



Tampa Letter Carrier

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Nominations & Election of Delegates to the 2013 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention

Nominations for delegates to the 2013 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention in Jacksonville, Florida will be taken at *regular Branch meetings* on October 4 and November 1, 2012; election on December 6, 2012, if necessary. Regular Branch Meetings are held at our Union Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609, at 7:30 PM.

2013 FSALC Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Jacksonville Riverfront • June 19-24

- Members must be present to accept nominations or have a written notice on file prior to the time and the presiding officer declares nominations closed.
- Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.
- In the event the number of nominations exceed the number of delegates allowed to the Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting in December.



Branch 599 Delegates to 68th Biennial National Convention, Minneapolis MN • July 2012
Back: John Rowland, James Boczarski, Terry Franklin, Jim Good, Bill Langgle, Varick Reeder
Middle: Phil Burnison, Lori McMillion, Maggie Lancaster, Sam Santilli, Warren Sumlin, Detlev Aepfel, Tony Diaz, Alan Peacock; *Front:* Brian Obst, Pat Krezel
Family emergency caused George & Debra McEndree to leave early.



Branch Meeting
Thursday
September 6
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

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President

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Monday-Friday

8 AM – 4:30 PM

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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

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

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

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
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MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967	
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061	
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	
Trustee Chair	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
Trustees	John DeRosa	813.850.8418	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux		
	Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson		
	James Good		

Executive Board

Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

September 6

October 4

Shop Stewards

will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

September 4

October 2

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
Carrollwood	33618	Donna Dayton	813.960.8894	813.417.5589
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.874.6809	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.889.3913	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1403	
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Brian Obst	813.873.7189	727.458.0679
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	813.270.5035
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

From the President's Desk

The US Postal Service is in Default and Congress is the FAULT.

With the financial crisis that was placed upon the US Postal Service since 2006, damage control is the game plan of the day. This systematic process brought about by factions that want to destroy universal delivery service to all Americans, not only has taken its toll on the US Postal Service, but it will have a devastating effect on the entire mailing industry. In spite of the damage done, the US Postal Service is adapting to the industry changes and in a very productive manner. The shipping volume has increased 50% in volume and every category other than first class mail is either holding its own or shown increases as well. The real toll is on the employees who are forced to work harder, longer, and with tremendous pressure to produce while receiving less leave and deprived of making scheduled appointments. Manpower shortages due to the deficits caused by bad legislative action are putting stress squarely upon an aging workforce with no lifeline for the future. This stress places a danger to the health and welfare of employees, their families, and even their lives. The attack on the Postal Service and its employees is also attacking Veterans who have served their Nation, as 40% of employees are Veterans. There is an apparent faction in our society that chooses to elevate their position in life while diminishing positions of all others.

The National Convention

in Minneapolis was a great success and outstanding training for the delegates who were able to attend. Unfortunately, Debbie and George McEndree had to leave due to family emergency and the loss of Debbie's mother. Please let's all keep them in our prayers and concerns. All the other delegates enjoyed a passionate convention atmosphere filled

with inspirational speakers from the labor movement and from the political side. Our resolution regarding *same work different unions* was disapproved, but resulted in a Constitutional Amendment to correct the records of members who were denied membership into the NALC prior to abandoning the dual charters at the convention in 1962 for those members who were in the National Alliance. The training was overwhelming, especially in all the classes pertaining to retirement and OWCP. It seems as though everyone is breaking down or looking for a way to retire. The other highlight was the warm reception from the host branch and all the people of Minneapolis...what a great job done by all! The overall theme of the Convention was ***Stand Up and Fight Back***. It is now time to do just that...stand up for our jobs, our benefits and families who rely on us. Time to fight back those who want to privatize and destroy public sector unions and deprive us decent standards of living that we earn and are not given to us. The National Convention Delegates by a large majority voted to endorse President Barack Obama for a second term of office. Fred Rolando stated that "it is better to elect a friend who has miss-stepped than to support an enemy who wants to destroy us." This will be without a doubt a hard fought election with a great deal at stake for the middle class workers who have the most to lose if the current stagnation in politics continues, especially in the House and the Senate. We can only hope for some common sense and compromise in all aspects of our economic dilemma regarding taxes and deficit spending and what's best for America and all her citizens.

The contract negotiations

turn to the Arbitration hearings this month and our Executive Council have been preparing for this from the time our contract expired, and even before. They hired high-powered consultants

to gain an edge in the testimony that they will provide to the arbitration panel during those hearings.

We have the right leadership and the right leader for the time we are in and that leader is President Fred Rolando. The question we have to answer is, are we going to have his back and support him the way he fights for all of us? If you don't see the need to be involved to join the e-activist, contribute 5 measly dollars a pay period for your job insurance through COLCPE, then don't expect a miracle because the enemy we stand against has BIG Deep Pockets and wants more out of yours! I am not singing to any choir like I was told at the last union meeting, because we only have about 50 members who support the battle we are all in. *Thank you* to the member who came into my office the very next day and finally joined up for COLCPE, and wouldn't you know, he was a retiree. Brick by brick we can be strong enough to stand against anybody who disrespects our way of life and what it provides for our families.

Brothers and Sisters, we continue to lose many of our fellow letter carriers and members of our branch. We can cherish their memories and the time we shared and in these days, sometimes more than we actually share with our families, since we are at work more than home. God Bless all of those who have departed, and never let them go without sharing something positive that they left in our lives. *Happy Trails until we meet again* really does say it all.

Faternally in Unionism and Solidarity,

Alan Peacock
President, NALC Branch 599



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Treasurer's Report – July 2012



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

June 30 BB&T **Operating Account** \$13,171.26

Deposits

NALC Secretary Treasurer [3]	\$28,377.26
Training Fund – 2012 NALC Convention	8,100.00
Newsletter Ad – Bill Moran [2]	50.00
Back Dues payment	50.00

Expenses

Branch Officer Salaries [13, monthly]	\$1,812.00
Branch President Salary [2 PP]	4,921.60
President's Health Benefit [2]	650.20
Branch Office Secretary's Salary [2 PP]	2,400.00
VP Work [17 hours @ 27.17]	461.89
Branch Steward Salaries [20, monthly]	2,845.00
Stewards Lost Wages [1]	240.88
Editor/Webmaster Salary [monthly]	160.00
Branch Meeting Security Guard	45.00
IRS Taxes [form 941] for June	2,918.81
Full Payment to 2012 NALC Conv. Delegates	8,100.00
US Treasury Payment Adjustments [2]	1,698.49
Reimbursement [2]	173.01
Florida AFL-CIO [120]	120.00
Branch Meeting Expense	11.96
Petty Cash Replenishment	207.33
Postmaster – Bulk Mail Permit	400.00
Akita Copy Products – Copier	783.63
Great American Leasing – Copier [2]	657.49
QuickBooks Upgrade to 2012	422.65
QuickBooks Online Service	24.95
AT&T Wireless	94.42
Dry Clean Vests [18]	81.26
BB&T Safe Deposit Box [2]	175.00
BB&T Online Service	14.95
BB&T Service Charge	2.00

June 30 BB&T **Building Fund Account** \$30,789.26

Deposits

Hall Rentals [12]	\$8,531.19
Rec Room	26.00

Expenses

Building Manager	\$600.00
Rental Agents [3]	375.00
Custodial Services [4]	600.00
City of Tampa Police Department	574.00
City of Tampa Utilities	592.45
TECO [2]	3,292.07
TECO Gas	105.92
Premier Supply [2] – hall supplies	984.86
Rental Refund of Deposit	677.00
Rental Cancellation Refund	392.33
Meeting Expense	96.38
Reimbursement	35.02

Accounts as of July 31

BB&T Operating Account	\$19,910.95
BB&T Building Fund	31,497.87
MidFlorida Credit Union Savings	254.89
MidFlorida Credit Union CD	100,000.00
Regions Bank CD	50,000.00
USAmeriBank CD	200,000.00
USAmeriBank MM [Training Fund]	10,307.62
Total Balance Available	\$411,971.33

Retirees Breakfast
Monday September 10 9 AM
Coffee Cup • 4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, as I was finishing up with this article before the deadline, I realized it was my anniversary. On 9 August 1980, I began my postal career...32 years ago. I bring that up because it is significant to me as I send my condolences to the Chuck Jaudon family. Chuck carried mail at Town 'n Country Station; he was a NALC union brother, and a dear friend. Chuck passed away in early August, about a week before my anniversary, and he will be missed tremendously by his family, friends and coworkers. Chuck began his USPS career in 1979, about eleven months before I began, and I am glad he was around. Chuck was always very helpful and assisted in guiding me throughout my probationary period. Chuck and I, along with deceased brother Bernie Bauman (Hilldale Station) had some fun times as PTFs and we have some great stories for sure. Chuck was a fantastic person; we hung out socially at the beginning of our careers, and he was like a guy you had known your whole life. Over the years when we spoke, we would always reminisce and it always brought us to a laugh. I remember calling Chuck when Brother Bernie passed and we had an awesome conversation just talking about the old days. In that conversation Chuck said something I will never forget, more so now that he has also passed. Chuck said, "It bothers me that Bernie did not get to enjoy his retirement; you work so hard to get there and then you can't enjoy it, that's sad." Chuck was taken from us suddenly and much too soon. I was proud to have called Chuck a friend.

NALC Convention News

Thanks to the membership for sending myself and all the delegates to the 68th Biennial Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. So much information was covered, with great speakers, great classes and a president that leaves no doubt he is the man to lead us through turbulent times. National did a wonder-

ful job providing quality classes with mock cases and situations. We covered House Resolutions, Amendments, Social Security, TSP, Contract Negotiations, COLCPE and more. There was much information for the delegates to bring back to the membership.

Postalnews.com

has a great article regarding the \$5.5 billion payment the USPS has defaulted on. There were many articles concerning this topic, I thought you might get the most from this article:

Welcome to the week the United States Postal Service defaults on a major obligation. D-Day is Wednesday, Aug. 1, when the Postal Service is obligated, by statute, to make a \$5.5 billion payment, money that is supposed to be put aside to "prefund" health benefits for future retirees. But, with less than \$1 billion in the bank, the Postal Service announced on Monday that it would not be making the payment. It has a second payment, for \$5.6 billion, due in September. Unless lightning strikes, it won't be making that one either.

On the one hand, there is no doubt that part of the reason the post office is struggling is that its world has changed mightily. Everyone knows the story: the rise of e-mail, online bill paying, and so on, have cut deeply into Americans' use of first class mail, which peaked in 2006. Last year, the Postal Service reported losses of more than \$5 billion – even though Congress allowed it to defer its annual prefunding of retiree health benefits. With or without the prefunding, the post office was eventually headed toward a crisis.

On the other hand, that prefunding requirement is an absolute killer. It has cost the post office more than \$20 billion since 2007 – a period during which its total losses amounted to \$25.3 billion. Without that requirement, the post office would still likely be struggling, but it would have a lot more wiggle room – and a lot more cash. (Its

pension obligations are also overfunded by around \$11 billion.) Not since the debt crisis has there been such an avoidable fiscal mess.

It is a little startling when you first hear about the prefunding requirement. It seems to make no sense, and, as many have noted, it is something that is demanded of no other company or government agency. So why does it exist? It turns out to be one of those things that only Congress could cook up.

Since the 1970s, the Postal Service has been self-sufficient, generating money by selling stamps and offering services – and not dependent on the taxpayer. It is thus considered *off budget*. Yet part of its operations – including its health and retiree benefits – have continued to be part of the federal budget, and thus count against the federal deficit.

In 2002, it was discovered that the Postal Service was wildly overpaying its retirement obligations to the tune of \$71 billion. Not surprisingly, it soon began advocating for ways to use some of that excess. One bill passed that did almost nothing to solve the problem. Later bills that would have fixed the problem, however, all ran into the same stumbling block: they would have ostensibly added to the deficit. And the Bush administration was adamant that it would veto any bill that wasn't deficit-neutral.

Thus it was that a new fund was established in 2006 – for the prepayment of health benefits for future retirees, with the Postal Service agreeing to pay between \$5.5 and \$5.8 billion annually. The money simply goes into an escrow account, where it is invested in special issue Treasury securities. Thus does it somehow magically help with the deficit. Also, of course, no sooner did the bill become law than first class mail began to fall off the cliff. The prefunding requirement became a noose around the



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

(Continued on page 6)

Around the Horn

(Continued from page 5)

Postal Service's neck.

Incapable of simply letting the Postal Service go free – imagine what that would do to the deficit! – Congress continues to micromanage it, offering various ways for it to cut costs and raise revenue. The Postal Service, for instance, wants to cut Saturday delivery to save money; a Senate bill passed in April defers that decision for two years. But at least the Senate bill offers some relief from the absurd prefunding of health benefits. It would also return

some of the excess retirement funding.

The postal reform bill that has emerged from the Republican-led House of Representatives, however, does no such thing. Representative Darrell Issa, the chairman of the committee that oversees the Postal Service, talks fiercely about the need to lower labor costs, while describing the Senate bill as a “bailout.” What he is doing, of course, is using the fact that the Postal Service is going broke to impose a slash-and-burn approach – while ignoring the central reason the post office is

running out of money: Congress itself. Meanwhile, the bill that emerged from Issa's committee has never been brought to a vote on the House floor. Default notwithstanding, there won't be a vote anytime soon. After all, the Congressional recess is right around the corner.

The post office insists that the default will not affect its ability to deliver the mail. Maybe not now. **But several postal experts told me that at the rate things are going, it will be out of money sometime next year. Maybe then Congress will start taking seriously the crisis it created.**

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Please stay in touch with news that affects your job. H.R. 2309 is legislation that would destroy the Postal Service. We will be conducting a huge e-Activist signup campaign in our Branch soon...please sign up...it's free and it will keep you informed.

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

West Central Florida Federation of Labor's

2012 Labor Day Celebration

Monday, September 3, 2012
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lupton's Boggy Bottom Ranch
8407 Lupton Place, Plant City, FL 33567
<http://www.luptonscatering.com/Ranch.html>

24 Foot Rock Wall

Family FUN!

Live Music

Double Water Slide

Great BBQ

Horseshoes Volleyball

Inflatable Jumper

Endorsed candidates & elected officials

Join us on Labor Day for a family-style picnic on the holiday that Labor made!

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and canopies.
Don't forget sunscreen and bug spray!

The event is open to everyone (free admission); however, BBQ tickets must be purchased or reserved in advance by contacting your local union.

BBQ tickets will be available at the event for \$10.00 per person—adult or child.

For more information, contact:
West Central Florida Federation of Labor,
AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
Phone: 863-583-3330
E-mail: cschroeder@wcfll.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS



FILL
the **SATCHEL**
FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Sunday • September 9
9:30 AM Meet at our Hall
Return to our Hall for refreshments after the collection.

From now on, *Fill the Satchel* will be held the 2nd Sunday in September.

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows



District Manager
Nancy
Rettinhouse
presented
Julius Howard
[Palm River
Annex] with the
**40 Years of
Service Award.**
Congratulations,
J.C.!

Tim Hurlstone
[Hyde Park] was
presented with
the **Hero Award!**

Customer Jedidiah
Knowles was eat-
ing his lunch when
he choked on his
food. Unable to
breathe and panick-
ing, Mr. Knowles
ran out of his home



as Letter Carrier Tim Hurlstone was walking up to deliver his mail. Mr. Hurlstone quickly assessed the situation and administered the Heimlich maneuver on Mr. Knowles. Mr. Knowles credits Carrier Hurlstone's swift actions with saving his life.

Get well wishes & prayers
are sent to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] at Cypress Palms
Assisted Living, Largo.

Our deepest sympathy
and prayerful support is extended to **Debra McEndree**
[Seminole/Sulphur Springs] at the passing of her mother.

Sunday Work Party at the Hall

September 16 9-11 AM

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

**NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?
SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME**

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bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



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Tampa Letter Carrier
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Did you know you have access to over 4,300 credit union branches nationwide?
It's true. Tampa Postal FCU belongs to **Shared Branching**, a concept unique to credit unions.

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