



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

Congratulations! to Our Newly Elected Officers

They will be installed the night of January 21.

President: Tony Diaz	Vice President: Brian Obst
Recording Secretary: Michael Brink	Financial Secretary: Alan Peacock
Treasurer: John Gebo	Sergeant-at-Arms: J.C. Howard
MBA/NSBA: Al Guice	Health Benefit Rep: Detlev Aeppel
Director of Retirees: Alan Robinson	
Trustees: Lori McMillion, José Oliva, Jim Good	
Labor Management: Nick Cullaro, Warren Sumlin	

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Happy New Year to all Branch 599 Brothers and Sisters! May the 2017 year bring prosperity, good health, peace, many retirements and the conversions of many, many CCAs.

As we begin another year, we are faced with many challenges in 2017. First though, *congratulations* to our newly elected Branch officers and to the returning officers. We will work to support our new officers during the transition period. Several zones begin 2017 with no union steward which will need to be filled and/or will be covered by the Branch office.

As we begin 2017, hopefully we will hear of a resolution and conclusion with our contract negotiations with the United States Postal Service and welcome in a new contract.

I would be remiss if I did not begin my article by reflecting on our branch's elections. Speaking from the heart, there are only two words I can use to describe the genuine appreciation for the overwhelming support I received. **THANK YOU.** For all of you who made the trip to the hall to vote, for those of you who took the time to request and voted absentee

ballot, these two words are simply golden, **THANK**

YOU. For those who I spoke to throughout the Branch 599 area, including the important outlying areas of Plant City, Sun City Center and Brandon, I could not have accomplished my quest for re-election without you. It was a pleasure speaking to each and every one of you during the election process. To the members I know, it was



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
January 5
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 and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net no later than the 5th of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	Email
President	Tony Diaz	813.875.0599 cell 813.598.9635	tony_diaz599@yahoo.com
Vice President	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1636	recording.sec@nalc599.com
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.405.8424	financial.sec@nalc599.com
Treasurer	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jig7d7@aol.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.465.9754	
Health Benefit Rep.	Lance Jones	813.264.9801	
Director of Retirees	Don Thomas	813.963.0653	retirees@nalc599.com
Trustees	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	
	Maggie Lancaster	813.317.7522	joelunaticplayer@aol.com
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	
Labor Management	Nick Cullaro	813.541.8159	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good • Alan Peacock		

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches		Chief Steward, Brian Obst		727.458.0679
Brandon	33510/11		813.661.1636	
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	813.961.2962	813.263.7895
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jiminez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Forest Hills	33613	Ed Humphries	813.935.2954	813.787.3914
Hilldale	33614	Darrick Smith	813.879.4309	813.446.5555
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Jackie Allen	813.831.2034	813.508.1440
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	Todd Soular	813.719.6793	508.615.6517
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.239.4084	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	Steve Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Joe Bitz	813.873.7189	813.465.0004
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Mike Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Smith	813.873.7189	813.326.0717
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)

great to reminisce about years past. To those of you who I introduced myself to, I appreciate the time we spoke. What was very gratifying was the association I actually have with many of you through my monthly article. I hear responses to my articles, but you really never know who or how many of you read them. I got a pretty good indication of that in speaking with many of you.

I look forward to working with the newly elected Branch officers. We will continue to provide the best representation possible and spare no expense to train our stewards properly. We all work for you, the membership.

Success – Letter Carriers/ MDA Golf Tournament

Great success, great time, great scores, great gifts, great feedback, great weather! The 3rd annual tournament did not disappoint. Eighty-six golfers, a record for hole sponsors (24), a record for raffle ticket sales (\$1,400), and an abundance of donated gifts. In addition a record for total monies collected, this amount added to the monies collected throughout the year with the 50/50 raffle and gives Branch 599 \$6,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This is a huge amount for a one day event! This is not a one-man production however, I could not have covered all the ground, made the contacts and kept everything in order without my cochairman to this event, retiree Alan Robinson, *special thanks* for all the hard work. Also *thanks* to the carriers at Carrollwood Station for their relentless pursuit of businesses up and down Dale Mabry Highway, and their sponsoring of 3 holes, and being part of 3 golf teams...both records for a single station. Not to leave anyone out, *thanks* to all the Branch 599 members both active and retired who participated in the event by golfing, getting donations, getting hole sponsors, sponsoring a hole sponsor, and recruiting teams, helping with registration and

assisting the chipping and putting contests. Helping with registration (George and Debbie McEndree), helping with raffles and helping drive the WingHouse Girls around the course (Forest Hills carrier and steward Nick Cullaro), photography by Branch Secretary Rodna Kirk and Kaitlyn Hadcock, daughter of TCA carrier Bud Hadcock. Assisting the chipping and putting contests were the WingHouse Girls, Michelle and Ashley; and Arvick Reeder, the son of Hilldale carrier and steward, Varick Reeder. *Thanks to all!*

Lunch Breaks

Lunch breaks are 30 minutes in duration, not to be combined with afternoon breaks, comfort stops, or rearranging mail. There are certain circumstances, because of location or a travel situation where your lunch may be calculated over 30 minutes. These situations are anomalies; lunch breaks are 30 minutes. Your lunch begins from your last delivery, eat lunch and your next delivery should be in 30 minutes, and you should have no issues.

Extended lunch breaks are coming under scrutiny with the constantly updated tracking, Delivery Management System (DMS). Carriers will need to be accountable for their time and expect to be questioned should their lunch last over 30 minutes. Should you be stopped for directions or an unexpected traffic jam delaying you during your lunch break, make a note; these situations should not be a daily occurrence. Should you deviate from your authorized lunch destinations you should notify management of your intentions. You must have a reason if you need to change one of your three choices; revise your PS Form 1564-A. You may revise your form as needed; you do not have to be new on a route to update your form. A restaurant may have changed owners and you do not like the food quality, or it shut down, or a new restaurant may have opened up you want to eat at. Many carriers bring their lunch and eat on their

route to take full advantage of the entire 30 minutes.

What is a PS Form 1564-A?

It is a US Postal Service form, **Delivery Instructions**, and you can find the form under your case ledge inside your route book. If you have not updated your 1564-A, please request a new form and provide the information. Handbooks and Manuals, M-39, 126.5b: (2) The carrier has the option of selecting up to three locations for lunch. When authorizing lunch places, give consideration to reasonableness of location from the standpoint of suitable eating places, and in particular to the reasonableness of the distance from the route to the eating place and back to the route. If at all possible, the authorized lunch stops should be on the line of travel.

Form 1564-A, right side, there is a place for Lines of Travel, Authorized Lunch period, Location(s) of Authorized Lunch, and Approximate Break Location(s) for both the regular carrier and the replacement carrier as well.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Toys for Tots 2016 was a big flop. Next year we will look to revamp a toy drive sponsored and organized by the members of Branch 599. Our local collection supporting Toys for Tots has declined annually over the past couple of years to the point where it is now practically non-existent. It is extremely frustrating because it is the kids that suffer. Make no mistake, during our Toys for Tots drive, letter carriers are the key to success because we are at every house every day. With no advertising though, due to no approved G-10 permit, our customers were not aware of the date Toys for Tots was scheduled.

Happy New Year!

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

Toys for Tots



While the Toys for Tots drive was a huge disappointment on December 3 throughout the city, the staff at our Tampa Postal Federal Credit Union again collected and purchased toys and bicycles to brighten Christmas for kids. *Thank you, ladies!*



Party at Interbay!



Interbay Station's Christmas Party was held on December 10. As you can see, a great time was had by all!

The Birdseye View

Happy New Year 2017 and it brings new opportunities for all of us to make our resolutions and try to bring something positive into what has been a time of great uncertainty along with hope for peace and stability for our nation and the world. This is a time for change, good or bad, only the future will tell of which. Change in leadership, change in direction and change in the philosophy of the manner of how we will be governed. This is no easy task on the grand scale of all things that seem to matter most to the majority of our citizens, but the proof will be the reality of what actually takes place for the promises are over, now the work begins. We definitely need leadership that can do more than just taking the least decisive action that allows the government to keep working in order to keep the status quo. This nation cries for action and fairness for all citizens, not just legislation that benefits the top and the bottom of the economic classes with the middle working class taking on most of the burdens for all. Time will tell and we wish all the best to the incumbents for theirs is a difficult task to say the least.

Currently, we have a lame duck congress that is just dealing with about a dozen spending bills, of course keeping the government running beyond December 9 was the most urgent one.

USPS

Good news for the USPS—two new appointments to the Board of Governors is expecting a Senate vote and the Postal Regulatory Commission has restored first class letter rates to 49¢ effective January 22, 2017 along with some other rate increases for shipping prices.

Safety & Respect

Safety in the Postal Service is becoming a huge concern, especially with motor vehicle safety, where drivers are heavily scrutinized more than proper maintenance

of their vehicles. We can emphasize every day that safety is everyone's concern, but when carriers are not provided with safe operational vehicles or are required to use vehicles that are not designed for the type of delivery a particular route needs to be safe and efficient then HOUSTON WE GOT A PROBLEM! Heads should be rolling for the management decisions that fail to provide proper and safe equipment for employees to provide safe and efficient delivery service on their designated city delivery routes. We have reports of ball joints causing the wheels to fall off trucks, the brakes leaking fluid and causing fires and batteries blowing up. This is definitely a concern that should be addressed with the Occupational Safety and Health Association at every level from Branch to National. Other concerns that need to be discussed is the constant stress being placed upon senior carriers who are expected to increase their speed on the street when there are no street standards other than demonstrating that you are making a conscientious effort, in other words unless they can prove time wasting practices and that doesn't entail street supervision by riding someone's bumper in effort to meet some bogus goal. Management bully tactics are never anything that will improve productivity, they only retard productivity and ignore the human factor that can be achieved by praise and cooperation along with some kind of trust. Many Postmasters and managers complain about their lack of resources and equipment, yet they will squeeze the life right out of their very employees that have to deal without necessary means of providing what is imposed upon them.

The perfect example is Customer Connect pleading with their carriers to find new business through Customer Connect, but don't waste time discussing the program with your customers, just get us some leads and if and when we

will have someone else that doesn't know the customer at all just go and seal the deal. Perfect example was a corporation that wanted to send an Express Mail to every one of their restaurants across the nation once a week which would have been a multi-million dollar lead that was never followed up on and FedEx ended up getting the business. Maybe one day we will truly understand the concept of working together for what is an investment in business for all employees, management and craft. That may happen if one day we learn to respect what each other has to do to make this a service again other than just to be the most trusted federal agency in the great USA!

On the local branch level, *congratulations* to all the newly elected officers that will be installed during the Installation Banquet on January 21. This board has a lot of repeat and former officers that should lead our branch with hopes for providing stability and guidance that will secure the best interest of all our members. The next three years will have its share of challenges and will need the involvement of an interested membership. There are a lot of opportunities for anyone who is looking for an opportunity to be on a committee or to be a coordinator for one of our great charity committees such as food drive, Muscular Dystrophy Association or even a new direction for our own toy drive. We need a social and recreation committee to bring some life back to our branch and promote some things of interest to our members and their families. We all know that the climate today makes it a lot harder to enjoy some free time together, but if we can



Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599

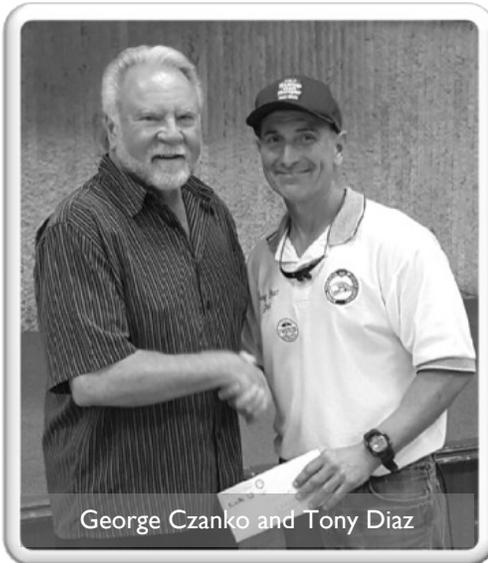
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Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Adalina and family at the passing of **Jimmy Fernandez** [retiree], November 9; to Sue and family at the homegoing of **Norman Almand** [retiree], November 18; to the family of **Donald Crocus** [retiree] whose passing was December 1; to **Ray Garcia** [retiree] and family at the passing of his mother, Wilma, November 9; to **Chris Albrecht** [retiree] and family at the passing of his father, Erich, November 23; to **David Jackson Jr.** [Sulphur Springs] and family at the passing of his father, David, December 1; to **Terrance Ford** [Town 'N Country] at the passing of his father, Gary, November 22; to **Erica Hartshorn** [Town 'N Country] at the passing of her father, Ronald Phillip Hartshorn III; to Dawn & **Dave Kossow** [Palm River] at the passing of her mother, Sharon, December 2; and to **James Doc Holiday** [retiree] and family at the passing of his mother, Marion, December 14.

Congratulations! **Dwana Williams** [Interbay], on the birth of your daughter, October 22.

Czanko Retired!



George Czanko and Tony Diaz

Congratulations to **George Czanko** [Palm River], who received his retirement pin and gratuity from President Tony Diaz during our December Branch meeting!

Supporting MDA big time!



Alan Robinson, Elizabeth Carlson, and Tony Diaz

Our 3rd annual golf tournament was a huge success!

Branch 599 President Tony Diaz and MDA Golf Tournament Chair Alan Robinson presented MDA Coordinator Elizabeth Carlson a \$6,000 check...our donation to help Deliver the Cure of Muscular Dystrophy.

The Birdseye View

(Continued from page 5)

share something other than just the workroom problems we could build some camaraderie like we used to have in the past. As a whole our Branch is becoming older and it would be nice to see some youth that could bring some vitality and fresh ideas into our organization. There is only one way to make change and that is to attend meetings,

get into the conversation, and be a refreshing difference in the future of our organization! We have always achieved, but with new energy and ideas there is nothing that we can't accomplish. I want our members to make part of their new year resolution to become involved and make 2017 one of the greatest new beginnings we have had in many years in our Branch,

so let's do it Brothers and Sisters, and start by joining your new officers and stewards at your Installation Dinner and Banquet, January 21, 2017—be part of the future!

Fraternally and Faithfully,
Alan Peacock
Vice President/Financial Secretary Elect
NALC Branch 599

Retired But Not Tired

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters of Branch 599,

Wishing each and everyone a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year!

I would like to thank all of the members who took the time to vote on December 1, 2016. A special thanks to those who supported me in my re-

election. Thank you! Thank you!

Meeting the newer carriers and seeing some of the older carriers that I had worked with was a special day for me. I will continue to work for the betterment of our Branch and its membership.

Hope to see you all on January 21 at

the Installation Dinner.

So, as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans sang, *Happy trails to you, until we meet again.*

Fraternally,
John Gebo



John Gebo
Treasurer
Branch 599

Nick's News

Well December sure snuck up on us... might have something to do with the AC running and it's still 80 degrees outside. Hopefully when this month's edition is printed it will have cooled down at least a little bit. I'd like to congratulate those that were elected to union officer positions for our branch for the next term. I'd also like to thank everyone that was involved with the election, any person that ran for any office, the election committee and everyone that voted. A sincere *thank you* to all that supported to keep me on the Labor Management committee; please text or call anytime with

issues or ideas that your office would like discussed at these monthly meetings. My cell is 813.541.8159 and I work at Forest Hills station.

Our branch just completed its 3rd annual MDA charity golf tournament at Heritage Harbor golf course and we just may have found a home for the tournament. A big *thank you* to President Diaz and Alan Robinson for taking the tournament by the horns and making it a success. If you haven't taken part in one of them yet, come out next year, you don't have to golf. The camaraderie amongst everyone,

the raffle prizes and the food were all hits, the golfing is just a bonus. We also get to present MDA with a good sized check, which is very rewarding.

With a new year and a new team, let's move forward together, for a stronger union and a better Postal Service.

Thanks,
Nick



Nick Cullaro
Labor Management
Branch 599

We Deliver

*The sun bursts through the dark,
There's another day anew,
The "TEAM" is working 'round the clock,
That "TEAM" is Postal Blue.*

*24/7 day and night,
Non-stop their schedules run,
Enticed to beat all challenges,
They're conquered one by one.*

*Consumers see the end result,
And little do they know,
The value of the quality,
Employees want to show.*

*You see, it's more than just a job,
It's an attitude instilled,
From the largest to the smallest,
Every task is always filled.*

*The USPS works with pride,
And changing with the tide,
Bringing innovations,
Since the days' we used to ride.*

*Everyone is important,
Collectively they display,
Passing baton's quietly,
Smoothly running day by day.*

Poem by David Brubaker, Retiree, Branch 599

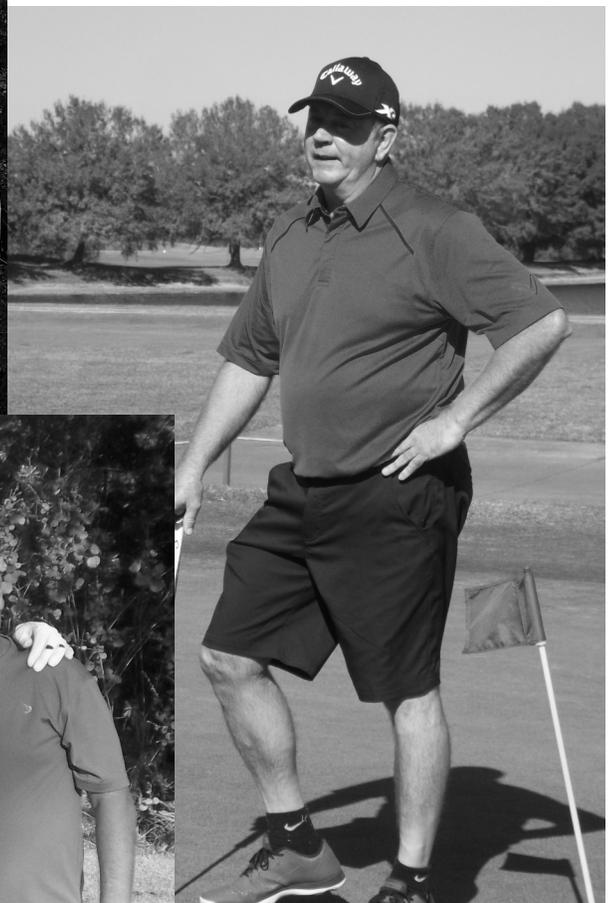
*Stamps, parcels, letters,
Or perhaps, an overnight,
It's the Postal Service,
Making sure that it's done right.*

*Every day the mail arrives,
Governed by the force,
Of satisfying customers,
And staying on the course.*

*So, as we make deliveries,
We're not giving any slack,
Always remember one thing,
America, we've got your back.*

Branch 599's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Heritage Harbor Golf & Country Club on December 4



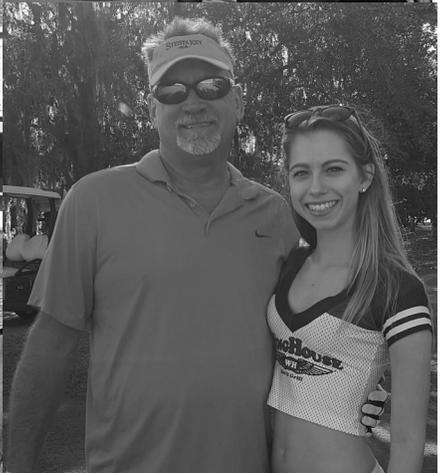
to Support the Muscular Dystrophy Association



NALC Branch 599 MDA
Charity Golf Tournament

Sulphur Springs
Supporting MDA
33603-33604

Deliver
the Cure





Temple Terrace
Delivering the Cure
for MDA
33617



TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS
MDA GOLF TOUR
DEC 4
DONATIONS

Facts You May Want to Know

- ◆ Amazon is now the largest United States Postal Service customer with 2 billion dollars in revenues.
- ◆ Amazon recently mailed the 100 millionth parcel with the USPS.
- ◆ Amazon mails 250,000 parcels a day in the Suncoast District.
- ◆ Amazon parcels are 30% higher than last year.
- ◆ Projected peak parcel day will be Thursday December 22. District-wide 330,000 parcels will be mailed, that is a 103% increase over last year.
- ◆ 1 billion dollars was spent on political mail during the recent elections.
- ◆ Suncoast District finished #1 nationwide in Breast Cancer Stamp sales.

The Key

I bid you tidings of welcome to the year 2017. I am Brian Obst, your Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward and your new Vice President. Over the coming months and years I hope to be able to bring you information in my articles that will be of assistance in dealing with postal management as well as everyday life.

First let me start by thanking the members of Branch 599 for the faith you have shown in me to elect me as your Vice President. I am humbled by this and I will endeavor to be the best Vice President I can be, hopefully living up to the standards that you the membership expect from your elected officials.

Now I would like to address the completed elections. Our President, Tony Diaz, has been reelected along with a newly elected Executive Board and it is now time to turn away from election politics and return to the representation of our members. I applaud all those individuals who ran for positions with the Branch, as democratic choice is what makes the system work. Now that the election is over the time has come to get behind our elected representatives and work together for the benefit of all of the

membership. Let us remember that while we might differ in philosophy, we are all on the same team pulling together for the same goals – **the Best Representation for the Membership.**

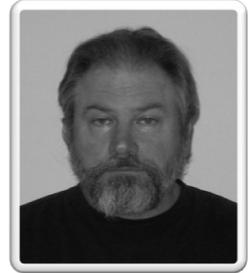
With this in mind I would like to touch on volunteerism in our branch. I have been a member for the 19 years that I have been in the Postal Service and I have been a steward for 18 years of that time. I have noticed over the past several years that many of our most experienced stewards have been retiring and the branch is having a hard time replacing all the lost experience as a result of said retirements. The position of Shop Steward is one of the most important union positions, as the steward is on the front lines in the battle to maintain compliance with the National Agreement. Over the years a steward will develop additional skills through Branch, State and National training classes as well as working closely with the members of his/her own Branch. While I know that this position calls for some sacrifice on the part of the steward, I can tell you that the satisfaction of being able to help your fellow carriers outweighs it completely.

When you volunteer and become a new steward you have a small army of people behind you to help you along and provide all the training you need to be successful. Remember – We are a Union – all the pieces make the whole stronger. We all pull together in the same direction making progress in the direction we choose together. On page 2 of this newsletter you will find all the officers and stewards' contact information; don't be afraid to use this information to get any assistance you might need. I still use it myself all the time and I will continue until I can no longer perform my duties as a union representative. We are stronger together.

My contact number is 727.458.0679; don't be afraid to call me, as I am here for you.

Talk to you again next month and as I always say – **Knowledge is the Key.**

Brian Obst
Stations/Branches Chief Steward,
Vice President Elect



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

**Your officers, shop stewards,
and staff wish you a healthy,
safe, prosperous, and
Happy New Year!**





Slogan Contest!

In an effort to increase our Branch's toys collection, we are going to organize our own toy drive in 2017. We will need a slogan and you can help with that!

Please submit your slogan ideas to President Diaz:
tony_diaz599@verizon.net

The winning catch phrase will be voted on by the membership at our Branch Meeting on May 4.

Brian Renfroe is NALC's Executive Vice President



Brian Renfroe was appointed NALC executive vice president by NALC President Fredric Rolando to fill a vacancy, effective December 5, 2016.

Renfroe is a second-generation letter carrier who began his career in 2004 in Hattiesburg, MS, where he joined NALC as a member of Hattiesburg Branch 938. Just two years later, Renfroe was elected vice president of Branch 938. He also served as shop steward until 2008, the year his branch elected him president.

As the son of a letter carrier, I grew up learning about the issues letter carriers

have faced over the years, he said. At a young age, I had a deep appreciation for the hard work and sacrifice of the men and women of our union and its positive impact on my father's job and my family. I quickly got involved in my branch because I felt a responsibility to do all that I could to keep moving forward and improving the jobs and lives of letter carriers. I still feel that responsibility.

In addition, Renfroe served as a local business agent and arbitration advocate for the NALC's Memphis Region 8, which covers Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee. Renfroe worked extensively on route adjustments in his home state and focused much of his time on training members at the branch, state, and regional levels.

In 2011, the Mississippi State Associa-

tion elected Renfroe its president. A few months later, President Rolando appointed Renfroe to work at NALC Headquarters in the Contract Administration Unit, where he focused on city delivery issues. In 2013, Rolando appointed Renfroe as a special assistant to the president.

Renfroe was elected NALC director of city delivery in 2014 by acclamation during the union's 69th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia. NALC President Fredric Rolando had appointed Renfroe to that position earlier in the year to fill a vacancy.

Renfroe is a graduate of the NALC Leadership Academy, having attended Class 6 in 2008.

—Postal Record

Congratulations, Brian Renfroe!

A Blunderful Blizzard of Boz

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the *Tampa Letter Carrier*.

Dear Editor- I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no NALC. Papa says, *If you see it in the Tampa Letter Carrier, it's so.* Please tell me the truth, is there a NALC?

Virginia Hanloniewski
115 West Sobieski Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They believe that a single individual can make changes for society through volume and pomposity alone. It is rather by working together that the betterment of all is accomplished.

Yes, Virginia, there is a NALC. It exists as certainly as unity, fraternity and solidarity exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest dignity and meaning. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no NALC! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no fairness then, no justice

to make tolerable this existence. We would have no sense of pride in our service. The eternal light with which our job satisfaction fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in the NALC! You might as well not believe in unionism at all. You might get your papa to hire someone to petition Congress on your behalf, but with no united front behind him, what would that accomplish? Ordinary citizens do not see the NALC, but they do see their letter carrier every day, bringing news of their distant friends and family, bringing comfort, companionship, familiarity and joy. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. But they do see the manifestations of such incredible hope-giving and powerful entities.

The NALC insures fairness, compliance with negotiated agreements, and a backbone upon which the underdog may support himself. It provides a platform for the redress of grievances, a sword to battle oppression, subjugation and intolerance, and a tool to insure the adequacy of means and well-being of its members. The NALC sup-

ports the hungry, the ailing, the grief stricken and the victims of calamity. It stands as a beacon of hope for the employees and clients of the Postal Service.



Jim Boczarski
Retired Member
Branch 599

You can tear apart a baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man that ever lived could tear apart. Only the spirit and the fortitude of letter carriers united can push aside that curtain and view the successes that have been and will be achieved against those who would diminish or dissolve the Postal Service.

No NALC! Thank God! It lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now it will continue to make glad the heart of letter carriers, their customers, and the world.

With this adaptation of the New York Sun's 1897 editorial by Francis P. Church, I bid you:
Carry On! -Boz

Mark Your 2017 Calendar...

Branch 599 Meetings at 7:30 PM

January 5
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July 6
August 10
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

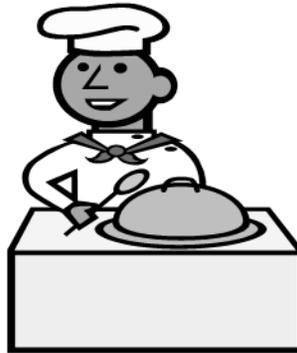
Executive Board
meets at 6:30 PM on
Branch Meeting nights.

Sunday Work Parties are usually
on the Sunday that follows
Branch meetings.

The 25th annual Letter Carriers'
Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive
will be Saturday, May 13.

Shop Steward Meetings at 7 PM

January 10
January 31
February 28
April 4
May 2
May 30
July 11
August 1
September 5
October 3
October 31
December 5



Saturday, January 21, 2017

***You are invited to attend the
Member Appreciation Dinner and Installation
of Officers & Shop Stewards
to be held at the Letter Carriers' Hall
3003 West Cypress Street
Tampa, Florida 33609***

Doors open at 6 PM

Dinner will be served from 6:30 PM
House Salad, Chicken Piccata, Hand Carved Roast Beef Station
Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Fresh Rolls and Butter, Cake, Coffee & Iced Tea
BYOB – Beer, wine and Set-ups available

Installation of Officers & Shop Stewards to follow.

Tickets

***Retirees – please RSVP the Union Office at (813) 875-0599
Deadline to RSVP is Tuesday, January 3.***

***Active Letter Carriers – contact your Shop Steward
\$10 each member (includes your spouse or date)
Refundable when you attend.***

Guest tickets - \$20 per guest

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
January 10
January 31

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday 7:30 PM
January 5
February 2

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
January 5
February 2

Sunday Work Party

at our Hall 9-11 AM
January 8
February 5

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday January 9 9 AM
Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday January 10 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon

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Bill & Shirley Moran

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