



Tampa Letter Carrier

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 3 and November 7, 2013, 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 18, 2014.

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 5, 2013, 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 5, may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots should be made by telephoning the Branch office at 813.875.0599 [8 AM—4:30 PM] beginning November 8 through

Official Notice of Nominations & Elections of Delegates to the 69th Biennial NALC National Convention in 2014

Nominations for delegates to the 2014 NALC National Convention that will be held in Philadelphia PA, July 21-25, will be taken at regular branch meetings on October 3 and November 7, 2013, at our Branch hall located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

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.

Members must have attended 8 Branch meetings per year for the 2 years prior to the convention to be eligible as paid delegates; others nominated/elected will need to cover all of their own expenses.

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 our Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting on December 5, 2013.

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599

Fax 813.870.0599

www.nalc599.com

Alan W. Peacock
President

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1698, publishes the Tampa Letter Carrier monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC.

It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the Tampa Letter Carrier to the Editor via email at editor@nalc599.com no later than the 5th of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	Email
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599 office 813.875.0599	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	tony_diaz599@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1639	recording.sec@nalc599.com
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
Treasurer	Ray Garcia	813.787.3640	treas.ray@nalc599.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967	
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061	
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	
Trustee Chair	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
Trustees	John DeRosa	813.850.8418	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Labor Management	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good		

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
November 7
December 5

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
November 5
December 3

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	Detlev Aepfel	813.661.1639	813.505.7914
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.960.8894	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Rocky Randels	813.935.2954	813.766.2604
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.874.6809	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
		Tim Hurlstone, Alt.	813.873.7189	813.367.7718
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	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Brian Obst	813.719.6793	727.458.0679
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	813.403.1644
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

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Where will we go from here and how will we get there? By the time this newsletter is delivered we will have a lot of answers to that question. Whether we are talking about the USPS, the NALC, or even our nation... changes are inevitable for the survival of life as we know it. What is lacking is plain common sense leadership to resolve issues with an acceptable outcome for all parties. First there has to be a relationship that actually demonstrates mutual respect and dignity for every employee, member, and citizen to accomplish what is an acceptable solution to problems. We are constantly barraged by debt, the economy, chaos throughout the nation and the world. I personally believe that most of us have had to make sacrifices and we still live a fairly comfortable life. We can't take anything for granted though, because there are factions of our society and in the world who want more for themselves and want those with less to make more sacrifice. The challenge to us individually is failing to participate in the process and taking the time to be involved in what is often dictated to us by the few who make decisions for us. During the time I have been in office, I along with the support of many members, have been able to secure the voice of the members as supreme as it should have been always. There are many areas that I feel we still need to improve to allow for maximum participation in our process. To accomplish those changes and promote them, that necessitates having enough members present to vote those changes into our Bylaws by a two thirds majority. So that you

understand the difficulty, it only takes $\frac{2}{3}$ voting against plus 1 vote to defeat a change that the majority feels is necessary. If you feel strongly that we are moving in the right direction to protect what the members want, then you need to be present to support it!

November Meeting is Important!

Nominations for offices began in October and will end in November with elections in December for all offices and convention delegates for the National convention. If there was any better time to be present, it is during this time, to be educated in knowing who is seeking office and learn about the candidates and their purpose for wanting to represent you. It is usually an interesting period when some may surprise us with an appearance that seems to always occur around election times. I already have three volunteers for the election committee but none that desire to be the chair so if there is a member who is not running for any office who would like to chair the committee, please let me know. Also there are important Bylaw proposals that were read in October that will be voted on in November; they are also published in this newsletter. Please read them and come out to support them however you feel they should be determined for the best interest of the membership.

Choice Leave

We will be receiving the Choice Leave Letter prior to November 1, outlining the choice leave procedures for the 2014 Leave year. We have already received an indication from Mr. Oh I Can't (OIC) that they are not going to follow some things that have been

addressed in previous B-Team

decisions, but non-compliance has been the norm and Mr. Deep Pockets apparently doesn't mind paying out for violations and continuing to violate. We will closely follow all the choice leave issues as we have in previous years. Due to the Local Memorandum of Understanding being unopened and was signed prior to hiring CCAs, there are no current provisions for CCAs to be included in any choice leave percentages or procedures in our local agreement. The DAS Arbitration Award did not cover CCAs under Article 10 for Choice Leave so we have attempted to have a Letter of Agreement to give CCAs an opportunity to apply for a choice leave period after completion of the regular workforce selections. Even though the OIC stated at a Labor/Management meeting that he was in favor of that, he soon after reneged on the proposal; no shock to us though. We will continue to pursue some agreement to give almost a third of our workforce some opportunity to have a choice leave selection. Imagine working under constant threats and intimidation after taking a cut in pay to work for tyrants who will do everything to deny you a benefit and show no true concern for you whatsoever. They just want you to go FASTER, FASTER, FASTER or they will threaten to send you home. It is extremely difficult for me to have any kind of mutual respect for anyone that treats their employees in that manner.

(Continued on page 5)

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, now is the time for those of you who have aspirations to get involved in the operations of Branch 599 to come forward...to serve, support, and represent the National Association of Letter Carriers and the members of Branch 599. It is nomination time for officers of Branch 599 during the October and November monthly Branch meetings, with the election on December 5. Article IV of Branch 599 Bylaws: The Officers of the Branch are elected every three years and hold office three years or until their successors are elected and duly qualified. From Branch officers to shop stewards and alternate Stewards, to legislative agendas, to the hall upkeep and repairs, to MDA fundraisers, there is an opportunity for everyone to get involved. Branch 599 and the NALC take pride with our involvement in our communities; we continue to be recognized as a top charitable contributor, both nationally and locally. While our focus will always be to represent the membership, there are many charitable activities that we always need fresh new ideas for. While we are all busy and we all need family time, we must balance our time to continue to grow the organization that has fought for our rights for so many years, so there are members in place to carry the torch. As you look around at the makeup of our branch, we must thank the retirees who continue to stay active in the Branch operations. We continue, as we always have to rely on our retirees for involvement. There are several CCAs that have shown an interest to be involved in branch activities, and hopefully we will see more new faces step up, to bridge the gap for the future of this branch.

I am proud to announce that at the

October Branch meeting, I accepted the nomination for President of Branch 599. It would be a tremendous honor for me to serve as your President. I would look forward to leading my fellow brothers and sisters as we face the challenges aimed at destroying the United States Postal Service as we know it today...working toward a better work environment and fighting to insure our members are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace. The many of you who know me and read my *Around the Horn* articles, are aware of my involvement in all the Branch operations. There are many battles and challenges ahead, and we will continue to prepare ourselves to respond in the best interests of our membership.

Legislative Report, from the NALC e-Activist Network, it is free to sign up, the notices will keep you updated, and are sent straight to your computer. Here is a sample:

Tony,

President Rolando testified Thursday at the second of two hearings on the Senate postal bill, S.1486.

Among other things, he told the committee that, without pre-funding, the Postal Service would have realized a \$660 million profit so far this fiscal year, thanks largely to increases in package delivery. The president, along with National Postal Mail Handlers President John Hegarty and noted economist Dean Baker, told the senators just how unfair pre-funding is, since no other government agency or private enterprise is required to pre-fund the health benefits of future retirees.

Sen. Tom Carper, the committee chairman, admitted the bill isn't

perfect. Sen. Tom Coburn, the ranking member, said that they want to hear suggestions and solutions.

So now's your chance, then call your senators and tell them how the bill fails to adequately address pre-funding, the main cause of the postal financial crisis.

Sen. Bill Nelson

202.224.5274

Sen. Marco Rubio

202.224.3041

(If you've already called them, call again—they need to hear this message, loud and clear.)

In Solidarity,
Jennifer Warburton, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
National Association of Letter Carriers

If you need to update your NALC *e-Activist Network* e-mail address, you need to complete the sign-up process again to help us validate your membership information. Go to the *e-Activist Network* sign-up page at nalc.org.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Work parties will continue to be held once a month at your Letter Carriers Hall. The Sunday following the monthly union meetings we need volunteers to help clean up, trim, prune, rake, weed and whatever needs to be done to keep this beautiful hall looking its best. It is vital we stay on top of the grounds and maintain an appearance that will attract future hall rentals. We ask all volunteers to show up for two hours, from 9 to 11 AM. Two hours with



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

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From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

Congress

On the legislative side, the Senate Hearings for S.1486 were an absolute joke especially when one of the cosponsors of the bill, Senator Coburn, stated that the bailout for the auto industry was because the auto industry was nothing more than benefit and health providers making cars and the postal service was nothing more than benefits and health providers delivering the mail. It is obvious that many of our representatives feel the American middle class and working families don't deserve benefits and health insurance, but they certainly are not going to include themselves in that scenario. Does anyone else hear the tone coming from the hypocrites

that are selling out to the lobbyist of the private sector and turning their backs on the working middle class majority? We need to continue to push for legislation for vote by mail and ask all candidates to use EDDM mail for their campaigns to get their message out. This supports the USPS and supports working middle class America.

Community Service

We are planning another MDA *Bowl-A-Thon* for November in Temple Terrace this time and still working on the final details; stay tuned for information as soon as we get it. We are also looking at different scenarios for a *Fill the Satchel* drive since the BUCS plan flamed out on us with everything controlled by the Glazer Foundation, they only allow working intersections near the stadium and

the Firefighters already have 3 dates set for that. I am looking into something with a Lightning game and work the Channelside district. We are also in the planning stages for *Toys for Tots* as a Letter Carrier week starting December 7 – 14 in order to allow our customers additional days to leave a toy for underprivileged children.

Take Care of Yourself

As we approach the holiday season, it is my hope for every one of you to work safely and handle the stresses of life pressures and especially enjoy as much time with your families as possible. Hang in there and God Bless you all.

Fraternally,

Alan Peacock

President, NALC Branch 599

Around the Horn

(Continued from page 4)

enough man/woman power and we can accomplish plenty. All the work parties we have had to date were all very successful.

***) Vehicle Repair Tag, PS Form 4565**, as we are all aware we have an aging vehicle fleet. During a recent safety visit to Hilldale Station, two carriers had an issue with a leaking front windshield. The water is coming straight down through the instrument panel that stores the electrical system and dripping on the brake and gas pedals and the carrier's shoes. First a 4565 should be properly filled out and submitted; be sure to ask for the *Driver Copy*, page 2. More than likely the windshield will need to be pulled and resealed. With the rains coming at

any given time during the day, ask for another vehicle until yours is properly repaired. If the problem is not resolved with your vehicle, speak to your supervisor and your safety team; **do not wait for the next time it rains.**

With this case there is a safety issue that needs to be corrected. If you are not having any success, PS Form 1767 should then be properly filled out and submitted. Again keep your copy for your own paper trail. Do not give up on writing up your LLVs, vans, or 2-ton trucks; use the proper channels...it could save your life.

) Next MDA *Bowl-a-thon is at Terrace Sports, 5211 E. Busch Boulevard, Tampa FL 33617, Sunday, November 10, from 1:30– 4:30 PM (no BUCS game that Sunday). Price includes 3 hours' cosmic bowling,

shoes, and 2 sodas. Adults \$25, kids 17 and under \$10 each. A great family outing...all proceeds go directly to MDA! See your shop steward or call our Branch Office at 813.875.0599 to sign up.

***) Finally**, I must give special congratulations to the latest three members to receive their 60-year NALC pins. That was not a typo, our own Branch 599 retirees, David A. Bohannon, George B. McConnell Jr, and Fernando A. Quintanilla have been NALC members for 60 years. My career was just beginning when *Quint* was winding his down, and George McConnell told me I was his best T-6 ever! Gentlemen, congrats on this great achievement!

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

Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE VI – Duties of Officers

Duties of the President

Section 1: Paragraph (D)

Currently reads as follows:

The President of AR “Tony” Huerta, Branch 599, N.A.L.C., shall serve on a full-time basis and shall receive yearly salary of \$63,000.00 and all other benefits equal to letter carriers. The Branch shall pay his/her Civil Service Retirement and Health Benefits. The Branch, as the employer, and the President, as the employee, shall each pay their respective portions of all other requirements of applicable state and federal laws.

Proposed to read as follows:

The President of A.R. “Tony” Huerta, Branch 599, N.A.L.C., shall serve on a full-time basis and shall receive a yearly salary of \$63,000.00 and he/she shall receive all other benefits equal to letter carriers. The Branch shall pay his/her Civil Service Retirement if he/she is a CSRS employee or his/her Federal Employees Retirement if he/she is a FERS employee. If he/she is a FERS employee and he/she makes contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan, the Branch shall match up to 5% of his/her contributions, not to exceed the percentage he/she has consistently and continuously contributed in the past three years as a TSP participant prior to his/her initial election to office. If re-elected to subsequent terms, the President may then elect to increase his/her percentage, at that time, to the maximum of 5% if he/she had not previously been contributing the maximum of 5% to the TSP. Due to the nature of the position, “President of NALC Branch 599,” it shall be a requirement of the job that he/she, if maintaining health insurance, must be a member of the NALC Health Benefit Plan if the Branch is to pay his/her Health Benefits premiums, self or family option, whichever option was in force at the time of his/her election to the office of President. The Branch as the employer and the President as the employee shall each pay their respective portions of all other requirements of applicable state and federal laws.

Signed by: Brian Obst, Mike Brink, Harold Lance Jones, Detlev C. Aeppel, and Tony Diaz

**Deliver
the Cure**



Bowl-a-Thon



**Sunday • November 10
1:30-4:30 PM**

Terrace Sports

5211 E Busch Boulevard, Tampa FL 33617

Adults \$25 • Kids 17 and under \$10 each

Includes 3 hours' cosmic bowling, shoes, and 2 sodas.

See your shop steward or call the Branch Office at 813.875.0599 to sign up.

All net proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE VII – Fees, Dues, Fines, Assessments

Section 1: Paragraph (E)

Currently reads as follows:

The present Job Action Fund Account will be capped at \$350,000.00 (three hundred fifty thousand dollars) in case of a work stoppage. Such funds shall be set aside in an appropriate savings institution earning a guaranteed interest rate. The interest on these funds shall be deposited in a Convention Fund, to be used exclusively for National Conventions, State Conventions, State Training Seminars and National and State Rap Sessions.

Proposed to read as follows:

The Branch Action Fund Account currently capped at three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) for the purpose as deemed by the membership for any Branch Expense. Such funds shall be under control of the Trustees and shall be used only for expenses determined by the membership of NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) Branch 599 as required by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of members attending when properly notified in accordance with the Constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Bylaws of NALC Branch 599. These funds shall be set aside in an appropriate savings institution earning a guaranteed interest rate. The interest on these funds shall be deposited in the Branch Action Fund to be used exclusively for Branch expenses as deemed by the membership.

Signed by:

Fernando Quintanilla
George McConnell Jr.
Jose Oliva
Ray Wallace
Donald H. Thomas Jr.
James Gleason
Patrick Krezel
Frances R. Fultz

Alan W. Peacock
Tony Diaz
Leslie Raymond Garcia
Gilbert Cabanas
Albert Guice Sr.
John DeRosa
Warren D. Sumlin
Lomax McIntyre Jr.



**Branch
Meeting**
**Thursday
November 7
7:30 PM**

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to **Marty McClamma** [Sun City Center] and family at the passing of his mother; to **Pedro Peguera** [Interbay] and family at the passing of his mother; to **Laurie Lamb** [Palm River] and family at the passing of her mother; and to **Mary Jo Martin** [Carrollwood] at the passing of her father, Joe Hearn, September 22.

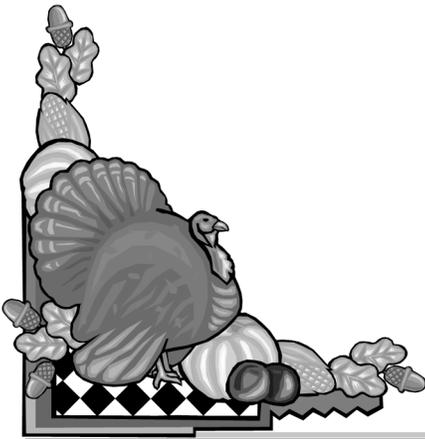
60-year Members Honored!

President Peacock recognized **George McConnell** and **Fernando Quint Quintanilla** during our October Branch meeting and presented each of them with a 60-year membership pin honoring their years of NALC service and membership.



George McConnell and Alan Peacock

Quint Quintanilla and Alan Peacock



Happy Thanksgiving from your Branch Officers, Stewards, and Staff

We are thankful to be living in this great country
and for our brothers and sisters in this union.

Sunday Work Party
at our Hall

November 17 9-11 AM

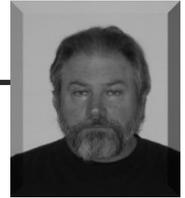
Retirees Breakfast

Monday November 4 9 AM

Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Voting—Your Most Important Right



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

Well it is that time again; time to determine who will lead your Branch for the next three years. This month we will examine your right to vote in your Branch elections.

As a member of the Union you have the right to vote in all Branch and National elections to determine the direction of the Union as well as who the leaders of the Union will be both nationally as well as locally. The role that you play in determining the leaders of both the National as well as Local Union cannot be underestimated. Nor should it be ignored by you.

Democratic elections are the backbone of the Union—One person, one vote, provides you the ability to be heard when dealing with the issues that confront us on a daily basis. It is too easy to stand back and allow others to make decisions on policy and direction of the Union, but your ability to have the vote allows all members to be able to affect change and allows the Union as a whole to adapt to the will of the membership. One need only look back to the Strike of 1970 to see how change can be accomplished simply by the membership voting for change and making the changes required for the continued development and growth of your Union. Remember, it is Your Union, so if you are unhappy with things, all you need to do is get involved and the start of that is voting in your Branch and National Elections.

The biggest problem with Branch and National Elections is that many members are apathetic about their right to vote. Past elections have turned on 1 or 2 votes due to the fact that out of approximately 1,100 members (at the time) only 251 decided to cast a ballot and vote for any of the contested leadership positions.

Remember you have the ultimate say in Branch issues, but if you fail to vote, you are giving up your rights and allowing a small minority of members to dictate Branch policy. I have heard all of the excuses for not voting—I want to spend my off time with my family, It takes too long to go to the Union Hall to vote, I'm too busy, My vote doesn't make a difference, etc. The truth is that voting in your Branch elections is probably the easiest thing you can do. You don't need to go to the Union hall to vote, as you can get an absentee ballot sent to you simply by calling the Branch Office and requesting one. Simply dial 813.875.0599 between November 8 and November 22 and request a ballot, and one will be provided for you. How easy is that? You can vote at your leisure in your own home and you are not rushed. It is a win/win situation; it is so easy that there is no reason that the Branch should ever have any member not voting in elections.

Don't put your rights on the back burner; stay informed and stay involved in your Union by exercising your right to vote in all elections.

I would also like to remind all members that this voting right extends to your monthly Branch union meetings. Local policy decisions are made monthly at these meetings and the members have determined that they are not interested enough to be involved by not showing up to listen to the issues and to cast their votes on these issues that arise. The monthly Branch meeting is always held on the first Thursday of the month unless it falls on a holiday, in which case the meeting is normally shifted to help accommodate members and not interfere with members' holiday plans.

I know that many members feel the sacrifice of going to the Union Hall, that one night per month is more than they want to do, but I cannot overemphasize the importance of making the time to go to this meeting and to be available to ensure your rights are not trampled by a small minority of members. Remember, all decisions made at the Branch meeting affect all members, so if you don't make the effort to be involved you cannot argue about the outcome of any issue that is voted on regardless of what effect it has on you individually.

I leave you this month with the following points to ponder:

The best way to lose the ability to be able to speak and be heard on the issues is to stand back and do nothing, thinking that others will look out for you and your best interests.

Your leaders are only a reflection of the people who elect them.

Ensure that everyone has a say in who the Branch elects—be active and cast a ballot to vote your mind on who you think the best people are who will lead you and your Branch into the future. It is not a partisan issue and it does not matter who you vote for as long as you are examining the issues and exercising your right to vote. Ensure that the majority of the membership is making the Branch decisions. Get out and cast your ballot.

I leave you with this thought, as always—**Knowledge is the Key.**

Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward

ELECT

Tony Diaz

PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters, I am running for the office of President of Branch 599. My listing of current and past positions will offer you an idea of my involvement with all phases of Branch 599's operations. Many of you who know me are aware of the passion and enthusiasm I bring to the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599, and the members we serve.

NALC & Branch 599 Member..... 33 years
Current Vice President..... 3 years
Current Shop Steward 23 years
Former Financial Secretary 6 years
Former Recording Secretary..... 2 years
Former Alternate Shop Steward..... 6 years
Former NALC Employee Social & Recreational Committee Representative over 10 years
Former Labor-Management Representative
Current Executive Board Member
Current National Convention Delegate
Current State Convention Delegate
Current Tampa Safety and Health Sub- Group Leader
Recently appointed Co-chair of the NALC Safety Task Force District Team
Current Building Committee Member
Current Coordinator Sunday Morning Building Work Parties
Current Branch EEO Representative

**I would appreciate your vote on December 5
to continue serving you and Branch 599.**

Good Luck to all the candidates stepping up to serve Branch 599!

Your Vote Counts!

We have a proposed bylaw change to be voted on at our November 7 meeting; if you only attend one Branch 599 meeting, this is the one to attend. We have had a work stoppage fund for many years which has served this Branch well. As with so many good programs, it has outlived its purpose, which was to bail out union leaders arrested on picket lines or when in the duty of protecting our contract. We can no longer go out on strike, which is why this account is no longer needed. The account is currently capped at \$350,000 which can only be used in case of a work stoppage.

Our Hall needs new roof, air conditioners, and several other repairs which the Branch does not have the funds to pay for unless we

change the work stoppage account. Passing this bylaw change will give the membership the ability to vote to do the repairs without a dues increase to pay for the needed repairs. We need to do the repairs to be able to stay competitive in the rental market; rental income keeps us paying lower dues. Our Hall has several return customers that rent our Hall and we need to maintain our Hall at the best possible level we can to continue to get these rentals. Rental income has for years helped keep our dues at the lowest possible rate. If we do nothing to fix our Hall, we will lose rentals and that lost income will have to come from increased dues, our only other source of income. When this bylaw change is passed, it means that *only a majority*

vote by you, the membership, can spend this money, just like the other Branch funds. Your Branch 599 Funds have never been more open to the membership as they are now and this will give you, the membership, even more say in your Branch funds.

As always, it is the will of the membership that runs this Branch and sadly, that will is of the few that attend Branch 599's monthly meetings. Do you, the member reading this, care enough about your Branch to come out and vote your true beliefs as to what is best for Branch 599?



Don Thomas
President
Emeritus
Branch 599

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