



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Branch 599 members and their families.** I want to take a moment to thank all the officers and stewards of Branch 599 for the jobs they have done in 2014. The job of union steward is very demanding and can be very stressful. These individuals while representing and protecting the rights of letter carriers and patrolling the contract, must perform their own carrier duties as well. *Thanks to all who were elected and all who stepped up!*

**PS Form 3996/Help Slip** Brothers and Sisters, this month, due to several issues around the city, I believe there is a need to educate our active members on a form that is as important as anything carriers are required to do on a daily basis. This form is PS Form 3996, a help slip...the big white pad the supervisor possesses, but is reluctant to tear off the pad to hand out. Let's hit on some of the important steps of the morning exercise in acquiring a 3996.

Requesting PS Form 3996: Section 122.33 of the M-39 Handbook requires the

supervisor/manager to provide you with a 3996 when you request one. **122.33, The employee, upon request, will be provided a Form 3996, Carrier – Auxiliary Control, after the supervisor has been verbally informed as to the reason for the request. The employee shall not be denied the form and, upon request, a duplicate of completed form will be provided the employee.** So in the morning you evaluate your workload for the day, you realize you cannot complete your duties/route/assignment in 8 hours. You request a 3996, no matter what your supervisor/manager says to you, say the words *I am requesting a 3996* and explain the reason(s) for your request. Your supervisor/manager will push back, so when you hear *this is your demonstrated performance and you are not making standards or just pick up the pace a little...* these are not legitimate and do not change the situation you are in. Those comments, while frustrating, personally insulting and intimidating to many, can

never get under your skin, keep your cool. This is your estimate, you need to stay on course, if you are denied the 3996, immediately request to see your Shop Steward. In addition, you then need to politely ask your supervisor/manager, *In the event that I cannot deliver all the mail by the time you want me back, what should I do with the mail?* It would also be beneficial if a co-worker hears the exchange you are having during the exercise. This information will assist your steward when s/he is building your defense/case in the event management issues discipline for an unprofessional estimate when you return late.

Upon finally receiving your requested 3996...fill out the form completely. The top portion of the 3996 is very important. From the Delivery Unit to the Carrier's Name and Route No., the form needs to be filled out



**Tony Diaz**  
President  
Branch 599

### Branch 599 Meetings

Thursday  
December 4  
January 8  
7:30 PM

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Branch 599 Office**

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

Tony Diaz  
President  
tony\_diaz599@yahoo.com

*Office Hours*  
Monday-Friday  
8 AM – 4:30 PM  
Rodna Kimelman Kirk  
Office Secretary  
nalc599@verizon.net

**Tampa Letter Carrier**

Tony Diaz  
Publisher  
Phyllis R. Thomas  
Editor  
editor@nalc599.com  
Branch 599 Office  
813.875.0599

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

Position	Officer	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635 office 813.875.0599	tony_diaz599@yahoo.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Michael Brink	813.661.1639	recording.sec@nalc599.com
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Gilbert Cabanas	813.905.8424	financial.sec@nalc599.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jjg7d7@aol.com
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
<b>Health Benefit Rep.</b>	Lance Jones	813.264.9801	
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Don Thomas	813.963.0653	retirees@nalc599.com
<b>Trustees</b>	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	
	Maggie Lancaster	813.317.7522	joelunaticplayer@aol.com
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	
<b>Labor Management</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good • Alan Peacock		

# Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11	Warren Sumlin	813.661.1636	813.486.7612
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.960.8894	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
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	Mike Thomsen	813.719.6793	303.916.3196
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.237.4280	646.346.3288
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoades	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	347.403.1644
TCA/West Tampa	33607	John Lacko	813.873.7189	347.453.4562
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

# Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

entirely and legibly. You then need to write down where and an approximate time you plan to take your lunch. Are keys required? Do you have accountable mail?

Now we move to the Letter J, Reason for Use of Auxiliary. This section is where you explain why you believe you cannot complete your assignment in eight hours. It is what makes your argument; list as many as reasons that apply. Is it mail volume or the type of mail you have? Political mail, EDDM, Red Plum, coupons, house-to-house in the DPS, the number of parcels over the daily route average? Is it other carrier duties? Edit (red) books, built-up review mail, safety stand-up talk, safety meeting or a Postmaster General video? Remember, comments like heavy volume, route overburdened, and heavy parcels will not cut it; be more specific. You may also include street related reasons that may require additional time: known road construction, detours, closed roads, and weather related issues. These are all valid reasons...do not hesitate to list them on your 3996.

Caution: If you had a back-and-forth in the morning with your supervisor/manager and you stayed the course and continued to request the auxiliary assistance...be smart. Finish your office work and hit the street. Take your lunch when and where you listed it on the 3996 you filled out completely. Take your breaks where you are supposed to. This is good advice in the event your supervisor decides to prove you wrong/doesn't agree with your estimate and comes out to observe/follow you.

As the day progresses, you may find you need additional time: vehicle breakdown, flat tire, excessive accountable mail you find in your DPS, out of order DPS, customer connect,

weather related issues, illness, additional restroom breaks, bee sting, etc. Should you experience any of these circumstances, call your office to inform management immediately, or whenever you are aware you are running late depending on the circumstances. Under normal circumstances you should know if you are running late by 3 to 3:15 PM if you are familiar with the route, call the office. This will allow management the opportunity to send you help before your coworkers are sent home.

Hopefully this information will help you with the *morning exercise*.  
*The 2011 NALC Letter Carrier Resource Guide*

## Amazon Holiday Delivery

Individual stations should be acting as their own *Hubs* starting 23 November 2014 for the holiday rush for a 4 to 6 week period. Individual stations will work their own CCAs.

## Golfing for MDA (see flyer)

### Last Chance

**Attention all golfers**, as many of you have requested, we are planning the **1st Annual Branch 599 Golf Tournament to benefit MDA**. On December 7, Quail Hollow Golf Course will host Branch 599's first golfing event. The cost is \$60 per person; 8 AM shotgun start. Golfers will be provided lunch after their rounds; the Longest Drive Contest and Closest to the Pin Contest with prizes. The Chipping Contest, Putting Contest, and raffle tickets will be available at an additional cost. Be part of a new tradition at Branch 599, the inaugural **1st Annual Branch 599 Golf Tournament!** We tried to keep the prices affordable for all, with the hope of filling the field. Flyers are circulating in the stations throughout the city...see your steward for information or call the union office at

813.875.0599. Retirees interested in golfing, please contact the union office for information.

• **We are asking for raffle donations from businesses throughout the Tampa Bay area. In addition we are also hoping each station sponsors a hole at the cost of \$100.**

### Must read:

### **Postal Record, President Rolando's Message, November Issue**

The end of campaign season is a time for reflection. I am pleased that the number of NALC members who are willing to contribute to COLCPE, become e-Activists, visit and call their members of Congress, and organize to elect strong support-ers of letter carriers has grown dramatically over the past 10 years. This growing army of activists knows the stakes: Ev-ery year, we face threats in Congress to dismantle the Postal Service by ending Saturday or door delivery, to slash our pension and health benefits and to strip away our collective-bargaining rights. The letter carriers who have stepped up to defend our jobs and our standard of living also know that these threats will not go away and that now we must educate and recruit other carriers to do their part in the future.

Of course, some members who don't vote or don't contribute to COLCPE may mistakenly think that their biweekly union dues will protect us from adversaries in Congress. But legally, union dues cannot be used for most political purpos-es. Others simply may be unaware that every year there is a vote on the continuation of six-day delivery and that numer-ous postal reform bills are introduced, some good and some truly bad.

The annual vote on six-day delivery is not just about the quality of service or the number of carrier jobs. It's

(Continued on page 4)

# Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

## Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to the family of **Jack Monje** [retiree] whose passing was November 7; to **Gabriel Carrasquillo** [TCA] at the passing of his father; and to **Glenn Zimmerman** [Forest Hills] at the passing of his father.

## Met with Rep. Castor



Vice President Alan Peacock and President Tony Diaz recently met with Representative Kathy Castor in her office to discuss several Letter Carrier issues.

## Received Award!



During the State Training, October 17-19 in West Palm Beach, FSALC President Al Friedman and NALC Region 9 National Business Agent Judy Willoughby recognized Branch 599 for our outstanding contribution to the 2014 Food Drive. President Diaz proudly accepted the award on behalf of Branch 599. Four Branch stewards also attended the State Training: Chief Steward Brian Obst, Detlev Aepfel, Troy Figuero, and Varick Reeder.

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

*(Continued from page 3)*

about the viability of the Postal Service—if we don't de-liver on Saturday, other companies will fill the void. These new competitors would lobby relentlessly to gain access to the nation's mailboxes, first on Saturday, and then the rest of the week. The risk of deregulation and privatization would follow.

Meanwhile, the ongoing debate over postal reform pro-vides a forum for those who want to dismantle the Postal Service or deregulate it.

Without the monopoly, the USPS would be eaten alive by low-wage, no-benefit, non-union, cream-skimming competitors. Our jobs and our standard of living would be directly threatened—and the Postal Service's ability to provide universal service at affordable rates would disappear. Those of us who understand these risks must educate those who don't.

**Quick Hits:**  
**Information you should know**

\*) **No work party** on December 7

due to the Letter Carriers' Golf Tournament for MDA.

\*) **Recreation Room** facelift is complete! The floors were stripped and waxed. The Recreation Room is available for rentals beginning in 2015, unless we get a rental request before...baby showers, kids' parties, meetings, a get-together, NFL Fantasy Draft parties and more.

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

# The Birdseye View

## Governmental Elections

First and foremost throughout the election process that had a multitude of negativity on all fronts and resulted in many very close votes deciding the final out-come; one thing that I will not miss was the constant barrage of request for donations. Anyone who gets emails on their phones must have made a fortune for their providers with the thousands of emails and the data usage it encompassed, unless you have a high data usage plan. The amazing experience of hundreds of junk emails and regular emails on a daily basis was difficult to keep up with besides how it would exhaust your battery time on your phone. Maybe politicians should resort to voice and text since most plans allow unlimited minutes on plans for those services. And of course since we work for or are retired from the USPS we hope they used the mail to do a great deal of their campaigning. With the pendulum swinging in the favor of the GOP now having control of the House and the Senate, there will be a huge microscope on them to see if they fulfill all the promises they made and the billions they spent. Our action throughout the campaign was to reach out to all working families and union members to support the candidates that we felt would represent our middle class American jobs and preserve the future of our retirements and other benefits we depend on for our future. My personal hope is that all elected representatives will conduct themselves with bi-partisan leadership and dedication to all constituents they were elected to represent. After all, isn't that what the oath of office actually entails? We the people have made our decision, now we the people deserve impartial representation by those elected, as they are now employed by all of us.

## NALC Elections

On the NALC election...we should all feel very comfortable that we will continue to have the best leadership of the entire Rolando-O'Malley team guiding our great union throughout the next four years. *Congratulations* to all the candidates for continuing to step up to make the sacrifice and provide the leadership for all our members. Think about how important it is that we have this consistency in leadership when we are only a little over a year away from beginning negotiations of our next collective bargaining agreement.

We are already in the middle of planning for the next actions that will continue our efforts to save the quality services all businesses and residential customers deserve. President Diaz and I met with Congresswoman Kathy Castor regarding door delivery involved in the appropriations bill H.Res 711 and we informed her about Amazon Sunday and Holiday Delivery. She was very supportive and amazed that more representatives are not up with the times and demands for new postal products. On November 14, rallies were held all over the nation at post offices to voice our position against closing plants and cutting service standards. Elections may be over, but we can't stop the pressure to assure our jobs and retirements and benefits are secure and remember, that includes the fight for small businesses and elderly and disabled who depend on America's Postal Service for their affordable and reliable delivery needs.

## Holidays and Community Service

As we hope all enjoyed your Veterans and Thanksgiving holidays and the blessings of being with families and enjoying the peace and safety provided by our Veterans, and those on active



Alan Peacock  
Vice President  
Branch 599

duty that were not home with their families, we keep them all in our prayers and gratitude for their sacrifice.

We also wish all of you a blessed and Merry Christmas and joyful holiday season. This will be another busy season for all of us especially with the 7-day delivery schedule. The demands will be high, but I am confident that we will continue to be successful and make our customers proud of the service we provide for them. We have *Letter Carrier Day for Toys for Tots* on Saturday, December 6, followed on Sunday, December 7, with our *First Annual Muscular Dystrophy Golf Tournament*, with all proceeds going to help *Make a Muscle for MDA* and support summer camp and many other services for those that suffer from neuro-muscular diseases.

## Awaiting Decisions

By the time this newsletter arrives we will have had our first arbitration on the 1700 Window of Operation violations while hundreds of cases are still held in abeyance awaiting a national decision on an interpretive issue that has taken over a year to be resolved. The efforts made by many of our stewards and officers of filing and hearing these abundant cases should be appreciated by our members that for the most part are not even aware how time consuming these efforts are. We also are awaiting a decision on another class action that applies to how we apply the filling of our residual vacancies and conversion of City Carrier Assistants to career status. There often are many rumors that seem to distort our process in many ways, but in the end, the *agree to disagree* method will ultimately have a decision good or bad from the dispute

(Continued on page 6)



## The Birdseye View

*(Continued from page 5)*

resolution or arbitration process. Unfortunately the time it takes for many of these decisions to finally culminate doesn't warrant or satisfy the penalty incurred.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

Alan Peacock  
Vice President



**NALC**  
*e-Activist*  
Network

Join together with tens of thousands of other letter carriers to make your voice heard! NALC will send you email alerts when it's time to act on issues affecting active and retired letter carriers and the future of the Postal Service. [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

# A Blunderful Blizzard of Boz

In our profession, we tend to come across a number of interesting names. For example, on my route Mr. Mulholland once received a letter addressed to Mr. *Mulnetherlands*. Not too long ago, a few of us gathered around the break table and discussed some names we have actually seen, such as Robin Banks, Hugh Blewitt, Roger Houston, Mann Ho, Dick Rheem, Harry Dangler, Phuc Mei, and Jack Potts. In Buffalo, there is a family-owned funeral parlor chain called *Amigone Funeral Homes*.

This got me thinking. What if I paired the names of celebrities, literary characters and personal acquaintances with book titles appropriate for their names? A not-too-shabby idea, is it not? Here goes:

- Avoiding Construction Site Accidents* by Bob Crane  
*Beautiful Cursive Calligraphy* by Art Linkletter  
*A Path To Regular Bowel Movement* by John Daly  
*Manual Nailing Techniques* by Armand Hammer  
*Poultry Matchmaking* by Alfred Hitchcock  
*Great Ground Pork Recipes* by Hamilton (Ham) Burger  
*Life With A Genital Prosthesis* by Woody Woodpecker  
*Inducing Sleep in Small Wildlife* by Forrest Tucker  
*A Chastity Belt For Males* by Dick Cheney  
*Christougennaphobia, the Fear of Christmas* by Noel Coward  
*A Makeshift Storage Plan For Christmas Sheet Music* by Carol Barrel  
*Overcoming the Fear of Sexual Intimacy* by Dick Panek  
*Gregorian Chant for Urban Vermin* by Joseph Ratzinger  
*Why Clif Claven Was Never A Spokesman for McDonald's* by John Ratzenberger

Carry On, Boz.



**Jim Boczarski**  
*Sulphur Springs*  
 Member  
 Branch 599

Merry Christmas  
 and Happy Holidays  
 from your Branch Officers,  
 Stewards, and Staff

# ESRC Holiday Party

Open to all current and retired 336- Employees

December 14, 2014

12 p.m til 4 p.m.

NALC Letter Carrier Hall

3003 Cypress Street Tampa, FL 33609

Come join us for Lunch with Santa Claus



HAPPY KWANZAA!  
Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah  
Happy Holidays

Please fill out the bottom portion completely with the number of guests for the event.

\$5 per person Children under 5 yrs. - FREE

Deadline- RSVP's must be received by Friday December 5th, 2014  
Mail info to ESRC C/O Elisa Torres PO Box 22303 Tampa, Fl 33622  
Please contact Elisa Torres 813-842-0377 if you have any questions.

-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

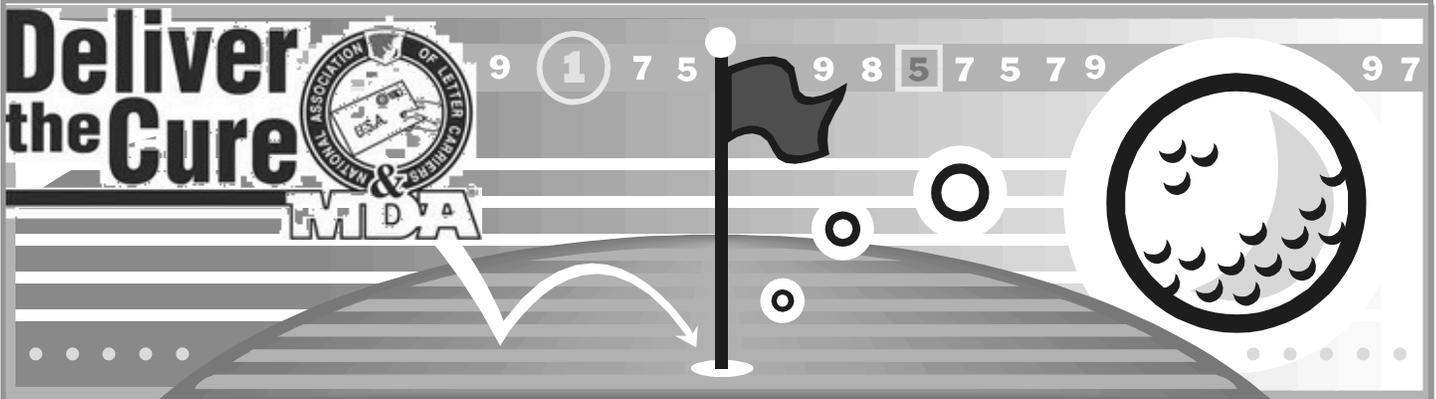
Pay Loc: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Guests Total: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NALC Branch 599 Golf Tournament

*Help Letter Carriers support MDA*

Quail Hollow Golf Course  
6225 Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel FL 33544

**December 7, 2014**

8 AM Shotgun Start

\$60 per person

*Includes Round of Golf • Lunch • Long Drive Contest • Closest to Pin*

Also available

*Raffle Prizes • \$5 donation Putting & Chipping Contest*

*Breakfast available in clubhouse for additional charge.*

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

Golfer 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Retirees Banquet

**January 17, 2015**  
**Tampa Letter Carriers Hall**

**Dinner served at 6 PM**

**We are using our Hall for the Banquet...the perfect event venue!**

**RSVP by January 5, 2015**  
**Branch Office 813.875.0599**

**Our Branch is providing the meal for Retiree and One Guest.**

**Other/Additional Guest tickets are \$20 each and *must* be paid for by January 5.**

**You will each be given a drink ticket at the door, good for one beer or glass of wine.**

**You may purchase additional beer or wine for \$1 per drink;  
all proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association per President Diaz.**

**BYOB Setups will be provided at no charge...  
ice bucket, Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, and Diet Sprite.**

**We will have a drawing for all who choose to participate; when you arrive you can  
each buy one ticket for \$1...drawing will be held after the meal.**

***One Ticket Limit...to give all participants the same opportunity at winning!***

**Hors d'oeuvres available at 5 PM**  
**Dance Music from 7-9 PM**

**Looking forward to seeing you at our Union Hall!**  
***Don Thomas, Director of Retirees***

### **Shop Stewards will Meet**

Tuesday 7 PM  
December 2  
December 30

### **Sunday Work Party at our Hall**

9-11 AM  
Cancelled for December  
January 11

### **Executive Board Meets**

Thursday  
December 4 at 6 PM  
January 8 at 6:30 PM

### **Retirees Breakfasts**

Monday December 1 9 AM  
Coffee Cup Restaurant  
4407 N Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Tuesday December 9 8 AM  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon

# **ARSLAN UNIFORMS**

*Bill & Shirley Moran*

Gold Card Member Branch 1477 St. Petersburg  
Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

**NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?  
SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME**

320 Patlin Circle East, Largo FL 33770-3063  
BILL'S CELL 727.543.0705 ▪ SHIRLEY'S CELL 727.543.0708  
FAX 727.585.9367  
bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599  
 National Association of Letter Carriers  
 3003 W Cypress Street  
 Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599  
 www.nalc599.com

Tampa Letter Carrier  
 Volume 13 • Issue 12 • December 2014

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 TAMPA FL  
 PERMIT NO. 1285

**Address Service Requested**

**UNWRAP the PERFECT Holiday Gift!**

**The Perfect Holiday Loan**  
**\$1,200 for 12 Months at 12% APR\***

Get the cash you need to make the holidays more memorable and fun. And do it without long-term debt or high-interest credit cards.

**All you need to get approved is:**

- Be employed for at least 12 months
- Have established direct deposit for at least 6 months
- Have Automatic Loan Payments Transfer

**Limited Time Offer Just for the Holidays!**

**TAMPA POSTAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

① Apply 24/7 at [www.tpcu.org](http://www.tpcu.org)    ② Call 800.782.4899 Option #3  
 ③ Stop By Any Branch Location

Federally Insured by NCUA.    \*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Closed-End Loan, doc stamps will be paid for by member. Offer valid between Nov 1 and Dec 31, 2014. Direct deposit and automatic loan payment transfer required during the life of the loan. Must be employed for at least 12 months and enrolled in direct deposit for at least 6 months prior to loan. Restrictions apply.