



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5

MAY 2014

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters, route inspections are continuing in Tampa. May is the final month for the route inspections. As we continue the process of the adjustment period, we will continue to monitor each station to assure management is following the route inspection guidelines. After that we must eagerly anticipate the creation Carrier Optimal Routing (COR) produces to our routes. The Postal Service wanted an all COR adjustment to justify the expense COR has presented. While the USPS has the right to adjust the routes with their expensive system, it does not by any means suggest it is the most optimal, most safe, most effective and most sound. We all know that the process worked much better in JRAP, MIRAP and IRAP, since we were able to really listen to the carriers and take their consultation notes to adjust the routes, for the most part, with much better results. We have provided all of our carriers the opportunity to educate and inform by providing route inspection classes. The last

class was on Tuesday, April 8, at our union hall, well attended as all the classes were. *Special thanks* to Alan Robinson, Warren Sumlin, and Detlev Aeppel for their assistance with the route inspection classes. We improved on the class each time, sharing to our members how the process was being run, what to expect and what to look out for. We received positive feedback from the classes and the carriers who attended thought the information was helpful during the week of inspection.

CCA Report

The memorandum, M-01824 was extended through May 31, 2014, under M-01834. Effective June 1, 2014, the parties agree to use the following process to facilitate placement of employees into fulltime regular opportunities which include: 1) residual fulltime regular city letter carrier duty assignments referenced in Article 7.3.A of the 2011 collective bargaining agreement, and 2) newly created fulltime unassigned regular (incumbent only) positions

which increase fulltime complement and are in addition to the

duty assignments referenced in Article 7.3.A. While this language is a step in the right direction towards converting CCAs, the time frame is not what I/we were anticipating. We want to know more about #2, as to the amount of newly created positions it speaks about. We want to know more about how much of an increase the fulltime complement may exceed. On April 15, I am traveling to the Sarasota Branch meeting and the special guest will be our national President Fred Rolando. I have no problem approaching Fred with my concerns; I will bring back the information at the next union meeting May 1.

CPR Classes

Our first CPR class will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 PM at our union hall. The class will cost \$20 per



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
May 1
7:30 PM

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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.

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Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11	Warren Sumlin	813.661.1636	813.486.7612
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.960.8894	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	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	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Mike Thomsen	813.719.6793	303.916.3196
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.237.4280	646.346.3288
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoades	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	347.403.1644
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Sheryl Jones	813.873.7189	616.589.6283
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

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

person; upon completion you will be presented a certification from the American Heart Association, good for two years. Deadline was April 25, hopefully you are registered to attend. This is a very important service I wanted to organize and offer to all of you. My life was saved because of a recent CPR class participant.

National Day of Action

When the newsletter is printed the Action Day, April 24 will have passed. However, I wanted to point out the importance of this action and why it has been called. The American Postal Workers will be joined by the NALC and the mail handlers NPMHU to target the country's largest office supply company, Staples. Staples has contracted with the USPS to staff post

offices within their stores. Last fall 82 post offices were launched inside Staples and if plans are successful the plan is to open post offices in all 1,600 staples nationwide.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Next work party will be held Sunday, May 4. We will be working on the grounds and continuing to burn outdated files stored past their deadlines.

*) **USPS announces new scanning device.** The Postal Service has announced the deployment of a new Mobile Delivery Device (MDD) to be used by letter carriers. The device, from Honeywell, will transmit scan data in real time and will replace the current Intelligent Mail Device (IMD) and paired cell phone. For detailed

information on the new MDD, read Director of City Delivery Brian Renfro's last month's April 2014 *Postal Record*.

—NALC.org

*) **Wanted**—we are in need of new volunteers to *step-up* with union activities. If you are interested, please contact your steward, myself or the Branch 599 union office. There are many opportunities...you can *step-up* and make a difference. From stewards to coordinators to work parties, there is always something going on where you can get involved. We must transition for the future of this Branch and for our union. Getting new members trained will insure the Branch and our union stay strong into the future.

Look forward to talking to you again on the next *Around The Horn from The President's Desk*



May 10

- This is the 22nd year of Food Drive.
- Suncoast District will receive 3.1 million bags sponsored by Publix.
- AARP, a new sponsor will be providing 21 million postcards nationally.
- Food Drive T-shirts can be worn for 3 days (Thursday, Friday & Saturday).
- More than 1200 Branches nationwide will participate.
- Campbell's will provide 100 million postcards nationally.
- Last year over 74 million pounds of food was collected nationally.
- An estimated 30 million people were fed.
- The Food Drive has collected over a billion pounds of food over its 21 year history.

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

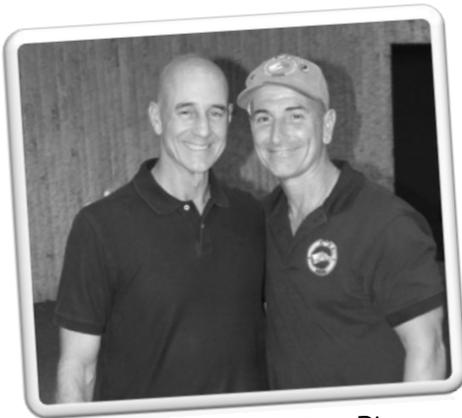
Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to **Ed Humphries** [Forest Hills] and family at the passing of his mother, April 9.

Remember to contact the Branch Office when...

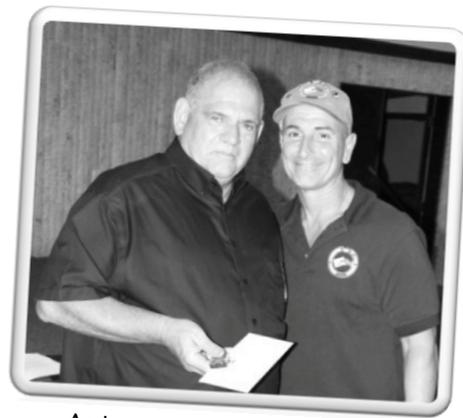
...you move and/or change your phone numbers, or email address.
We need to keep our membership records up-to-date!

...you know of members' joys and sorrows, including your own. We won't know if YOU don't tell us!

Bennie Andrade and Andrew Vernatte Retired!



Benny Andrade and Tony Diaz



Andrew Vernatte and Tony Diaz

President Diaz recognized **Bennie Andrade** [Forest Hills], and **Andrew Vernatte** [Tampa Carrier Annex] during our April Branch meeting and presented them with a check from the Branch for their retirement.

Sunday Work Party at our Hall

May 4 9-11 AM

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

April 29
June 3
July 1

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

May 1
June 5
July 3

The Birdseye View

We had very high hopes that when the month of March came to an end so would the Memorandum 01824 that controlled how residual vacancies were filled. Well it didn't exactly end... it was extended to the end of May more than likely to allow time to finish filling assignments that were accepted and in process. The new Memorandum 01834 has some new features that actually go back to what the original intentions were early in 2013 that is to give the opportunity for part-time flexible carriers to become fulltime; there are about 900-1,400 PTFs still left that haven't converted to fulltime status. Even though there are many stipulations to give the PTFs the best opportunity to become fulltime, only five positions in the Tampa installation were filled during the last Memorandum by PTFs reassigning to be converted. If that trend continues under the new Memorandum 01834, then the odds are becoming greater that some city carrier assistants will finally be converted to career status. I am sure they are tired of hearing the same old line, but the language that national memorandums place in affect don't always allow each individual branch to work exactly the same to fill vacancies. This new memorandum does create the opportunity that when vacancies are not filled by PTFs then 3 out of 4 vacancies for installations that are 100-man-hour and 5 out of 6 for installations that are less than 100-man-hour will be filled by converting city carrier assistants. Only 1 out of 4 or 1 out of 6 vacancies will be filled by accepted fulltime reassigns for the Memorandum 01834 that is in affect beginning June 1, 2014 and expires March 31, 2015. We have other opportunities in this memorandum that allows installations to create new fulltime assignments that exceed the percentages allowed in the contract in order to be better staffed. We have to understand that

we can't force an installation to over-staff and if that did occur it could lead to junior fulltime employees being excessed to other installations or crafts. Hopefully, we will have better success under this new memorandum and can resolve some of the long-standing issues and even see some really good employees become the career employees that will maintain the future of the US Postal Service.

Solidarity Needed for Our Future

The future of the Postal Service certainly has many different views depending on what side of the aisle your representative in the US Senate and US Congress are on. They differ as much as we differ with the proposals of our Postmaster General. The latest proposal from headquarters is to spend a billion dollars on new technology and upgrades to the delivery fleet. That all sounds reasonable, but you have to understand what the plan is to get that all done. It starts with allowing the workforce through attrition to trim down to 400,000 career employees and hire up to 65,000 non-career employees. This process might already be in early stages of implementation with the current subcontracting deal with Staples to install Postal Stores in all Staples stores, eliminating thousands of window clerk positions. The American Postal Workers Union has already filed a lawsuit against contracting out clerk jobs and all the other postal unions are supporting the APWU and there will be a day of action in support of that; hopefully, we show our solidarity for our fellow brothers and sisters.

Stamp Out Hunger

We are requesting that all our members use whatever social media they use to reach out to all residents of Hillsborough County regarding the NALC Food Drive, Saturday, May 10,

2014. We can look forward to having cards and bags this year thanks to AARP for doing the cards to go along with the Publix food drive bags. *Thanks to Valpak for doing the printing of cards that AARP is sponsoring. Let's do whatever it takes to be the largest provider of food for the residents of Hillsborough County that are not food sustainable. For all who do not know...most of the food collected by the volunteer agencies goes directly to the community where it is collected...that means there are customers right on your route that need and benefit from what you collect on that day. All carriers and window clerks are allowed to wear food drive T-shirts while working on Thursday, May 8; Friday, May 9; and Saturday, May 10, the day of the drive; any exposure helps the food drive to be successful.*

Community Service

We all appreciate the gains from our wages and benefits that we earn and there is also a great deal of satisfaction that comes from doing things that benefit others in our community that are not as fortunate. Whether its collecting food or toys, raising money to help *Make a Muscle* for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, or the kindness conveyed to a coworker who needs uplifting, there is great satisfaction and appreciation from those we support.

Fraternally in Unionism and Solidarity,

Alan Peacock
Vice President



Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599

Robert's Rules

By Mike Brink (with excerpts taken from www.robertsrules.org)

This article was not written to berate but to educate. My intention is to inform the members through what I hope to be a series of articles on the proper methods in which to conduct meetings using *Robert's Rules of Order* properly. I am desirous that these articles will change the way we, as a Branch, collectively conduct our meetings and hope that by and through these articles, that we see our meetings conducted more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the Branch and the important business that lies ahead of us.

Let me first state the obvious. I am no parliamentarian nor do I have *Robert's Rules of Order* memorized. What I am, is a frustrated member who has attended enough meetings to know that the meetings could be conducted more efficiently, the process undertaken in a more orderly fashion and each member's concerns respectfully being addressed in a more direct and to the point manner. What I am, is a member who has been so frustrated with the efficiency or lack thereof, of our meetings in general, that I have taken the time to purchase two copies of a small paperback copy of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised in Brief*. One copy I have read and highlighted and keep with me at the meetings to refer to. The other copy I purchased for the Branch and have identified it to be utilized by the Branch President or Chair. I know that our current Branch President has read this book and is taking steps in which to make our meetings run more effectively and more efficiently. Many times these efforts are thwarted by members who are either ill-informed of the Rules or just unaware or uniformed of the Rules. Of those members who do attempt to abide by the Rules, some have not used the Rules or seen the Rules used in the

proper way for so long that the poor habits by some members have carried over to those other members who have learned the Rules *by attendance*, thereby continuing the usage of Robert's Rule in an improper way.

I know that our meetings, regardless of the agenda, could be completed in less time than we are currently averaging. As a Branch, each member that attends may have a concern and/or an issue that one would like to voice. If one makes the effort to attend a meeting, one may also have an item of concern he/she wishes to put to the assembly for debate. If a member who attends comes away from that meeting frustrated that it took half the night to get through an otherwise short Order of Business, that member may not desire to attend another meeting out of the frustration and confusion often observed during the meeting by that member.

Understand that the first order of business is to attend. The second is to abide by the Rules during the meeting. The third order of business should be for the President to place on the agenda those items of concern or importance that he feels are necessary and important enough to enable him to get these items *brought to the floor* to the members in an orderly fashion and if needed, voted or ruled upon by those members present. Our Branch Bylaws state in Article III, Meetings, Section 5, that: *the rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the procedure of this Branch....* With that having been said, let's get to the basics in this first article. The below are edited excerpts taken from the aforementioned website.

How Business Is Conducted in Deliberative Assemblies –

1. Introduction of Business.

An assembly has brought before it items of concern either by the mo-

tion of a member, or by the presentation of a communication to the assembly. It is not usual to make motions to receive reports of committees or communications to the assembly. There are many other cases in the ordinary routine of business where the formality of a motion is dispensed with, but should any member object, a regular motion becomes necessary, or the chair may put the question without waiting for a motion.

2. What Precedes Debate.

Before any subject is open to debate it is necessary, first, that a motion be made by a member who has obtained the floor; second, that it be seconded (with certain exceptions); and third, that it be stated by the chair, that is, by the presiding officer.

The fact that a motion has been made and seconded does not put it before the assembly, as the chair alone can do that. He must either rule it out of order, or state the question on it so that the assembly may know what is before it for consideration and action, that is, what is the *immediately pending question*.

A little informal consultation before the question is stated often saves much time, but the chair must see that this privilege is not abused and allowed to run into debate. When the mover modifies his motion the one who seconded it has a right to withdraw his second.



Mike Brink
Recording Secretary
Branch 599

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Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE VII – Fees, Dues, and Assessments Section I (E)

Currently Reads as Follows:

The Branch Action Fund Account currently capped at \$350,000.00 (three hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for the purpose deemed by the membership for any Branch Expense. Such funds shall be under the control of the Trustees and shall be used only for expenses determined by the membership of NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) Branch 599 as required by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the members voting when properly notified in accordance with the Constitution of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Bylaws of NALC Branch 599. These funds shall be set aside in an appropriate savings institution earning a guaranteed interest rate. The interest on these funds shall be deposited in the Branch Action Fund to be used exclusively for Branch expenses as deemed by the membership.

Proposed to Read as Follows:

The following allocation of monies from the present Branch Action Fund Account will be directed and divided into the following Fund Accounts:

- A. The first allocation will consist of \$200,000.00 (two hundred thousand dollars) will be directed to the Branch Emergency Fund Account. This fund will be under the control of the Trustees of NALC Branch 599 and shall be used for no other purpose. These funds will be set aside in an appropriate savings institution with a guaranteed interest rate. The interest from this fund will be deposited into the NALC Branch 599 Operating Fund Account, for the purpose of additional welfare and recreational expenses.
- B. The second allocation will consist of \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars) will be directed to NALC Branch 599 Building Fund Account. This fund will be utilized for the expenses of operating, maintaining and improvement; of the NALC Branch 599 building.
- C. The third allocation will consist of \$25,000.00 (twenty five thousand dollars) will be directed to NALC Branch 599 Training and Convention Fund Account. For the sole purpose of Training and Convention expenses to include all National and State Conventions, National and Regional Rap Sessions, Committee of Presidents Meetings and Steward State Training Seminars. These funds shall be invested in an appropriate savings institution in a Money Market Account. All interest from the Money Market Account will remain in the NALC Branch 599 Training and Convention Fund Account.
- D. The fourth allocation will consist of \$25,000.00 (twenty five thousand dollars) will be directed to NALC Branch 599 Operating Fund Account. The purpose of this account is for Operational, Administrative and Representational Expenses.

Signed by: Alan Peacock, Gilbert Cabanas, John Gebo, Julius C. Howard, and Jose R. Oliva

Robert's Rules

(Continued from page 6)

To summarize the handling of a motion:

1. A member seeks recognition for the floor (stands and is recognized by the chair; if no one else presently has the floor)
2. The President or Chairman recognizes the member (therefore, the member is said to have obtained the floor)
3. Member makes a motion (the member is to be specific as to the wording of his/her motion; if the motion is lengthy the member should write the motion down and present it to the Secretary for inclusion into the minutes)
4. Another member seconds the motion (that member need not stand and be recognized and may or may not agree with the motion made, but the member believes the maker's motion should be debated by the assembly)
5. Chairman **states** the question
6. Debate (amendment and secondary motions)
7. Chairman **puts** the question to a vote
8. Chairman announces the result of the vote

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NALC Health Benefit Report

Good health starts with preventive measures and the *NALC Health Benefit Plan* offers some of the best in preventive medicine.

There are benefits available in all of these categories:

- Weight and nutrition
- Fitness
- Vision and hearing care
- Alternative medicine
- Mind/body
- Wellness products plus more.

They are easy to access simply by going to the NALC web site at

www.nalc.org then click on *Departments*, scroll down to *Health Benefit Plan*, and click it. Look at the **left** side of the page and scroll down; choose *Find out about Healthy Rewards Member Discounts*. Feel free to explore the page and take the time to find out about savings for gyms, acupuncture, vision and hearing care, and wellness products.

Tip of the month: Don't throw that water away after boiling potatoes. Why you ask? Well I'll tell ya...use the water after it has cooled down

to clean your silver. That's right, soak your silver in the water and it will remove years of tarnish and it's a lot cheaper than silver polish and less work intensive. Try it you'll like it.

In Unity,

Lance Jones Representing the only **ALL UNION** health plan



Lance Jones
Health Benefit Rep.
Branch 599

The Cutting Edge

(my apologies to Chicken Little)

The Post Office is in the business of delivering mail.
Then one day the volume started going dropping.
The Post Office said,
"We're losing money.
We'll run and tell all the carriers."

The Post Office then met with the Board of Governors.
The Post Office said,
"We're losing money."
"How do you know Mr. Post Office?"
The Post Office said,
"We've seen the volume go down,
we're losing money."
We won't spend any more money said the Board of Governors.
"We'll run and tell all the carriers."

They met Pat Donahoe.
"We're losing money."
"How do you know Mr. Post Office?"
The Post Office told us.
"We've seen the volume go down,
We're losing money."
We have no money to buy supplies.
We can't fix our vehicles.
"We'll run and tell all the carriers."

They met Fred Rolando.
"We're losing money."
"How do you know Mr. Post Office?"
The Post Office said,
"We're losing money,
We can't fix our vehicles,
We can't fill our vehicles with gas."
"We'll run and tell all the carriers."

They met with Congress.
"We're losing money."
"How do you know Mr. Post Office?"
"We can't fix our vehicles,
We can't fill our vehicles with gas."
We'll have to stop working Saturdays.

The Post Office met, the Board of Governors, Pat Donahue, Fred Rolando, Congress
They all ran to tell all the carriers
They met the Route Inspectors
Who told them we have plenty of money
\$6,000 a route
To check the whole district of Tampa out.
We'll all know in 52 days how it all shakes out.

Moral of the story: We have money for what the Post Office wants done, meanwhile we are buying our own hand soap, making yellow paper copies of hold cards, writing vehicle repairs on pieces of paper, and trading with other stations to get paper towels.

Marilyn Cutting
Member
Branch 599

Retiree Station

Let me start by saying I strongly support our Shop Stewards and our Officers! I do not support spending money that we do not have. Last night I made a motion during the Executive Board Meeting to *not* buy T-shirts for Shop Stewards and dignitaries for our upcoming Food Drive. I also spoke against it at our Branch Meeting, the reason being we only have around \$200 in our operations account. The T-shirts are going to cost us about \$300, which is more than we have at this time. The T-shirts had been ordered before the motion was made; have to wonder had the motion been defeated at the Branch Meeting, who was going to pay for them? Last year's T-shirts did not have a date on them; they just stated second Saturday in May, which means they could have been used this year. As for the check coming in the first of next week...it is going to be mostly spent on other Branch bills.

Our Vice President is working 24 hours a week, which our Bylaws allow. This is an expense that we have not had in the past. This is a huge financial drain on our Branch 599 funds...we are spending money as fast as it comes in. The old work stoppage money can be used now by a vote of the members, however, as others have stated before this account was changed...once changed, the money would not last.

At this time we are not setting money in an escrow account to pay our employees for annual or sick leave they earn while working for Branch 599! The Branch has not been able to pay our past president for his earned leave as we do not have the money. We cannot continue spending most of our money without banking money to pay our employees for benefits that they have earned. As I see it, we must cut costs or increase dues. Setting up an escrow account to pay for earned or advanced leave means the money will

be there when needed. At the beginning of each year our employees are given their leave in advance to be used when wanted. We should be setting that money in an escrow account at the beginning of the year, then add the amount of leave each person earns each pay period to ensure that the money is always ready when needed.

Branch 599 has never set a budget to live within our means...we just keep spending. I spoke with our president about doing this last month, as we need to learn to be better stewards of our members' money. In the past we had TLC/Bingo which supported our Branch in many areas! Spending is not a bad thing as long as you have the money without spending all of our money!

Our hall rentals are at an all time low; have we gone too high on our price or is our Hall too run down to warrant our repeat customers from renting with us. We need to find out what the reasons are and make adjustments as needed to get our rentals back to what we once had. We need to call our past repeat customers and find out what we need to do to earn back there business; we need the rentals more than ever!

What we have been able to do in the past might not be what we can afford today! As individuals you can get a second job or work overtime to support your spending ways. Here at Branch 599, we can raise dues or cut costs to support our spending ways. Neither one is going to please everyone, yet doing *nothing* is not an option. As always, you the member, have a vote to decide what is best for Branch 599 in your opinion; the sad part is that the decisions are made by the same few most of the time. Do I think this is going to change any time soon? Not really.



Don Thomas
Director of Retirees
Branch 599

We buy T-shirts for stewards and dignitaries; why not every member of Branch 599? If the T-shirts are truly to advertise our Food Drive, should we not buy T-shirts for all Branch 599 members working during the Food Drive? Every Letter Carrier is seen out on the street on different routes; much more advertising than just one or two stewards at a station! Are our members that pay dues to support our Branch any less important than our shop stewards who get their dues back at the end of each year as part of their pay for serving as a steward or officer?

It all comes down to what you, the member, wants and are willing to do. Your vote is a powerful tool, yet most of you never vote! If you choose not to attend our Branch Meetings and vote your beliefs, others will continue to spend *your* dues as they believe to be in the best interest of our Branch or themselves. You figure out which applies!

Retirees
Breakfasts

Monday May 5 9 AM
Coffee Cup Restaurant
4407 N Hubert Avenue
Tampa

Tuesday May 13 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road
Brandon
All are Welcome!

Outside the Lines

First, I would like to say that I am happy that President Tony Diaz is doing well. I have known Tony since he was a teenager and played soccer with my two younger brothers, Rick and Jimmy. Hopefully, this scare will alert Tony to slow down and delegate as much of the workload as possible. I know, I had a minor heart attack in 1990 and my cardiologist told me to slow down. Of course management wasn't very happy with the doctor's diagnosis/suggestion! How important was it that Tony's wife knew CPR? *Can you say life or death?* Tony has proposed that CPR classes be given at our union hall for the amount of \$20 per member. This seems rather expensive but what is your life, child, wife, family member or a human being worth? CPR is vital not only in everyday life, but also during your **supposed 8-hour day** and every branch member should take advantage of this.

Our branch finances are stable, but as often in many businesses, they can become very fragile because of over-expenditures. The following are some additional financial saving ideas:

- What about consolidating several of our branch officer/steward positions? Yes, the Union has never negotiated consolidation or agreed to lower the wages of NALC workers, however, at the local level our branch may need to make several hard-line decisions for the good of the entire membership. Our local should request information from different locals that are equivalent in membership size and compare the salaries of their officers and stewards.
- Maybe another method to save moneys is to limit the amount of paid delegates attending state and national conventions. Instead of a partial paid delegation attending, we could have a full-paid **limited** delegation attending?
- A proposal could be made to increase rentals and take the Building Manager off payroll and set up the

salary so that it is based on a commission type basis. The Building Manager would receive a percentage of every rental on a monthly basis after the refund. Let's say it could be 10%! There are only three or four days a month that the Hall cannot be rented, so there could be a maximum of 25 days of rentals. There could be dances held, poker, domino tournaments, etc. with those winning receiving gift certificates? With regard to rentals, a handling fee of 5% should be deducted from the refund moneys.

- We may have to incorporate the President's and Branch Secretary's benefits into their salaries?
- Additional revenue savings could be made by the elimination of the annual dues reimbursement to officers/stewards. NALC Secretary-Treasurer has already written an article on this. This will save the Union finances about \$2,000 on taxes at the end of each year and as much as \$5,000 a year in rebates? While at his training session a letter carrier from another state told me that a Department of Labor (DOL) individual informed his group that those receiving union dues reimbursements could be considered *non-union*. **Many of these suggestions** may justify the reinstatement of our Labor Day Picnics, Christmas Parties, more revenue for conventions, training, and other vital union functions.

Once again the Republican-led Congress; the party of **No** is denying the extension of the Unemployment Compensation Act. They say it is a handout to those unemployed that refuse to find employment! There is an estimated total of 2 million people that may be without this compensation by the end of April. As the former treasurer of our local, I know that we had to submit revenue for unemployment insurance for every one of our officers/stewards and rental agents on a monthly basis. However, Republicans

state that this compensation is unfunded? Don't all businesses have to pay into this fund? Isn't it a federal law? The Speaker of the House, Republican John Boehner of Ohio along with members of his party and the *Tea Bag Party* are still attempting to repeal the *Affordable Care Act* or as they call it *Obama Care*. I call it *Romney Care*, as it is based solely on the former Massachusetts governor's health plan! The majority leader has led 55 attempts to repeal ACA at a cost to the actual (98%) taxpayers of over \$26 million! If they should achieve their goal I wonder if those hypocrites will be able to face the 7 million individuals that signed up as of March 31, 2014. How about to those millions of parents who are allowed to keep their children on their health care plans until age 26? Let them explain to those millions of individuals that have health care coverage when they have a pre-existing condition. I guess this is what the Republicans mean by **death panels?** Why do you think health coverage is so costly? Could it be those that are uninsured go to emergency rooms for their health care? Yes, it affects the cost to those of us that have health coverage in higher rates and higher hospital expenses. If you think you're not paying for the uninsured I'll sell you the Sunshine Skyway! Independent Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont basically stated, *What kind of political party wants to deny working and poor families to have affordable health care?* (Senator Sanders has sponsored a bill, S.316, that supports the NALC's position that keeping the USPS is necessary for the welfare of the United States and Democrat Representative Peter DeFazio introduced a companion bill in the House,



Ray Garcia
Member
Branch 599

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Outside the Lines

(Continued from page 10)

H.R. 630). Since the election of President Barack Obama, the Republican led opposition has blocked or filibustered over 200 pieces of legislation vital to every American citizen. Over 20 states controlled by Republicans have followed lock step with their big brothers in Washington DC by refusing to expand Medicaid even though the Federal Government has guaranteed the payment of 100% of the funds needed for three (3) years. Republican Ted Cruz of Texas put a poll on his Facebook page asking *Are you better off with Obama Care than you were four (4) years ago?* (Yes or No) His account was inundated with the answer **YES!** On the 7 million count, Republican Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming stated that he thinks *the White House is*

cooking the books. However, the Senator failed to backup his thought with any substantial evidence. Why do the media continue to allow lies to be told to the American public? Where is the fact checking and investigative reporting? Why does it seem that the supposed statement by Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels that if you tell a lie loud and long enough it will soon become the truth? Why are the citizens of the United States so blinded by the right that they are unable to seek the truth through research on all issues or are they just **Foxed out?**

I am in total disagreement with part of President Obama's new budget proposal that includes the elimination of 6-day mail delivery! I am against the Trans Pacific Pact better known as

NAFTA on Steroids and I am strongly against the Keystone Pipeline extension into the United States from Canada. None of these three (3) issues are for the wellbeing of American workers nor will they create fulltime living-wage employment! I hope that the President of the United States comes to his senses on these three (3) issues and vetoes them or just file thirteens them.

Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable. —John F. Kennedy

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