



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2021

— Notice —

Until further notice, as has been our practice, everyone attending Branch Meetings is required to wear a facial mask...your cooperation is appreciated.

Official Notice

of Nominations & Elections of Delegates to the 72nd Biennial NALC National Convention in 2022

Nominations for delegates to the 2022 NALC National Convention that will be held in Chicago IL, August 8-12, will be accepted at regular branch meetings on October 7 and November 4, 2021, at our Branch hall located at 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM.

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.

Members must have attended 8 Branch meetings per year for the 2 years prior to the convention to be eligible as paid delegates; others nominated/elected will need to cover all of their own expenses.

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 our Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the **regular branch meeting on December 2, 2021.**

Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599
Meeting
Thursday
October 7
7:30 PM

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

MDA Golf Tournament time!

Brothers and Sisters, the 8th Annual Branch 599 Muscular Dystrophy Association Golf Tournament is right around

the corner. The *Make a Muscle for MDA* charity golf event will be held this year on Sunday, November 14, at 8 AM, again at Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club. MDA is our #1 charitable

organization both nationally and locally and the golf tournament is



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

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National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599,

3003 W Cypress Street,
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publishes the *Tampa Letter Carrier* monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

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

Officers

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	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock		

Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Brandon	33510/11	Luis Cruz	813.661.1636	813.431.3223
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Juan Andujar	813.935.2954	813.377.7266
Hilldale	33614	Brian Obst	813.879.4309	727.458.0679
Hilldale Annex	33634	Latoya Dupuy	813.879.4309	305.414.3527
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16		813.831.2034	
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	813.719.6793
Produce	33610	Jerry J.D. Lewers	813.239.4084	813.528.5519
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	Stephen Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Alan Robinson	813.873.7189	813.843.9762
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

our #1 fundraiser. Last year, in 2020, even with all the COVID 19 obstacles we presented MDA with a check for a little over \$10,000. We achieved a golf tournament record donation in 2019 when we presented MDA with a \$15,100 check. We work extremely hard to make this event the #1 rated charity golf tournament at Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club. Golf Tournament chairman and retiree, Alan Robinson, puts all his efforts into this enjoyable event. Many members and family have supported our tournament and participated every year. For the past 3 years every participant has been welcomed by our adopted twelve-year-old energetic young man, Arden, who is dealing with muscular dystrophy. Arden and his family are our guests for the day, and they are all over the course taking pictures with the golfers. Our tournament is fun, with great gifts, great food, great camaraderie, and the cause is great. This year we are presented with the ongoing hurdles of the COVID-19 virus. We have started early and have a little momentum going, but we still need everyone's help. There are many ways to become a contributor individually, and flyers are available. Our raffle prizes generate the most money through gift cards, jerseys, signed footballs, alcoholic beverages, vacations, and gift baskets. If you know anyone who you think would want to contribute, maybe a business you know, or a golfer you might know, please contact our Branch office. MDA donations are significantly down...they need our help!

History

The NALC embraced the Muscular Dystrophy Association as its *official charity* in 1952, becoming the first official national sponsor of the group

founded in 1950. The union's first nationally coordinated campaign to raise funds for MDA came during Thanksgiving Week in 1953, when tens of thousands of letter carriers in more than 800 cities returned to their routes for a second time after completing their holiday-heavy mail deliveries. The all-volunteer effort was called *The Letter Carrier March for Muscular Dystrophy*. That year, letter carriers raised nearly \$4 million throughout the country. Since that time, the NALC has remained faithful to its commitment to help save and improve the lives of the children and adults MDA serves, raising millions of dollars which have been essential to advancing MDA's mission. MDA families are deeply grateful to Letter Carriers for caring and helping MDA move closer to finding lifesaving solutions.

—Nalc.org

Fourth COLA is \$1,934

The fourth regular Cost of Living Adjustment under the 2019-2023 National Agreement will be \$1,934 annually for letter carriers in Table 1 and at Step O of Table 2. Cost of living increases are paid proportionally to city carriers in Table 2 in accordance with Article 9.3.E of the National Agreement. This adjustment will be effective August 28 and reflected in paychecks dated September 17.

City Carrier Assistants will receive additional 1% increases effective November 20, 2021 and November 19, 2022 in lieu of cost of living adjustments pursuant to Article 9.7 of the National Agreement.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*Next generation vehicles update

Workhorse has abandoned its lawsuit protesting the United States Postal

Service's decision to let Oshkosh Defense build the next-generation mail truck. The decision comes just one day before the first oral arguments were scheduled to begin regarding the USPS's attempt to dismiss the case. Earlier this year (February) the Postal Service announced that it had awarded the contract to build the next-generation mail truck to defense contractor Oshkosh. The contract could be worth more than \$6 billion in total. Oshkosh has agreed to make 50,000 to 165,000 of the trucks over 10 years. Initially, only 10% of the new vehicles will be electric. The contest between Oshkosh and Workhorse for the right to build the next-generation vehicles began in 2015 with both companies building prototypes for testing. Letter Carriers were selected to test the different prototypes in different parts of the country and in different climates and weather conditions. Their input from those tests, to include safety issues and delivery concerns, assisted in the changes as the process evolved. The new vehicles will include air conditioning and heating, improved ergonomics, and advanced vehicle safety technology including air bags and 360-degree cameras. The current USPS vehicles (LLV) do not have air conditioning or modern safety features. The new vehicle process has been delayed many times and the anticipated rollout continues to be pushed back. Hopefully this decision will allow the next generation vehicles to be manufactured at full speed to replace the outdated Long Life Vehicles. In 2020 the USPS spent \$706.2 million in maintenance costs for 141,057 delivery vehicles.

—Information obtained from the Verge, Reuters and yahoo news.

*Addressing Driving Distractions

You see it every day, whether driving

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Contact
 Alan Robinson 813-843-9762
 Tony Diaz 813-598-9635
 Office 813-875-0599
 NALC599@verizon.net

Sponsorship Application Form

DUE BY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2020

BUSINESS NAME _____
 INDIVIDUAL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

MESSAGE ON SIGN _____

SELECT YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE:

- \$100 HOLE SPONSOR
- \$200 LONG DRIVE \$200 CLOSEST TO PIN \$200 PUTTING CONTEST
- \$250 FLAG STICK
- \$500 TEAM SPONSOR \$500 HOLE IN ONE
- \$1000 SILVER SPONSOR
- \$2000 GOLD SPONSOR

MDA Federal ID # 13-1665552
 Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599 MDA / 3003 W. Cypress St. Tampa, FL 33609

Players Registration Form

DUE BY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2020

GOLFER 1 _____
 GOLFER 2 _____
 GOLFER 3 _____
 GOLFER 4 _____

MDA Federal ID # 13-1665552
 Make checks payable to: NALC Branch 599 MDA / 3003 W. Cypress St. Tampa, FL 33609

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

\$100

HOLE SPONSOR
 • Signage on tee box

\$200

LONG DRIVE/ CLOSEST TO PIN/ PUTTING CONTEST
 • Signage at designated hole

\$250

FLAG STICK
 • Name or Logo on flag
 • Hole sign
 (Flag to be presented to sponsor/ hole sign)

\$500

TEAM SPONSOR
 • Foursome
 • Signage on cart
 • Signage on hole

\$500

HOLE IN ONE
 • Sign at tee box
 • Grand prize TBD

\$1000

SILVER SPONSOR
 • Foursome
 • Hole Sign
 • 4 Hats with logo
 • Flag stick

\$2000

GOLD SPONSOR
 • (2) Foursomes
 • (2) Flags/sticks
 • Hats tourn. Logo
 • Golf Shirts
 • Banner (at registration)
 • Lunch

*ALL SPONSORSHIPS MAY BE CUSTOMIZED

Unionism — Holidays

As an employee of the USPS, under our National Agreement, you will have holidays that you may or may not be paid for when they occur.

Article 11 of the Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM) provides a complete accounting for what holidays we are talking about and how the pay status for holiday pay is determined. This newsletter article will hit the high points, but it is recommended that you go to the JCAM and read the entire article to get all the information the parties have agreed to regarding holidays.

Eleven holidays are considered paid holidays under our contract. They are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and this year a new holiday was approved, Juneteenth Day.

There are several issues involved in being paid for these holidays and they are:

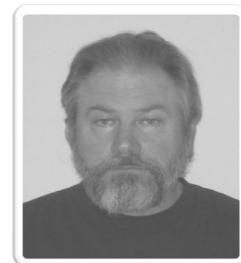
1. Only full-time regular, full-time flexible, part-time regular, and CCA (see Article 11.8) employees receive holiday pay. Additionally, CCAs are only eligible to be paid for 6 of the 11 holidays listed above (Juneteenth is still in negotiations). The holidays CCAs can be paid are New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
2. To be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must be in a pay status the last hour of the employee's scheduled workday prior to or the first hour of the employee's scheduled workday after the holiday. An employee who has been granted any paid leave is considered to be in a pay status.
3. Part-time flexible employees do not get paid for holidays. Instead, as ex-

plained under Article 11.7, part-time flexible employees, other than those in

Step AA, are paid at a slightly higher straight-time hourly rate to compensate them for not receiving paid holidays.

Under the latest contract agreement there has been an additional change when dealing with holiday pay that carriers might want to take advantage of and that is the ability to get credited for 8 hours of annual leave in place of holiday pay when a carrier works their holiday. this means if you work your holiday, either by being forced or volunteering to do so instead of being paid for working and then also getting 8 hours of holiday pay, the carrier may opt to have the holiday pay converted

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Brian Obst
Vice President
Branch 599

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

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to work or driving home, or driving to the store, or driving to dinner. It is called distracted drivers. Let's address 2 of the biggest distractions: drivers wearing headpieces and texting while driving.

1) Ear buds, headsets, headphones, earpieces, earphones, and all other listening electronic audio devices are *not* permitted to use while working for the United States Postal Service. There are no provisions for the use in only one ear, they are *not* permitted, period. Furthermore, it is prohibited by Florida State Law while driving any vehicle. Currently, less than 20 states in the United States have rules and regula-

tions regarding the use of these electronic devices while driving. For many states there is no prohibition on wearing of headsets while driving, but many have regulations in the works to pass as law. Florida has one of the sternest laws when addressing earpieces.

- Pursuant to **Florida Statute 316.304**, it is illegal to operate a vehicle while wearing headphones, headsets, ear buds, or any other listening device in the Sunshine State.
- The USPS Handbooks and Manuals, Handbook EL-814 states: Never wear headphones or headsets or any other device that can diminish your hearing while you are operating a motor vehicle.

2) Texting and driving is now a national epidemic. There are six billion mobile phone users and a billion vehicles interacting on the roads daily. Over a million people died in auto accidents last year and another two million were seriously injured! **Texting while driving became illegal by law in Florida on July 1, 2019.** Texting while driving in Florida is a primary traffic offense punishable by fines under a bill signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Arrive Alive!

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

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Get well wishes are extended to **Al Guice** [retiree] as he recovers from recent surgery, and to **Joe Villa Jr.** [TCA] as he recovers from a health issue.

New Pay Scale

The new pay scale is on page 5 of September's Postal Record.

Unionism — Holidays

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to annual leave and credited to the carrier's leave balance for the year. This allows for an additional day of annual leave availability for the carrier to use at a time of their choosing. This is just an additional benefit negotiated by our national officers.

An employee who works on a holiday (except Christmas Day) or day designated as their holiday will be paid at the base straight-time rate for each hour worked, up to eight. Regular employees who are required to work on Christmas Day or their designated Christmas holiday are paid an additional 50% of their base hourly straight-time rate for up to eight hours of Christmas worked pay, in addition to their holiday worked pay. Part-time flexible employees receive an additional 50% Christmas worked pay for hours actually worked on Christmas Day—December 25.

Section 5. Holiday on Non-Work Day

A. When a holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as the holiday. When a holiday falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be observed as the holiday.

B. When an employee's scheduled non-work day falls on a day observed as a holiday, the employee's scheduled workday preceding the holiday shall be designated as that employee's holiday.

Section 6. Holiday Schedule

A. The Employer will determine the number and categories of employees needed for holiday work and a schedule shall be posted as of the Tuesday preceding the service week in which the holiday falls.

B. As many full-time and part-time regular schedule employees as can be spared will be excused from duty on a holiday or day designated as their holiday. Such employees will not be required to work on a holiday or day designated as their holiday unless all casuals and part-time flexibles are utilized to the maximum extent possible, even if the payment of overtime is required, and unless all full-time and part-time regulars with the needed skills who wish to work on the holiday have been afforded an opportunity to do so.

C. An employee scheduled to work on a holiday who does not work shall not receive holiday pay, unless such absence is based on an extreme emergency situation and is excused by the Employer.

D. Qualified CCAs will be scheduled for work on a holiday or designated holiday after all full-time volunteers are scheduled to work on their holiday or designated holiday. They will be scheduled, to the extent possible, prior to any full-time volunteers or non-volun-

teers being scheduled to work a non-scheduled day or any full-time non-volunteers being required to work their holiday or designated holiday. If the parties have locally negotiated a pecking order that would schedule full-time volunteers on a nonscheduled day, the Local Memorandum of Understanding will apply.

The LMOU provisions covering the method of selecting employees to work on a holiday are covered in Item 13 of the Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) and are on page 12 of the LMOU book provided to all carriers. If you have not received a copy, please see your steward to request one.

Again, this is simply a quick overview of the Holiday Article which is Article 11 of the JCAM, and I recommend that you take the time to go to NALC.org under the *Resources* tab and review the actual JCAM language for complete information on this topic. Additional information on the Juneteeth holiday is forthcoming as it was only just approved this year and the agreements are still being negotiated at the national level of the NALC/USPS.

I leave you as always.....

Knowledge is the Key.

Brian Obst
Vice President



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<http://www.mrtherapycenter.com>

NOTICE

Meetings are subject to change
due to any upsurges of COVID-19.

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

October 5
November 2

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

October 7
November 4

Branch 599 Meetings

Thursday 7:30 PM

October 7
November 4
December 2
January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday *Date to be Announced* 9 AM
Denny's Restaurant
at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday *Date to be Announced* 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher
12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637



A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599

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Tampa FL 33609-1617

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