



Tampa Letter Carrier

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

This will be a busy month, but lately they all seem to be busy. The first round of route adjustments are to be implemented by the first of August and there is a lot of scurrying by the various teams to accomplish that. The impression is that this so-called minor adjustment is only minor in very few cases or stations. There has been a lot of discussion from both parties as to the most efficient system for making these adjustments. The delays in these conflicting areas

may lead to some hasty decisions that could be very counterproductive at the very least.

Whatever team makes the final adjustment at any particular office is the team that has to return to deal with any follow-up issues that occur from their decisions.

The next big event taking place in August is the introduction period for our formal contract negotiations. The parties for NALC and US Postal Service will begin what will probably be a very long and difficult process,

but hopefully successful process to reach a new National Agreement; more than likely under the present climate an agreement that will require give and take from both sides of the table. That is what collective bargaining is about, just like the negotiations in the National Football League, except this is only for the working class workers, contrary to the

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Special Called TLC Inc. Meeting

Tuesday August 16

7:30 PM

Voting on a resolution to dissolve Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. will be the only business conducted at this special called meeting.

Should this resolution pass, it would mean turning over all assets to Branch 599.

You, the membership, will then have a vote in future business of Branch 599.

TLC Inc. is debt free at this time; the Branch will not have to take over any debt.

*The membership is supreme, your vote is your voice,
do not waste it by not attending and voting at this very important meeting!*



Branch Meeting

Thursday

August 4

7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599

Fax 813.870.0599

www.nalc599.com

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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
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599 office 813.875.0599
Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1639
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516
Treasurer	Ray Garcia	813.787.3640
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	John Gebo	813.503.1256
Trustees	Joe Oliva	813.299.8442
	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101
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
August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
August 2
August 30
October 4
November 1
November 29

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	John Lykins	813.661.1639	727.542.4092
Carrollwood	33618	Brian Obst	813.960.8894	727.458.0679
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		813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Julio Acosta	813.889.3913	
Hyde Park	33606	Tom Cobert	813.873.7189	813.694.0711
Interbay	33611	Loney Cason	813.831.2034	586.668.0131
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
Port Tampa	33616	Loney Cason		586.668.0131
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Jack Hencoski	813.634.1403	813.928.9034
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	J.R. Harazin	813.873.7189	727.418.8090
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.899.2405	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

(Continued from page 1)

Billionaires vs. the Millionaires. The only comparison that can be made is that the players in the NFL are the bread and butter and the selling point of product for the owners, just as we are the selling point of the product for the US Postal Service. If management chooses to disregard our value in the way that we are just the end of the line of the product that that is produced, then we will be handcuffed in how we can do customer connect and be that selling point of our product. Micromanaging carriers for later starting times and forcing non-ODL carriers and breaking the window of operation are all errors in proper scheduling that inhibit our ability to be that selling tool of services provided. The waste that starts at the top filters down to those on the end of the production line and that is where we put our customers.

As we move toward the end of the fiscal year, there are many decisions pending on the Nation's deficit issues as well as the deficit issues of the Postal Service. Many of these issues can be resolved if not for partisan politics that is holding our Nation hostage for political gain. The price of world peace comes with the ultimate cost and the value of that cost crosses all socio-economic barriers. Why is it that *value of life* is not taken into consideration when it concerns the interest and welfare of the citizens of our own Nation? What is the reason that makes war more important than society and allows socio-economic class warfare to take place in the decisions of our Nation and brings such a big divide in solving our issues? If your country calls on you when it needs you and you are willing to support it, then the country does so without placing socio-economic

barriers. Therefore why do policy makers spend so much time and wasteful tax dollars hashing over decisions based upon socio-economic classes. To grow this country means to do so as a Nation, not leaving behind the elderly, afflicted or disadvantaged. Most of us have certain things in common when it comes to what we want out of life, protect our family, have a purposeful employment that provides for us, and eventually retire without all the worries that are being placed on people with fixed incomes.

Speaking of retirement, we have had quite a few retiring lately and we all want to wish them the best, they have earned it. Many contemplating retirement need to look at all the decisions you will have to make and plan accordingly. One of the biggest surprises that future retirees have is what happens to your FEGLI (Federal Employees Group Life Insurance) when you turn age 65. If you don't select the following: no reduction, 50% or 75% reduction and pay the premium required for your selection, then you automatically will only receive 25% of basic once the reduction process concludes. The process starts at age 65 at the rate of 2% per month reduction, until the remainder is at the level of reduction you have selected. Term life insurance has no cash value and over the period of your life can add up to a very high amount in premiums to maintain. If you are uncertain of your decision seek the advice of a licensed insurance agent or check out all the retirement information at www.nalc.org and go through the departments and click *Retirement* and the book for CSRS or FERS, depending which program you are in.

We are in the works of trying to plan a Labor Day Picnic and looking for volunteers to help with everything.

We are going back to the way we used to do this and bring back the camaraderie and fun without the big price tag. Tough times call for tough decisions and a little sacrifice for each other, so let your steward know, or call the hall if you want to help out. It would also be nice if a member whose daughter or son is a student who needs some community hours, to volunteer to help with serving or in another capacity to earn some time. So far we have over 25 volunteers, just from the last union meeting. This will be a testament of whether we want to work together to preserve what we have or if the lack of concern for the future of this Branch is increasing to the point of oblivion.

There will be *proposed* Bylaw changes voted on at the August 4, 2011, branch meeting. Most of these Bylaws pertain to what happens to our Building if the members decide to vote to dissolve Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. at a special meeting, August 16, 2011. There should be many concerns that need to be answered in order to provide the members with an informed and educated decision they will make to determine how we move forward. The members will always be supreme in the final decisions that affect this whole organization. As we coin the phrase from Aesop the Greek fable writer, *United we stand and divided we fall*, he could definitely apply that to our current times, whether it is his beloved Greece, which has fallen on bad times, the majority of the world that is in chaos or even our Employer, Nation or Union.

Fraternally and in Solidarity,

Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, first I want to thank those of you who replied to the July *Around The Horn* article. It was a pleasure speaking to several of you who inquired about specific medical tests I had received in addition to those of you who requested more details on my heart ordeal. Come to find out, several of you were aware of the mitral valve condition through a personal experience or from a family member or a friend. Again, thanks for your concern.

At this time I want to congratulate a longtime fellow letter carrier and union brother who retired about a month ago. This newly retired carrier I speak of is Bernie Bauman from Hilldale Station, a great person, and a longtime friend. Bernie and I began our postal careers in 1980; he actually began several months before me. He was a tremendous help to me as I began my postal career. I thank you, Bernie, for your guidance and patience on our MVS runs at 4:30 in the morning. In 1980, PTFs were scheduled to transport mail from the main facility to all the stations and branches. Bernie and I volunteered to be scheduled almost every morning for the MVS runs along with current carriers Chuck Jaudon and Greg Jorissen. In fact, we covered MVS runs in the early AM, collections in the PM, and in between were sent to a station to carry a route. (On the current carrier seniority list, we are ranked between #14 and #18, with Bernie finishing his career at #17). Bernie was a guy who would make you forget how early you were at work with his humor, one-liners, or a good hell-raising story. I also have had the opportunity to drink a few beverages with Bernie on Sundays at Buccaneer games, as we both have been longtime season ticket holders. I have enjoyed our conversations and just hanging-out over the years away from the work environment. Bernie has had some serious health issues as of late and I can only hope he has a long and enjoyable retirement. Great job by the carriers at Hilldale Station for showing

up in force at last month's union meeting to celebrate with Bernie, I know that meant a lot to him!!! So Bernie, along with your coworkers from Hilldale Station and your friends around the city, a special letter carrier cheer just for you, *hip-hip hurrah, hip-hip hurrah, hip-hip hurrah*. A job well done, and thanks for making things a little more bearable in the sometimes stressful settings we work in. Who knows, Bernie, without your humor, guidance and bad jokes, I might not have made my probation and lasted for 31 years. Hope to continue seeing you on Sundays at Raymond James Stadium.

JARAP

Let me touch briefly on this round of JARAP. For the Tampa stations, the NALC Reps are Detlev Aeppel, Warren Sunlin, and Alan Robinson. I have served as an alternate this round filling in for those on annual leave or finishing consultations or evaluations when a team is in need of assistance to keep on schedule. At this point we should have been done with this round of JARAP, had the adjustments been done as in the prior "RAP" processes. However, this round we are dealing with the fiasco known as COR. One of the worst programs I have ever seen the Postal Service attempt to implement. Having worked with all of these guys in some capacity, I can tell you, they care about your adjustments. Whether you completely agree with an evaluation or a territory move, all of us have voiced concerns about this COR adjustment. It could have been much, much worse if the original plan had been enforced. We would have been looking at widespread station in-house bidding, leading to a total disaster and widespread carrier disappointment. To the credit of our Management reps we are teamed with, they also realize without using common sense, COR is not the miracle it is supposed to be. With the millions of dollars the Postal Service has invested into the COR process, it is still incapable of adjusting a Station without human

input. We have worked closely with trained COR technicians at the district offices to change, tweak, and in some cases completely ditch the COR process in an office. Our voices have been heard, at meetings and telecoms with our Business Agent and upper Management. So as I do the consultations or talk to you about the changes, it is difficult for me to listen to, *no comment, they are going to do what they want anyway*. Not true, all of your suggestions are read and many of your suggestions are used. Unfortunately with some territory shifts, we are unable to use all of your proposals. There are time factors we must consider, for instance, you tell us one street would be a better fit than the one you had added or taken off your route. However, when we go to make the change the value of that street or block range is more or less than the change. This makes your route and more than likely, the next route either too long or short. Believe me, this is not an easy job we are tasked with. Remember everything we do has to be agreed to by both parties, the Management Rep and the NALC Rep, we are not able to freely make decisions; that goes both ways though. The first time NALC reps have found these adjustments to be very difficult, a challenge, and sometimes overwhelming. At the end of the day, and I speak for all of your JARAP Reps, we do the best we can to be fair and attempt to minimize the impact on any one individual carrier.

Quick Hits: Information you should know

*) The Florida State Association of Letter Carriers State Convention and Shop Steward Training is scheduled for July 28-30 in St Petersburg. I will report back to you in my article next month.

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



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

Things You Should Know



Gilbert Cabanas
Financial Secretary
Branch 599

It appears that the Union has taken the last step toward the formulation of TLC Incorporated under the umbrella of our Branch 599. We have created new bylaws to cover the authorization of the operation/maintenance and control over all physical and financial assets. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall constitute the Building Trustees. This Board of Trustees will submit for approval a monthly report to the branch members. This new bylaw was copied straight out of the NALC Constitution; we shouldn't present any problems in passing through the committees of law for approval and with our own local branch. The maintenance part of the building will be handled by the building manager, which will include all the rentals. Once that bylaw is passed, all financial assets including the rentals, will be in the same checking account as our Union dues income. The rentals from the hall should help with the salary of the new building manager plus any maintenance that will occur. Our current rentals have been steady under the guidance of Mr. Don Thomas at the present time, so we hope this trend will continue. Our hall has always taken care of the Letter Carriers' needs, so we in return should take care of the building's maintenance. Our property across

from the hall has finally been sold for \$100,000 so now we must decide how to spend this money efficiently. We still have an outstanding loan of about \$62,000 on our hall, but a new roof and 2 new air conditioners are in desperate need. We have one of the largest rental halls in Tampa but we must keep up with the maintenance needs because the rental hall that is in great shape will continue to provide this Union with a continuous source of revenue.

On another subject, could all our carriers please provide our office with any change of address or phone numbers? This information will help with our newsletter and any personal contact that might occur with your

Please provide our office with any change of address or phone numbers.

records. For the second month in a row, we have 3 new retirees and all were in attendance for their gratuity checks. If anyone is going to retire in the near future, please contact Mr. Ray Garcia or me just in a few days in advance of your retirement date and remember, you must attend that meeting for your check. These few days of advance notice will allow us the time to process your checks. The Shop Steward or the Letter Carrier can call us with the information needed, which is the person's name, date of retirement, and the date of the meeting they will attend. After you retire, you must sign an 1189 form in

order to stay in the Union along with our hospital plan. Please keep a good hospital plan when you do retire because unfortunately, the aches and pains do arrive with age. Also, join Medicare when you are eligible because any delay on that issue will cost you much more later on to join. Remember, without proper coverage on your health plan, it could cost you thousands in deductibles and percentages allowable. Huge doctor/hospital bills can be avoided with the proper coverage when you retire, so don't let your pension suffer this frustration. We now have a new round of gold card members; there will be about 14 of them hopefully within the next monthly meeting. I do hope some of these carriers can attend the meeting for this great honor. If any Letter Carrier has a total of 50 years or more as a Union member, you are eligible for this gold card. I now have examined all of our old Union cards in order to acknowledge all of those members who are eligible for their gold card. The gold card will allow that member to stay in our great Union without paying any more Union dues. I have also examined the records of those Carriers who will be eligible in the next 3 years for their gold card. This will hopefully bring our Union up-to-date on that issue.



Learn more here: www.nalc.org
Click the *Gimme 5 for COLCPE* logo to learn more or to signup as an *e-activist!*

TLC will Meet

Tuesday August 23
7 PM
Conference Room

Retirees Breakfast

Monday August 1 9 AM
Coffee Cup
4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

NALC BRANCH 599

Labor Day Picnic

See your Shop Steward
Retirees call the Union Hall at 875-0599



Sunday ♦ September 4, 2011 ♦ 12-4 PM

Food

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
BBQ Chicken
Soft Drinks and Water- All Day
Cake and Ice Pops
Cotton Candy and Popcorn

Kids

Face Painting- 12:30-3:30
Gigantic Water Slide
Moonwalks- All Day

A \$5 donation per family for Muscular Dystrophy Association is required.
\$10 per guest.
Deadline for tickets is August 18.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws and to Standing Rules

ARTICLE VIII – Committees

Add: Section 7: The Building Trustees

(A) The President, the Financial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of A.R. “Tony” Huerta Branch 599 NALC shall constitute The Building Trustees.

- (1) The Building Trustees shall have supervision over the operation and maintenance of the building known as The Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609.
- (2) The Building Trustees shall have the authority to appoint a Building Manager, who must not be an officer or shop steward of Branch 599, to whom they may delegate such power as they deem advisable.
- (3) The Building Trustees shall have control over all physical and financial assets pertaining to the building.
- (4) The Building Trustees shall have the authority to invest funds into a financial institute which shall be known as the Building Maintenance Fund when such funds are available.
- (5) The Building Trustees shall report to the Executive Board and the Executive Council who will make recommendations to the membership at all regular meetings and submit all expenses over one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to Branch 599 members for a vote, and the members of Branch 599 will have a vote on Branch business at all regular Branch 599 meetings or any special Branch 599 meetings that are called.

Signed by: Gilbert Cabanas, Julius C. Howard, Al Guice, John P. Rowland, Marie Brown, and Donald H. Thomas Jr.

ARTICLE XI – Funds

Section 5 now reads:

All checks drawn on the branch checking account will be signed by two (2) authorized officers. These authorized officers shall be the president, treasurer and financial secretary. At the beginning of each term of office the treasurer will ensure that the authorized officers are registered as a signer with the bank at which the branch checking account is held. Any one of these authorized officers may make deposits into the branch checking account.

Section 5 proposed to read:

All checks drawn on the branch checking account will be signed by two (2) authorized officers. These authorized officers shall be the president, treasurer, and financial secretary. Any check drawn for one of the authorized officers cannot be signed by that officer. At the beginning of each term of office, the treasurer will ensure that the authorized officers are registered as a signer with the bank at which the branch checking account is held. Any one of these authorized officers may make deposits into the branch checking account.

Signed by: Gilbert Cabanas, Julius C. Howard, Al Guice, Donald H. Thomas Jr., Leslie Raymond Garcia, and John P. Rowland.

ARTICLE XXII – Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Now reads:

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: Article XXII to be deleted.

Signed by: Gilbert Cabanas, Julius C. Howard, Al Guice, Donald H. Thomas Jr., Leslie Ray Garcia, and John P. Rowland.

STANDING RULES

2. now reads:

The Executive Board meeting shall be held on the first Thursday of each month and shall start promptly at 6:30 PM.

2. proposed to read:

The Tuesday prior to the first Thursday of the month, the Executive Board shall meet promptly at 6:30 PM, the Executive Council shall meet at approximately 7:15 PM, and the Shop Stewards’ meeting will follow immediately after the Executive Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report

All financial reports

will resume after the conclusion of the reviews from the CPA/Tax Attorney the Branch decided to hire.

A Point of Personal Privilege

First, at the June regular Union Meeting, I stated basically what is the following pertaining to the payment of moneys to former Chief Shop Steward Brian Obst: There have been whispers, accusations and innuendos as to Brian's credibility and honesty because of my Treasurer's Report in the March issue of our monthly newsletter, as to his denial of receiving payment for that appointed position. Former President Jim Good appointed Mr. Obst as the Chief Shop Steward. President Alan Peacock assumed that position, in order to re-establish the chain of command with management. There is no additional compensation for being Chief Steward; all stewards receive a monthly expense. This error has been properly corrected. I have no evidence that Brian Obst received payment while holding that appointed position!

Same Old Stuff

Once again I use my stepladder to climb onto my soapbox to vent my frustration with the GOP (Grand Old Party) and some Democrats. This, the Republican Party, is the party that preaches no new taxes, take back America, and helping the middle class and poor are not necessary to the wellbeing of this great Nation. The Republicans have attempted to block every piece of legislation that was intended to right this so-called sinking ship of an economy. They continue to eliminate the programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Lyndon B. Johnson. An economy, may I remind you, that was inherited from an administration that took this country to the depths of a depression, not a recession because the deficit and decline of jobs equaled that of the *Great Depression*, an administration that left office with two

(2) ongoing unpaid wars that continue to drain our national budget, an administration that took a surplus and almost immediately turned it into the largest deficit this country has ever had and gave a tax cut that only increased the wealth of the richest two percent (2%) of Americans (which allowed \$8.6 million every week to be given to that 2%) and did nothing to stimulate the economy! Nor did it fulfill the promise of the previous administration for prosperity and growth. Those tax cuts, as estimated by Citizens for Tax Justice, cost the nation \$2.5 trillion. Instead of those 10-year cuts, the moneys could have provided 10 years of: 122.7 million children low-income health care, 49.2 million people access to low-income healthcare, 43.1 million students with Pell Grants worth \$5,500, 31.5 million Head Start slots for children, VA care for 30.7 million military veterans, 30.4 million scholarships for university students, hire 4.19 million firefighters, hire 3.67 million elementary school teachers, hire 3.6 million police officers, retrofit 144.6 million households for wind power and retrofit 54.2 million households for solar photovoltaic energy. Of course this was ignored by President Obama, who continues to try to be bi-partisan by extending those tax cuts another two (2) years till 2012

A leading Republican, Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, has introduced legislation to restructure Medicare (Democrat, President Johnson got the Medicare legislation passed). The bill basically would limit those individuals that should and will have access to unaffordable medical benefits. On the floor of the House a Republican introduced legislation to cut the WIC program which would deprive between 200,000 and 250,000 children with proper nutrition! This is supposed to save an estimated \$1.14 billion toward our national deficit. Yet these same Republicans want to increase our military spending to the tune of \$17 billion. Won't this increase add to the already bulging deficit? Did

you know that the United States spends on average 43% of its budget for the military? We spend 6 times more than China and Russia only budgets 3.6% of its budget!

Then we have the 48 Senators, including three (3) Democrats and all but two (2) Republicans who defeated legislation to end tax breaks for the five (5) largest oil companies. The oil and gas companies spent \$39.5 million lobbying congress in just the first quarter of this year. (Thank you, U.S. Supreme Court). Big oil has donated almost \$18 million to the 48 Senators that voted to protect oil subsidies. This is five (5) times more than those that supported this legislation. The three (3) Democrats that supported continuing subsidies were Begich (AK), Landrieu (LA) and Nelson (NEB) and the two (2) Republicans that voted to end tax subsidies were Snowe (ME) and Collins (ME). Here are some figures: *"The cost of big oil's loopholes: \$4 billion in tax breaks for 2011, \$77 billion total from 2011 to 2021. The profits of big oil: \$902 billion for the top 5 biggest oil companies in the USA 2001-2010 (in 2011 dollars), \$32 billion in total earnings in the first quarter of 2011 of which Exxon Oil made \$10.7 billion, 38% is the 2011 first quarter profit increase from the first quarter of 2010 and a 28% increase in gasoline prices compared to 2010. Boy did I work for the wrong business!*

Get your facts first, and then you can distort 'em as much as you please.

-Mark Twain



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

An advertisement featuring a large '5-day' in a stylized font, with 'is the wrong way to save the Postal Service' written below it. To the right is a 'WRONG WAY' street sign. At the bottom, it says 'Learn more at www.nalc.org'.

Wow, it's been one hot summer or is it me? I'm not working in it anymore and I will always remember being hot, putting the mail in the case and thinking how hot it was in the office. Then when I went out the door to load up the vehicle the heat was unbearable and when I went back into the office, it was cold. But as the day went on, you got somewhat used to it, as well as you could with the inside of a postal vehicle at almost 100 degrees and you think to yourself, damn, maybe I should have thrown out all of my values as a nice person and gone into management and stayed in the office and kept cool.

A good friend sent me an e-mail wanting to know if I was sick, as it was June 20 and they had just gotten their July Branch 599 paper and no *The Beat Goes On* article was in the paper. I wrote back, *No, I'm fine, it's just that at times it's hard to find something to write about or I miss the deadline.* They wrote back, *Ray, you always find something to say.*

That's true, and sometimes I've been told off for telling the truth and that's no fun. The people that never write are never told off. But I do love to write...so as they say, *it goes with the territory.*

Guys still tell me they enjoy my articles

and that's always nice to hear and it helps me to keep writing. How many that write have written as much as I have and under each President since John Bailey?

If you look at the Presidents Emeritus list, two that are not on there are John Bailey and Lenin Perez. John was president, resigned, and died shortly thereafter. Lenny Perez was president for years, but left unrepentantly. But no matter what Lenny Perez did, he helped a lot of carriers in legal ways including this writer with my son, and he helped out a few other Brandon carriers. It's a shame the way his career ended; who among us all has not make a mistake in their life? Luckily they never got caught.

The other day I was at our Brandon Branch of The Tampa Postal Credit Union. If you have never been in the Postal Credit Union, now is the time to join, they are always looking for new members and hey, it's the Postal Federal Credit Union, why not, it's here for us. I've been with them over thirty years, and you name it, I've had most types of loans...car, boat, personal, and never a problem getting one. You can't say that with the banks who will charge you the most interest they can get for

every little thing.

The credit union has a car advisor who will help you get the best deal going, so as always, look out for number one; you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

For you who live in the Brandon area, if you can avoid Brandon Hospital, do so!!! They are a *For Profit* hospital and greed is number one...you are number 2. I recently took my wife there to the Emergency Room, *critical* at 1 PM on a Saturday, needing a blood transfusion. I took her out at 10 PM and no blood was given. Two days later, she was at University Hospital for 8 hours and received 2 units of blood. I'm not going into the dollar amounts of it all, but Brandon Hospital who told me that they are *for profit* charged me \$500 more than University Hospital, and Brandon did nothing but some test, but no blood. Some Brandon doctors told me that they themselves don't like Brandon Hospital. My insurance, the NALC Health Plan was charged and they paid as they had to do, and I called and told them everything. This is why our medical insurance is so high. So beware and look out for our NALC insurance.



New NALC 599 Member Benefits at No COST!

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance company, a 100% union company, new benefits are being provided to all NALC 599 members.

Please look for a letter in your mailbox that has more information. Make sure to return the reply card.

Benefits are: A group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit, Health Services Discount Card & Child Safe Kits.

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An AIL representative will contact NALC 599 members who return the reply card to arrange a convenient time to deliver their no cost benefits and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available to them and their family.

Unionism

Personal Privilege

I write this piece as a response to information that was printed in the Newsletter that was in error.

For the previous six years I have served, by appointment of the previous President Jim Good, as the Chief Steward. In late March of this year I was replaced as the Chief Steward by new President Alan Peacock. I was informed that this action was in no way an indication of any failure on my part or any indication of dissatisfaction with the job I was doing. President Peacock simply wanted to ensure that management was aware of the current chain of command after the election.

In the March newsletter of this year the new Treasurer printed a financial statement which indicated that I, Chief Steward, had been paid monies for the performance of my duties as Chief Steward. This is incorrect as I have never received any monies for my duties as the Chief Steward. I took the opportunity to point this out to Treasurer Ray Garcia and after it was determined that he had made an error I asked for him to print a correction/retraction so the membership would know it was an error. As a representative of the membership my

integrity, credibility and knowledge are the only things I can count on when representing. As I have always been upfront in telling the membership that I receive no additional compensation for the position of Chief Steward it is important that they know I did not misrepresent myself lest my credibility suffer.

Treasurer Garcia ensured me that the correction/retraction would be printed the next month but it has not happened. At the June 2 Branch meeting, Treasurer Garcia read into the record a statement acknowledging the error and again ensured me that the correction/retraction would be published the next month and it still has not happened. Since the Treasurer has failed to get this information published as promised, I have taken the liberty of reprinting the letter read into the meeting record below to allow the entire membership to know that I was not lying about my not being paid for the position of Chief Steward. I want the membership to know that when I say something to them that they can count on me to be honest and straightforward as a good Steward should.

This is the body of Treasurer Garcia's notice to the Branch meeting on June 2:

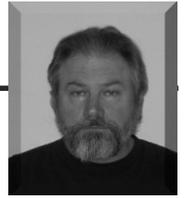
It was brought to my attention that a question has arisen concerning Mr. Brian Obst's integrity because he has maintained he received no monies for his appointment to the position of Chief Steward by former President Jim Good.

In the Branch Newsletter for March 2011, my Treasurer's report noted the Chief Steward had received monies for that position. To my knowledge and available financial statements, Brian Obst received no monetary reward for the time of his appointment. The denoted payment of monies for the Chief Steward in the March 2011 issue of the Newsletter was to the current President, Alan Peacock, who is currently denoted Chief Steward.

*Leslie Ray Garcia, Treasurer
June 2, 2011*

It is hoped that this will clear up any misconceptions on the payment for the Chief Steward position.

*Brian Obst, Shop Steward
Town 'N Country and Carrollwood*



Brian Obst
Former Chief Steward
Branch 599

Sharing Our Members' Joys & Sorrows

Get well wishes & prayers

are sent to **Bruce Balfour** [retiree] who is very ill at home; to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] for recovery at Sable Palm Health Care Center, Largo, [visitors are welcomed]; to the parents [Jim & Anna] of **Cheryl Clothier** [Interbay] who are recuperating from being attacked by a fox; and to **Audie Childers**, who is having surgery at the time of this printing.

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to Dolores Garcia and family at the passing of her husband, **Modesto Jorge "Mo" Garcia** [retiree], June 21 [survivors include son-in-law, **Jim Cantrell**, retiree]; to **Ramon "Orlando" Roig-Dumont** [TCA] at the passing of his mother; to **Larry Hall** [Forest Hills] at the passing of his mother, Dorothy Hall, July 1; to the family of **John Pfeiffer** [retired, Town 'N Country], whose passing was July 13, and to the family of **Joe Diaz** [retiree] whose homegoing was July 22.

Gabe Carrasquill named a hero

after he saved a patron's life by noticing that her mail wasn't picked up for 3 days. He called 911 and first responders found her on the kitchen floor, unable to get help for 2 days. She was transported to the hospital and expected to be okay because Gabe noticed something was wrong. He says he's not a hero, that he did what any other carrier would do. The whole story can be read at: www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/local/hillsborough/mail-carrier-saves-womans-life-06272011

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