



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2023

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

**Happy New Year** to all Branch 599 Brothers & Sisters! May the 2023 year bring peace, prosperity, happiness, good health, and many retirements and conversions.

*This is my final edition of Around The Horn From the President's Desk as President of Branch 599.*

Once more, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President for 9 years, thanks again for the support over the years.

Now, let's bring in the New Year with some good news...



**Tony Diaz**  
President  
Branch 599

### **Branch 599's MDA Golf Tournament, another big success!**

Our 9th Annual Branch 599/MDA Charity Golf Tournament was another great time for all! The tournament was held Sunday, December 11, this year a new venue, the prestigious golf course at The Club at Cheval. A treat for all golfers, as it is a semi-private golf course manicured to perfection. This was a first-time experience for many of our golfers. The staff at Cheval loved our tournament, and how every phase was so organized. Each year we try to improve on our totals, thanks to hard work,

great sponsors, and all of you who contribute. While this year we fell a little short with our donation total to MDA, we set a record for raffle tickets sold. The difference this year was due to the higher fees to play at such a prestigious course. Cheval was much more expensive than our previous tournament course for the past 7 years, Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club. With that said, I am proud to announce we presented the Muscular Dystrophy Association with a check in December for \$12,546.01 for the 2022 year. While this is down from our 2021 donation of 13,471.87, we made great progress again

this year with great raffle prizes and a growing enthusiasm for the event. The tournament was a sellout with 104 golfers, who enjoyed overcast skies with pleasant temperatures. We thank all the golfers who came out and those who were so generous with our raffle, again, with a record number of raffle tickets sold. *Thanks* to all the hole sponsors, and to all our donors. *Special thanks* to all the volunteers who came out to help with registration, raffle ticket sales, 50/50 raffle sales, putting contest, taking pictures, and the always anticipated raffle drawing. *Thanks* to

*(Continued on page 3)*

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

Branch 599  
Meeting  
Thursday  
January 5  
7:30 PM

**Branch 599 Office**

3003 W Cypress Street  
Tampa FL 33609-1617  
813.875.0599  
Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com

**Tony Diaz**  
President

tony\_diaz599@verizon.net

*Office Hours*

Monday – Friday  
7:30 AM – 4 PM

Rodna Kimelman Kirk  
Office Secretary  
nalc599@verizon.net

**Tampa Letter Carrier**

Tony Diaz  
Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas  
Editor  
editor.nalc599@gmail.com

Branch 599 Office  
813.875.0599

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

3003 W Cypress Street,  
Tampa FL 33609-1698,  
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@gmail.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>
<b>President</b>	Tony Diaz	813.875.0599 cell/813.598.9635	tony_diaz599@verizon.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Brian Obst	727.458.0679	erif_lor@hotmail.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Michael Brink	813.875.0599	nalc599@verizon.net
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jgg7d7@aol.com
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Michael Williams	813.541.8327	mwilliams4215@gmail.com
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Michael Anderson	813.967.1615	mikey020@msn.com
<b>Health Benefit Rep.</b>	Detlev Aepfel	813.505.7914	dcaepfel@aol.com
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	arob715@gmail.com
<b>Trustees</b>	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	lorraine.mcmillion@gmail.com
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	joliva1938@gmail.com
	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com
<b>Labor Management</b>	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
	Clement Cheung	813.758.5910	ccheung@tampabay.rr.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>
<b>Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst</b>				
Brandon	33510/11	Osceola Williams Sr.	813.661.1636	727.458.0679 210.445.1369
Brandon	33510/11		813.661.1636	
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613		813.935.2954	
Hilldale	33614		813.879.4309	
Hilldale Annex	33634		813.879.4309	
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Victoria Reeder	813.831.2034	813.525.1685
Interbay/Peninsula	33629		813.831.2034	
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564		813.719.6793	
Produce	33610	Matt Rodkey	813.239.4084	813.562.8744
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Hyde Park	33606		813.873.7189	
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35		813.884.0973	
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

# Around The Horn from the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Branch 599 for the \$500 donation to assist with the raffle prizes, the quality of prizes this year were unbelievable! I must mention Carrollwood Station, for the second year in a row; they collected over \$1,000 for MDA! This great accomplishment is so valuable and much needed to succeed. In addition, TCA carrier, Bud Hadcock, went over and above by obtaining 2 huge raffle donations and gathering the troops at TCA for a big donation!

Finally, there are no words that can describe the effort by our Golf Tournament Coordinator, Alan Robinson. His tireless efforts we see every year, he has created a must-attend event, bringing families and friends together for a great cause. Alan will tell you though, the success is a team effort, and it takes all of us, our friends, neighbors, family members, coworkers, strangers, and good-hearted people. Should any of you who were not able to donate or attend this year wish to do so, please contact our Branch office, it's never too late. We are always looking for title sponsors to help pay the expenses associated with organizing this big event.

## State of the Branch 599

### Report - year ending 2022

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 3 terms. It is important that the active carriers see their representation and know their concerns are being addressed.

♦ We have trained stewards to represent our membership. We have properly maneuvered stewards in the areas needing representation. Supporting documentation is available to stewards in a variety of ways... text, email, and through office visits, or US mail. We have been proactive in sending our stewards to regional, state, and national training. We have already scheduled national training for our new officers for the 2023 year. Formal A and Beyond Training and New Officer Training have been booked 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 grievance cases. Our success rate is extremely high at all levels...Informal A, Formal A, B-Team decisions, and the few cases that make it to Arbitration. We communicate with sister branches in Clearwater and St. Petersburg to share ideas and discuss upcoming issues to be better prepared.

♦ We have attempted to recruit new stewards and have alternates who attend training. We have a diverse group of stewards that include all races, genders, and nationalities and the Branch should be extremely proud of that. Representation has no barriers, and no colors, everyone is equal and has the opportunity to serve.

♦ We continue to represent many issues with the CCA workforce. We have saved many, many CCA jobs,

we have converted hundreds and hundreds to career (PTF) and fulltime regular carriers. We have conducted many CCA town hall meetings to answer questions and concerns. We provide starter uniforms, and we strive to keep our retention rate above the poor national and state average, to which it is.

♦ We assist with retirement counseling and time consuming OWCP cases. We find the answers and do not hesitate to refer our members to NALC 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, say prayers at the Branch Meetings, and mail out any necessary paperwork. We visit funeral homes, churches, members' homes, hospitals, and rehab centers. We are all about our members!

### Charities

♦ Letter Carriers Annual Golf Tournament benefitting MDA, which was spoken about at the beginning of my article has been extremely successful. The nine Annual Golf Tournaments have generated right at \$65,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The 2021 charity tournament set a record, we presented a check to MDA for \$13,471.87, a great accomplishment! Great times, great raffle prizes, very organized, many volunteers... **it is an event!**

♦ Letter Carriers Food Drive. Branch 599 resumed the Food Drive after two years were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We

(Continued on page 4)

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

*(Continued from page 3)*

work hard with our partner, Metropolitan Ministries. Branch 599 was #2 nationwide in Category 3 (999 to 1499 members), a great accomplishment for our first year back! The food collected annually supplies food pantries throughout Hillsborough County. Our one-day collection is 90% of their collections for the entire year; that is an unbelievable number. We were missed for the two years we were unable to collect.

- ◆ We have attempted to resurrect the failing Toys for Tots drive we were involved with for so many years. We cannot allow the kids to do without at Christmas...we will continue to work to make a difference!

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

### Building

- ◆ We sold our Tampa Letter Carriers hall in December and are actively seeking a new home to conduct union business. We will look to scale down the building size. Our hall was falling apart and needed a total and expensive facelift. We were no longer renting the building since COVID began when all functions were suspended. The hall over the years has hosted many events, from wedding receptions, to high school graduation parties, to class reunions, to corporate functions, to holiday parties, to wrestling matches, to boxing matches, to District union trainings, to State Conventions, to health seminars, to fashion shows, to NFL draft parties, to quinceaneras (15 year birthday celebration), to legislative phone banks,

to dance parties. Our hall has served its purpose and has been a wonderful home for Branch 599 and all members.

The final event in our hall will be the Installation Dinner on January 21, 2023; it will be a special event and we hope to see many of you there.

### In Closing

- ◆ I have always been very conscious to the image of Branch 599, statewide and nationally. Our Branch is well respected and we continue to have a strong showing at regional and state training seminars. I think it is important that we continue to be well represented at District steward trainings, State and National Conventions, and the Committee of Presidents meetings.

- ◆ I have appreciated and enjoyed working with all our officers and stewards the past three years, we have accomplished a lot. Many who began as stewards are now our officers for the future.

- ◆ Financially, Branch 599 is in the best financial shape it has ever been. We will continue to work within a budget; and our Trustees are very involved in finances. We will continue our representation at the highest level for our members, that must never waiver.

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

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

We talk about the dangers of being a letter carrier in today's world. You must know your surroundings and get out of an area where you feel in

danger, then call 911. **Below is an example, very sad, but a reality:**

***Milwaukee letter carrier Aundre Cross shot and killed on his route.*** NALC is deeply saddened by the death of Aundre Cross, a member of Milwaukee Branch 2, who was shot and killed on his route on December 9. Police are investigating the murder, and no arrests have been made. Cross had been a letter carrier for 18 years and was assigned to the Hampton Station in Milwaukee. He is survived by his wife and four children. He was 41. "Brother Cross was dutifully performing his job when this senseless act of violence took his life," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "On behalf of NALC, we are heartbroken by this tragedy and send our deepest sympathies to his family and colleagues. Aundre was a dedicated letter carrier who was beloved by his community and coworkers. He will be greatly missed.

*"The growing number of crimes against letter carriers, such as this, are deeply concerning, unacceptable, and must be stopped. No letter carrier should be fearful while on the job. The safety of our members is our top priority, and we are committed to working with the Postal Service, law enforcement and legislators on solutions that will protect our members."*

*—nalc.org December 12, 2022*

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

# Unionism — Forced Overtime and 12/60-Hour Rules and Guidelines

One of the biggest issues that carriers have with working at the Postal Service is the issue of Forced Overtime. No one likes being forced to work overtime when they desire to complete their assignment and go home to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

Unfortunately, overtime is a major part of working for the Postal Service as the mail must be delivered and this sometimes involves carriers being forced to work overtime even though they have stated a desire not to work overtime. This article will attempt to shed some light on this issue and show you what the guidelines are for forcing overtime that management must follow when doing so in the workplace.

First let us look at the overtime lists. There are three Overtime Desired Lists (ODL) and a signup list is posted 15 days prior to the end of each quarter for volunteers who desire overtime to signup. The lists are 12-Hour, 10-Hour, and Work Assignment. They are pretty self-explanatory; you desire to work overtime up to 10 or 12 hours or you only desire to work overtime on your own assignment. Carriers on the 10- or 12-hour list are available for overtime on any assignment for up to 10 or 12 hours up to 60 hours in a work week. These carriers may be worked on their SDO (Scheduled Day Off) as well as their normally scheduled work days. The Work Assignment carriers are available to work overtime on their own route assignment 5 days a week up to 12 hours a day, but they

are not available on their SDO.

Forced overtime is when a Work Assignment carrier or a Non-ODL carrier is forced to work overtime or in the case of a Work Assignment carrier being forced to work overtime off their assignment. Additionally, if either of these carriers is forced to come in on SDO, that is also considered forced overtime.

The National Agreement sets guidelines for ensuring that forced overtime is done correctly if it is needed and necessary. First, there is a requirement of a forced overtime log that is to be maintained by management and posted on the workroom floor. This list shows all the non-ODL carriers and the Work Assignment carriers in order from juniority to seniority and begins new each quarter. If management needs to force overtime, they must follow the guidelines contained in Article 8 of the National Agreement which state:

*Mandatory Overtime. One purpose of the ODL is to excuse full-time carriers not wishing to work overtime from having to work overtime. Before requiring a non-ODL carrier to work overtime on a non-scheduled day or off his/her own assignment on a regularly scheduled day, management must seek to use a carrier from the ODL, even if the ODL carrier would be working penalty overtime. However, if the ODL does not provide sufficient qualified full-time regulars for required overtime, Article 8.5.D permits management to move off the list and require non-ODL carriers to work overtime on a*

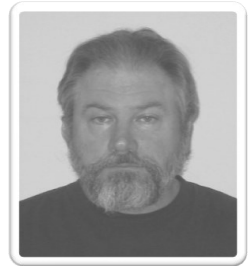
*rotating basis starting with the junior employee.*

*This rotation begins with the junior employee at the beginning of each calendar quarter. Absent an LMOU provision to the contrary, employees who are absent on a regularly scheduled day (e.g. sick leave or annual leave) when it is necessary to use non-ODL employees on overtime will be passed over in the rotation until the next time their name comes up in the regular rotation. Management may seek non-ODL volunteers rather than selecting non-volunteers on the basis of juniority. Normally, carriers not on the ODL may not grieve the fact that they were not selected to work overtime.*

The remedy for violations of forced overtime is the payment of 50% of the standard rate of pay for any hours forced improperly to the forced carrier and the payment at the overtime rate of pay for the qualified, available ODL carriers for the hours they were improperly bypassed for work.

For this information and a more detailed explanation of forced overtime guidelines, please read Article 8 of the JCAM.

The second part of this article deals with the 12/60-hour rules in the National Agreement. The rules governing the 12-hours work in a workday and 60-hours work in a work week were ruled on by National



**Brian Obst**  
Vice President  
Branch 599

## Unionism — Forced Overtime and 12/60-Hour Rules and Guidelines

*(Continued from page 5)*

Arbitrator Mittenthal as detailed in the JCAM as follows:

*Maximum Hours—60 Hour Limit. National Arbitrator Mittenthal ruled in H4N-NA-C 21 “Fourth Issue,” June 9, 1986 (C-06238) that the 12-hour and 60-hour limits are absolutes—a full-time employee may neither volunteer nor be required to work beyond those limits. This rule applies to all full-time employees on the ODL or Work Assignment List except during the Penalty Overtime Exclusion Period (December). Limitations regarding full-time employees not on the ODL or Work Assignment List, PTFs, and CCAs are governed by ELM Section 432.32. ELM Section 432.32 rules apply during the penalty overtime exclusion period (December). (Step 4, E94N-4E-C 96031540, February 25, 1998, M-01272). The 12/60 limitations are inclusive of all hours, including any type of leave taken, consistent with the 20-hour overtime limit (see M-00859 below). Accordingly, holiday leave pay is credited toward the 12/60 limitation. Additionally, if an employee works on a holiday for which holiday leave is paid, those hours worked in excess of the holiday leave hours paid would also count toward the 12/60 limit (Step 4, I90N4I-C-94023487, June 9, 1994, M-01180). In H4N-NA-C 21 “Third Issue,” September 11, 1987 (C-07323) Arbitrator Mittenthal ruled that an employee sent home in the middle of a scheduled day, because of the bar against employees working more than 60 hours in a service week, is entitled to be paid for the remainder of his or her scheduled day. On October 19, 1988 the national parties signed the following Memorandum of Under-*

*standing (M-00859): The parties agree that with the exception of December, full-time employees are prohibited from working more than 12 hours in a single work day or 60 hours within a service week. In those limited instances where this provision is or has been violated and a timely grievance filed, full-time employees will be compensated at an additional premium of 50 percent of the base hourly straight time rate for those hours worked beyond the 12 or 60 hour limitation. The employment of this remedy shall not be construed as an agreement by the parties that the Employer may exceed the 12 and 60 hour limitation with impunity. As a means of facilitating the foregoing, the parties agree that excluding December, once a full-time employee reaches 20 hours of overtime within a service week, the employee is no longer available for any additional overtime work. Furthermore, the employee’s tour of duty shall be terminated once he or she reaches the 60th hour of work, in accordance with Arbitrator Mittenthal’s National Level Arbitration Award on this issue, dated September 11, 1987, in case numbers H4N-NA-C 21 (3rd issue) and H4C-NA-C 27 (C-07323). Page 8-19 National Arbitrator Snow held in A90N-4A-C 94042668, November 30, 1998 (C-18926) that the Memorandum of Understanding above (M-00859) provides the exclusive remedy for violations of the 12 and 60 hour work limits in Article 8.5.G.2 Arbitrator Mittenthal also set the remedy for violations of the 12/60-hour rules, and it is in the JCAM as well and states: Article 8.5.G Violations During a Service Week. The remedy of 50 percent*

*of the base hourly straight-time rate provided in the Memorandum above applies for each hour worked in excess of twelve on a service day (excluding the penalty overtime exclusion period [December]) by a full-time employee. The remedy of 50 percent of the base hourly straight-time rate also applies for each hour worked by a full-time employee in excess of the sixty during the same service week (excluding the penalty overtime exclusion period [December]) in which the full-time employee has exceeded twelve hours in a service day. For example, if during the same service week a full-time employee worked 14 hours on Monday and ended up with 62 hours for the week on Friday, four hours would have been worked in violation of the Article 8.5.G restrictions. The appropriate remedy in this example would be four hours of pay at 50 percent of the base hourly straight-time rate—two for Monday and two for Friday. In this example, the carrier should have been instructed to clock off and go home on Friday when the sixtieth hour was reached. The employee would then be paid any applicable guarantee time for the remainder of the service day. In those circumstances where the same work hours of a full-time employee simultaneously violate both the twelve hour and sixty hour limits, only a single remedy of 50 percent of the base hourly straight time rate is applied. For example, if a full-time employee worked 14 hours on Friday, resulting in a 62 hour workweek, only two hours would have been worked in violation of the Article 8.5.G restrictions. The appropriate remedy*

*(Continued on page 8)*



*You are invited to attend our  
Member Appreciation Dinner and  
Installation of Officers & Shop Stewards  
to be held at*

*Letter Carriers Hall  
3003 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, Florida 33609  
Doors open at 5:30 PM*

*Dinner will be served from 6:30 PM  
Installation of Officers & Shop Stewards to follow.  
BYOB – Beer, Wine and Set-ups Available*

### *Tickets*

*Retirees – please RSVP the Branch Office at 813.875.0599.  
Absolute Deadline to RSVP is Monday, January 9 by 3 PM.*

*Active Letter Carriers – contact your Shop Steward  
\$20 each member (includes your spouse or date)  
Refundable when you attend.*

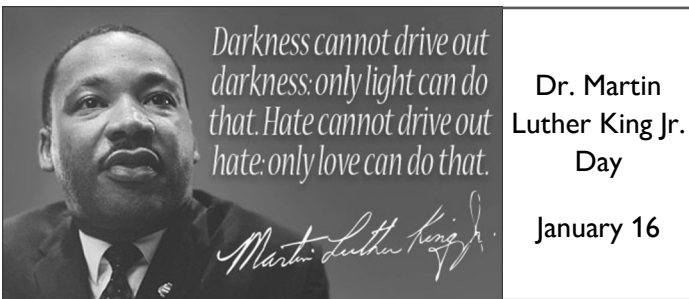
*Guest tickets - \$30 per guest*



## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to **Carmen Nazario** [Hilldale] and family at the passing of her mother, Crusita, December 15.

Healing prayers and get well wishes for a full recovery are extended to **President Emeritus Jim Good** as he recovers from a health issue.



## Francisco Diaz Retired!



President Diaz presented **Francisco Diaz** [Hilldale], with his retirement pin and gratuity at our December meeting.

## Unionism — Forced Overtime and 12/60-Hour Rules and Guidelines

(Continued from page 6)

in this example would be two hours of pay at 50 percent of the base hourly straight time rate (Step 4, J94N-4J-C 99050117, September 6, 2001, M-01445). **Maximum Hours—12 Hour Limit.** The overtime limits in Article 8.5.G apply only to full-time regular and full-time flexible employees. However, ELM Section 432.32 provides the following rule that applies to all employees: Except as designated in labor agreements for bargaining unit employees or in emergency situations as determined by the PMG (or designee), employees may not be required to work more than 12 hours in 1 service day. In addition, the total hours of daily service, including scheduled work hours, overtime, and mealtime, may not be extended over a period longer than 12 consecutive hours. Postmasters, Postal Inspectors, and exempt

employees are excluded from these provisions. (Emphasis added) Because this language limits total daily service hours, including work and mealtime, to 12 hours, all letter carriers not on the ODL or Work Assignment List (including PTFs and CCAs) are effectively limited to 11½ hours per service day. This is true whether or not a meal break is taken. This rule also applies during the penalty overtime exclusion period (December). However, the ELM also permits the collective bargaining agreement to create exceptions to this general rule. The **only** exception to this rule in the NALC National Agreement is for full-time employees on the ODL or Work Assignment List who, in accordance with Article 8.5.G, “may be required to work up to twelve hours in a day.” Since work, within the meaning of Article 8.5.G does not include mealtime, the total hours of daily service

for carriers on the ODL may extend over a period of 12½ consecutive hours. This exception does not apply to full-time employees who are not on the ODL or Work Assignment List.

The majority of this article is lifted straight from the JCAM and one would be well advised to take the time to read the entirety of Article 8 as it has bearing on your everyday work for the Postal Service.

I remind you once again, do not be afraid to ask your steward or any of your branch officers if you have questions on this or any other topic as we are always here to help.

Until next time I leave you as always .....**Knowledge is the Key.**

Brian Obst  
Vice President



# Proposed Bylaw Change

## ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers Duties of Recording Secretary Section 4: B & C

### Currently reads as follows:

(B) The Recording Secretary upon receipt of documentation from the President and the Office Secretary shall be responsible for tracking the total hours used by the President and Office Secretary, while the President and the Office Secretary are on annual leave, sick leave or in a LWOP status.

(C) The Recording Secretary shall be responsible to turn in to the Treasurer a current status of the used balances and accumulated amounts of annual leave, sick leave or LWOP hours of the President and Office Secretary.

### Proposed to read as follows:

(B) The Recording Secretary upon receipt of documentation from the President, Vice President and the Office Secretary shall be responsible for tracking the total hours used by the President, Vice President and Office Secretary, while the President, Vice President and the Office Secretary are on annual leave, sick leave or in a LWOP status.

(C) The Recording Secretary shall be responsible to turn in to the Treasurer a current status of the used balances and accumulated amounts of annual leave, sick leave or LWOP hours of the President, Vice President and Office Secretary.

*Bylaw proposal signed by: Mike Brink, Brian Obst, Jim Good, Michael Anderson, and Lori McMillion*

### **NOTICE** – Meetings are subject to change due to any upsurges of COVID.

<b>Shop Stewards</b>	Tuesday	January 3	7:00 PM
		January 31	7:00 PM
<b>Executive Board</b>	Thursday	January 5	6:30 PM
		February 2	6:30 PM
<b>Branch 599</b>	Thursday	January 5	7:30 PM
		February 2	7:30 PM
<b>Retirees Breakfast – Tampa</b>	Monday	January 2	9:00 AM
Denny’s Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce ♦ 2004 N Dale Mabry Highway			
<b>Retirees Breakfast – Temple Terrace</b>	Tuesday	January 10	10:00 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher ♦ 12272 Morris Bridge Road			

# Our End of Year Donation to MDA!

Branch 599's MDA Golf Tournament Coordinator Alan Robinson and President Tony Diaz

hold up a check in the amount of \$12,553.01 for our 2022 donation to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



# Our 9th Annual Golf Tournament for MDA



# Chair's Report on the 2022 Branch 599 Elections

On October 6, 2022, James Boczarski was appointed chair of the election committee which included Walt Rhoads, Stephen Hall, Eddie Berroth, and Andre Hinton as assistant committee members. All members of the committee participated in the last election committee and some were veterans of even earlier committees. Their experience and advice was instrumental in ensuring a fair, impartial, smooth, and tamper-proof election. We used the NALC REGULATIONS GOVERNING BRANCH ELECTION PROCEDURES handbook (adopted in 1981, amended in 2008 & 2011) to guide us in conducting the various aspects of the election. Identification and tabulating procedures were cross-monitored by committee members so no single person could manipulate the count.

Nominations were held October 6, 2022, and November 3, 2022, resulting in eight officers being chosen without opposition:

- Brian Obst – President,
- Michael Smith – Vice President,
- Maggie Lancaster – Recording Secretary,
- Alan Robinson – Financial Secretary,
- Tony Diaz – Treasurer,

Luis Cruz – Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Anderson - MBA/NSBA, and Detlev Aepfel – Health Benefit Rep.

No one ran for Director of Retirees, so this office will be appointed. Four persons were nominated for Labor Management Representative (two to be elected) and five persons were nominated for Trustee (three to be elected).

Mail-in votes were sent out November 18, the day after the envelopes came from the printer. It should be noted that a ballot sent to Texas was successfully sent back to us, and was among the others retrieved from the PO Box on December 1 at 10:30 AM. A second check of the PO Box at noon produced no other ballots. Voters who were afraid that their return ballots would not be received in time were allowed to hand deliver them to the union hall. Four such ballots were included among the mail-ins, and one was included among the in-person ballots. A check-off system was used to insure that nobody voted both ways, and a list of eligible members from NALC's national office was used to identify the voters. Seventy ballots were returned in the mail, but two were disqualified because there was

no return address on the outer envelope. These two were left unopened and will remain in storage with the rest of the election materials for at least one year. One in-person ballot was only partly valid, as the voter checked off four votes for Trustee instead of three or fewer. Sixty-eight absentee ballots were recorded on the check-off list and sixty-eight were counted during the tally. Forty-four in-person ballots were recorded on the check-off list and forty-four were counted during the tally.

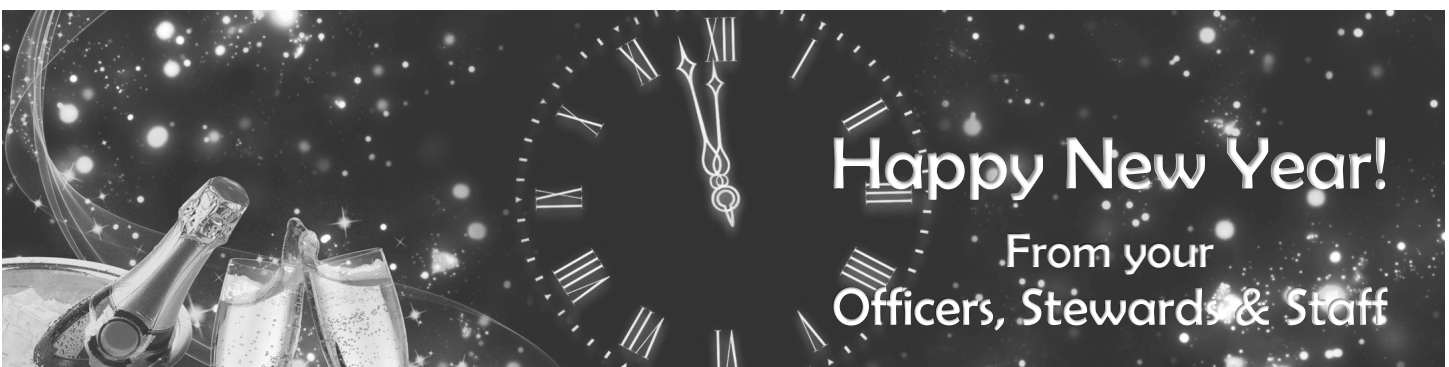
Lori McMillion, Alan Peacock, and Milagros (Milly) Minsal were elected Trustees, with 81, 70, & 68 votes respectively. Jim Good and Aida Perez were NOT elected, with 39 & 38 votes, respectively.

Jerry (J.D.) Lewers and Clement Cheung were elected Labor Management Representatives, with 82 & 73 votes respectively. Michael Williams and Maurice Rice were NOT elected, with 36 & 18 votes, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Boczarski, Chair



**Jim Boczarski**  
Election  
Committee Chair  
Branch 599



# Our 9th Annual Branch 599 Golf Tournament



# for MDA was a huge success!





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

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

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

**If you are Injured, here are some very simple steps to follow.**

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

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



#### North Florida

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

#### Central Florida

- Orlando / Altamonte Springs  
482 E Altamonte Dr. Suite 1006  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
- Orlando / Sanford  
241 Bellagio Circle  
Sanford, Florida 32771
- Orlando / Airport  
500 N Semoran Blvd Suite 101  
Orlando, FL 32807
- Tampa / Palm Harbor  
33143 US Hwy 19 N  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
- Tampa / Temple Terrace  
Bush Gardens  
9780 N 56th St Suite A.  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

#### South Florida

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



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



4fedhurt.com



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

There have been many articles in our newsletter over the years regarding on-the-job injuries.

These are regularly asked questions you need to know:

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

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

The **answers** to the above questions should help the process.

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

## *Other tips:*

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

**On the Job Injury - Forms needed, simple math,**

$$CA-1 + CA-16 = CA-17$$

**CA-16 must be signed by management,**

**Authorization for Examination and/or treatment.**

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

---



**A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599**

National Association of Letter Carriers  
3003 W Cypress Street  
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com

Tampa Letter Carrier  
Volume 22 • Issue 1 • January 2023

**NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAMPA FL  
PERMIT NO. 1285**

**Did You Know?**

**All your family members are eligible to join!**



**Share the PERKS of Membership:**

- Lower Loan Rates
- Better Deposit Yields
- Eliminated Fees
- 5,000+ Branches Nationwide\*



**TAMPA POSTAL**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**800.782.4899 • www.tpcu.org**

\*Over 5,000 branches available nationwide through Shared Branching. Visit [www.tpcu.org](http://www.tpcu.org) to learn more.

