



Tampa Letter Carrier

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

April 2011, the *We Are One Rallies* kicked-off all over the country and since that time there have been more political rallies than we have seen since the 1960s. It's not just in our nation, it's all over the world! Economic woes and the battles that have ensued from the European deficits to *Occupy Wall Street*, and

what is the one constant? Who is going to be the haves and who is going to be the *have nots*? The amazing thing that comes out of the recall election this past month in Wisconsin is that the majority of the people are working class, yet they don't support the minority of workers who have collective bargaining rights. Where do they think the eight-hour day and the forty-hour week came from? Do they think that employers actually want to give us benefits and good working conditions? Are they under the belief that if Federal and State Gov-

ernment employees pay more and get less that it will transcend to other workers benefiting from it? Just remember what they say about those who assume. I believe that today there are only about 7 percent of all workers that are union workers, and Federal and State Government employees only make up about 2



percent of the workforce. What doesn't make sense to me is that if the percentage of millionaires and billionaires can't make a

difference in our deficit, how will targeting such a small percentage of the workforce make a difference? My one hope is that when the dust settles after the remaining election campaign ends that there will be some form of government that will represent the people that elect them to serve and not just create some stagnation that has become a mockery to our democratic form of life. Maybe as our veterans come home so will some

dedicated form of leadership that this country is in dire need of. There is a lot of knowledge gained by those who serve and sacrifice for others, unlike many of the self-serving office holders we currently have.

As we go through the summer months and wait to see what the future holds for the Postal Service, whether we hear news of a new contract, or next proposed office for route inspections, or planning for retirement, the time will simply fly by. Our delegates will be attending the National Convention in Minneapolis, July 23-27. It is certain to be filled with a lot of political fanfare. Our branch will have a resolution that has been accepted for consideration by the Convention Resolution Committee pertaining to the issue of *Same Workers Different Unions* that was introduced in the Postal

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
July 5
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

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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	
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
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Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	dcoach9@tampabay.rr.com
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Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
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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	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux		
	Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson		
	James Good		

Executive Board

Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

July 5

August 2

Shop Stewards

will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

July 3

July 31

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
Carrollwood	33618	Donna Dayton	813.960.8894	813.417.5589
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.874.6809	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.889.3913	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	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1403	
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	Brian Obst	813.873.7189	727.458.0679
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	813.270.5035
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

Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE XXII: Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Currently reads as follows:

The meeting of the board of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. shall be on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Any member of the branch, in good standing, who desires to attend may attend this meeting. Members attending the meeting are not entitled to be involved in discussion nor are they entitled to vote on issues before the board, they are simple entitled to attend and observe the proceedings. Members may petition to address the board on any issue that comes up during the meeting at a subsequent meeting of the board.

Proposed to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXII: Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. to be **deleted in its entirety** and any mention removed from the Bylaws.

Signed by: Terry Franklin, Brian Obst, Detlev C. Aeppel, Magdalene Lancaster, Julius C. Howard Jr., John DeRosa, A. Sam Santilli, and Michael Brink.

Retirees Breakfast in June



From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Record last summer. Our resolution committee did a very good job of crafting our proposed resolution; Brian Obst as the chairman and members John Rowland and Warren Sumlin. Jaime Rodriguez assisted them with an initial proposal. We will not be on a vacation and will not be fully reimbursed for our expenses; the financial situation of our branch won't provide for it. Those that are attending are there out of dedication and are active in the Branch.

In the near future we will send out a survey asking the members for feedback to assist in the direction the

members want this branch to move in for the future. It will be regarding the future of the building, possible dues increases, looking for innovative ideas for gaining more participation, and continue to have a strong presence in the goals of our national organization. There is an apathy now that is difficult to outgrow, with declining numbers of members and a work climate that is dissolving rapidly. How do we put some oomph back into a membership that is changing and aging? It will only happen with some new ideas and old determination. We want to hear what you think. We were just discussing having an *Oldies Dance* and the difference for

some of those in the discussion about what type of oldies music was; turned out to be quite humorous! Some were saying '50s music and some were saying '70s & '80s. Think there is any age gap to deal with?

This is what we are and somehow we have to bridge that gap or keep dissolving. Get involved and help us find our way.

Fraternally In Unionism and Solidarity,
Alan Peacock
President, NALC Br 599

Treasurer's Report – May 2012



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

April 30 BB&T Operating Account \$11,410.90

Deposits

Food Drive T-shirts [3]	\$209.00
NALC HB	255.75
NALC Secretary Treasurer [2]	19,319.88
Union Dues in Arrears [5]	625.27
Newsletter Ads [1]	50.00
Rec Room	54.00
Transferred Funds [11]	2,298.72
BB&T Operating Account Interest	.20

Expenses

Officers' Salary [13, monthly]	\$2292.04
President's Salary [2 PP]	4,921.60
President's Health Benefit [monthly]	327.60
Br Office Secretary's Salary [2 PP]	2,400.00
Br Office Secretary's Health Benefit [quarterly]	654.00
Stewards' Salary [19, monthly]	2,845.00
Stewards Lost Wages [3]	451.71
Building Manager's Salary [monthly]	600.00
Editor/Webmaster' Salary [monthly]	160.00
Security Guard's Salary [monthly]	45.00
Branch Meeting Expenses [4]	127.05
Reimburse Convention Delegates' Deposit [6]	780.00
Al Friedman [Refund]	16.00
QuickBooks Online	24.95
Petty Cash Replenishment	74.89
Computer Repair & Upgrades	164.21
AT&T Wireless [President]	124.42
Verizon [Telephone & Internet]	364.38
TECO	1,587.79
Great American Leasing [2]	659.78
Pitney Bowes [2]	40.69
Postmaster [Bulk Mailing]	250.00
Donations [2]	150.00
Taxes [Dept of Treasury IRS (Form 941)]	2,907.12
Taxes [FL Dept of Revenue (Form UTC-6)]	377.36
BB&T Service Charges [2]	16.95

Accounts

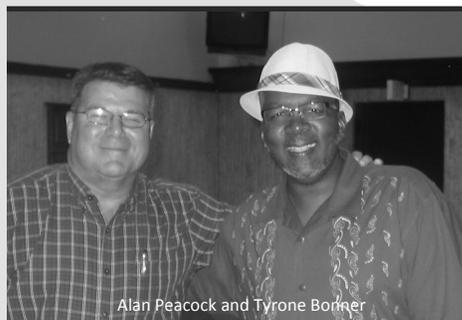
May 31 BB&T Operating Account	\$12,457.81
BB&T Building Fund	29,015.17
MidFlorida Credit Union Savings	254.84
MidFlorida Credit Union CD	100,000.00
Regions Bank CD	50,000.00
USAmeriBank CD	200,000.00
USAmeriBank Training Fund	18,374.54
Total Balance Available	\$412,531.42

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Get well wishes & prayers are sent to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] who is at Cypress Palms Assisted Living, Largo; and to **Dena Ponticello's** [TCA/West Tampa] husband who is recuperating from a motorcycle accident.

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to **Beverly Fravel** [Ybor] and family at the passing of her son, Tim Swanson; to **Frank Ramos** [retiree] and family at the passing of his wife; and to **Ron Burkett** [retiree] and family at the passing of his daughter, Leslie.

Tyrone Bonner Retired!



Alan Peacock and Tyrone Bonner

President Alan Peacock recognized **Tyrone Bonner** [Palm River]

during our Branch meeting in June and presented him with a check from the Branch for his retirement.

Around the Horn

Sunday Work Party

Brothers and Sisters, I first want to thank the volunteers who attended our monthly Sunday morning clean-up work party on June 10. Seven volunteers showed up from 9 AM till 11 AM to help keep our hall looking clean and trimmed. We had two firsts from our volunteers: our first woman and our first couple. Forest Hills Shop Steward Alan Robinson and his wife, (lawn-mower girl) Annette Robinson (both from Forest Hills Station) now have those distinctions. The rest of the crew included Pat Krezel (retired), George McClelland (TCA), Cash Rocky Randels (Forest Hills),

Ben Gettys (retired), and me (Sulphur Springs 33603). I also want to thank one unknown volunteer who trimmed and weeded a portion of the grounds. This volunteer apparently could

not make it on Sunday morning but was aware of what was on the agenda, again *thank you* to him/her. For two hours only, we gather the Sunday morning following the Thursday Branch 599 union meeting. All volunteers give two hard hours of their time to do whatever is needed and asked of them. I could complain and say that the seven volunteers is the lowest number to show up since we began Sunday morning work parties, but I will not. We go with whoever donates their time and make the best of it. We filled the dumpster with tree limbs, branches, weeds, and garbage. We cut the grass, trimmed, picked up garbage, cleaned garbage cans, trimmed trees, continued to work on our lawn equipment,

and organize the garage. *Special thanks* to all of our volunteers in June and for those who worked in the previous months. Stay tuned, the July work party will be on Sunday the 8th from 9-11 AM. If any of you are interested, please contact me at 813.598.9635. You can help make a difference!

Revenue for Hall Maintenance

We are brainstorming two revenue generating ideas that were submitted by union members to benefit the long-term maintenance of our hall. If we cannot find ways to generate funds we will not be able to continue to afford the maintenance of our hall without



diving into our union funds. This would lead to a controversial subject of the eventual sale of the hall. These events will give us a good gauge in determining how serious members are about keeping our beautiful

hall by their participation.

Idea #1

Host a monthly or quarterly dance at the hall with a DJ, set-ups, light food, and other activities. This dance would be open to the public [Friday nights so we do not interfere with the Saturday rentals]. A door charge could be \$10 to \$15 a person or \$20 a couple. We would have to promote this event and it might take several tries to fill the hall. We will need support from our union brothers and sisters, active and retired, and their families. Supplies can be purchased at Sam's Club and some supplies can be saved from event to event.

Idea #2

Use the fenced area in the rear of the

hall with gated access to the side street as a storage lot. This area could command a monthly rate of (ball-park figure) \$100. We could rent to boaters, campers, mobile homes, and trailers. The location is excellent, close to South Tampa, South Howard, Hyde Park, and close to Rick's on the River. There are many deed restricted properties in South Tampa and South Howard with the number of townhomes and condos in these areas. We would have to check on liability issues and other rental issues to be prepared to do business. We could let the land work for us, if you figure just 20 vehicles at \$100 a month, that is \$2,000 a month extra revenue toward the hall.

Your input and suggestions are welcome...get involved.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) At press time for the newsletter we should be preparing to welcome 22 PTFC Carriers to the full-time ranks. Effective June 30, the largest conversion of part-time carriers to regular status in many years will finally come to fruition. This Fourth of July will be special to all these members as their first paid holiday. Congratulations to all of you...enjoy your day!

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



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

Sunday
Work Party
at the Hall

July 8
9-11 AM

Unionism – Details

When you have an issue that needs to be addressed and you need to file a grievance, you must remember one thing...DETAILS. Your steward must have details from you on the issue at hand as they must be able to weave the story to present your grievance in the Dispute Resolution Process hearings (i.e. Informal A, Formal A, Step B and Arbitration if needed).

In all cases where you are going to file a grievance there are things you should do to prepare for the investigation to come. First you should write a comprehensive timeline of events so the steward will know what happened and when it happened. This will help the steward in his investigation of the incident. Second you should prepare a statement of what your grievance issue is about, this will include the timeline above. This statement is extremely important to your grievance as should it end up at arbitration your words carry more weight with an arbitrator. It is important that you take time to properly write this statement and I recommend that you sit by yourself and brainstorm about it first.

Brainstorming is a process where you write down all the important bits and pieces that you can remember without concern for the order, just to get them down on paper. Then go back and look over the things you have written and begin to construct the statement in a proper order. This method allows you to help yourself remember details that you might forget if you simply start to

write from the beginning. Remember the statement is fluid, meaning that until it is turned in, changes can be made if you remember something that you initially missed.

After the statement you want to notify your steward of any pertinent documents that should be included in your case (such as: previous settlement agreements, 1571s, 3996s, management related paperwork and the like). Remember, at the Informal A step of the process, this is your grievance and you should be an active participant, working along with your steward to ensure that your grievance is put together as well as possible. It is important that you do these things as our stewards can only do as good a job with a grievance as the completeness of the case presented to them. While our stewards receive many hours of training, nothing replaces having all the facts in a complete package and you should be able to assist your steward in this endeavor.

Another thing that seems to get lost in the grievance process is the aspect of **LISTENING**. While the grievance still belongs to the grievant (you) at the Informal A step of the process, your steward is trained to know and understand the contract. When your steward is talking to you, listen to what s/he has to say. Everyone who files a grievance feels they are right, however, sometimes our perception of what is contractual or not is clouded by our personal involvement in the situation. Your steward will try to explain to you whether your issue is in-

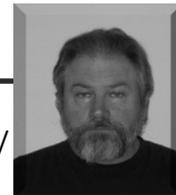
deed a contractual violation or not, and if s/he is unsure s/he will always seek counsel from others in the Branch hierarchy. If, after listening to the explanation from your steward, you still feel that you want to continue with your grievance, let your steward know and s/he will properly process the case forward. The reason we do this is we don't want to clog the system with meritless grievances and this is an agreement with the National level of the NALC and Postal Management at **Step 4 M-01492 July 2003** where it states in part:

We are committed to eliminating abuses of our grievance-arbitration procedure, such as the filing of unwarranted grievances to clog the system or a refusal to resolve grievances even where there are no legitimate differences of opinion between the parties.

In conclusion again it is important that you pay attention to the details for a successful resolution to any of your grievance issues. If you follow these guidelines it should go a long way toward helping you and your steward process your grievance issues.

I shall leave you as always –
Knowledge is the Key.

Brian Obst
Stations/Branches Chief Steward



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

Lori McMillion plans to prepare
a meal for our Branch Meeting
Thursday July 5



Retirees Corner

Well summer is here and it looks like another hot one. The retirees' breakfast was last Monday and we had a pretty good crowd. In attendance were: C.E. Fritts, R.W. Biggs, J.P. Rowland,

Darius Lundy, Lomax McIntyre, Pat Krezel, Lois Strauss, Jose Oliva, John Gebo, Jim

Follman, Henry Dupree, Alan Peacock and Lance Jones. We celebrated one birthday...*Happy Birthday, Lomax!*

I've been asked by several people to put together some tips for retiring, so



starting next month I'll begin an installment about retirement tips. I would like to address topics of specific interest to carriers. If you will write me with your questions at:

Lance Jones
Dir. Of Retirees
3003 W. Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609

I will only address those questions I receive in the mail. The reason for this is so I can categorize the questions and answer the most popular ones first. Together we can

come up with some pretty good articles of interest to everyone getting ready to retire.

TIP of the Month

CARPET STAINS: Baby wipes are a real

miracle-worker on carpet stains, from motor oil to blood; they remove almost everything.

In Unity,
Lance Jones



Lance Jones
Dir. of Retirees
Branch 599

Retirees Breakfast

Monday July 2 9 AM

Coffee Cup
4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

**NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?
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320 PATLIN CIRCLE EAST, LARGO, FL 33770-3063
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bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



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