



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 7

JULY 2014

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Food Drive Results

Brothers and Sisters, while our totals were down from last year, congratulations are in order for everyone who put their heart and soul into the 22nd Annual NALC Food Drive. We filled empty food banks throughout the Tampa Bay area. Here are the top 4 cities in the entire nation:

1. St. Petersburg
2. Orlando
3. Tampa
4. Clearwater

These four cities collected 5 million pounds of food. Suncoast District finished as the number one district in the nation! Tampa Branch 599 finished third in the nation. *Great job!*

As I stated in my article last month, we will do a few things differently to inject some excitement into the Food Drive next year. We need the rural carriers to be more involved and we will be looking to meet with their representatives to appoint a new rural coordinator.

No Probation

As we have said time and time again, there is not a probationary period for

newly converted career carriers (from CCAs). We first tried notifying management at the district level as well as the local level that they were in violation of MOU-01835. The memorandum was emailed to all parties so they could read it for themselves. When the new career carriers began receiving 30-day evaluations we began filing grievances since management failed to comply with Memorandum of Understanding, M-01835. We will continue to aggressively file the individual grievances as well as a Class Action Citywide grievance from the union office. The 90-day probationary period these carriers are enduring has caused additional stress they should not be dealing with. The memorandum is clear, City Carrier Assistants converted to full-time regular career status during the term of this agreement **will not serve a probationary period when hired for a career appointment provided the employee successfully served as a city carrier transitional employee directly before his/her**

initial CCA appointment.

This agreement is effective from the date of signature until March 31, 2015, unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties. Stay tuned, we are looking to end this probationary period before their 90-day time period ends.

Legislative News

I found the following article a *must read*; this is who we have at the helm and directing the United States Postal Service into the future. This is a great reason to join the e-Activist Network (it's free), and donate to COLCPE, our political action fund, to fight undermined proposals like this:

NALC blasts PMG for endorsing highway budget scam, misleading Congress June 14, 2014—Earlier this week, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe recklessly endorsed the House of Representative leadership's



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

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Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
July 10
7:30 PM

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

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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	Email
President	Tony Diaz	813.765.0599 office 813.875.0599	tony_diaz599@yahoo.com
Vice President	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1639	recording.sec@nalc599.com
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jjg7d7@aol.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
Health Benefit Rep.	Lance Jones	813.264.9801	
Director of Retirees	Don Thomas	813.963.0653	retirees@nalc599.com
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	
	Maggie Lancaster	813.317.7522	joelunaticplayer@aol.com
	Jose Oliva	813.299.8442	
Labor Management	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Presidents Emeritus	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		813.873.7189	
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)

outrageous ploy to use massive job and service cuts in the Postal Service to pay for a short-term extension of the Highway Trust Fund, which will run out of money in August if Congress fails to raise the gas tax that normally funds it or to come up with an alternative source of revenue.

The proposal, the brainchild of the outgoing House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), would use the alleged savings of eliminating Saturday mail delivery to offset the cost of a temporary injection of taxpayer funds into the trust fund to keep highway maintenance and construction projects going for a few more months.

The plan, which appears to have failed to gain enough support to advance in the House, was widely panned in Washington as a transparent gimmick that relied on averting a hypothetical taxpayer bailout of the Postal Service in the future. It was also a massive failure of leadership. Our nation deserves a serious long-term solution to our highway infrastructure crisis, but the House of Representatives refuses to govern.

The criticism did not stop the PMG from lending his support to the scheme.

NALC President Fredric Rolando denounced the PMG's move and issued the following statement:

Mr. Donahoe's action may be the most irresponsible thing any Postmaster General has done since the creation of the Postal Service in 1970. If allowed to succeed, this budget gimmick would have set a terrible precedent for the Postal Service. Why raise taxes or reduce spending at taxpayer-funded agencies, when you can pay for pet projects with legislated service cuts at the Postal Service? Need a new aircraft carrier? Slash post office hours. Want

a new fleet of planes to fight forest fires? Raise postage rates. The PMG recklessly risked undoing all the hard work we did in the late 1980s to get the Postal Service off-budget, to shield the Postal Service and ratepayers from scheming politicians like Rep. Cantor. The PMG owes every postal employee and every postage rate-payer an apology.

The Postal Service did not just offer rhetorical support for the House GOP plan. It spent the week distributing grossly misleading fact sheets to Congress about the effects of eliminating Saturday delivery.

The NALC and our allies in the other unions and in both parties in Congress fought back with fact sheets and communications of our own.

There was never any support in the Senate for the Cantor highway trust fund proposal, and according to a story by Congressional Quarterly, opposition in the House now seems to have killed the idea altogether.

But President Rolando warned NALC members to remain vigilant:

We may have defeated this gimmick, but we must also ensure that the six-day mandate is renewed in next year's House appropriations bill. The next few weeks will be decisive on this front as well; we will need every member to fight to save the Postal Service from politicians who want to dismantle it. It's a shame that the postmaster general has made common cause with the dismantlers instead of working with us and other stakeholders to advance consensus reforms that will strengthen the Postal Service, not weaken it.

NALC.org website

Quick Hits: Information you should know

- *) Next Work Party...scheduled for July 13.
- *) MDA Bowl-A-Thon...the dates will be announced soon. We are also looking into a Letter Carrier Bingo Night at the union hall; all proceeds will benefit MDA.
- *) Any carrier who rents our beautiful hall will receive a discount. Call Lomax, Building Manager, for details...813.877.4785.

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

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

July 8
August 5

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

July 10
August 7

Sunday Work Party

at our Hall

July 13 9-11 AM

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to the family of Nelson Benitoa [retiree] whose passing was June 6; to the family of **Virgil Buddy Whitten** [retiree], whose passing was June 19; and to the family of **David Bohannon** [retiree], whose passing was June 24.

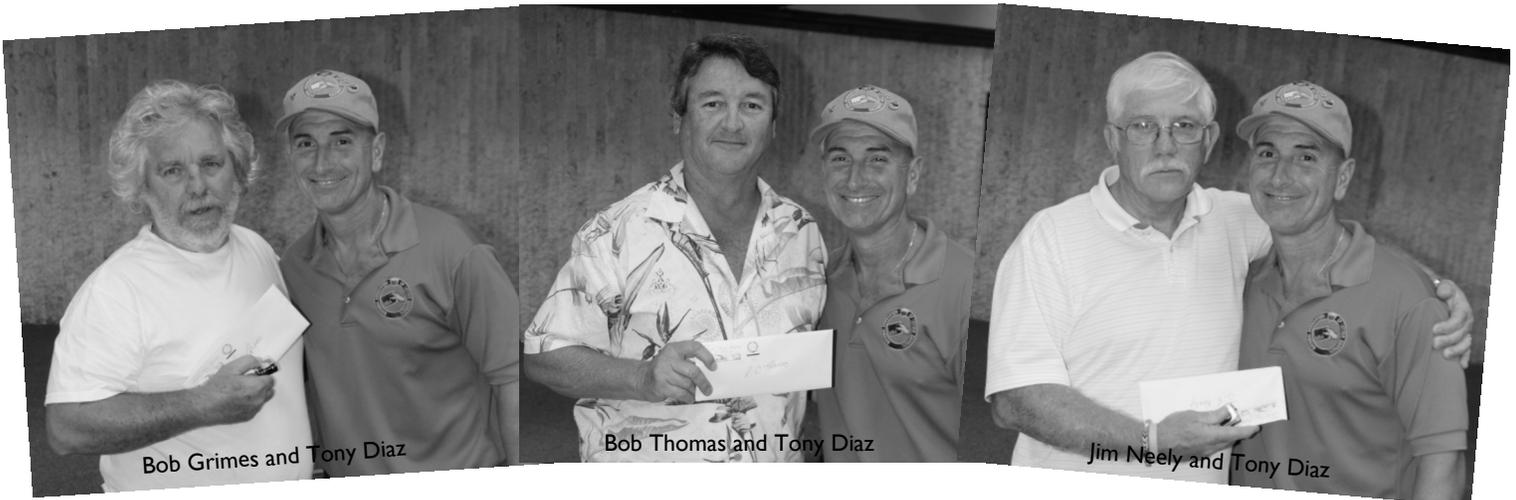
Congratulations!

Sy Adel [retiree] is happy to announce the birth of great-grandson, Dylan.

Million Mile Safe Driving Awards

Next month's newsletter will include photos of Letter Carriers receiving their Million Mile Safe Driving Awards!

Bob Grimes, Bob Thomas, and Jim Neely Retired!



Bob Grimes and Tony Diaz

Bob Thomas and Tony Diaz

Jim Neely and Tony Diaz

President Diaz recognized **Bob Grimes** [Carrollwood], **Bob Thomas** [Interbay], and **Jim Neely** [Forest Hills], during our June Branch meeting and presented them with a check from the Branch for their retirement.

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday July 7 9 AM

Coffee Cup Restaurant
4407 N Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Tuesday July 8 8 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon



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

The Birdseye View

We have restored the roof and had two new air conditioning units installed just in time for summer heat and showers, and comfort for our meetings and all those who have rentals at our hall. But as all that comfort is improving, the real heat of summer is coming from the workplace climate. Management is having a contest for scanning and we still don't have the new and improved scanners. Want a real challenge? Have one on who is the first to get their employees the real-time intelligent equipment that will greatly improve our competition with our competitors. Where is the benefit from competing amongst ourselves? Its only purpose is to degrade and discipline employees where there are equipment flaws or scans replaced, but not installed, which is a failure by management, not the carrier. Before they flip the switch on a time-wasting MSP scan, they should make sure the new barcode is in place properly.

Our position is: they don't even need MSP scans anymore due to having real-time scan ability and GPS where they can track where the carrier is every minute and down-load that report every 15 minutes. We are constantly expected to accept the data that management provides as gospel, but why doesn't management provide the best equipment available for us to provide the data that they want? Another example of wasting time and money is the Route Count and Inspections that took place district-wide to the tune of about \$8 million. While over 1,400 routes were inspected, they only eliminated 11 and made about 50 auxiliary routes. History shows us that some of what was taken out will be restored after 60-day reviews. There are also reports of bad data in many offices that may invalidate their adjustments. We have proven the track record of Joint Alternate Route Adjustment Process or JARAP when management and the union work

together that it is more accurate and saves millions in revenue and cost. We know our job better than they do because we are the ones doing it every day and many of them have never done our job at all. Those who just talk the talk, but have never walked the walk, have no clue of what they are talking about; it is proven by the results. The final inspections were completed in May, so it will be September before all the final results are in, but we don't expect great success for the cost of the RCI and adjustment.

Legislative

There are two bills, one from the House HR. 4670 and the new version S. 1486 from the Senate that is attempting to attach a gun bill to it that passed through committee, but don't appear to have enough support to ever make it to the floor of either house. With the mid-term election there is great emphasis on maintaining control of the Senate so that one party doesn't have total control. We all need to be diligent in the election process and vote for those that support the continuation of six-day delivery and door delivery for universal service. There are recent gains from package delivery services such as the Amazon contract that are going to even increase our parcel delivery days to 7 days a week. The US Postal Service has already made over a billion dollars in operating profit for 2014 and shows no signs of that declining.

We need legislation that stops punishing a viable and historical agency that provides the most cost efficient delivery service to all citizens anywhere in the U.S.A. six to seven days a week!

During the NALC food drive, newly elected Congressman David Jolly, District 13, was invited to the Post Office in St. Petersburg FL the day of the food drive. Not only was he a big supporter of the food drive, but he

was amazed at the amount of mail and parcels carriers were delivering on that Saturday.

The questions he asked and the answers he got amazed him about something he stated he had no clue how much mail we deliver on Saturday. The result of that visit was that he signed HR 30 the appropriations bill to keep 6-day delivery and with his signature we now have a majority of co-sponsors of that legislation.

Boycott Staples!

We currently have a National Level Boycott against Staples regarding their contract to open postal stores that not only sell our products, but also are our competitors with non-union low-wage employees that have no oath to the sanctity of the mail or allegiance to the US Constitution. They also will *not* have the background checks that are given to US Postal Service employees. This attempt to contract out almost 80 thousand jobs and close many local post offices is a bad business decision for our customers and our employees including supervisors and managers. Our branch has already severed ties with Staples, and we are transferring our business to Office Depot for all our office supplies. We ask that all our members no longer do business with Staples as well.

Solidarity

Being that this is an election year and with our affiliation with the AFL-CIO and the power of building strong alliances with our brothers and sisters from other unions, we are hoping to have a great turnout for the Labor Day Picnic that has been reserved for September 1, 2014 on Labor Day at the Boggy Bottom Ranch. All the



Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599

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A Daughter's View.....

Kathy Bohannon
Daughter of
David Bohannon

I just spoke to Alan Peacock at the Branch and advised him of my father's passing.....

Much of the passion and zeal of my father's life was associated with Branch 599. I grew up a *Postman's Daughter* in a time when pride associated with a *career*...not just a job in those years, but a career of bringing letters and communication to people and families...was an admired position.

Daddy loved his work and he loved the times he spent with his coworkers *on the floor*. I remember so many stories he told me about his patrons; they were families that he felt included in their lives when he shared their stories with me.

I remember riding the bus to downtown Tampa and walking by a giant marble and granite building and looking through an open window, seeing my father *case mail* and many of his friends coming to the window to greet my mother, sister, and me.

I remember my pride the first time I saw him actually pushing a cart delivering mail...he looked so handsome in his uniform. In those days, I remember my mother would wash and starch and iron those long sleeved shirts and it had to be a *fresh and crisp* one every day. Even before that, I remember seeing him ride a bike with a great big basket full of mail across North Boulevard near the old fair grounds.

I remember him coming home after a dog attacked him and hearing *that dog was so mean they sent him to Raeford Prison!*

I remember the night that my mother was crying because Daddy said he *would walk if he got the call*...I never knew what that was about until years later when he instilled in me the importance of *living what you believe in*.

I remember the conventions and his

pride in being a delegate...I still have the *medals* he brought home to me from each convention. I'm sure there were also *other memories* that only he and some of his co-delegates shared from *hospitality rooms!*

I remember the Christmas Eve that he came home with a swing set...not for Kelly or me. He had picked it up for one of the patrons on his route after work and was to deliver it. However, the *spirit* of the season shared by many a postman on the 24th of December after work, of course...altered his recollection to that delivery. When my mother saw the swing set, she drove it with Daddy navigating, and made the delivery.

So many stories and memories of a career that he loved and coworkers that he cared deeply for...*Hector, Malone, Scag, Tony*... just some of the ones I remember...and so many more. He made many, many references to them all after his retirement and until just recently. The Post Office and his dear friends and coworkers were always special to him.

Also special, was *Fred* (Frederica), the black lab that waited daily for Daddy on his route and walked with him as he delivered mail. I remember one story about a *route check* when he told the checker, *Now, I stop and give Fred a drink every day at a certain spot and I'm going to do it like I always do. So you can make whatever comment you want, but that dog will get her drink of water, like she always does*...and she did! Fred's owner said she always knew when Daddy was off, as *Fred would return home early on those days*.

Daddy retired in 1987 and moved across the street from me in Fayetteville. I treasure the years I had with my parents. However, many times he told me, *I wish I had stayed on the route until 40 years, but your Mother wanted to be near you and Kelly and she loved*

her years we lived here...but I would have stayed with the Post Office. He repeated that often and again just a few weeks before he died while sitting on my back porch.

The *Retirees Dinner* was something he looked forward to each year. This last year my husband, Brad Dishner, and Daddy's dear friend, Bill Payner, attended the dinner with him. Daddy had received in the mail his *50-year pin* and he was so proud of it. Brad pinned it on him to wear at the dinner. I treasure the fact that he was able to attend this last dinner.

Daddy complained to me 2 weeks and 2 days before his passing of left arm numbness and tingling. I knew it was not his heart as his years of walking and bike riding on his various routes made one big, healthy heart. Instead, cancer had ravaged his lungs, brain and bones. He chose Hospice care in my home. He was pain free and clear thinking and had his sense of humor up until the last 2 days. At that time he slipped into a coma and died with Kelly; his granddaughter, Carolyn; and me at his side.

As I write this, I have had the first smile since his passing, as I know his was a life well lived and a successful one, and a great part of that was due, in fact...as he often said...*Kathy, it was my good fortune to be a Postman and have that job*.

David A. Bohannon was a proud *Letter Carrier* and proud to have been a member of *Branch 599*.

Sincerely and fondly,
Kathy Bohannon

The Birdseye View

(Continued from page 5)

details will be forthcoming as soon as possible if not before this newsletter goes to print. If you have never been to this location and enjoyed the great atmosphere and Bar-B-Q provided by the Lupton's you should try it out. Supporting labor and other working families is what unionism and solidarity is all about and what we do together makes us a stronger nation and better economy for all.

Conversions

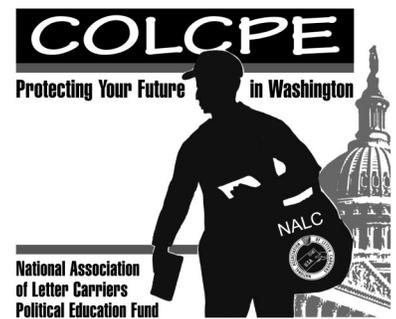
We are currently under the latest memorandum for converting the remaining part-time flexibles who want to reassign to be full-time letter carriers. The beginning period for residual vacancies is effective June 1, 2014 after a 21-day period, then vacancies re-

maining that have not been filled by unassigned full-time carriers or reassigned part-time carriers will be filled by 3 City Carrier Assistants converted for every 1 full-time carrier reassigned. We will have to closely monitor this process as we have the previous memorandum and assure the process is correctly administered. We are having issues with the fact that memorandums like contracts are not always interpreted the same by management and the union. One example is the glitch that has caused some former TE carriers who have been converted as CCAs to career to be incorrectly treated as if they require an additional probationary period. There has been a problem with HR Shared Service and that will be corrected or it will be corrected through

the grievance procedure, whichever it takes to have this corrected.

Fraternally and in Unity,

Alan Peacock
Vice President



ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

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

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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

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