



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2020

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk



**Tony Diaz**  
President

### Brothers and Sisters,

### Retirees Dinner, A great night out

I want to first thank all the retirees, Branch officers, stewards and current letter carriers and their guests for attending the 2020 Retirees, Installation and Member Appreciation Dinner on Saturday night, January 18. In all there were 170 who attended to dine, visit, and reminisce. It was a time to see those recently retired as well as those who have enjoyed over 25 years of retirement. It was a time for active carriers to catch up and reconnect. The food was excellent; The Family Catering prepared a very tasty meal, with great service. We were treated with 5 Presidents Emeritus (former Branch 599 Presidents) who attended; Garland Tickle served from 1965-71, Orbe Andux served from 1980-81, Mike Anderson served from 1989-90, Jim Good served from 2002-10, and Alan Peacock served from 2011-13. Our special guests included NALC Director of Health Benefits, Stephanie

Stewart, who was the Installing Officer; Florida State Association of Letter Carriers and Clearwater Branch 2008 President, Al Friedman; and Saint Petersburg Branch 1477 President, Joe Henschen. Stephanie really enjoyed the evening and loved our Hall. She did not shy away from any Health Benefit questions and issues our members brought to her attention. It was very gratifying to see new carriers attending and enjoying the evening, vowing to attend more Branch 599 functions.

### State of the Branch 599 Report – year ending 2019

Branch Bylaws, under Duties of the President, Section 1. (A), states: *At the end of his/her term he/she shall make a report showing the progress and condition of the Branch.* The following is my report; there are 3 sections of my report... representation, charities and the building:

### Representation

\* Stations and branches have been visited daily throughout

the Branch 599 region during my first two terms. It is important that the active carriers see their representation and know their concerns are being addressed.

- ◆ We have trained stewards to better represent our membership. We have spared no cost to properly maneuver stewards in the areas needing representation. Supporting documentation is sent to stewards in a variety of ways ...text, email, fax, through office visits, or US Mail. We have been proactive in sending our stewards to regional, state training, and national training. We have already scheduled for officer and steward training in 2020 and will continue to develop new stewards, officers, and leaders of Branch 599.

- ◆ Representation of our membership is our number one focus. We construct and produce quality grievances

*(Continued on page 3)*

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

Branch 599  
Meeting  
Thursday  
February 6  
7:30 PM

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**National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599,**

3003 W Cypress Street,  
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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 and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

# Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
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	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com
<b>Labor Management</b>	Nick Cullaro	813.541.8159	nicull@msn.com
	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock		

# Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Varick Reeder 315.491.6234				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Brandon	33510/11	Luis Cruz	813.661.1636	813.431.3223
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.961.2962	813.493.5224
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	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Michael Smith	813.879.4309	813.326.0717
Hilldale Annex	33634	Latoya Dupuy	813.879.4309	305.414.3527
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Jonathan Jones	813.831.2034	813.293.2208
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	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	Frank Webb	813.239.4084	813.340.0300
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoads	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	Milly Minsal	813.237.4569	813.446.2572
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Tom King	813.873.7189	727.504.3866
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Michael Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

and assist in EEO cases. Our success rate is extremely high at all levels...Informal, Formal, B-Team decisions, and Arbitrations. We communicate with sister branches in Clearwater and Saint Petersburg to share ideas and discuss upcoming issues to better combat.

- ◆ We have recruited new stewards and have alternates in training. We have a diverse group of stewards that includes races, genders, and nationalities and the Branch should be extremely proud of that. Representation has no barriers, and no colors, everyone is equal.
- ◆ We have dealt with the new CCA workforce: saving jobs, converting hundreds to fulltime regular, conducted town hall meetings, ensured proper training, we provide starter uniforms, we address questions and concerns, and we strive to keep our retention rate above the poor national average.
- ◆ We assist with retirement counseling and OWCP cases. We find the answers and refer our members to qualified NALC representatives and specialists with any questions we cannot answer.
- ◆ We comfort members who have lost loved ones, who are dealing with personal and or family issues. We send sympathy cards, make phone calls, and mail out any necessary paperwork needed. We visit funeral homes, churches, members' homes, hospitals, and rehab centers.

### Charities

- ◆ Branch 599's Annual Golf Tournament benefitting MDA. Our six annual golf tournaments have generated over \$40,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The 2019 charity tournament set every record and we presented a check to MDA for \$11,805...a great accomplishment! Great times, great raffle

prizes, very organized, many volunteers...**it is an event!**

- ◆ Letter Carriers Food Drive. Branch 599 continues to thrive with our new partner Metropolitan Ministries. Branch 599 was #1 nationwide in Category 3 (999 to 1,499 members), with a total of 1,352,700 pounds of food...another great accomplishment! The food collected annually supplies food pantries throughout Hillsborough County. Our one-day collection is 90% of their donations received for the entire year.
- ◆ We started our own Christmas toy drive. We just completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> **Branch 599 Toy Drive** to benefit Joshua House. We will not and cannot allow the kids to do without...we will continue and have made a difference! The 2019 toys collected by our members and their families tripled the toys collected last year.

None of these three successful community events would be possible if not for our members, their families, and friends working together.

### Building

- ◆ We have kept our building beautiful by continuing to improve and maintain our facility. We have painted and repaired and done the necessary upgrades as needed. We have an AC maintenance agreement in place to keep the building operational. Our rentals continue to do well. Repeat customers are complimentary of our hospitality and cleanliness. Our Building Fund allows us to maintain and repair the hall without any monies from the Operational Fund. We should be proud of our union hall.

### In Closing

- ◆ I am very conscious to the image of Branch 599, statewide and nationally. Our Branch continues to have a strong showing at regional and state training

seminars. I think it is important we continue to be well represented at steward trainings, State and National Conventions, and the Committee of Presidents meetings. Our beautiful hall is recognized throughout the state and at national headquarters as one of the nicest in the country.

- ◆ I have appreciated and enjoyed working with all our officers the past three years and look forward to working with the new officers that were elected for the next term (2020-2022). We will continue to work for all our members, not just the members who need our assistance.
- ◆ Financially, Branch 599 is in very good shape moving forward. We work within a budget and will continue our representation at the highest level.

**I love representing all of you, I love the NALC, and I love Branch 599.**

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

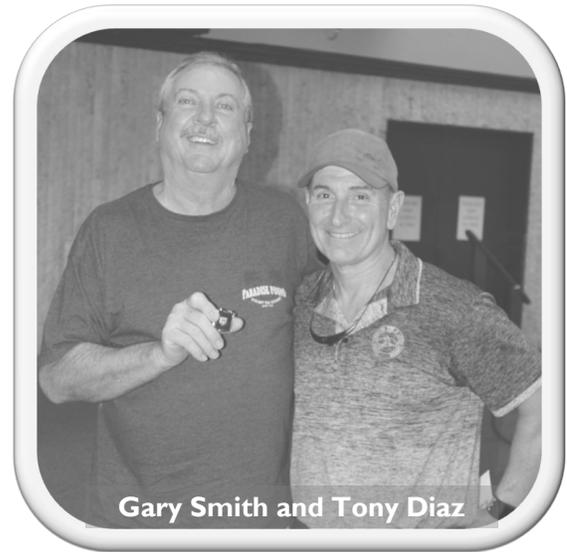
\*National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) Filed Lawsuit Against U.S. Postal Service Over Pay and Representation of 49,000 Management Personnel. NAPS filed a complaint in federal district court seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against the USPS for its failure to pay its supervisors, managers, and other professional and administrative employees in accordance with federal law, which, among other things, requires compensation comparable to the private sector and requires an adequate differential in pay between supervisors and the clerks and carriers they supervise.

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

# Sumlin, Smith, and Alegria Retired!

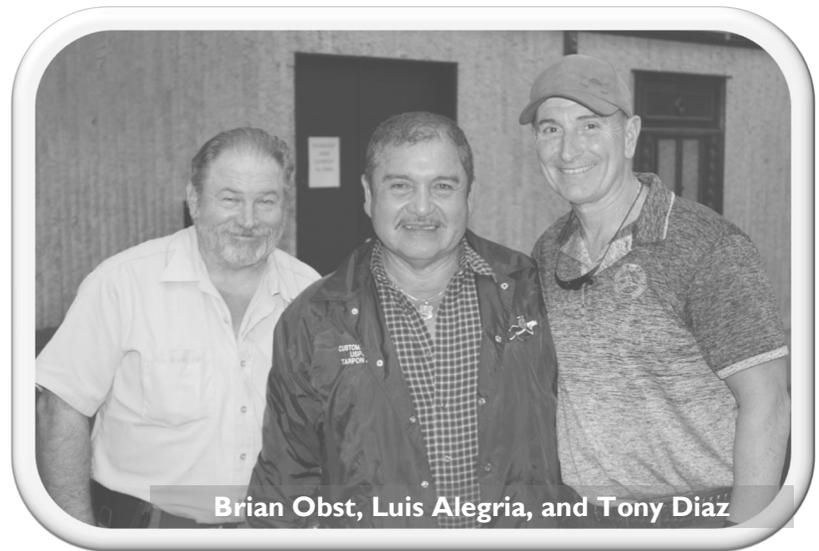


Warren Sumlin and Tony Diaz



Gary Smith and Tony Diaz

*Congratulations to*  
**Warren Sumlin** [Temple Terrace],  
**Gary Smith** [Sulphur Springs];  
 and **Luis Alegria** [Town 'N Country]  
 who received their retirement pins and gratuity  
 from President Tony Diaz during our  
 January Branch meeting!



Brian Obst, Luis Alegria, and Tony Diaz

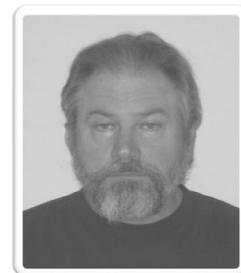
## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to the family of **Anibal Rosello**, whose passing was December 26; to **Kit Kelly** [retiree] and family at the passing of his wife, Kandi, December 29; to **Cherry Berry** [Sun City Center] and family at the passing of her sister, Cheryl, December 30; to **James Coley** and family at the passing of his wife, Carolyn, January 2; and to **Kerry Bolio** [Interbay] and family at the passing of his brother, Barry, January 6.

### Branch 2020 meetings...

February 6 • March 5 • April 2 • May 7 • June 4 • July 2 • August 6 • September 3 • October 1

# Unionism — New Year’s Resolutions



**Brian Obst**  
Vice President  
Branch 599

Welcome to the New Decade. 2020. Seems like only yesterday that everyone was worried about the Y2K scare of 2000. Twenty years have simply flown by and it is a good time to look at what has happened in the past and what resolutions we should consider for the year ahead.

As we look back, we can see the past which has led us to the present state of our union. President Sombrotto (Rest in Peace) passed the torch to President Young who in turn passed it to current President Rolando who has been a shining light in Washington for the issues of this union. Along the way we have seen many programs developed to assist the growth of our members and their ability to represent the membership. Some of these programs are the Leadership Academy, B-Team Member Training, Formal A and Beyond just to name a few. The success of these training initiatives is unquestionable. All one need do is look at the slate of national officers to see many successful graduates of the Leadership Academy. Our union is always preparing itself with an eye towards the future of the union so the membership can thrive long after us current members have joined President Sombrotto in the great beyond.

At present, our leaders in Washington are preparing to do battle in arbitration to obtain a new contract for all our members. The benefit the postal service has reaped from all our hard work will be rewarded once our leaders have secured our new contract. If you have any doubts about this just look back at the last several contracts reached by our leadership and I believe you will agree that while we might not get everything we want, we do extremely well in our bargaining position. I look

forward to the resolution of our latest contract endeavors.

On the local front we have seen President Good pass the baton to President Peacock who in turn passed it to President Diaz and we have continued to maintain good working conditions for our members. We have been able to maintain good communication with management which helps keep the problems at a minimum. That is not to say that we haven’t had to file grievances, we have, but on many occasions we have been able to resolve issues in a productive manner without having to fight. This provides a better workplace environment for all members and hopefully we can continue this into the future, but make no mistake about it, if needed we are ready to file grievances and fight the good fight if things should change for the worse.

Legislative issues have become more front and center for letter carriers as demonstrated by our informational picketing to maintain 6-day delivery and defending the postal service from privatization. The prefunding mandate which has been crippling the finances of the postal service for years is one step closer to being ended due to the efforts of many postal employees, including letter carriers, as the House now has an overwhelming number of co-sponsors of the legislation to repeal it.

One thing hasn’t changed over the years and that is that the Postal Service Letter Carrier is one of the most trusted government employees year after year. It is the trust of the American people that helps when we need to be defended from the attacks of the government wanting to tear apart the postal service and sell it off to the highest bidder. Never forget that the American people

have our back.

Well that was a quick look backwards, now, what about the year ahead of us?

What resolutions should we consider as we move into this new decade? I think that number one on our list of resolutions should be to educate ourselves. I don’t mean go back to college, I mean learn your rights under the National Agreement. See what has been negotiated by our national leadership to benefit you. Take the time to go to [NALC.org](http://NALC.org) and read the M-41 Handbook, this is the manual that defines your job duties and it is beneficial if you know and understand what your requirements are. Work with the other carriers in your office to help them understand their duties; don’t just complain about them not knowing the proper way to do things. Remember, once we were all in the position of being new and not knowing the proper way to do everything. Helping the carriers you work with will benefit everyone equally as the better they get at their jobs the easier it is for all of the carriers. Finally, don’t be part of the problem—be part of the cure. Don’t be afraid to step up to help if things need to be done, if we don’t make things better ourselves, they will only get worse so lend a helping hand when you can to make things better for all.

At this time I would like to thank you all for your support and reelecting me as your vice president. I look forward to the next three years working with President Diaz to continue moving Branch 599 into a better future.

I will end as always with.....  
**Knowledge is the Key.**

# Retirees, Installation, and



# Member Appreciation Dinner





# Chairman's Report on the 2019 Branch 599 Elections



**Jim Boczarski**  
Retired Member  
Branch 599

On October 15, 2019, James Boczarski was appointed chairman of the election committee which included Andre Hinton, Walt Rhoads, Stephen Hall, Eddie Berroth, Lori Thompson, and Pat Krezel as assistant committee members. Some of the members participated on previous election committees and Pat Krezel was chairman of the most recent previous committee. Their experience and advice was instrumental in ensuring a fair, impartial, smooth and tamper-proof election. We adhered to the NALC REGULATIONS GOVERNING BRANCH ELECTION PROCEDURES handbook (adopted in 1981, amended in 2008 & 2011) in the treatment of all aspects of the election. Identification and tabulating procedures were cross-monitored by committee members so no single person could manipulate the count.

Nominations were closed on Thursday, November 7, with the following offices in contention: Vice President, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and the three Trustees. Ballots, instructions, ballot envelopes and mailing envelopes were not available from the printer until November 19. The first set of 60 ballot kits were mailed on November 19.

As more requests came in, more ballot kits were mailed. A second set of 60 ballot kits was mailed on November 21, and a final set of 28 was mailed on November 25.

Only one ballot kit was returned RTS (Return to Sender), but was with the completed ballots and discovered on the day of in-person balloting. (USPS error) Two completed ballots had no return address and were not opened or counted. Before in-person balloting began, the outer envelopes of the valid mail-ins were separated from the secret ballot envelopes so the mail-in voters could be identified on the master list and be prevented from voting twice. (No such attempt was made.) After the polls closed, the mail-in secret envelopes were opened and the ballots were mixed together with the in-person ballots.

The counting concluded more quickly than in the previous election because fewer offices were at stake and also because fewer ballots were cast. Accuracy was not compromised. Counts and tallies were checked multiple times. Post-election visits to the PO boxes revealed no late voting. The boxes were closed December 23.

One hundred eighty-seven valid ballots were cast.

- For the office of Vice President, Brian Obst won over Warren Sumlin 95-91.
- For the office of Treasurer, John Gebo won over Maggie Lancaster 117-66.
- For the office of Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Williams 94, won over Mike Fite & Luis Cruz, 51 & 35.
- For the office of Trustee, the winners were Lori McMillion 154, Joe Oliva 118, and Jim Good 105. Sebastian Parker had the fewest votes, 93, and did not become Trustee.

The only criticisms that have been brought up as of this report were the amount of time available between the printing/ mailing of ballots and the deadline to receive them back; and the wording on the instruction sheet, which of necessity needs to be different for each type of voting. The latter can be fixed by simply posting the instructions on the voting booth instead of handing them out. The former will require better strategic planning.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Boczarski, Chairman

**Do You Have  
the NALC Member App?**

**NALC e-Activist  
Network**  
at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)

**Get involved! Your future depends on it!**

# CPR Class #5...hosted by Branch 599



**Thursday February 20 7 PM**

**Branch 599, Letter Carriers Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609**

*All members, family, friends, and neighbors are invited!*

**Certified qualified Instructor (Firefighter)**

**Certificate for Successful Completion valid for 2 Years**

**Registration: Contact your union steward to sign up or call the Branch Office, 813.875.0599.**

**Same Low Price: \$10 per person, pay at the door**

**➤Youth sports coaches: CPR is now required◀**

*This is a cause that is near and dear to me.*

*The information learned during this class could save someone's life, it saved mine! –Tony Diaz, President, Branch 599*



## Branch 599 is #1

Florida State Association of Letter Carriers President Al Friedman presented a beautiful plaque to Branch 599 for Food Drive collections in 2019. President Tony Diaz proudly accepted it on behalf of the membership. The plaque presented at the Retirees Installation Dinner, January 18, recognizes Branch 599 as the #1 Branch in Category 3 for collections in excess of 1,350,000.

**Shop Stewards will Meet****Tuesday 7 PM****February 4****March 3****Branch 599 Meeting****Thursday 7:30 PM****February 6****March 5****Executive Board Meets****Thursday 6:30 PM****February 6****March 5****Sunday Work Party****at our Hall 9-11 AM****February 9****March 8****Retirees Breakfasts****Monday February 3 9 AM**

Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry &amp; Spruce

**Tuesday February 11 8 AM**

Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher

# Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive



## The 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 9, 2020.

This year, Branch 599 will be partnering again with Metropolitan Ministries for the 3<sup>d</sup> year. All collected food stays in Hillsborough County, feeding the hungry and filling food banks.

- Last year we collected 13,352,700 pounds of food and were recognized as the #1 Branch in category 3, (999-1499 members) in the country.
- It is the largest 1-day Food Drive in the world, recognized by the Guinness Book of Records.
- Nationwide, letter carriers will collect over 70 million pounds of food.
- The U.S. Postal Service – No other company can deliver 8 million bags throughout the State of Florida, pick up all the food collected, and distribute it to the food pantries.



**A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599  
National Association of Letter  
Carriers**

**3003 W Cypress Street**

**813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com**

**Tampa Letter Carrier  
Volume 19 • Issue 2 • February 2020**

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