



Tampa Letter Carrier

From the President's Desk

Government Elections

This is the key month for the future of our nation, the future of the US Postal Service, as well as the future of our ability to choose our collective bargaining advocates. Take the time to evaluate everything in the platforms of different party candidates, make a sound decision as to how that will decide your future and the effect it will have on your family. While you are looking at this information, ponder upon a very important element of the different platforms or agendas. When you see that there is a huge contrast from one to the other regarding how it elevates a small portion of our society to diminish a very large side of our society it should be quite obvious where you fit in the scheme of things. When you look square into the mirror, ask yourself: am I part

of the elite that thinks I should have more while others sacrifice more and pay more of the burden of balancing our economy, or am I part of the working class and want others to be part of a stronger working middle class of America? It can't be more obvious than that; the other objectives of politics are designed to divide the focus onto to one topic and diminish the focus on the broader scope of what is going to keep this nation moving toward a recovery from one of the most stressful periods on the entire world.

The conditions of the Postal Service are very synonymous with conditions of the economy and it started with us sooner than it did the rest of the country. The 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was the beginning of the death spiral of the



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

Postal Service as well as the number one reason for our current default. The assault on government jobs that are held by American workers as a path to privatize for corporate gain when the agency receives nothing from the tax payer is nothing but a *hide the shell* game and there are plenty of people who think it is the right thing to do. The even sadder thing is that many of them work for the Postal Service. Then there are the ones who say it is the unions' fault because they are just a bunch of left wing socialist. How far from an exaggeration that is when over 40% of our members are veterans who fought and served to protect our nation, the flag, the Constitution, and our sacred rights. When you

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
November 1
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599

Fax 813.870.0599

www.nalc599.com

Alan W. Peacock
President

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Monday-Friday

8 AM – 4:30 PM

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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

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

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

Officers

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Trustee Chair	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
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	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good		

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
November 1
December 6

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
October 30
December 4

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst				727.458.0679
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	813.960.8894	813.263.7895
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.874.6809	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.889.3913	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1403	
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Brian Obst	813.873.7189	727.458.0679
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	813.270.5035
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

hear the term *class warfare* and everyone wants to create jobs and help our suffering middle class and those living in poverty, why would anyone want to destroy good middle class jobs? The answer is simple, *PROFIT*, and the way to get more is to take away something that was earned by someone else. That is what Venture Capitalists do. They know how to run a business and destroy thousands of good jobs and make a few better ones and write-off the losses so that the tax payers get the bill. Be very careful of who you think is looking out for you, especially when there is a large amount of greed involved. There was a recent article in the local newspaper that compared postal services around the world and it concluded that in nations that were strongly educated and well managed there was no difference in the excellence of workers whether they were government or private workers. It did establish that countries that were struggling and especially those that are at the third world tier, services were poor when these services were from government or private sector. This theory probably would apply to almost all labor intensive type industries.

Arbitration and Insurance

No news yet from the arbitration hearings and whether our contract will be any better than what the other crafts' unions have agreed to or received from their arbitration. As long as we still have collective bargaining rights that some in congress would love to take away, we will faithfully represent the

members of this union and work hard to keep enforcement of all our agreements. One example when you shop for your health benefit plan this year...notice that NALC has one of the few plans that decreased its premiums and it was the largest decrease of any plan offered. Our plan is always one of the top rated plans available to federal employees. There were a lot of questions regarding changing from PPO to OAP last year and many of my providers were not in our network, but I wanted to stay with the same doctors and my visits went from having a \$20 co-pay to only paying just over \$12 out of network for my visits. As long as we have a union and NALC has a health plan, it will be the plan I choose.

Know Your Rights

We have ordered some new cards for all our members to carry and the ones we have ordered will have Weingarten Rights on one side and Miranda Rights on the other. It is so you know your rights at all times when you might be interviewed by management or a postal inspector. You should always request representation just so none of your rights are violated or any negotiation of any agreement is offered, due to the Union being the sole bargaining unit representative in all agreements. When in doubt of any action or any requirement that you are instructed to sign on a document that you are not familiar with, request that you have the opportunity to review it with your Steward or a Union Officer.

Better safe than sorry since there seems to be some gotcha operations going on that need some scrutiny.

We are scheduled for some Dispute Resolution Training provided for Stewards and their counterparts in management; they will be training together and hopefully this will help settle some of the tremendous numbers of grievances that are stacking up at the B-Team level. While we are on the local subject, we have received another large amount of excessing letters for the clerk craft and that means that there will be withholding of residual routes with future no successful bids. Our Carrier Technician will still be converted as they occur unless there are any carrier events of excessing in the carrier craft. While the Postal Service has eliminated some Postmasters, Mail Handlers and Clerks, there is still a shortage of Letter Carriers and that will continue unless something happens in this election that will continue the financial devastation of the US Postal Service that started in Congress and can only end in Congress. Soon we will know the answers...let's hope they will be good for all our citizens, not just a



Treasurer's Report – September 2012



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

August 31 BB&T **Operating Account** \$18,937.04

Deposits

NALC Secretary Treasurer [3]	\$19,176.96
Back Dues	150.54
Newsletter Ads [2]	350.00
MDA Donations [7]	801.00
Mutual Benefit [1]	436.99
USAmeriBank Money Market Training Fund	8,435.82
BB&T Operating Account Interest	.12

Expenses

Branch Officer Salaries [13, monthly]	\$1,767.08
Branch President Salary [2 PP]	4,921.60
Branch President's Health Benefit	327.60
Branch Office Secretary's Salary [2 PP]	2,445.00
Branch Steward Salaries [19, monthly]	2,845.00
Stewards Lost Wages [2 hours]	536.00
Editor/Webmaster Salary [monthly]	160.00
Security Guard during Branch Meeting	45.00
IRS Taxes [form 941] for August	3,922.32
Retirement Gratuities [4]	750.00
Reimbursement [Br. meeting refreshments]	56.28
National Convention Delegate 2012 [1]	535.82
Committee of Presidents Meeting	562.00
Brian Dempsey, Treasurer Florida AFL-CIO	120.00
MDA Donation	1,301.00
Transfer from Operating Acct to Building Fund	100.00
Akita Copy Product printing fee	67.85
Great American Leasing Corp [copier]	329.89
Postmaster [newsletter permit]	400.00
QuickBooks Pro Online Service	24.95
Verizon [phones & internet]	365.92
AT&T Wireless	94.10
Quill Corporation	190.17
Staples [office supplies]	859.25
BB&T Online Service	14.95
BB&T Service Charge	2.00

August 31 BB&T **Building Fund Account** \$32,641.71

Deposits

Hall Rentals [7]	\$2,712.00
Recreation Room	17.00
BB&T Operating Fund [reconciliation]	100.00

Expenses

Building Manager [monthly]	\$600.00
Rental Agent	125.00
Custodial Services [3]	450.00
Hillsborough County	215.00
City of Tampa Utilities	545.47
TECO [electric]	1,212.66
TECO Gas	106.24
Florida Department [sales tax on rentals]	81.20
Crenshaw Termite & Pest Control	39.59

Accounts as of September 30

BB&T Operating Account	\$23,317.68
BB&T Building Fund	36,317.07
MidFlorida Credit Union Savings	254.01
MidFlorida Credit Union CD	100,000.00
Regions Bank CD	50,000.00
USAmeriBank CD	200,000.00
USAmeriBank MM [Training Fund]	2,484.22
Total Balance Available	\$412,372.98



Learn more here: www.nalc.org
Click the *Gimme 5 for COLCPE* logo
to learn more and then
signup as an e-activist!

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, I first want to thank the carriers who participated in our monthly Sunday morning work party on October 7. Not even the holiday weekend (Columbus Day) would keep these carriers from donating two hours of their time to our Letter Carriers Hall. While the turnout was low because of the holiday, much was accomplished. The grounds could not wait another month for attention since heavy rains cancelled the past two monthly work parties. Our next work party will be on November 4 from 9 to 11 AM. There is still plenty of work to be done, and all of you are welcome to come out. I know many of our regular participants, who were unable to attend in October because of the holiday and prior commitments, will be there. We need weed eaters to trim the overgrowth along our fence lines. If you are interested please call me or contact the union office; without a lawn service these work parties are very important to the upkeep of our hall.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

This leads me into the proposed bylaw changes we will be voting on in the upcoming monthly union meetings. The two proposed bylaw changes will involve a slight dues increase for our members, both active and retired. I support these bylaws because the monies would be earmarked toward both the *Building Fund* and the *Training and Convention Fund* should they be voted on successfully. Both funds are critical to the continued maintenance and development of Branch 599 for future years.

Contributing to the *Training and Convention Fund* will allow our stewards and officers the continued

opportunity to educate themselves to better defend and guide the members of our Branch. It would assist in sending our stewards, officers, and delegates to our State and National Conventions as well as the *Committee of Presidents* meeting...in addition, training seminars for our Director of Retirees, Health Benefit Representative, Trustees, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

Contributing to the *Building Fund* is critical to the repairs and general maintenance of our beautiful Letter Carriers Hall. Our hall is aging and there are high cost items that need attention. We continue to host rentals with only two of the three big air conditioning units in working condition. Before we can replace the middle air conditioning unit, however, the roof will need replacement. With the soft pockets that exist on the roof, installing a new unit would be very risky, if the contractor would even attempt it. The cost of replacing the roof will obviously be a high cost item we will need to address in the very near future. There are additional projects pending that are all vital to keeping our hall in a condition renters will continue to admire. Projects such as painting, re-surfacing the parking lot, several plumbing jobs, and replacing rotten eaves and fascia.

Without the contributions towards our *Building Fund* it will be impossible to maintain our hall in the future without draining our operational union funds. We would not be able to continue to support the best union hall in this country. Please support the bylaws.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) In case you haven't heard, *APWU News Bulletin 20-2012, Oct.*

1, 2012: The APWU has negotiated a retirement incentive agreement that awards eligible full-time career employees a \$15,000 payment in two installments, President Cliff Guffey has announced. The first installment will be \$10,000; the second will be \$5,000. "Our goal was to achieve an incentive for members who are ready to end their postal careers; to ensure that no groups of employees are excluded, and to lessen the hardships of excessing for those who remain," Guffey said. "This agreement accomplishes those objectives." The \$10,000 payment will be made on May 24, 2013; the \$5,000 payment will be made on May 23, 2014.

*) We are planning another *MDA Bowl-A-Thon* in November; stay tuned for details. Last year's event was a success. Branch 599 has always made a large contribution to MDA. However, in recent years due to the city restrictions on collecting on the street corners and the influx of pan-handlers, our main source of our contributions to MDA has been severely impacted. We are trying to look outside the box for different fund raising events. Any suggestions, please contact the union office,



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NALC BRANCH 599

WHO IS THE
Best Choice
IN THE SENATE
FOR
**WORKING
FAMILIES?**



BILL NELSON:
**Putting Middle-Class
Families First**



CONNIE MACK IV:
**Leaving the Middle Class
Behind**

MIDDLE CLASS

Protecting the Middle Class. Nelson opposed slashing funds for critical federal programs to help the middle class weather the economic crisis, and kept extremists like Mack from undermining education and health care. (H.R. 1, Vote 36, 3/9/11)

Costing Florida Jobs and Services. Mack supported massive budget cuts that would have cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and cut vital working family programs and protections, like education and health care. (H.R. 1, Vote 147, 2/19/11)

EDUCATION

Keeping Teachers in the Classroom. Nelson backed a bill to provide states and local governments \$35 billion to keep teachers safe from layoffs during the recession. (S. 1723, Vote 177, 10/20/11)

Attacking Public Schools. Mack voted to take resources from public school students and teachers to force taxpayers to fund private schools. (H.R. 471, Vote 204, 3/30/11)

WORKERS' RIGHTS

Respecting Workers' Rights. Nelson defended our right to form a union through fair elections, stopping a right-wing plan that could have let management delay votes for months or even years. (S.J.R. 36, Vote 68, 4/24/12)

Destroying Collective Bargaining. Mack made it harder to form a union, denied workers the right to organize and voted to eliminate project labor agreements. (H.R. 658, Vote 217, 4/1/11; H.R. 2017, Vote 403, 6/2/11; H.R. 4310, Vote 267, 5/17/12)

SUPPORT
CANDIDATES
WHO SUPPORT
WORKING
FAMILIES

VOTE Nov. 6

**BILL
NELSON**
U.S. SENATE, FLORIDA

— Not for posting on US Postal Service bulletin boards. —

Things You Should Know



Gilbert Cabanas
Financial Secretary
Branch 599

Proposed Bylaw Changes and Our Future Direction

At the October 4, 2012 Union meeting, we found some technical problems with one of our proposed bylaw changes. Also, there were some scheduled delivery problems with our news-letter. So as the bylaw committee chairman, those bylaw changes were pulled and will be resubmitted in our newsletter next month, and then the bylaw changes can be voted upon the following month. We do feel that most of these bylaw changes are in the best interest of our membership. Every change that we bring to the Union meeting will be openly discussed on the floor and if the membership decides that it is not needed, we all can go on with our lives.

No one is going to be upset with the will of the membership because we want everyone to know the real facts of our entire operation. This is the reason we felt the unification of the TLC was the right thing to do.

Now every dollar that comes into our hall is deposited into our building fund or operating account. There are no separate accounts with the total revenue any longer. All of our funds are under the same umbrella and the total revenue figures are given to the members at the monthly meeting. Now only the Union members can decide what to spend and how to divide these funds outside of the everyday bills. This is the best change that has been accomplished during this administration's term. Two separate term officers should not decide how to spend the income that was derived from our hall's capabilities. So now all of our income is under the leadership of the officers that the membership elected and only the membership can decide what to do with those funds.

Our Union hall belongs to all its member Letter Carriers, past and present, not the officers in charge. So let's continue to work for the entire membership and not allow a

few members to disrupt or accuse those of us who are trying to provide everyone with the real facts of our operating funds including the past funds that were in the TLC account. The figures that were presented at the October 4, 2012 Union meeting were derived from the 990 forms. These forms were sent to the IRA by our former CPA, Mr. Collazo, who worked for TLC during those particular years. I realized that some of our members that disputed those figures were past TLC board members. So why didn't they know the salaries of their officers?

In closing, if anyone wants to know or see the figures from our accounts in the past in order to guide them in the future, we will be glad to present that information. Please don't be surprised or mad at us when you discover those figures. In the final analysis, you, the membership, can

Exercise Your Right to VOTE

*Vote early,
vote by mail,
or vote on
November 6.*

YOUR ballot only counts if you cast it!

Sunday
Work Party
at the Hall

**November 4
9-11 AM**

Retirees
Breakfast

**Monday
November 5**

9 AM

Coffee Cup
4407 N. Hubert Avenue,
Tampa

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NALC BRANCH 599



**PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA:
Protecting Our
Retirement**



**MITT ROMNEY:
Selling Out
Our Retirement**

MEDICARE

Strengthening Medicare. President Obama wants to make Medicare stronger, not end it. He said he won't allow the budget "to be an excuse for turning Medicare into a voucher program that leaves seniors at the mercy of the insurance industry." (The Washington Post, 9/19/11)

Ending Medicare. The Romney-Ryan budget plan would replace Medicare with a private voucher system that will raise out-of-pocket costs for seniors by thousands of dollars. (Candidate press release, 12/8/11; EPI, 5/17/12; Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2011)

SOCIAL SECURITY

Protecting Social Security. President Obama said, "I'll fight with everything I've got to stop those who would gamble your Social Security on Wall Street. Because you shouldn't be worried that a sudden downturn in the stock market will put all you've worked so hard for—all you've earned—at risk." (The New York Times, 8/14/10)

Privatizing Social Security and Raising the Retirement Age. Romney supports proposals that would cut Social Security benefits, raise the retirement age and even go as far as privatizing Social Security, jeopardizing our retirement savings in the stock market. (The Boston Globe, 4/11/11)

RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Promoting Retirement Savings. President Obama would double the value of tax credits for businesses that start new retirement plans and create a new automatic workplace pension system for employees whose companies don't offer a retirement plan. (U.S. News Money, 2/14/11)

Slashing Pensions. As CEO, Romney made millions breaking contracts and cutting promised benefits for workers. As governor, Romney proposed ending the state pension plan and shorted the pension fund \$500 million in one of his final budgets. (Los Angeles Times, 12/16/07; The Boston Globe, 3/9/03; The New York Times, 3/16/07; 6/23/12)

**PROTECT OUR RETIREMENT
VOTE NOV. 6 ★ BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT**

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Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Get well wishes & prayers

are sent to Michael Crowder [Interbay] at Cypress Palms Assisted Living, Largo; and to Leo Sykes [Plant City] who is recuperating in the hospital.

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to the family of Alfred Drayne Jr. [retiree, Ruskin/Sun City Center] who passed September 13; to the family of Charles Feinman [retiree, Town 'N Country], whose passing was October 12; to Pearl and family at the passing of her husband, Jesse L. Waldron [retiree, Sulphur Springs], September 16; and to Joe Restivo [Palm River] at the passing of his mother.

Thank-you Dinner at November Branch Meeting

Branch 599 member, Ella Winner, would like to thank everyone who helped her reach her goal for the *Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk to erase breast cancer* by providing dinner at our November Branch meeting!

***Volunteer* Poll Monitors Needed for 2012 General Election**

**Tuesday November 6
Various Counties**

Contact our Branch Office for more information.

Thankful to live in America

Enjoy your
Thanksgiving holiday!





Our MDA Coordinator, Sam Santilli, is selling
Color Coded *Day Off* Calendars for \$4 each
and all the proceeds go to the
Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**Deliver
the Cure**



Bowl-a-Thon

Sunday November 18 1 PM

Oakfield Lanes

1001 Oakfield Drive, Brandon

Signup sheets will be at all stations.

Complete teams are welcomed.

The Bucs' away game will be on TVs.

Get Out the Vote!

Labor 2012, in support of our endorsed candidates, is off and running!
The AFL-CIO will be conducting phone banking in various locations
throughout the West Coast Central Labor Council area.

Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL
is designated for phone banking
from 6-8 PM every Monday night until the election.

Volunteer opportunities abound!

Please join us in committing to *volunteer one day each week*,
either phone banking or canvassing. For information or directions call 813.875.0599.

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

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

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FAX 727.585.9367
bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



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NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 TAMPA FL
 PERMIT NO. 1285

Happy ~~Early~~ Holidays



*Skip Your Loan
 Payments!*

**SKIP YOUR NOVEMBER
 OR DECEMBER LOAN
 PAYMENTS!**

Extra Cash - just in time for the holidays! This holiday season Tampa Postal is offering you the opportunity to skip one or all of your loan payments.* For only \$25 per loan, you can skip your loan payment for either the month of **November** or **December** (excluding 1st Mortgages, Home Equity Loans, MasterCard and RV Loans). If you already made your November loan payment(s), you can still skip December.

Visit www.tpcu.org to Learn More.



800.782.4899 | WWW.TPCU.ORG

*Visit www.tpcu.org for complete details.



TAMPA POSTAL
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION