# Tampa Letter Carrier

PTEMBER 2022

### **Official Notice**

#### of Nominations & Elections of Officers of NALC Branch 599, Tampa FL

**Nominations** for the election of officers of Branch 599 will be held at regular Branch meetings on October 6 and November 3, 2022, at our Branch hall located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

Candidates must accept nominations at the time made or, if absent, in writing. Candidates may accept nomination for only one office. Self nominations are acceptable. Nominations will be held for the following Branch offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, three (3) Trustees, MBA/ NSBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative, Director of Retirees, and two (2) Labor Management Representatives. The term of office will be three (3) years beginning January 21, 2023.

Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.

Election will be conducted by secret ballot on December 1, 2022, at our Branch hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The polls will be open 2:00–7:30 PM. Any member who is in line at 7:30 PM will be allowed to vote.

Any member who for any reason will be unable to vote on December 1, may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots should be made by telephoning the Branch office at 813.875.0599 [7:30 AM – 4 PM] beginning November 4 through November 18, 2022.

### **Official Notice**

### of Nominations & Election of Delegates to the 2023 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention

Nominations for delegates to the 2023 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention in Naples FL will be taken at *regular Branch meetings* on October 6 and November 3, 2022; election on December 1, 2022, if necessary. Regular Branch Meetings are held at our Branch Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609, at 7:30 PM.

2023 FSALC Convention will be held at the Naples Grand Hotel – August 24-26, 2023

Members must be present to accept nominations or have a written notice on file prior to the time and the presiding officer declares nominations closed. Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination. In the event the number of nominations exceed the number of delegates allowed to the Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting in December.

Branch 599 serving Brandon Plant City Sun City Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting Thursday September I

7:30 PM

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### Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	Email	ĥ
President	Tony Diaz	813.875.0599	tony_diaz599@verizon.net	ŝ
	Cei	//813.598.9635		1
Vice President	Brian Obst	727.458.0679	erif_lor@hotmail.com	1
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.875.0599	nalc599@verizon.net	
Financial Secretary	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net	
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jjg7d7@aol.com	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Michael Williams	813.541.8327	mwilliams4215@gmail.com	l
MBA/NSBA	Michael Anderson	813.967.1615	mikey020@msn.com	Î
Health Benefit Rep.	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914	dcaeppel@aol.com	ĥ
Director of Retirees	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	arob715@gmail.com	ŝ
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	lorraine.mcmillion@gmail.com	1
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	joliva1938@gmail.com	1
	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com	
Labor Management	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com	
l	Clement Cheung	813.758.5910	ccheung@tampabay.rr.com	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Or	be Andux • Do	nald Thomas	ļ

Orbe Andux Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock

# **Shop Stewards**

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Brancl	hes Chief Ste	ward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11	Osceola Williams Sr.	813.661.1636	210.445.1369
Brandon	33510/11		813.661.1636	
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613		813.935.2954	
Hilldale	33614		813.879.4309	
Hilldale Annex	33634		813.879.4309	
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Victoria Reeder	813.831.2034	813.525.1685
Interbay/Peninsula	33629		813.831.2034	
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564		813.719.6793	
Produce	33610	Matt Rodkey	813.239.4084	813.562.8744
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Hyde Park	33606		813.873.7189	
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35		813.884.0973	
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

**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@verizon.net Office Hours

> Rodna Kimelman Kirk Office Secretary nalc599@verizon.net

#### Tampa Letter Carrier

Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas editor.nalc599@gmail.com

> Branch 599 Office 813.875.0599

National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1698, writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC. It is the policy of this submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the editor.nalc599@gmail.com and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net limits to the publisher.

### Around The Horn from the President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters, Happy Labor Day!

#### The 72nd Biennial NALC

**Convention** has come and gone, a truly memorable convention. Chicago was a wonderful host and the membership floor was electric. Four years have passed since the membership has gathered. The last convention was in 2018 in Detroit, then the COVID epidemic hit us and the 2020 National Convention in Hawaii was cancelled.

Branch 599 had 11 delegates in Chicago, the lowest number during my years attending conventions. Two delegates were first timers; both were in amazement from the opening National Anthem to the power of unity, the number of delegates, the invited speakers, and the wellplanned agenda. NALC President Fred Rolando was magnificent once again, demonstrating his leadership, knowledge, and wit the entire week. He was in full control of the membership floor, never wavering, personable, and respectful to all. Past Branch 599 delegates, many who were not able to attend this convention, are all aware of President Rolando's presence on the big stage. As was rumored, this 72nd Biennial Convention in Chicago was President Rolando's last as President of the NALC. While his official retirement announcement will be made in December, he was not nominated for another term. President Rolando, in July 2009, was sworn in as 18th President of the NALC following the retirement of William H. Young. In 2010, Rolando was elected president by acclamation during the 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim. As he now completes his final months, we should all be grateful for his leadership over the past 12 plus years. During his terms, the survival of the United States Postal Service and the NALC were in serious question as we know them. With his guidance, the NALC was a major player for passing vital pieces of legislation; the latest was the Postal Reform Act of 2022 which secures a more solid future. In addition, we have all benefitted from several successful contractual negotiations under his leadership, with one still to go. These major accomplishments have helped the National Association of Letter Carriers maintain a high organized rate, now at 93%.

The general session ran from 10 AM straight through to 3 PM on a huge convention floor at the Chicago Convention Center. The Convention workshops were well planned, in spacious rooms with large projection screens. Classes were an hour and a half offered before and after the general session, beginning at 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM. NALC officers as well as outside experts presented more than 40 classes. Some of the classes offered were: City Delivery Workshop, Contract Administration Unit (CAU), Safety and Health, Dues and Membership, OWCP Tools for Success, Branch Trustee Training, Legislative & Political Agenda, Managing Branch Finance, Dignity and Respect, TIAREAP (the next joint route inspection process), Retirement Decisions, and The Strike at 40. The selection of classes was one of the best I can remember at any

convention. The invited guest speakers were from local Chicago leaders to union presidents, to highranking legislators. All the speakers



Tony Diaz President Branch 599

acknowledged the NALC as a powerful, well-respected union, nationwide. The convention included a special

tribute to the union brothers and sisters who have passed since the last convention. With the 2020 convention in Hawaii being cancelled, the tribute listed all the members from 2018.

Attendance figures to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention: 4,461 delegates were in attendance, 569 Branches were represented, and a total of 5,432 delegates originally registered.

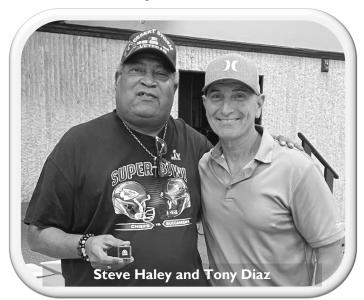
Attending a NALC Convention is an experience! The unity and power in numbers you feel is unlike any other feeling. The union atmosphere, with close to 5,000 members is fulfilling. The general session and the classes before and after, make the days long, but the experience and memories are well worth the long hours. It is an honor to represent Branch 599 and be a part of the delegation at our National Conventions.

#### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

\* On August 10 the July Consumer Index was released, the **COLA** released was \$2,455 annually and \$1.18 per hour increase. This was

# Haley Retired!



President Diaz presented **Steve Haley** [Produce] with his retirement pin and gratuity at our August meeting.

# **Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows**

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to the family and friends of **James** *Jim* **Pasco** [retiree] whose passing was July 31; and to Amy [APWU member] and **J.D. Lewers** [Sulphur Springs] at the passing of her father, Thanh Huynh, August 2.

#### You can find EAP info at nalc.org

Choose Workplace Issues, hover over Safety & Health, and choose Employee Assistance Program.

#### Veterans Crisis Line

veteranscrisisline.net or dial 988 & press 1 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

### Around The Horn from The President's Desk

#### (Continued from page 3)

down a bit from the early projection of \$2,517 and \$1.21 per hour.

#### \* 2023 Color-Coded Days-Off Calendars have been ordered, 250 of them, they are \$4.50 each this year, an increase of 50¢ from previous years. Please see your steward to order; you must pay at the time of your order.

\* New Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV) update: the first vehicle will be rolled out on October 10, 2023. The last of the Long Life Vehicles (LLV) will be pulled from service in 2034 (If they last).

\* Flat Sorting System: nearly a decade since its rollout, the Flats Sequencing System (FSS)—the football-field sized sorting machines for flats mail-is still falling short of expectations. At its inception, stakeholders were optimistic FSS would improve productivity and reduce the U.S. Postal Service's costs for handling flats mail. But declines in flats mail volume over the past decade have inhibited the Postal Service's ability to meet FSS throughput goals. Flats mail volume has dropped by almost 10.3 million pieces—or 46%—since initial FSS deployment in 2008. Given this volume decline, the Postal Service in 2010 reduced its FSS throughput goals by about 30%. Yet even with the reduced goals, the FSS appears to be falling flat of expectations. -usps.gov

For these reasons, we learned at the

convention, FSS will be discontinued nationwide.

\* TIAREAP, (Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process), the next negotiated joint route inspection process, was created in March 2021. The last RAP process was in 2015. The technology based joint route inspection will rely on carriers' real times. TIAREAP is in the training stages and gathering of data.

\* On Sunday, July 17, the USPS delivered 4,786,924 parcels. Amazon Prime boosted the totals, still there was a 93% on-time delivery.

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

# Unionism — Annual Leave

It is almost that time of year again, so let us prepare for the coming of the yearly Annual Leave selection process.

Before we talk about that, let us first look to the remainder of this leave year. If you are like most carriers, you have annual leave scheduled for time throughout the remainder of this calendar year. With it now being September, you should be looking to your leave balance to ensure you have enough leave to cover any scheduled leave you might have left this year. Remember, if you run out of leave, any remaining scheduled leave will be cancelled by management. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO **GRANT YOU LWOP SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE SCHEDULED** 

LEAVE. This is very important, as every year someone gets caught short on their leave and it can cause much heartache when you find out the leave has been cancelled.

Every year on the first of November, the postmaster sends the Branch President the annual leave policy letter to be posted in all offices and this letter details the procedures agreed upon in the LMOU (Local Memorandum of Understanding) to implement the leave policies of the National Agreement. Our start of Choice Leave for the coming year begins on the second Monday in December, starting with the senior carrier in each office and progressing through the carriers based on seniority until all the regular carriers have made their selections. Regular carriers are provided the ability to select 15 days of choice leave and this selection may be split one time. This means that you can select 15 straight days or 10

days and 5 days or 5 days and 5 days, noticing that if you select the latter you only get to select 10 days instead of 15.

CCAs are able to select leave in the choice period as detailed in the LMOU, but I suggest that you check with your shop steward for a complete explanation so any of your questions can be directly clarified at that time.

All carriers must be prepared to make their selections when they are called when their seniority position arrives. Carriers who are not prepared forfeit their position and the selection process moves on past them. When they are ready to make their selections, they will be slotted in at whatever seniority position the process is at that time. That said, it is best to be prepared so as not to lose your place in the process because the next guy might take the dates you wanted and you could get locked out.

Please refer to your copy of the LMOU if you have questions and don't be afraid to ask your steward or executive board members for clarification as they are happy to help.

The process of incidental leave application begins the same day as the choice selection period begins; the only difference is you are submitting blind choices for annual leave outside of the choice leave selection process. This is done by filling out, in triplicate, a 3971 requesting dates you desire and turning them in to the supervisor. The supervisor will sign them as received and return a copy to you for your records. At the conclusion of the choice selection process the incidental requests are all considered submitted the same day, any submitted after



Brian Obst Vice President Branch 599

this day are considered submitted the date of submission with seniority being the deciding factor for requests submitted the same date.

We all want to be able to take our leave throughout the year, so it is important to understand the process and to be prepared in advance to execute our selections. *Be prepared.* 

One last thing for those carriers who have managed to amass 440 hours or more of annual leave—if you have in excess of 440 hours at the end of the calendar year, you will normally lose those excess hours, however at present the Postal Service has agreed to an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) allowing for the carryover of 520 hours. It is your responsibility to ensure you schedule and use enough annual leave so as to not lose any leave. Management is required to review your annual leave status and if you will have an excess over 440 hours, and you have not scheduled enough leave, they are required to assign you an annual leave period, at the end of March, to ensure you don't lose leave. Please be aware of your leave balance so this doesn't happen, as it is simply throwing away money and no one wants to do that.

Talk to you next month and remember – Knowledge is the Key.

*Brian Obst* Vice President Sponsored by NALC Branch 599

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual MDA Charity Golf Tournament



THE CLUB AT CHEVAL 4312 CHEVAL BLVD LUTZ, FL 33558



**December** 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 **8:00**AM SHOTGUN START <sup>\$75</sup> PER PERSON

#### PLAYER REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

**Round of Golf** | **Range Balls** | **Catered Lunch** OPTIONAL PUTTING CONTEST

Contact
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- 🐛 Alan Robinson 813-843-9762
- **C** Tony Diaz 813-598-9635
- *Office* 813-875-0599
- MALC599@verizon.net



### **Sponsorship**

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SELECT     \$100     \$20     \$25     \$50	ON SIGN   YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACH   HOLE SPONSOR   LONG DRIVE   FLAG STICK	(AGE: 00 CLOSEST TO PIN		

Players Registration Fo	<b>rm</b> due by november 18, 2022	
GOLFER 1		
GOLFER 2		
GOLFER 3		
GOLFER 4		
MDA Federal ID # 13-1665552 Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599	MDA / 3003 W. Cypress St. Tampa, FL 33609	



#### Ronnie Davis was Recognized in Ybor City

Ybor City carrier, Ronnie Davis, has been immortalized In a painting at King Corona Cigars Bar and Café on 7th Avenue, in the heart of Ybor City. The painting is a wonderful tribute and solidifies the impact letter carriers make in our communities nationwide.

Congratulations to Ronnie!

### Please Support Our Golf Tournament!

You can help our tournament set a new record this year by donating raffle items, sponsoring a hole, and/or joining us as a golfer. You can pool funds with coworkers, friends, or family to be sponsors; see the brochure on page 7 of this newsletter. If you are a continuing sponsor, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Each year we have a very special guest, Ardin Fisher. He and his family have attended our tournament for the past 6 years. Ardin was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy 8 years ago. This young man has been an inspiration to all of us. Please help us *Deliver the Cure* for all kids, like Ardin, whose lives have been affected by this horrible disease.

For more information, you can contact Tournament Chair, Alan Robinson. Thank you for whatever way you can help us support the Muscular Dystrophy Association!

### Labor Day

Brought to you by Labor Unions! People were injured, killed, and fired doing that for you.

Shop Stewards	Tuesday	August 30	7:00 pm
		October 4	7:00 pm
Executive Board	Thursday	September 1	6:30 pm
		October 6	6:30 pm
Branch 599	Thursday	September 1	7:30 pm
		October 6	7:30 pm
Retirees Breakfast – Temple Terrace	Tuesday	September 13	9:00 AM
	Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher		
	12272 Morris Bridge Road		
Retirees Breakfast – Tampa	Monday	October 3	9:00 AM
	Denny's Restau	urant at Dale Mabry & S	pruce
	2004 N Dale M	1abry Highway	



Your Branch 599 Delegates to the 72nd Biennial Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Chicago. Back: David Rivadeneira, President Tony Diaz, Michael Smith, Walter Rhoads, Jim Boczarski Front: Labor Management Rep. Clement Cheung, Jennifer Du, Vice President Brian Obst, Cynthia Williams, J.R. Sanchez, Pam Benton





At the National Convention, Branch 599 President Tony Diaz accepts a **1st Place Award** from National President, Fred Rolando, on behalf of all Branch 599 members. The award was for MDA donations in the amount of \$13,471.87, collected in 2021.

This top award was for category 1,000 to 1,400 members. *Special thanks* to our Golf Tournament coordinator, Alan Robinson; without his efforts we would not have been number 1.

Our next golf tournament is scheduled for Sunday, December 11. Please call our Branch Office at 813.875.0599, for information and any donations.

#### HELP DELIVER THE CURE!



#### What Do I Do If I Get Hurt On The Job?

Getting hurt on the job is a regular occurrence if you are a Federal Employee. The challenging nature of the duties and responsibilities places employees in difficult working conditions daily. Getting hurt on the job and receiving treatment should not require the same difficulty. When a Federal Employee gets injured on the job there are few options and even less qualified Physicians to help navigate those options. 4FED-HURT and D.O.L. Injury Centers along with our team of federal injury specialists are here to help navigate the claims process while the claimant receives treatment. So, what does a Federal Employee do If they get hurt on the job?

A Traumatic Injury (CA-1) is an injury that occurs on one day that presents as a singular event. An Occupational Disease (CA-2) is an injury that takes place over several days or months.

#### If you are injured, here are some very simple steps to follow.

- Notify Your Supervisor Immediately.
- File a CA-1 and CA-16 for a Traumatic Injury.
- File a CA-2 for an Occupational Disease.
- Write your Personal Statement describing the injury. Be specific.
- 5. Call 833-433-3487 to speak with a 4FED-HURT injury Specialist.

Our team of Physicians and injury care specialists work for you, not OWCP. We will see you without an approved claim and provide OWCP with all the necessary documentation to get your claim approved the first time. We have 12 locations throughout the state of Florida ready to start your case immediately.

### 4FED-HURT Physical Therapy N♥w

#### North Florida

- Tallahassee
- 2743 Capital Circle #106 Tallahassee, Florida 32308 Jacksonville
- 6216 Sauterne Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32210 Daytona / Ormond Beach
- 305 Clyde Morris Blvd. Suite 220 9 500 N Semoran Blvd Suite 101 Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

#### **Central Florida**

- Orlando / Altamonte Springs 482 E Altamonte Dr. Suite 1006 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
- Orlando / Sanford Q 241 Bellagio Circle
- Sanford, Florida 32771 Orlando / Airport
- Orlando, FL 32807 Tampa / Palm Harbor
- 33143 US Hwy 19 N Palm Harbor, FL 34684 Tampa / Temple Terrace
- O Bush Gardens 9780 N 56th St Suite A. Temple Terrace, FL 33617

#### South Florida

- Fort Myers / Cape Coral 9 11621 S. Cleveland Ave #50
- Cape Coral, Florida 33907 Fort Myers / Cape Coral
- 9 706 SW Pine Island Rd. Suite 105 Cape Coral, Florida 33991 Lake Worth / Palm Springs
- 3003 S Congress Ave # 2F Lake Worth, FI 33461 Fort Lauderdale / Davie
- Q 2240 SW 70 Avenue Suite D. Davie, FL 33317



Are you a federal employee injured while on the job? Call our office 🕲 833-433-3487



# Addressing OWCP issues...let's get it right

There have been many articles in our newsletter over the years regarding on-the-job injuries. These are regularly asked questions you need to know:

- 1. What do I do first?
- 2. Who do I notify?
- 3. What paperwork do I need?
- 4. Who will help me through this?

Correcting OWCP issues are time consuming, frustrating, and if not corrected can delay medical treatment that could cause more severe prolonged injuries. So how do you avoid these issues? How do you get it right?

The answers to the above questions should help the process.

- 1. Report the accident immediately, explain exactly what happened, with a time and place (address).
- 2. Your supervisor or manager, and if you cannot reach anyone, your steward or our Branch office. It is important to notify someone.
- 3. The forms needed are, CA-1, CA-16, and CA-17, know your forms, ask questions, and do not rely on management to submit your forms without verification.
- 4. Your supervisor and/or manager should assist you, however, this is not always the case. Do not allow management to delay downloading your forms and filling them out; this is critical to you case.

#### Other tips:

- 1. It is critical to make copies of everything; more times than not, paperwork is lost. It is difficult to re-create your paperwork.
- 2. Write a detailed, thorough, complete, and legible statement. Some important information to consider, if applicable: the time, the place, the conditions, the surface(s), any contributing factors, possible witnesses, and any hazards.

On the Job Injury - Forms needed, simple math,

CA-1 + CA-16 = CA-17

CA-16 must be signed by management,

Authorization for Examination and/or treatment.

Any questions...call the Branch office; ask for Tony Diaz, 813.875.0599.



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

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