SB 2086/HB 1355 ..... <i>(Reduction in early voting/restrictions on voter registration activities/Prohibition on voter protection activities/50% reduction in the time to conduct citizen’s initiative drives etc.)</i>	Passed
<b>Florida Retirement System</b> SB 2100/HB 1405 ..... <i>(3% Contribution rate/Reductions in COLA for new hires etc.)</i>	Passed
<b>Local Pensions</b> SB 1128/HB 7241 ..... <i>(Changes to police/fire and some other local pension systems)</i>	Passed
<b>Telecom Deregulation</b> SB 1524/HB 1231	
<b>Seaport Security</b> SB 524/HB 283 .....	Passed
<b>Health Care</b> SB 2/HB 1 .....	Passed
<b>Prohibition of local wage theft ordinances</b> SB 982/HB 241.....	Failed
<b>Minimum Wage</b> SB 982/HB 241.....	Failed
<b>Repeal of the “Blain Amendment”</b> SB 1218/HB 1471..... <i>(Repeal of the prohibition of tax dollars going to religious institutions)</i>	Passed

## Treasurer’s Report

All financial reports will resume after the conclusion of the reviews from the CPA/Tax Attorney the Branch decided to hire.

**Ray Garcia**  
Treasurer  
Branch 599



# Things You Should Know

It appears that the TLC [Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.] era is about to end soon. The TLC directors are in charge of Bingo, rentals, and the maintenance of our Union Hall. But with Bingo, now gone forever, the director's function is limited. So when this merger takes place, all the money that is being generated by the Union Hall or Union dues can be under one umbrella. Because sometimes when you have two separate meetings by two different boards, one group might have a tendency to go in a separate direction. But I feel that all meetings or decisions that are made by these two different boards should always allow the Branch members to know and vote on any of those decisions.

signing those checks. This system will provide a tighter check and balance for all of our funds. We now have created copies for all the deposits and checks with one going to the President and the other for our Union record. This system will be easier for the Treasurer to keep track of at the end of the year. Our Treasurer must prepare an LM2 report at the end of the year which contains all warrants, receipts, salary checks and deposits which are generated by Union Hall. The Labor Department and Internal Revenue Service mandate those reports in order to assess the taxes that the Union must pay on a quarterly basis. So, one can see how important a good system with copies are needed in order to meet all

must be presented with all our expenditures.

Now I would like to explain something about collecting Union dues on our members who might have suffered injuries on the clock. When any Union member suffers an injury and goes on OWCP after 90 days, the Post Office doesn't take out Union dues on your check. And if you have the Union's Health Benefit Plan, you must continue to pay Union dues. Our National will continue to charge the local Union with the per capita taxes on those Union members. So please, when you are injured, could you advise the Union of your status or the



**Gilbert Cabanas**  
Financial Secretary  
Branch 599



This is how we can maintain a check and balance on our leaders. In this manner, all the money that is being spent on any expenditure can be collectively decided by the Branch membership. Will this become a better system for our total membership? I certainly hope so.

I have always felt that too many hands in the pot can spoil the soup. Under this new system, only two members will be making deposits and only three making all warrants (checks) or two

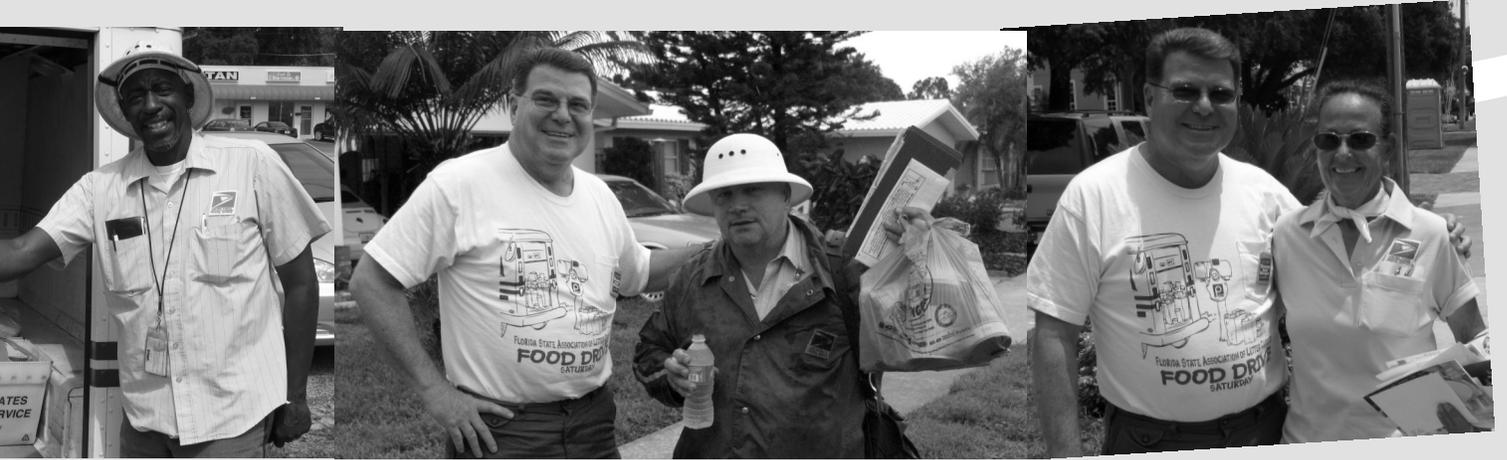
deadlines. Paper trails must be maintained for a period of 6 years in order to satisfy all of these agencies' laws. All Unions must now pay taxes to our State Treasurer with copies of all your expenditures during the entire year. If any money is generated through a Union or its building then those deposits must be accounted and proper taxes must be paid on all those funds. We now will have less money to work with in our checking account, so careful thoughts

length of your injury? The Union will work out some type of payment plan with you while you continue to improve with your health.

Branch 599's  
EEO Rep is Tony Diaz  
813.598.9635

*Our bylaws name the Vice President  
as EEO Representative.*





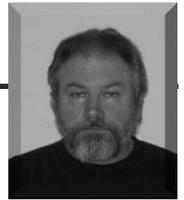
# Unionism—Shop Steward Basics

This month begins a series of articles that I will be writing that deal directly with the expectations and realities of the position of the Shop Steward.

All of you reading this newsletter are aware of the Shop Steward; you know who he/she is and what you expect of them in the way of representation. The truth is that for most of you, the Shop Steward is the Union.

The Shop Steward is a position that individuals are either elected or appointed to, depending on the situation. Every person who has ever served as a Shop Steward has done so for his/her own set of reasons, however they are all hit with the same realities of the job soon after accepting the position. As most of you know, the job is not for just anyone. What I

*“slugs”*. Most of the time when you successfully represent a grievant you will not hear any words of thanks...more likely you will hear how you should have been able to do more. These things can be less than motivating, as one might expect, however the



**Brian Obst**  
Former Chief Steward  
Branch 599



The Shop Steward is the only contact that most of you have with the Union as a whole, unless you are one of the minority of Union members who attend the monthly branch meeting (The first Thursday of every month at 730 PM at the Hall 3003 W. Cypress St.—for those of you who haven't yet found your way).

I find it interesting in my travels when I was the Chief Steward and as the assigned Shop Steward at various stations, both within and outside of the Tampa Installation, how varied the members' ideas are of what the Shop Steward job responsibilities are. This series of articles will seek to open the membership's eyes to the job of the Shop Steward and some of the inherent difficulties the Shop Steward faces daily in the performance of his/her duties.

mean by that is, anyone can be a Shop Steward but many find that they can't do the job. While it is difficult, it is a position that anyone can learn and blossom in if they are willing to put in the time and effort to learn the job. As it is said *“good Shop Stewards are not born they are made”* and as with cooking, seasoning only tends to make for a better Shop Steward.

As a Shop Steward, it is generally the belief that you will be able to help your brother and sister carriers by defending them from overbearing management personnel and that they will be grateful for your assistance. Unfortunately the truth is generally far from this belief. As a Steward you are going to find that many people will complain about you because you are not able to do things that they want; others will resent you because you are defending people they say are

Shop Steward has to keep this from changing his/her perspective on the job at hand.

The job of the Shop Steward is one of ensuring *“contract compliance”*. Many carriers misunderstand this function and they feel that the only job of the Shop Steward is to represent them if they feel aggrieved. While the Shop Steward does indeed represent those who feel aggrieved, many times the person who feels aggrieved doesn't always have a case/valid grievance. Now, nobody likes to hear that they are wrong, but it does happen at times and the Shop Steward is normally the bearer of this bad news. Remember it always goes back to the National Agreement and what it says

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# Unionism—Shop Steward Basics

is the guideline we follow in our representation of the members.

I would like to turn to some Shop Steward basics that will help the Shop Steward, both new and experienced, in keeping a level head in the performance of his/her duties.

**Keep Your Enthusiasm:** You have every right to be enthusiastic about your position as a Steward and what you want to do to help your fellow carriers. We all know that Gloomy Gus

develop your skills as you grow in the position.

**Adopt a Learning Attitude:** No matter how confident you are, you will never know it all. There are unlimited resources available to you and a wealth of talent both inside as well as outside of your local Branch, don't be afraid to tap into that information. Always be willing to learn, for as I say every month Knowledge is the Key. Remember no one expects you to have all the

you get through yours. You are not alone you are just a small part of a larger organization so use the resource to your benefit. Don't try to bluff your way through, ask the questions and get the answers, it will always benefit you in the long run and it will help others feel comfortable coming to you because they know you will get them the answers they seek.

**Endure Management's Test:** You're the new kid on the block and Management will test you. They



who will tell you that it doesn't make any difference, nothing will change. Simply dodge that wet blanket and stay upbeat regardless what happens when something goes south one day, the next day is always a fresh start and things will be better.

**Take the Long View:** No one starts out as the best Steward in the world. It is a learning process and you will get better with time. Don't be afraid to tell someone that you don't know or aren't sure. Tell them you will check and get the information and get back to them and then make sure you get back to them. Your respect level and their confidence level will rise when they see you can be counted on to be a person of your word. You will

answers but they do expect that you have the ability to get the answers for them. We have a phone listing for the entire Branch Officers and Shop Stewards in the front of this newsletter; don't be afraid to use it.

**Remember You Are Not Alone:** This goes along with the one just above. The others you work with are always available to assist and teach. Our State Association holds training sessions once or twice a year where you can gather with Officers and Stewards from Branches around the State to share information and attend training classes. This helps you realize that you are not the only one having issues and most of us have all been through the same ones so we can help

will try to prevent you from having time to investigate cases, they will throw roadblocks up to distract you and they will try to reason with you saying that you need to be flexible because it is for the benefit of the individual. Remember it is your job to represent all the carriers equally under the contract so don't let self-interest interfere with that responsibility. Many times you may have to interfere with someone's *good deal* because it is in violation of the contract and violates the rights of others. Stick to your guns and do what is right, show management that you are going to do your job properly and they will develop respect for you as a Steward.

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# Unionism—Shop Steward Basics

**Use an Organizing Approach:** Don't overemphasize the need to learn everything at once. Remember the Union goal – Power in Numbers – Working with others to achieve a common goal. With that in mind as you develop, you should develop the ability to teach others, organize and mobilize to help the larger organization of members that you represent.

While this is a simple overview and is

directed towards the current crop of Stewards in our Branch, it also should show those who might be considering becoming a Steward how things are and what you can expect. I have used material from the following publication in the writing of this article: *The Union Stewards Complete Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) edited by David Prosten*. This text was provided from the NALC during my training at the Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. and is a

valuable tool for the Steward whether new or experienced and I highly recommend it to all. As I previously stated, this is going to be a series of articles dealing with information provided in this text, so keep your eyes open for next month's article.

Until then I remain yours in Brotherhood and ask you to remember that –

**Knowledge is the Key.**

## And the Beat Goes On . . . . .

Wow! Half the year is already gone and now I hear they are doing route inspections again. Wasn't the last one, that took forever to do, suppose to be the last one? Now they are finding out there were mistakes made. I mean it's almost funny the way postal management

would terminate them, but postal managers can do the same things wrong forever and they get promoted.

If you have been to the last few meetings at the union hall it's been

said that was uncalled for and that I don't need to be harassed, especially with my having a seriously ill wife.

In 35 years of writing this article, starting from when President Bailey was in office until

**Ray Wallace**  
TLC Board  
Branch 599



does things; no wonder they're broke. Any other company would have gone bankrupt years ago.

The place is top heavy with too many managers that don't know what they are doing. The shame of it all is that they never learn from their mistakes. If a carrier made the same mistakes over and over again, management

nothing but *arguments*; what a shame. Where is the brotherhood that we used to have years ago?

This writer even received a call to my home from a brother(?) who swore at me and told me off in no uncertain terms about something that I wrote and said I was lying, when I can prove what I wrote was the truth. I told President Peacock about it and he

now, I've been told off by very few; 3 wrote letters to my home and didn't sign them and one called me, but none of them were as bad as the one who recently called me. He called me every name in the book...I don't deserve this and what I said was TRUE!!!

Years ago, I went to Newport, Rhode Island for the wake of my stepdad and

*(Continued on page 13)*

# And the Beat Goes On . . . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

the post office was across the street from my motel. I went over and got permission to go on the workroom floor and I spoke to the shop steward and told him I was a shop steward in Brandon FL 33511. Well the way I was treated by all was wonderful, true brotherhood. I don't see it much anymore and we need it now more than ever.

Brother Gil Cabanas wrote in the May issue about all that we have and can lose and how we need to stick together as one. Gil and I started out in the Post Office in the 1960s when the worker had nothing. Gil in Florida and myself in New York, and we both know all that we had to go through to get what we have today.

Give your \$5 to COLCPE; that's the least you can do and pay your union dues. Look at what all the other

unions are going through to survive and the Letter Carriers have a contract coming up and we need to be able to survive; do your part by donating a lousy five dollars to COLCPE. Last year Tampa collected the most food in the whole USA during the Food Drive, now why can't Tampa be 100% by giving to COLCPE too? Wouldn't that be great? It's all up to YOU.

Brandon had their Retiree Luncheon on Tuesday, May 10 at Golden Corral and Jim Fowke went out of his way contacting every retiree he could and as I write this, there are 30 going. Let me say, Brandon unlike Tampa, has any employee, clerk, manager, and carrier go to the luncheon, even the active employees are invited.

Whatever happened to the SOB Brandon Postmaster, is he still there? I've lost all of my contacts in Brandon; Brophy used to come to the union

meeting, he's retired and I don't see him anymore. Thomas used to come and I don't see him anymore either. The only active Brandon carrier I see is Terry Franklin and he says, *Hi Ray*, and that's it.

Such is life....Have a Happy Father's Day on June 19.

*Postscript:*

Well, I found out the answer to my question about the Brandon postmaster during the Brandon luncheon. Dick Arnold asked me if I would put something in my next article for him, as he asked the Brandon postmaster if he could have 10 minutes on the workroom floor to explain something that would be helpful to all, and the postmaster said, *No way, I'll do it.* Dick said, *you can't answer the questions.* So he hasn't changed at all.



## TLC will Meet

Tuesday June 28 7 PM  
Conference Room

## Retirees Breakfast

Monday June 6 9 AM  
Coffee Cup  
4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

# Sharing Our Members' Joys & Sorrows

Get Well wishes & prayers to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] at Sable Palm Health Care Center, Largo, [visitors are welcomed]; to **John Zuilkoski** [Temple Terrace], recovering from surgery; and to Julio Acosta [Shop Steward, Hilldale Annex].

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to daughter **Michelle Lipton** [Carrollwood], son **Ronnie Mitchell**

[Northdale Annex], daughter-in-law Cindy Mitchell [MOWU Clerk], and their families at the passing of Helen Mitchell [retired main office window clerk], April 21; to **John Baker** [Carrollwood] at the passing of his sister, Carol Sutton, April 29; and to **Richard Henderson** [Forest Hills Annex] and family and the passing of his father-in-law, Joseph B. Giffey, May 14.

**USPS Awards**  
**Tony Diaz** [Sulphur Springs] and **Charles Smith** [Tampa Carrier Annex] received the Million Miler award and **Diane Krug** [Tampa Carrier Annex] was presented with a 35 Year Service pin.

## Thank You!

for making this year's **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** a huge success!  
Wrap-up article will be in next month's newsletter.

Lori McMillion, Food Drive Coordinator, Branch 599



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