



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 2 - Issue 9

A.R. "Tony" Huerta - NALC Branch 599

September 2003

President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

I must begin this article on a sad note. Sam Dolcimascolo, a past president of Branch 599 and a dedicated union activist, passed away July 26th. I had the pleasure of knowing Sam for eight years, and I can honestly say that everything he did or said was based on what was best for Branch 599. We did not always agree, but he had an open mind and always let his thoughts be heard. He was always there when needed and he will be missed.

I attended the Region Nine Rap Session in South Carolina on August 16th and 17th, and some facts from the President's Commission on the Postal Service were brought up. The commission recommended major changes to collective bargaining, stating that a committee of three appointees would have the last word should collective bargaining on a National Agreement fail. They also recommended changes to health benefits, worker's compensation benefits, and a pay-for-performance program for supervisory personnel as well as craft employees. In addition they want to lift the payroll cap for management and pay carriers only what similar employees in the private sector make. Our national president, Bill Young, said that these issues will not come before the current congress, but will be a major issue when the new congress convenes in 2004.

What we are looking at is an attack on letter carriers, both active and retired. Now is the time that we must band to-

gether, as a union, and stand up to save our jobs as well as the USPS. We must all make ourselves, as well as our families and friends, available to educate our representatives in Congress regarding issues that will affect the future of letter carriers and the agency we work for. If you have not filled out the form "NALC Can Count On Me", you can use the one on page 14. You will then be placed in the *NALC activists database* so that you can be contacted to write your representatives when the proper time arrives. This is not a drill! Your future depends on what you do now. President Young says that he needs 150,000 carriers signed up and willing to participate if we stand a chance of being heard and listened to.



This brings up another subject: COLCPE. In last month's newsletter Jack Newman, Branch 599's Director of Retirees, put out a challenge to all members of the branch to donate to this fund. This political action fund is the only method NALC has to help back the politicians who are friendly to our concerns. There have been less than ten members who have donated thus far. Does this mean that only ten carriers care enough about their futures to give \$25.00 to help protect it? Surely \$25.00 is a small sacrifice to help protect the benefits that the union has fought so long and hard to gain for us. Please contribute to your future.

(continued on page 4)

**BRANCH
MEETING
THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 4
7:30 PM
AT
THE
UNION HALL**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>ATTS LINE</i>	5
<i>UTSIDE THE LI NES</i> ...	6
<i>EAT GOES ON</i>	7
<i>ERSPECTIVE</i>	11

Branch Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	813-960-3759
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT	John Watts	813-971-5525
VICE PRESIDENT	Michael Brousseau	727-726-7355
RECORDING SECRETARY	Clark Alday	813-238-9685
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	John Gebo	813-985-5474
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	813-681-5688
TRUSTEE (Chairman)	Henry Dupree	813-621-6471
TRUSTEE	Butch Smith	813-933-4676
TRUSTEE	Brian Obst	727-507-0135
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Lance Jones	813-968-9369
MBA/NSBA	Albert Guice	813-621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Detlev Aepfel	813-907-9685
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER	Sam Dolcimascolo	727-596-8081
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	Jack Newman	813-805-2942

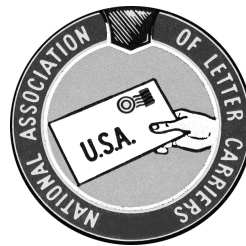
The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 599, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33609-1617, publishes The Tampa Letter Carrier monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for publication must be signed by the writer. All articles are subject to editing and revision at the discretion of the publisher & editor. **Please submit articles to the branch office no later than the tenth of the month.**

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

Office: 813-875-0599

Email: nalc599@verizon.net



Shop Stewards

Brandon	33510	Jim Brophy	813-875-1680
Brandon	33510	Miroslaw Oldziej	813-661-1106
Carrollwood	33618	Susan Sinigaglia	813-962-3128
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	813-780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	John Watts	813-971-5525
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Ella Winner	352-583-0626
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	813-855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	813-968-9369
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813-935-0244
Interbay	33611	Dee Brockman	813-831-2034
Interbay	33629	Brian Obst	727-507-0135
MacDill	33608	Dee Brockman	813-831-2034
Northdale	33624	Freddie Nimphius	813-968-7491
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	813-621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	813-719-6793
Port Tampa	33616	Dee Brockman	813-831-2034
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	813-620-4756
Ruskin/Sun City	33570	Jack Hencoski	813-633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Mike Stewart	813-238-7401
Sulphur Springs	33604	Albert Guice	813-621-7931
TCA	33609	Alan Peacock	813-962-0646
TCA	33607	Anthony Moran	813-872-0709
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Anderson	813-681-5688
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	727-507-0135
Ybor	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813-907-9685

Labor Management Members

Tony Diaz	813-872-1542
Matt Kokich	813-469-9753

MAPS Coordinator

Christian Albrecht 727-791-7162

Presidents Emeritus

Milton McConnell	James Butler
Sam Dolcimascolo	Garland Tickle
Howard Carter	Orbe Andux
Don Thomas	Michael Anderson
Lenin V. Perez	

RETIRES BREAKFAST

September 8th

9:00 AM

at

The Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert

in Drew Park

(NE corner of MLK & Hubert)



Mike Chiles' Retirement Party

The President's Report *(from page 1)*

Please read what I am going to tell you next very carefully. A motion may be made at the next branch meeting that could have a very drastic effect on the finances of your branch. The results of this motion may increase your union dues 50 to 100 %, or completely deplete our cash reserves. It is imperative that every member come to the meeting, listen to what is going to be discussed, and let their voice be heard. Too many times in the past decisions have been made by a small minority of the membership that affects all members. Don't let it happen again!

In closing, I hope we have a large turnout for the Labor Day Picnic and that we can all join together in friendship and unionism to celebrate this great holiday.



Mike Chiles' Retirement Party

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?

SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME

320 PATLIN CIRCLE EAST

PHONE: 727-584-4307

LARGO, FL 33770-3063

CELL: 727-543-0705

FAX: 727-585-9367

wfm505@tampabay.rr.com

The Watts Line

by John A. Watts

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

The last few months have taken its toll on the officers and members of Branch 599. The recent passing of Sam Dolcimascolo hit me personally very hard.

I first met Sam in 1984 when I first attended a branch meeting. He would go around the hall during the meeting selling COLCPE tickets to collect money for our National Political Action fund. This money is used to help elect people in congress and the senate that enact laws that are favorable to the letter carriers and the USPS in general. As the years went by Sam and I became good friends. Before every meeting Sam would go to the bread store and to the meat market and buy fresh bread and cold cuts to serve to the membership that union meeting night. I would help Sam set up the food and refreshments that the membership helped themselves to after the meeting at no cost.

As we became closer he would teach me the inner workings of this branch and how the NALC fights for the rights of all letter carriers. Sam, Ron

Cormier, Mike Brousseau and I would attend National and State conventions and room together. At more than one convention, to save money, we would stay four to a room because the branch would not have enough money to pay our full expenses. As a result Sam taught us all how to become union representatives. Sam loved this branch more then any person I have ever known.

Reva, on behalf of all Branch 599 members and officers that had the privilege to know Sam, we would like to let you know that we love him and miss him and he will be forever in his debt for all he taught us through his words and deeds. The branch has lost a great union man. We will miss you Sam.

As we all know, our past president Lenin Perez has been indicted and accused of wrong doing concerning



(continued on page 13)

TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS PRESENT BINGO

COME JOIN THE FUN

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

GAMES START AT 6:30

AT THE TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS HALL

3003 W. CYPRESS St.

Tampa, Fl. 33609

Outside The Lines

by Leslie Ray Garcia

It has been just over six weeks since the route inspection changes have been implemented and the "shadow team" has returned to our station. As to be expected, all the routes that were re-examined had low mail volume for the days of the street observations. To date no changes have been made to eliminate the overburdened routes.

As usual management thinks the letter carriers are intentionally not working to or above standards. During the morning interrogation on how much assistance a carrier might need, the question of "under-time" continually arises. A carrier will tell the supervisor an approximate amount of time needed to finish the route and the supervisor states according to his/her figures, you only need fifteen minutes. The figures are contrived by the DOIS method of delivery, wherein the mail jumps out of the trays and into the mail receptacle all in "one motion"! The Advo and Flyer circulars and sequence cards are delivered by this same DOIS. Each letter carrier therefore has less mail to deliver and will have that magical "under-time." This system thought of by management might work at Disney World but it will fail as so many other of management's miscarriages.

The system does not incorporate the human factor into the equation nor does it include any factors of the weather or vehicle break-downs. It does not include travel time, dead-head time, street breaks, lunch or bathroom needs. The system only calculates pure office time and pure street time. With this type of logic, it is no wonder that the USPS is losing money on wasted ideas. The urge to privatize and piecemeal it means multi-million dollars worth of unrealistic programs will be eliminated. Thus the CEOs of the new USPS will receive those moneys in bonuses while the workers receive nothing. The new and improved USPS will become a corporate giant much like the Enron's, etc.

In the NALC Bulletin dated July 10, 2003, one of the articles was "Early Outs? No!" In short, it stated that the early out program was a bad deal. The early out as presented by the USPS would reduce or penalize annuities by two percent per year if an individual seeks retirement prior to the normal eligibility retirement age. In addition to this penalty, individuals who seek to retire will not be issued a cash incentive. Yet

the USPS higher ups are going to be issued cash incentives for meeting unrealistic production goals!

The bulletin further stated that "Letter carriers are not receiving such offers because the future for them is brighter than those in other crafts and there is no need to downsize the letter carrier craft." It should be stated that this is true to a point because the clerk craft has been devastated by the elimination of many positions due to automation. However, the July 24, 2003 NALC Bulletin in bold lettering stated, "Letter Carriers at Risk by Recommendations of Postal Commission..Employees Would Become Second-class Citizens." In just fourteen days, letter carriers have gone from a *bright future* to a future of being *second class citizens*?"

We, who are at the bottom of the food chain, knew that our future would be bleak with the appointment of a republican president. How can our future be considered bright when our brothers and sisters are continually being excessed, continually have their routes eliminated, continually have routes that are overburdened, continually be issued excessive discipline, have continual and blatant violations of the national agreement and arbitration rulings and have continual and relentless harassment from management?

Upon the establishment of the postal commission, all letter carriers realized that this commission was a farce. The appointment of these individuals by a president who is anti-labor, pro-privatization, anti-collective bargaining, anti-worker's compensation benefits, anti-comprehensive retirement and anti-health benefits is solid evidence of what type of *bright future* letter carriers are to be given.

Another issue that should have raised storm warning flags was the selection of only CEOs to form this predatory panel. There was no appointment of any NALC national officer to this commission panel. This only adds additional insult to injury with the complete disregard and total disrespect shown to the membership of this union and to all remaining craft employees of the USPS. This might have been a minor issue but it was quite obvious to

(continued on page 7)

And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

Has any other person had any trouble with *Care Mark*, the drug company working for our NALC health plan? I sure have. I even wrote T.H. Young, Jr., Director of the Health Plan at our national office in Washington, D.C. with a letter of my problems and he hasn't even had the decency to reply that he got my letter. So much for national's *Care Mark*! I sent them a copy of the check they cashed and said they never received. As of two weeks later, they have sent nothing.

Care Mark sent me a bill stating that my MasterCard refused to honor their request for payment. I called the Tampa Postal Credit Union and they said no request was ever made. Something is wrong with their billing department big time and the lack of communication from either our national office or Care Mark leaves a lot to be desired.

The world lost an icon in July: Bob Hope. Branch 599 lost as much when Brother Sam Dolcimascolo died very suddenly after just getting over a serious illness. Every one was telling him how good he looked. He was always at every union meeting, walking around with the big cigar and collecting for COLCPE. He took care of the bar and goodies after the meetings. He loved Branch 599 and we all loved Sam. He will be missed very much.

Well, what is next for the U.S. Postal Service and you the letter carrier? You, most of you, as employees of the P. O., have taken every kind of abuse known to mankind. What else can happen? Now we all have the postal commission that is sending in reports to President Bush of how they think the P.O. should be run and what measures need to be taken to run it cheaper. This will affect not only craft but management as well; not only union but non-union; not only active but retirees as well. It will affect everyone.

You all have heard this song before and the majority of you always ignore it: give something to COLCPE, not a lot. Hell, we all know you don't make much money. You need to spend your bucks on the extra car or the bigger house you're going to buy or your putting your kid through college. But from what I read, this is very serious. President Bush is not fooling around and your "Job", your "Pay", your Retirement" is at stake, as is what I pay for healthinsurance and my overall retirement income as well.

I'm on a fixed income and no overtime. I pay out enough to everything now and it hurts to pay out more to any one. But PLEASE join me in sending a message to congress by way of the money we give to COLCPE. Just give SOMETHING so that we may all just keep what we have worked for all our lives.

Outside The Lines (continued from page 6)

this writer that the commission's recommendations would not be beneficial or constructive to the letter carrier craft.

In an article found on the APWU's bulletin board this commission has a Web site: www.tres.gov/offices/domestic-finance/usps via the "Final report and Recommendations" link. You can find out the entire commissions recommendations.

I understand I missed a lively and entertaining union meeting August 7, 2003. If I would have known, I would have made a stronger effort to attend the meeting by canceling my physical therapy session. I do apologize to the membership for this.

"There is one way to find out if a man is honest – ask him. If he says "yes", you know he is crooked."

Groucho Marx.



Birdseye View

by Alan Peacock

Another month has gone by and as usual there haven't been many bright spots, especially the passing of Brother Sam Dolcimascolo. We will greatly miss Sam. Anyone that knew him will never forget how he cared about all of us and how he always said "lots of luck" to anyone who bought a 50/50 ticket. When Sam would raise his eyebrows and look over his glasses with that cigar and his little Groucho Marx engaging way he could always bring out a smile. He has been our spiritual guide in a social and recreation way always providing something to eat after meetings and giving an opportunity for some camaraderie. I know this about Sam: he loved the union and he wanted things done right for the organization and he wanted things done right for the members. Sam, you will be missed.

I have heard a lot of grumbling from our members that the union is not doing anything for them. Well, the opportunity exists every month to come to the meeting, be involved and tell the officers what direction you want your union to go. When it comes to rights, we are all born with rights endowed us from our creator. As an officer or steward, or any elected person, we are bound by laws, by bylaws, constitutions and the privileges that you the members permit us to have. There are no provisions or rights in any legal document that allows for any self proclaimed individual or group of individuals to make decisions that are not given by the vote of the members of this organization. I strongly recommend that every member of this organization attend every meeting so you are informed of the decisions that are made.

It has been stated on many occasions that everyone is making \$60,000.00 a year or more so therefore they are content and don't care about what is happening or what this organization is doing for them. During the September meeting there will be a special meeting of TLC Inc. following the branch meeting. This meeting, in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, is to provide the members with an opportunity to hear the By-Laws and proposed By-Law changes for Tampa Letter Carriers Inc. the holding corporation of Branch 599. All members of Branch 599 are also members of TLC, Inc.

The following month after the October branch meeting there will be another special TLC, Inc. meeting. This meeting is to provide the members an opportu-

nity to vote on the By-Laws and proposed changes. The members who attend and vote will make the decisions as to how this organization will function. The membership has the right to determine the privileges they will allow those they have elected to serve them.

On the matter of recent route inspections and the so-called adjustments, this has been nothing more than a diluted inspection with polluted adjustments. All the rhetoric about inspecting the routes in good faith and working together for a good faith adjustment has turned out to be nothing more than one good farce. When grievances are filed because the adjustments didn't take effect according to the contract and extensions are granted without explanation, then there are definite problems with the way things are being done. It should not be shrugged off as this is pretty much what's happening district wide. Something really smells when an AIMS clerk, and someone from district who has no knowledge of the delivery zone, makes the adjustments without the carriers being properly involved. I'm sorry but this was not a good faith adjustment.

Final comment about the most recent attack on carriers, which involves carriers who have documented limitations. Management in its infinite wisdom has begun to prohibit carriers from carrying mail if they have minor limitations. This includes those who have performed with these limits for years, even to the extent of carrying their routes through full six-day counts and inspections. There was no mention of their performance of their duties during inspections. This another problem we will have to beat.

I would like to welcome back the four carriers who are back from excessing, who should have never been excessed in the first place.

Serving Faithfully.

Contract Talk

by Brian Obst

Under Article 8 of the National Agreement, 8.5.G addresses the issue of working beyond 12 hours in a work day and/or 60 hours in a work week. It is very important to all carriers to familiarize themselves with this information.

There is an increasing trend in Tampa for management to work carriers beyond the allowable time limits of 12 hours daily and/or 60 hours weekly. Past incidents of this action by management have resulted in arbitration decisions awarding carriers a premium payment of 50% of the standard rate of pay for any hours worked in excess of the 12 hour/60 hour rules. This is a guaranteed payment for the carrier so it is incumbent on all carriers to keep track of your daily/weekly hours and if Management violates the hours limits, you need to see your shop steward to file a grievance.

National Arbitrator Mittenthal ruled in a case from June 9, 1986 "...that the 12 and 60 hour limits are absolutes – a full time employee may neither volunteer nor be required to work beyond those limits." This is important in the case of supervisors forcing carriers to work beyond these limits. Remember, it is Management who has shorted the stations' carrier complement. If a supervisor mandates that you must work beyond the 12/60 hour limits, be sure that you tell them that the contract prohibits this action and request to see your shop steward as soon as possible to file a grievance.

Management also seems to feel that since there is a remedy in the JCAM that they can violate the contractual obligation and not follow the 12/60 hour limits. This is addressed in a Memo of Understanding from October 19, 1988 in which it is stated that the 50% premium for "limited instances of violation will be used as compensation." Further it also states "The employment of this remedy shall not be construed as an agreement by the parties that the employer may exceed the 12 and 60 hour limitation with impunity." Simple put this means that if we settle for the payment of the premium for an unforeseen violation it doesn't give management free reign to violate the contractual provisions involved whenever they feel it is necessary.

Again I will say to you – THERE IS A CONTRACTUAL MANDATE THAT CARRIERS MAY NOT BE WORKED BEYOND 12 HOURS IN ANY WORK DAY NOR MAY ANY CARRIER BE WORKED BEYOND 60 HOURS IN ANY WORK WEEK. The only exception to this rule is the agreed upon month of December where these rules do not apply. Remember, if management forces you to work in violation of these principles contact your shop steward to file a grievance in a timely manner.

In Brotherhood,

Brian Obst, Shop Steward / Trustee

September 2003						
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Shop Steward Meeting 7:00</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Union Meeting 7:30</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Breakfast Club - Coffee Cup</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>TLC Meeting 7:00</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Executive Board 7:00</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Bingo</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Shop Steward Meeting 7:00</i>				

Are We Having Fun Yet?

by Michael Anderson

Treasurer - Branch 599

Having just returned from the Region 9 Rap Session, I do believe the fun is just beginning. We hear about the Postal Service being in deep trouble due to the drop in mail volume. Well, we too, are facing a drop in membership due to the excessing and retirements.

We have dropped in revenue coming into the branch by over \$2500.00 per month due to the declining membership. We are budgeting our monies so we should not encounter any problems in the near future. We must contain our spending, as is the situation in the entire country. It is so easy to make a motion to spend money, but all motions must be looked upon carefully if we are to secure our future and monetary stability. What do we have to look forward to in the immediate future?

We all will be receiving a video from our national president and it is very important that everyone, including your families, watch this video. Why? Because all of our futures are in jeopardy and we must do all in our power to protect our jobs and the future of the U.S. Postal Service. The President's Commission on the future of the Postal Service has been presented to the president, and brothers and sisters, it ain't a pretty picture.

The president of our union is asking for 150,000 members to become legislative liaisons for the National Association of Letter Carriers. We will be asked to inform the entire membership on how to contact their representatives in the house and senate to affect a mailing to protect our jobs. For those of us that were not around in 1970, you will be making history in 2003. Our jobs are being stolen by the wonderful Internet. You laugh. Millions of americans today are using their computers to pay their bills online. Some companies are even offering a \$1.50 discount and more just to get you to pay your bills over the computer. This takes our jobs away from us, and food from our tables. You laugh again because you are taking home plenty of money because you are working 65 hours a week with no days off. What happens when that ends? Hope all that money you are making is going into a savings account somewhere to help pay the bills while you are in the unemployment line. Unless we act fast and furious, our jobs may be gone.

When the commission solicited questions from the employees, they answered "cut out Saturday delivery." How kind we are to our fellow brothers and sisters. Let's eliminate all the carrier technicians and that will save the Post Office. NOT! The country cannot go for three days without the mail, as it will hold way too much money up for the businesses. But Thursday would be a perfect day to eliminate. Does Sunday/Thursday sound appealing to anyone?

Well let me tell you, six day delivery will stay because our economy depends on it. Will we be delivering the mail? That depends on how interested you are in keeping your job. It is very easy to say this is just a passing fancy, and there is no need for me to get involved, because that is why I have a union. Well, brothers and sisters, **you are the union**, and if we are going to secure our jobs, it will only happen if we all become involved and work together to make it happen.

You will be hearing more and more in the near future, so please stay posted and do as you are asked by our National Union.



Perspective

by David Brubaker

During the July union meeting I picked up a paper entitled, "NALC CAN COUNT ON ME." By filling this out and sending it in, you can be included in the NALC's *activist database* (see page 14). This was my intent and I followed through. However, if you are like me, about all you know about in the political spectrum is a few issues (particularly postal related), and the fact that I vote. It's not that I don't care. But, let's face it – who's got the time, and/or inclination to get involved? And how do I go about getting involved if I wanted to?

I'm glad you asked. I'll tell you what I did and it's not that hard. First let me preface this by saying that during the first week of July, I was on vacation. Although I got a lot accomplished around the home, visited relatives, etc., I had a great opportunity to unwind. (Bear with me, I'm going somewhere with this). Just prior to taking annual I was given a small "Click-n-Ship" card. Basically this is a way for customers to print shipping labels and pay for postage via the computer at home. Then while enjoying my time off, I drove by a small store that had a USPS contract station in it for buying stamps, mailing small parcels, etc. This has bothered me before but this time it really hit home. The bottom line is that we are being slowly eroded away.

Why would I want to give a "Click-n-Ship" card to a customer? Management under staffs the clerks in the post office lobby then contracts out their jobs while the customer lines go out the door. They are now working on us through excessing, etc.

Anyway...when I got home after the union meeting, I got on my computer. Not having a clue what to do, just for the heck of it, I entered *congress.com* in my web browser and – bingo! Instant information. It's very user friendly. Since I mentioned the activist database above, it's important that you put in your congressional district if you plan on becoming an activist or just want to write a letter to your congressman or woman. Get this information from *congress.com*. Also, if you want to read about the Postal Commission or other related issues then point your web browser to *postalmag.com*. It is full of useful information.

For those of you that missed it, there was a recent article in a Sunday newspaper entitled "Post Office Symbolism" which stated the case for retaining rural post offices. They're a big part of America. However, for the second year in a row, first class mail volume declined. What I'm saying is that we may have a voice in what develops over the next few months as they plan and prepare our future. Let's get involved. Go to *congress.com* and you're on your way.

Health and Welfare Report

by Russell Person

The following members, or their relatives, have recently passed away:

Sam Dolcimascolo

Father of John Rowland

Son of Danny Ortiz

The following members are recuperating:

Danny Ortiz

Linda Ulmer

The following members' relatives are ill:

Tresa Hall's father Fred Albanese is very ill

Glynis Alexander's mother is very ill

Please keep these brothers/sisters, and their families in you thoughts and prayers.

In The Know

Enough is Enough is Enough! We are a union and in order to protect our best interest we must take action. If we want the United States Postal Service, our job and our future to survive for years to come, it is time to act. We have got to free ourselves from physical and emotional disorder. We have to get back to some kind of normalcy. The disarray upper management is causing through very poor decision making is creating a state of disorder, confusion and is upsetting to our customers. It's very evident that *service* has taken a back seat and perhaps should be removed from our title, *United States Postal Service*.

I hear it all the time from the general public. We're losing their trust, confidence and our reliability. The pretentious, exaggerated show of dignity and pompous self-serving actions of some of Tampa's highest management team has caused this. The lack of respect shown toward the letter carrier is evident as we are being worked in some cases over 12 hours a day and over 60 hours a week.

How can this be normal? How can management justify paying all that overtime and penalty overtime day after day. Can they be that ignorant, are they so oblivious of what they are paying these over worked letter carriers?

I'm sure there are some who enjoy the riches they are receiving from this mis-management. On the other hand there are others who have regular lives they want to live. They don't want to work long hours or come in on their scheduled day off. Nor can they find the time to spend all the money management so incessantly forces them to earn. How can any business survive with this kind of mentality? Is the Postmaster General really aware of the inhuman operations that are going on here in Tampa? I say *enough is enough!*

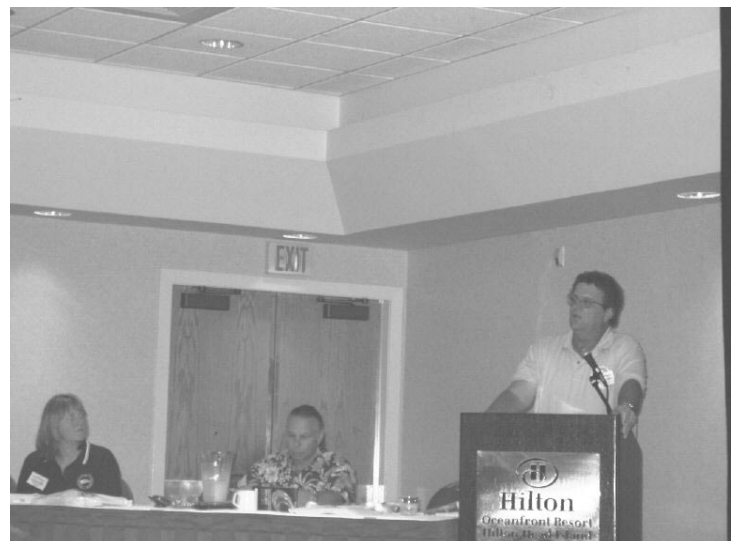
We have got to become our own advocates. We have got to support our cause. We need to come together and stand behind one another and uphold our rights. As a union we must act now. If we let management continue to do what they have been doing the past 18 months or so, that being managing in a self-destructive mode, we're going to be in big trouble. I'm talking about our careers as we know it today vanishing, kaput, see ya later, gone.

by George McEndree

Most of you may have seen a blue paper posted in your break room or on your union bulletin board titled *NALC Can Count On Me* (see page 14). This form can be filled out so you can become an activist for our great union. You will become part of the structured database, used only for legislative and political purposes. This database is comprised of letter carriers that the NALC can count on to take legislative and political action. The NALC needs *all* of us to be a part of this activist database. Show your support, come together and act now. Your future depends on it. Communication is done by email, phone calls and letter mailings. The information provided by all carriers is the most important element for making a strong foundation for success in the political and legislative departments. *Enough is enough!*

By taking part in this campaign for our future and security, we will stop the destruction, deterioration, severe damage and downfall of the Postal Service that is being accomplished by upper management. If you have not seen this form, please ask your shop steward or call the branch office (813) 875-0599. *Enough is enough!*

On another note Branch 599 will be having our Labor Day Picnic right here in our own back yard. Last year was a great success and I anticipate this year will be every bit as fun. Please bring out the kids and friends to enjoy what our own union branch has to offer. There will be plenty for all. Come on out and help support Jerry's Kids. And of course, some extra volunteers are always welcome. Call either Chris Albrecht or myself and be apart of what MDA and Labor Day is all about. See you there. In Solidarity, Brother George (HPCA)



Watts Line *(continued from page 5)*

worker's compensation claims. This has been the talk of many post offices throughout the country. I am not writing to profess his guilt or innocence but I am writing to inform the membership, or anyone else who reads this newsletter, that I stand behind our former president of 11 years 100%. Lenny would never, and I would like to repeat, never, turn his back on any Branch 599 member, or for that matter anyone who would come to him for help. As president, Lenny represented hundreds of people on worker's compensation claims and would refer people to doctors that would accept federal worker's compensation claims who were not afraid to tackle the miles of red tape the Department of Labor puts them through. Most doctors will not take workers's compensation cases because of all the extra paper work the DOL would put the doctors and the patient through to get the claim approved. Lenny helped injured workers find those few doctors who were willing to deal with all of this bureaucratic red tape.

I have never seen a system that has a benefit for employees injured on the job make it so difficult to obtain those benefits when an employee gets injured. It is common for the agency to controvert the workman's comp claim and the DOL to almost always agree with the USPS. That's where Lenny would step in and almost always, because of his expertise, have the claim overturned in favor of the injured employee. It is very well known Lenny has been a target by the government for his representing branch members and anyone that needed his help when it came to dealing with injuries on the job. In his eleven years as president of this branch Lenny never turned his back on anyone. At the branch meeting on August 7th there was a motion passed to set up a defense fund for Lenny, and to put out the information on the APWU's web site in conjunction with our branch web site. At the September 4th union meeting there will be a motion presented to the membership that the branch help pay for Lenny's legal defense. Article XII indemnification of our local bylaws states: "The branch is authorized upon affirmation vote of the membership to pay all the expenses for investigating services, employment of counsel and other necessary expenditures in any cause, matter, case or cases where an officer or representative, employee, agent, or one charged with acting in behalf of the branch and/or its affiliates re-

striction or violation of any law or is sued in any civil action with respect to any matter arising out of his or her official duties..."

I hope that anyone who Lenny has helped in the past, and all members of our branch, will come out and vote for the branch to help pay for Lenny's legal defense. In my 20 years as a branch member, I have never seen this branch turn its back on any branch member and in fact anyone that needed our help. Let's send a message that we stand together and united when a brother or sister is in trouble or needs our help. We need solidarity more then ever.

If you wish to contribute for Lenny we have set up a defense fund. Make checks or money orders payable to the Lenny Perez Defense Fund, and mail it to P.O box 4797, Clearwater, FL 33758. This fund is set up through AmSouth Bank.

See you at the September 4th branch meeting.



President Young at Region 9 Rap Session



NALC Can Count On Me!

Please fill out this form to be included in the NALC's Activist Database

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Congressional District: _____ Branch: _____

This form builds the Legislative and Political Department's activist database. It is not used for any other purpose. The database is comprised of letter carriers the NALC can count on to take action on legislative and political alerts. Communication is often via email. Regular mail is used when it is necessary to send pertinent materials and phone calls are made when time is of the essence. Therefore, all information is necessary to lay the foundation for a strong grassroots operation.

Please mail to:

National Association of Letter Carriers
Legislative and Political Department
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144



-----from The Orlando Carrier

TAMPA BAY

2003 REGULAR SEASON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sep 8	at Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Sep 14	CAROLINA	4:05 PM
Sep 21	at Atlanta	1:00 PM
Oct 6	INDIANAPOLIS	9:00 PM
Oct 12	at Washington	1:00 PM
Oct 19	at San Francisco	4:15 PM
Oct 26	DALLAS	1:00 PM
Nov 2	NEW ORLEANS	1:00 PM
Nov 9	at Carolina	1:00 PM
Nov 16	GREEN BAY	4:15 PM
Nov 24	NY GIANTS	9:00 PM
Nov 30	at Jacksonville	8:30 PM
Dec 7	at New Orleans	1:00 PM
Dec 14	HOUSTON	1:00 PM
Dec 20	ATLANTA	1:30 PM
Dec 28	at Tennessee	1:00 PM



Tony Rojas, Realtor®
 Century 21 Elite Locations, Inc.
 Cell: (813) 205-3188
 E-mail: TonyRojas1@aol.com
www.TonyRojas.com
\$CASH BACK\$
www.NewHomeRebate.net
www.TonySellsTampa.com



New Auto Buying Service!

FREE to Tampa Postal Credit Union Members!

Tampa Postal Federal Credit Union has partnered with AUTO Advisors in order to provide our members FREE car buying advice from a professional Auto Buying Specialist. Stop by your local branch office to learn how you can find the car you have always wanted at a price you can afford! AUTO Advisors' FREE professional advice and Tampa Postal's unbelievable loan rates are sure to make your next car buying experience simple, quick, and memorable!

Auto Loans
as low as
3.90%
■ APR*

To Reach Your AUTO Advisor, R.W. "Mort" Mortensen,
Call: (813) 876-3128 ext. 39

* APR – Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change without notice. Certain conditions and credit approval apply.

Florida Ave.
Phone: 813-264-4969
Fax: 813-960-3890

Airport
Phone: 813-876-3128
Fax: 813-872-4435

Valrico
Phone: 813-661-5868
Fax: 813-657-9275

Spring Hill
Phone: 352-683-9711
Fax: 352-683-7174

.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599
003 West Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617
813) 875-0599 fax (813) 870-0599
<http://www.nalc599.com>

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA FL
PERMIT NO. 1285