



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 5 - Issue 5

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

May 2006

## President's Report

by **Jim Good**

*President - Branch 599*

### *Committee of Presidents*

**T**wice a year the presidents from NALC branches throughout the country meet to discuss problems and issues in their areas and how they have dealt with them. These seminars, called the Committee of Presidents meetings, begin with our national president addressing the group with an update of current happenings at the national level. This update may include new positions that the Contract Administration Unit has taken on certain contractual issues, new ideas on how to address recurring problems from the Director of City Delivery's office or news about an upcoming convention. Whatever the subjects discussed, it is a great opportunity for the local branch presidents to get first hand information for their use at the local level.

Immediately following the national president's speech the microphone is opened for questions from the floor. This is the chance for any president, whether from a small branch of twenty members or from a branch of four thousand members to speak directly to the man in charge and get an answer to whatever is on their mind. Most of the time, at least in my experience with Vince Sombrotto and Bill Young, the questions are answered quickly and to the point. Occasionally, when the question involves another department such as health benefits or finances, Mr.

Young will advise the president to speak directly to that department head. In any case it is an opportunity to bring local issues and questions directly to the attention of our national president.

The latest Committee of Presidents' meeting was held in Boston, MA on Sunday and Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. President Young addressed the group of 250-300 branch presidents and, understandably, most of the issues discussed were common to all areas throughout the country. Staffing, forced overtime, windows-of-operation and route inspections/adjustments are problems everywhere.

Postal reform was one of the key issues on the agenda, with President Young stating his belief that the bills currently in congress will be passed and signed into law by July of this year. He reiterated the importance of the NALC e-Activist program and announced that the American Postal Workers Union had followed our lead and had formed a similar program for its members. The importance of contributing to COLCPE (Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education, the NALC's political action fund) was discussed and the new "Gimme 5" program, a voluntary payroll deduction allotment to donate \$5.00 per pay period to the fund. The NALC has started a new Legislative Liaison program, to be monitored at the state level, with a branch liaison assigned to each member of the House of Representatives.

Understaffing of letter carriers and the resulting excessive use of overtime was discussed, with Young saying that fourteen percent of the total hours used by carriers last year were overtime hours. There has been double-digit overtime since 1986, and while the USPS is

starting to hire some carriers, staffing is something that is being addressed at the national level.

In closing, President Young brought up the flaws in the DOIS program and the fact that only letter carriers can decide how long their routes will take to deliver and until management fixes the system the problems will continue.

Some of the other issues that were discussed amongst the branch presidents were special route inspections, part-time regulars assigned to six-hour delivery routes, DPS & Go, limited duty carriers and shared services. Your shop stewards will all be given an update on these issues, so if you have any questions please see your steward any time after the May 2, 2006 shop steward meeting.

Don't forget the Food Drive on May 13<sup>th</sup>! Spread the word to all your families, friends and neighbors so that we can make this year's drive the best ever.



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**Branch Meeting**  
**May 4, 2006**  
**7:30 PM**  
**at the Union Hall**

**Branch 599 Officers**

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 875-0599, cell 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 907-9685, cell 505-7914
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516, cell 597-7396
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cindy Perez	(813) 766-1220
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 681-5688
TRUSTEE(Chairman)	Henry Dupree	(813) 621-6471
TRUSTEE	Jose Oliva	(813) 873-2747
TRUSTEE	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	Jack Newman	(813) 805-2942
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Phil Chirico	(813) 657-3180
Carrollwood	33618	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Forest Hills Annex	33613	David Camuy	(813) 892-6553
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	(813) 935-0244
Interbay	33611	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Interbay	33629	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
MacDill	33608	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 681-6890
Port Tampa	33616	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 872-1542
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Mike Sovan	(813) 872-0709
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Temple Terrace	33617	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914

**Presidents Emeritus**

Michael Anderson	Orbe Andux
James Butler	Don Thomas
Garland Tickle	Lenin Perez

**A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599**

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**RETIREES BREAKFAST  
(In Tampa)**

**First Monday of Every Month**

**9:00 AM at**

**The Coffee Cup**

**4407 N. Hubert**

**in Drew Park**

**RETIREES BREAKFAST  
(In Brandon)**

**Second Tuesday of Every month**

**8:00 AM at**

**Buddy Freddy's**

**134 Gornto Lake Rd S.**

**in Brandon**

The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 599, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33609-1617, 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. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for publication must be signed by the writer. All articles are subject to editing and revision at the discretion of the publisher & editor. Please submit articles to the branch office no later than the tenth of the month. Submit articles as .txt, .doc or .wpd documents attached to email sent to: [newsletter@nalc599.com](mailto:newsletter@nalc599.com)

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

## Executive Vice-President's Report

by Detlev Aappel

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

## All Letter Carriers Should Be Proud

As most of you know, this year the 14th Annual NALC Food Drive will be held on Saturday May 13. The food drive has been collecting more and more food every year and this year should be no exception. In 2005 we had to make do without bags to distribute and although we did gather more pounds of food than in 2004 many felt that we would have done even better had we had the bags. That should not be a concern this year. Al Friedman, Executive Vice President of Branch 2008 in Clearwater, persuaded Publix Supermarkets to volunteer to provide enough bags for the whole state. That will be eight million bags. Thanks to Publix every household in Florida will be provided a bag to fill for the food drive. This type of corporate support is phenomenal. Our National Business Agent, Judy Willoughby, has suggested that carriers go into Publix stores and ask for the manager and thank them for the support Publix has given us. I think that is a terrific idea.

Many carriers don't know how the food drive became a national event. For many years certain branches had been collecting food for the needy as social service projects. Eventually talks began on the national level between the NALC, USPS,

and the AFL-CIO Community Services Department. Then in 1991 the idea of an organized food drive effort was tested in 10 cities. It proved so successful that work started immediately to create a nationwide food drive. Discussions with food banks revealed that the late spring would be the best time because that is when donations from the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons were starting to run out. The first national food drive was organized for the second Saturday in May of 1993. The goal was to have at least one branch in each of the 50 states participating. As it turned out 220 branches participated and collected over 11 million pounds of food. Amounts collected have continued to grow over the years. In 2005 a record 71,301,000 pounds of food were collected! Over the past 13 years the national food drive has collected 695,001,000 pounds of food.

Support for the food drive is widespread. The USPS has backed the food drive from the beginning. Current Postmaster John Potter has been a supporter of the food drive and has called for "the full cooperation and enthusiasm of postal management at all levels." This support is essential since the bulk of the work for the food drive

happens while mail is being delivered. The drive also enjoys the backing of the rural carriers, clerks, MVS drivers, and other postal employees.



On the corporate front, Campbell's Soup Company has teamed up with the USPS to cosponsor the printing of 110 million postcards for delivery encouraging the public to participate. Also Valpak Direct Marketing Systems will once again include promotions for the food drive on 40 million packets delivered to postal customers.

Thanks to Hurricane Katrina, food banks not just in the Gulf Coast but all across the nation were impacted by the needs of hurricane refugees. Stockpiles have dwindled as food was given to those forced to relocate with literally nothing but the clothes they were wearing or sent to survivors in the Gulf Coast area. A successful food drive is more important now than ever. All letter carriers should be proud of the relief our efforts bring to those who truly need it.

Yours in solidarity...

## Muscular Dystrophy Street Corner Blitz

Branch 599's annual *Street Corner Blitz* will be held on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 until 6:00 pm. We need all the volunteers we can get. Last year because of your help we collected over \$17,000.00 in one three hour period. That was an increase of almost 50%, simply because the number of volunteers doubled. The more intersections we can cover, the more money we will collect.

So please, contact Branch 599 MDA Coordinator Eric Fleming at 237-4280, or 310-8274, to sign up to help us out in this very important event.

**Health and Welfare**

Grandfather of Palm River carrier Tyrone Bonner passed away.

Father-in-law of Branch 599 Treasurer Mike Anderson passed away.

Adam Noble, Interbay carrier, recovering after hospital stay.

Temple Terrace carrier Audie Childers in hospital.

**May Meetings**

Thur 5-4-06 - Branch Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:30 PM

Tues 5-23-06 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 5-25-06 - Executive Board Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Tues 5-30-06 - Shop Stewards Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

**President's Station Visits**

Town & Country 33615	Wednesday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>
Temple Terrace Annex 33617	Friday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>
Carrollwood 33618	Wednesday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Hilldale Annex 33634	Wednesday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>
Sun City Center 33570	Friday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>
Plant City 33564	Wednesday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>
Brandon 33510	Thursday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>
Brandon 33511	Friday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>

***ARSLAN UNIFORMS***

*Bill & Shirley Moran*

*Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg*

*Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa*

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## Around The Horn

by Tony Diaz

**Carrier Pay Chart  
& The Food Drive***Financial Secretary - Branch 599*

**B**rothers and sisters, to those of you that observe and celebrate Easter, I hope all of you had a happy Easter. While reading the April edition of the *Postal Record* I found many interesting articles, as was the case last month. From postal reform to DOIS, to COLCPE, to retirement, these articles were very informative and deal with current issues that affect us all. With that said, the one thing that caught my eye, and which I decided to write this month's article about, is the Carrier Pay Chart on page 64.

The Pay Chart includes our latest COLA along with the type of increases we have received during the current 2001-2006 National Agreement. Also, the pay scale for City Carriers Grade 1&2 is listed with different categories to help us break down our pay. On March 18, 2006 we received the seventh COLA increase the amount \$478.00 with the eighth and final COLA of this contract scheduled for September 2006.

In reviewing our increases, this current contract has provided us with 5 General

wage increases totaling 7.1% (1.8-1.5-1.2-1.3-1.3), 7 COLAs to date totaling \$2,766.00 (229.00-312.00-187.00-624.00-229.00-707.00-478.00) and a \$312.00 cash payment. The top pay for City Carrier Grade 1 Step O is now \$48,428 or \$23.28 an hour, and Grade 2 (T-6) is \$49,527. PTFs begin at \$18.60 and can go as high as \$24.21 for Grade 1.

I am very proud of what the National Association of Letter Carriers has negotiated for us over the years. The NALC has proven over and over again to be solid and united and I feel confident President Bill Young and the national officers will be very prepared to bargain for the our next agreement in 2007. Despite the state of most unions across the country today, the NALC has stayed strong, not only fighting to keep our jobs that every one seems to want a part of, but also continuing to make our jobs steady and secure.

The Letter Carriers Food Drive is fast approaching and I hope all carriers participate with enthusiasm. Saturday, May 13, 2006, is the date for a great opportunity to give back to the community by helping to feed the homeless and less fortunate. This is a time for letters carriers to shine and portray a positive image by collecting with a smile and supporting the food drive effort. This is sup-

ported nationwide by the NALC, and locally it not only feeds those in need but also provides the food banks with supplies hopefully for the rest of the year. I support the food drive 100%, and it bothers me when I hear about carriers taking annual leave just to avoid getting involved or complaining about the 3 days we must deliver bags and fliers to notify and remind the public.

Publix is supplying us with millions of bags this year and I can tell you that the shortage of bags last year hurt our collection totals. I have fed needy families for a many years and I can tell you the things we take for granted like having food on our table are a daily struggle for a lot of people. Let's make this food drive the best ever.

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

# TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS PRESENT

# BINGO

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EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

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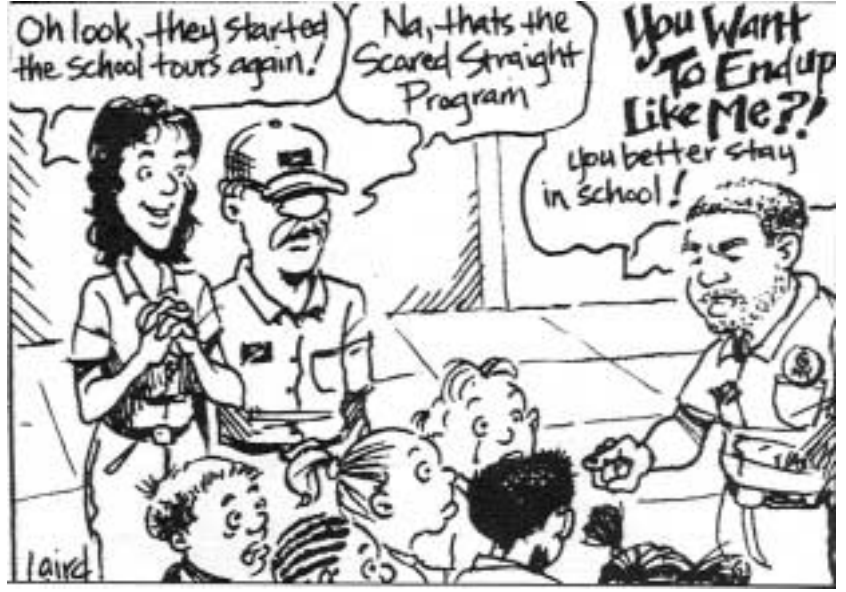
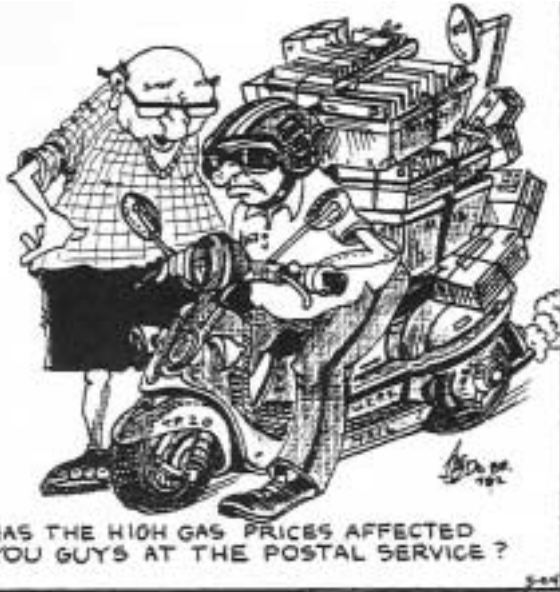
GAMES START AT 6:30

AT THE TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS HALL

3003 W. CYPRESS ST.

Tampa, Fl. 33609

813-877-4785



## And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

### Retirement, Conventions & More

**B**randon lost another retiree who was one of the original eleven who were in Brandon in the 70's. They were Luther Sands, Lou Fowke, Big Son McBrayer, John Myers, Bob Lockhart, C. Holkempt, Bill Kizer, Bill Lister, Jim Grossman, Bob Carter and Ray Sullivan, who died March 30. Ray had 30 years as a letter carrier, 20 years in the Florida National Guard, 3 years as a marine during the Korean conflict, and was past president of the Brandon NALC local. Ray retired in 1998 due to a severe illness. Of the original twelve, five have died. Unlike Tampa, the Brandon carriers work side by side for their whole postal service career. So it's always with a heavy heart when we hear of the departure of a brother or sister. It's also sad that the only time you see those you worked with for years is at the funeral of a brother or sister. So those of you who are retired, come on out to the Brandon

retiree luncheon at Buddy Freddy's on June 13.

I hear that my articles are being posted for all to see in the Brandon Post Office and underlined with what I've said about the postmaster. That's the first time I've ever heard of that being done in all the years I've been writing. Wouldn't it be nice if the postmaster listened and thought to himself, "Hey, maybe if I change my tactics towards the employees, moral will get better and production will go up..."? It's a fact that a happy employee works harder. Are you listening, Mr. Postmaster?

Mike Anderson, Treasurer of Branch 599 and a very dedicated carrier, just retired. We have all seen officers of this branch come and go. Mike came and never left. He was shop steward in the Temple Terrace post office forever. He ran and was elected to the office of president and served one term. He then was elected Treasurer and has served in that position for several years. We have all seen the blowhards who run for office and talk

about all they are going to do for us all in the branch. They lose the election and then they are gone. That for sure is not a dedicated union member. Mike has suffered through heart problems yet stayed involved in the affairs of the branch. What ever function to do with Branch 599, Mike has been there. Congratulations on your retirement, Mike. Let's hope you have many years of well-deserved retirement from the post office. Thanks for all of your hard work for the branch.



Let me say I was *corrected* on why the NALC convention is going to be in Vegas again. The convention was to be held in Miami but due to a shortage of union hotels and unionized food service workers, they decided to go to Las Vegas instead. So they're not all gamblers after all.

### Tampa Letter Carriers Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Brian Obst. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read. The financial report was given by John Gebo. Branch 599 Food Drive Coordinator Lori McMillion addressed the directors regarding the purchase of t-shirts for branch officers, bingo workers and shop stewards. A motion was made and passed to donate \$500.00 for the purchase of these t-shirts. A motion was made and passed to donate \$500.00 to the Boys and Girls Club of Tampa. The Building Manager's report was given by Jack Newman. The new doors for the hall have been ordered and the hot water system has been installed. A motion was made and passed to replace the ceiling in the main hall at a cost of up to \$15,000.00. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jim Good, Secretary - Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive

The annual Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Publix Supermarket has agreed to purchase bags for the entire state of Florida for the customers to put the food in. These bags will be delivered to the stations the week of May 1st, **BUT THEY MUST NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup>**. If your supervisor tells you to deliver them any other day please see your shop steward or call the union hall. There will also be Campbell Soup postcards delivered to the stations in the near future, **BUT THEY MUST NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL MAY 10<sup>th</sup>**. The timing of these deliveries is crucial, so please make sure they are delivered on the correct day. These mailings are both First Class mail, so they must be delivered to every residential address! Thanks for your help in this matter.

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