

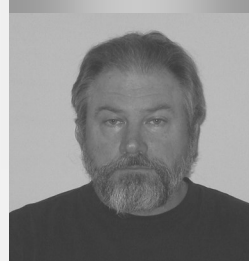


# Tampa Letter Carrier

## From the Desk of the President

Hello again and welcome to this month's newsletter. I would like to begin this month by reviewing some of the high points from our recent history.

At our Branch meeting on April 4, National Director of Safety and Health, Manny Peralta, paid the Branch a visit to bestow a memorial plaque for deceased Carrier Paul Falica, to honor his more than 40 years of service to the Postal Service and membership in the NALC. Manny was joined by Region 9 National Business Agent, Eddie Davidson, and Florida State Association of Letter Carriers President, Al Friedman. This visit served a dual purpose: 1 – to honor Paul's legacy, and 2 – to ensure that the message of being safe on the job is not only important, but to demonstrate that failure to do so can have deadly implications. Without trampling on our memories of Paul, it is important for all to know and understand that if Paul had been wearing his seat belt when he was struck by the hit-and-run driver, he would most likely have been with us today. It is the most important lesson that Paul can teach us now even though he is gone. Every time you look at his memorial plaque, please remember that it represents the passing of someone we worked with that was taken from us far too soon. When you see the plaque, you will notice its beauty, but I can say that I never want to see another one in our hall because it means that we have lost someone on the job. Please remember to follow all safety guidelines so at the end of every day, you all get to go home to your loved ones.



Brian Obst  
President  
Branch 599

FSALC President Al Friedman spoke to the membership about the upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Drive that will take place on May 11. The bags and postcards are to be sorted and packed for shipping to all stations on April 21 at 4720 Oakfair Boulevard, near the fairgrounds area of I-4 & 301, beginning at 10 AM. We could use some volunteers to assist, so contact the Branch office if you can help.

Region 9 NBA Eddie Davidson spoke to the membership and addressed issues such as TIAREAP inspections and adjustments, B-Team and Arbitration issues, as well as backing up Manny Peralta's talk regarding safety on-the-job and its importance.

The next day Eddie, Manny, and I went to Sulphur Springs Station to speak to the carriers to ensure that any concerns that they might have were being addressed.

### MDA

The MDA Challenge month has concluded, and I can report that we, as a Branch, raised \$2,704 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This placed us as 9<sup>th</sup> in the country for fundraising during the challenge month and 2<sup>nd</sup> in our region, only bested by North Florida Branch 53, so *congratulations to all and good job!* Our raffles for MDA concluded and the drawings were held on March 27. The winners were: 1 – 55-inch flat Smart

*(Continued on page 3)*

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

## Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday  
May 2  
7:30 PM

**Tampa Letter  
Carriers Hall**  
315 W Busch Blvd  
Suite C  
Tampa FL 33612

Additional parking is  
available in the lot  
before our building.

## Branch 599 Office

315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C  
Tampa FL 33612

813.875.0599

www.nalc599.com

Brian Obst  
President  
erif\_lor@hotmail.com

Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
7:30 am – 4 pm

Rodna Kimelman Kirk  
Office Secretary  
nalc599@verizon.net

## Tampa Letter Carrier

Brian Obst  
Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas  
Editor  
editor.nalc599@gmail.com

Branch 599 Office  
813.875.0599

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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@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

<i>Position</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>President</b>	Brian Obst	813.875.0599 <i>cell</i> 727.458.0679	erif_lor@hotmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Matt Fernandez	786.247.4185	
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Luis Cruz	813.431.3223	
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Bonita Lattimore	813.756.9676	
<b>Health Benefit Rep</b>	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914	
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256	
<b>Trustees</b>	Milly Minsal, Ch. Andre Hinton	813.446.2572 931.980-5169	
<b>Labor Management</b>	J.D. Lewers Clement Cheung	813.528.5519 813.758.5910	
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle · Orbe Andux · Donald Thomas Michael Anderson · James Good · Alan Peacock · Tony Diaz		

## Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
<b>Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Mike Smith</b>				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.326.0717 656.215.2467
Brandon	33510/11	Osceola Williams Sr.	813.661.1636	210.445.1369
Carrollwood	33618	Brian Jackson	813.961.2963	813.352.9481
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.247.2416	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	J.R. Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Jose Gomez	813.879.4309	917.743.6948
Hilldale Annex	33634	Maria Afful	813.879.4309	347.457.7316
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Mike Dennis	813.831.2034	813.361.9103
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Palm River Annex	33619		813.663.0048	
Plant City	33564	Roberto Torres	813.754.3590	609.521.6730
Produce	33610		813.237.4084	
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Bert Fristad	813.634.1642	813.352.0864
Seminole Heights	33603	Paul Sardinas	813.237.4569	813.650.3504
Sulphur Springs	33604	Morgan Kalish	813.237.4569	689.299.2936
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Josh Villa	813.873.7189	203.278.6485
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
Temple Terrace	33617	Miriam Rojas	813.988.0152	727.253.1309
Town & Country	33615/35		813.884.0973	
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.247.2416	813.334.3189

# National and State Officers spoke during our April meeting



Manny Peralta

National Director of Safety and Health



Eddie Davidson

Region 9 National Business Agent



Al Friedman, President

Florida State Assn. of Letter Carriers

## *The plaque's inscription:*

In Honor and Memory of Paul "Paulie" Falica  
Sulphur Springs, FL

A Loyal Union Brother taken far too soon  
July 6, 1954 – December 18, 2023

Presented by National Association of Letter Carriers

## From the Desk of the President

*(Continued from page 1)*

TV won by Town and Country carrier, Lashawn Conner, and 2 – 17.3-inch HP laptop won by Brandon carrier, Jessica Bell. *Congratulations to both carriers and thank you to all who participated in the raffles!* Next time let's see if we can do even better. Just a note: preparation for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MDA Golf Tournament is underway, and an announcement will be forthcoming, so all you golfers, get ready!

### **Our Hall**

Our building construction has been fully completed now. The new air conditioning units have been installed as of Friday April 5, and over the weekend of April 6-7, the parking lot was resealed and restriped. This concludes the first phase of changes for our new

Branch Hall/Offices. We will now begin to look at the exterior of our operation with issues such as installation of the new flagpole, landscaping and sprinkler system concerns, and additional signage and lighting being on our agenda.

The future for our Branch looks bright, but the membership needs to be always ready, as management is unpredictable, and vigilance from all is required. Carriers, get to know your stewards and officers, keep them informed of any and all issues arising in your stations so we can ensure that management complies with our contract. Follow the guidelines as laid out in the contract, handbooks, and manuals, as this allows us to be able to properly represent you when issues

with management and contract compliance arise. Fill out Form 3971 when you take any type of leave or when you are requesting a preferred bid on a route. Make sure you get back a signed copy showing that management received it, so if there is any issue we can properly represent you. Remember we are here to protect you, but you have to be doing things correctly for us to do so.

*The most important step a man can take. It's not the first one, is it? It's the next one. Always the next step.*

—Brandon Sanderson

Until next time I will leave you as always.... **Knowledge is the Key.**

## Calendar

### Shop Stewards

Wednesday

April 30 7:00 PM  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Executive Board

Thursday

May 2 6:30 PM  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Branch 599

Thursday

May 2 7:30 PM  
315 W Busch Blvd, Suite C

### Retirees' Breakfasts

#### Tampa

Monday

May 6 9:30 AM  
The Cuban Sandwich Shop  
10434 N Florida Avenue 33612

#### Temple Terrace

Tuesday

May 14 10:00 AM  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
off Fletcher near I-75  
12272 Morris Bridge Road

## The Financial Guy

One of my duties as financial secretary is to manage and verify union membership. Over the past few months, I have written articles pertaining to no deductions of dues and why this happens. As I have stated before, this happens when you are out of work, either on OWCP or LWOP.

Article VII of Branch 599's Bylaws is very clear:

- ◆ If you are OWCP, you are required to pay dues directly to the Branch.
- ◆ If you are on LWOP, you are not required to repay dues until you return to a pay status.

Over the last few months, I have sent out letters to members that are in these situations. We have sent out a first notice, a second notice, and a final notice explaining the situation to each person with an invoice as to how much is owed to the Branch. We gave each individual multiple opportunities to contact the Branch to discuss this matter with us, to come to some type of resolve. It was explained in the letter that a payment plan could be work-

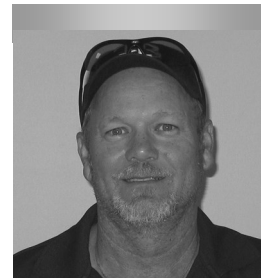
ed out. We do not wish or would put anyone in financial hardship, but the Branch cannot be expected to pay the bill forever.

**As of this writing, the Branch is owed over \$10,000 in back dues.**

Last month with deep regret, we had to send a letter to National to remove 9 individuals from our union. Now if these individuals want to be reinstated, their dues must be paid in full.

If you are ever placed on OWCP or LWOP, please contact the Branch immediately so that we can correct this issue before your back dues turn into a hefty sum of money. It is easier to pay early than to run up a large tab. In closing, again, this is not what we want to happen, but it is my job to protect the Branch.

Until next time,  
*Alan*



Alan Robinson  
Financial Secretary  
Branch 599

## Just for the Health of It

The NALC Health Benefit Plan has officially qualified under the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to meet the requirements for the Postal Service Health Benefit Program (PSHB Program). This is the new program that is replacing the FEHB Program for Postal Service Health Benefit Plans. All active carriers, annuitants, and their family members currently eligible under FEHB will be eligible under PSHB. No action will be necessary to implement the change to PSHB. This change will happen during Open Season 2024 and take effect in January of 2025. Enrollment in PSHB will have no effect on Dental and Vision, Flexible Spending, Group Life, or Long Term Care. Employees, annuitants, and eligible dependents will remain in the FEHB Program, but not the FEHB Plan. All this does not affect family members *separately eligible* for FEHB through their own qualifying

employment.

The Medicare Part B Special Enrollment Period (SEP) allowing you to enroll in Medicare Part B without paying the penalty, is now open through September 2024. The USPS will be paying the penalty for you at no additional cost to you. Individuals who qualify for this SEP should have received a notification prior to April 1, 2024. Subject to limited exceptions, Postal Service annuitants and their family members who are entitled to Medicare Part A *must* enroll in Medicare Part B to be eligible to continue PSHB coverage.

Here's to your health.....

*Detlev*



Detlev Aeppel  
Health Benefit Rep.  
Branch 599



# From the Vice President's Desk

## It's Your Estimate

The spring and summer months encourage management to use office tactics to get carries on the street earlier. The decrease of mail during this time of year will surely echo the phrase, *get out of the office, there's no mail today*. Regardless of what is being said or done, all carriers have a morning responsibility.

Section 131.4 of Handbook M-41, City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities instructs carriers on their responsibilities when dealing with management prior to leaving the office in the morning.

### 131.4 Reporting Requirements

*131.41 It is your responsibility to verbally inform management when you are of the opinion that you will be unable to case all mail distributed to the route, perform other required duties, and leave on schedule or when you will be unable to complete delivery of all mail.*

*131.42 Inform management of this well in advance of the scheduled leaving time and not later than immediately following the final receipt of mail. Management will instruct you what to do.*

*131.43 Complete applicable items on PS Form 3996, Carrier-Auxiliary Control, if overtime or auxiliary assistance is authorized in the office or on the street.*

*131.44 Report on PS Form 1571 all mail undelivered- including all mail distributed to the route but not cased and taken out for delivery. Estimate the number of pieces of mail.*

*131.45 Do not curtail or eliminate any scheduled delivery or collection trip unless authorized by a manager, in which case you must record all facts on PS Form 1571.*

*131.46 Before you leave the office,*

*enter on PS Form 1571 the mail curtailed; when you return, add any mail which was not delivered and which was returned to the office. Follow any special local procedures set up to identify errors and corrective actions for mail returned because it was out of sequence.*

Each carrier has the obligation to inform management of their estimated time of departure and return, daily. No carrier should leave the office without notifying management of this estimate. Management's responsibility is to ensure all carriers have provided their estimate and annotate their answers accordingly. The projections in the Daily Workload Report are just projections. Management will review the projections in the report and may dispute the given estimate of the carrier. This is usually when disagreements between management and carriers begin.

Don't be the one to give management the satisfaction of later conducting an investigative interview for failure to follow instructions or unacceptable behavior. Handbook M-41, Section 28 outlines the procedures for carriers to fill out Form 3996. A carrier's estimate is just that, *an estimate*. If you feel you cannot complete your assignment in the allotted time, complete Form 3996 and give it to management. Be mindful that you may be required and must be able to provide management with an explanation of why you need additional time.

As usual, management will cringe upon the fact that your estimate doesn't mirror the reports. This is not the time or place to begin an argument with management because they are looking at the input numbers and not the carrier who knows the actual route. The best defense from management is the famed word *undertime*. Carriers understand that undertime belongs to management and if you have under-

time, give it back. If you don't, request Form 3996.

Management cannot refuse to provide Form 3996 if requested. If you do not receive the form, request to see your steward and file a grievance immediately. Refusal by management is a violation of Handbook M-39, Section 122.33 *The employee, upon request, will be provided a Form 3996, Carrier-Auxiliary Control, after the supervisor has been verbally informed as to the reason for the request. The employee shall not be denied the form and, upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided the employee.*

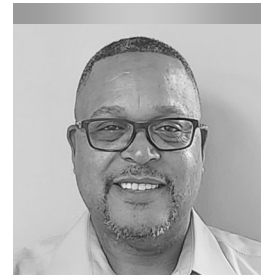
The responsibility of management doesn't stop by requesting Form 3996. Article 41, Section 3G of the National Agreement states:

*G. The Employer will advise a carrier who has properly submitted a Carrier Auxiliary Control Form 3996 of the disposition of the request promptly after review of the circumstances at the time. Upon request, a duplicate copy of the completed Form 3996 and Form 1571, Report of Undelivered Mail, etc., will be provided the carrier.*

Understanding your responsibilities as a carrier is just as important as making a safe delivery. Don't allow management to disrupt your day before it begins. Your responsibilities as a carrier begin and end with the estimate. Carriers are vital to the success of the Service, but without a sound estimate, management can and will have it their way, usually through discipline.

To get there, we must work together!

Mike



Mike Smith  
Vice President  
Chief Steward  
Branch 599

## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Marianne and family at the passing of her husband, **Kenneth Baab** [retiree], April 2; and to **Jennifer Du** and **Clement Cheung** [Interbay] and family at the passing of her mother, ChuanDi Chen, April 5.

## Valdespino Retired!



Brian Obst and Karen Valdespino

President Obst presented **Karen Valdespino** [Forest Hills] with her retirement pin and gratuity at our April meeting.

Holocaust Remembrance Day	May 6	<i>Never forget.</i>
Happy Mother's Day!	May 12	
Armed Forces Day	May 18	<i>Thank you for serving.</i>
Memorial Day	May 27	<i>Remembering those that gave all.</i>

## Mail Call

Brothers and Sisters, our workload is slowly changing. DPS and Flat counts are getting smaller. The Postal Reform Act of 2022 was estimated to save the USPS at least \$45 billion over the next ten years. Yet, the U.S. Postal Service's financial results for the 2023 fiscal year ended September 30 with a net loss of \$6.5 billion, compared to the net income of \$56 billion for the prior year.

So far, any gains have been offset by increased costs that are mostly due to inflation. We also must contend with mail volumes that continue to fall as well as competition for packages with private delivery companies.

*Ok, thanks for the downer, Sarge. What do you expect us to do about it?*

More than ever, each and every one of you must:

- ◆ Look for any and all opportunities to acquire new business and inform management.

- ◆ Be diligent with providing the most accurate estimates, which will help management distribute the workload equitably.
- ◆ Help to raise levels of accurate delivery and raise customer confidence with our services.



Luis Cruz  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Branch 599

*Hey, wait Sarge, what little DPS we get is always a mess, etc. Why are we always bailing out the rest of the service?*

The above items are things we can control. It will be up to management to straighten out the rest. We can only do our part. We can't abandon our duties to Amazon, FedEx, DHL, UPS, and others. We lead the way. Let's keep working to ensure the United States Postal Service stays strong!

*Sarge*

### Employee Assistance Program

info is at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)

Choose Workplace Issues, hover over Safety & Health, and choose Employee Assistance Program.

*It's confidential for you and your loved ones.*

# Matt Speaks: Iran/Persia: A Stamp History

## **Protest, Mysticism and Revolution 1953-1980**

The old man on the postage stamp was led to the military tribunal in shackles. Amidst the shouting and heckling, the old man was remembering the words of his mother from long ago. *A person's worth in society, she had said to him, is dependent on much one endures for the sake of the people.* He was Mohammad Mossadegh, once the most popular man in Iran, he had served for three years as prime minister before it all came to a sudden end.

The postage stamp depicted his face. Tired and resigned it seemed. But there was a spirit that still dwelt in him. He had become used to opposition. Then *Shortly before midnight*, begins Stephen Kinzer in his book, *All the Shah's men: On August 15, 1953, at [the head of an odd caravan] was an armored car with military markings, behind came two jeeps and several army trucks full of soldiers...sitting in the lead car, Colonel Nematollah Nasiri, commander of the Imperial Guard [was carrying] a decree issued by the Shah of Iran dismissing Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh from office.*

Many years later in a speech to the Muslim world in June of 2009, Barack Obama would be the first U.S. president to formally address Mossadegh's overthrow. *In the middle of the cold war*, Mr. Obama would say: *The United States played a role in the overthrow of a democratically elected Iranian government.*

Although he does not dive into the details, history fills the gaps. As Mohammad Mossadegh defiantly stood facing the judges at his *treason* trial on December 19, 1953, he said: *Yes, my sin—my greater sin and even my greatest sin is that I nationalized Iran's oil industry and discarded the system of political and economic exploitation by the world's greatest empire. This at*

*the cost to myself, my family, and at the risk of losing my life, my honor, and my property. With God's blessing and the will of the people, I fought this savage and dreadful system of international espionage and colonialism.*

The postage stamp of Mossadegh would never be printed for the masses to use because by 1980, the Islamic Revolution was in full swing. And the new rule imposed by its guardians was antithetical to the ideals of Mossadegh who as a revolutionary democrat had no place in what became a militarized theocracy even though the coup that removed him is still felt by many Iranians to be a tragedy for the nation at large.

Joobin Behkrad for the BBC wrote about the early days of postal services in Iran stretching back to the days of the Achaemenid Empire: *The Persians of Iran took the idea of a postal system to previously unseen heights – and then some. They used an extensive network of roads worked by expert horsemen who covered stupefying distances throughout the massive, diverse empire with bewildering speed and unwavering resolve.*

He wrote further that: *Never before had messages been delivered on such a massive scale. The ancient Persian postal system was powered by horses that operated on a relay system, making journeys speedy and efficient.*

It is very possible that through this extensive system, Cyrus the Great, who founded the empire, transmitted his famous edict of toleration for religious diversity throughout the territories including the decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland, an event recounted for us in the Bible in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23.

Centuries later in Persia, now known as Iran, in the city of Khorramshahr, the local post office is barely a shadow of its former greatness in Postal

innovation.

There are many one-star reviews; one reviewer on Google named Zore Salehi, wrote: *The most awful post, the most irresponsible employees. A postal package takes a month to reach you.*

The overthrow of Mossadegh led to a despotic crackdown on any opposition under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi the Shah, or king with the full support of the U.S. and U.K. In 1963 the Shah announced a series of reforms called the *White Revolution* that was to help build up support for the new regime. The Iran Chamber Society, a nonprofit Iranian cultural organization describes the reforms of the White Revolution: *In addition to land reform, these measures included profit-sharing for industrial workers in private sector enterprises, nationalization of forests and pastureland, sale of government factories to finance land reform, amendment of the electoral law to give more representation on supervisory councils to workers and farmers.*

The United States Institute for Peace, in its Iran Primer also says that with the White Revolution: *Women were given the vote and allowed to run for political office...[and] Reforms allowed women to divorce their husbands and raised the legal age of marriage from 13 to 18 under the Family Protection Laws of 1967 and 1975.*

These last provisions for women caused outrage in the puritanical faction of the Muslim clergy and liberal clergy were isolated from their ranks as a result.

As with any regime change, new stamps were in order. In the same year



Matt Fernandez  
Recording Secretary  
Branch 599

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# Matt Speaks: Iran/Persia: A Stamp History

(Continued from page 7)



as the White Revolution, a stamp depicting Pahlavi in imperial regalia shows him trying to put on a straight face. He is in control, he seems to tell the letter carrier. But at the same time, the face almost seems to be on the brink of depicting a worrywart. At any time it seems to say *All of this can vanish*. One guesses he means his power.

Kimia Maleki, a graduate student in the Department of History of Art at Johns Hopkins University for the Ajam Media Collective wrote: *In the 20th century under the Pahlavi Dynasty, the postal service grew into the Ministry of Post and Telegraph. This included the construction of the ministry's home, a huge building in the bāgh-i mellī (National Garden) in central Tehran, currently serving as the Post and Communications Museum....The logo of the postal system, from its inception in the late 19th century to this time was in accordance with the sun and lion motif mainly used for any governmental service.*

For all the progressivism of his reforms, the Shah also had a dark side with his SAVAK intelligence and security agency.

Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell wrote about the Shah's SAVAK group for the Associated Press and of its impact 40 years after the Islamic Revolution of 1979. In an interview with 63-year-old local Ahmad Sheikhi he says to them: *Four times I was tortured in two consecutive days, every time for about 10 minutes, They [also] used electric cables and wires for flogging my feet while I was blindfolded. The first hit was very effective; you felt your heart and brain were exploding.*

Mr. Sheiki also said: *We are far from where we must be as far as the justice is concerned...Justice has yet to be spread in the society, and we are definitely very far from the sacred goals of the martyrs and their imam.*

The *Imam* he refers to is Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who became the face of the Islamic Revolution and modern Iran's first Supreme Leader.

Professor Clive Foss of Georgetown University wrote of Khomeini and of the context of his early days: *[He] was a learned theologian who believed that only a wise Islamic Jurist could bring justice to a deeply divided Iran. He opposed foreign influence and became a bitter critic of the reigning monarch [Pahlavi]....By 1918...the [Islamic] clergy was split between modernizers willing to accept growing western influence, and traditionalists who adhered closely to the word of the Quran.*

Khomeini's messaging did not attract anyone at first when the initial stages of an opposition of sorts began to form, but then he brought something fundamental to the

attention of the masses: the Shah was in the pay of international actors and thus the shah was in actuality a puppet being pitted against them. *The people will not rest*, he would declare in August of 1978: *Until the Pahlavi rule has been swept away and all traces of tyranny have disappeared. As long as the Shah's satanic power prevails, not a single true representative of the people can possibly be elected.*

Perhaps this mystic had some kind of relevance after all. The people believed. And in the coming years, postal stamps would be produced en masse bearing his image.

Although *Imam* is a title generally referring to any teacher or leader of the community in the majority Sunni sect of Islam, to the minority Shia it bears theological significance.

The Imams refer specifically according to the Shia, to twelve direct descendants of Muhammad through Ali, his son-in-law and cousin who is seen as the true successor or Caliph, to the Prophet. At the end of time, the twelfth and final Imam (whom they are awaiting) also known as the Mahdi will reemerge from the occultation (his birth and concealment), avenge the Battle of Karbala of 680 A.D. (which led to the split of the Muslim world into the Sunni/Shia denominations), unite the Earth under Islamic law, and establish peace and justice.

With the growing popularity of Khomeini and his mysticism, many people started referring to him as the *Deputy* to the twelfth Imam then simply the Imam and thus often blurring the distinction. One postage stamp that would be produced bearing his image, shows him casting a vote and out of the ballot box comes a seemingly divine fragrance giving birth to tulips, the national flower of the country. And which would bear the center of the modern Iranian flag. Having replaced the Imperial flag which bore the sun and lion. Both flags of course were also the basis for stamps.

On June 3, 1963, Khomeini finally rose to national prominence in a sermon he gave on the day of Ashura, the Shia holiday that commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn Ibn Ali (Muhammad's grandson) at the Battle of Karbala. In the sermon, he denounced the Shah. Calling him a *Miserable Wretch* and after comparing him to the ancient tyrant Yazid I (whom the battle was a revolt against) Khomeini damned the system: *Let the world judge, let the nation judge who the parasites are. Let me give you some advice, 'Mister' Shah! Dear Mr Shah, I advise you to desist from this policy and acts like this!*

Mehr News Agency described the events following the sermon: *Two days later at three o'clock in the morning, security men and commandos descended on Khomeini's home in Qom and arrested him...the Iranian people, wearing particular white clothes used for burying the dead as a sign of their*

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## Matt Speaks: Iran/Persia: A Stamp History

(Continued from page 8)

*readiness for dying for their cause, staged massive demonstrations against the US-backed Shah, following news of the detention of Khomeini.*

This was the 15 Khordad uprising (per the Iranian calendar). As the Shah sent security forces to crush the protests, many were killed. The authorities were flabbergasted at the amount of support for Khomeini and rather than executing and risking him becoming a martyr, the Shah's government ordered Khomeini exiled from the country, but this would not quell the protests that would become prevalent especially during the 1970s. Millions of Iranians would stir up in revolutionary fervor, denouncing the Shah and listening to Khomeini's sermons on audio tapes smuggled into the country from his exile.

The protestors themselves would become postage stamps. Depicted are



masses of people carrying the bodies of those shot by the regime's

security forces, some are carrying banners and signs. Many are of Khomeini's face watching them from the sky and in another just the bare face of a determined revolutionary with pain in her eyes accompanied with the ominous barrel of a rifle on her back. Her lips are closed too as she internally struggles to control the kindled fire for revenge.

The Middle East Research and Information Project

wrote: *One crisp morning in the winter of 1971, thirteen young Iranians armed with rifles, machine guns and hand grenades, attacked the gendarmerie post in the village of Siakal on the edge of the Caspian forests. Killing three gendarmes,...Between February 1971, when the Siakal incident occurred, and October 1977, when the Islamic Revolution began to unfold in the streets of*

*Tehran, the regime, notably its secret police SAVAK, killed 341 members of guerrilla organizations and political parties advocating armed struggle.*

The Labor movement became involved also in the Islamic Revolution. *The Shah's modernization of industry also led to widespread labor dissatisfaction, reported the RAND Corporation: Iran's booming economy was accompanied by inflation. While the early years of the Shah's industrialization led to job growth, these jobs quickly disappeared as a result of deflationary policies meant to slow spending and growth. With no government programs to bring it out of poverty, the young, poor, and unskilled labor class seethed under harsh conditions. Iran's declining economy, coupled with the rise of Iranian nationalism, created a tinderbox for social upheaval.*

To make matters worse, his heavy promotion of foreign investment and the promotion of private enterprise only fed the perception that the Shah was indeed a tool of foreign powers, that he knew he was a tool, and was continuing to deceive the people. Telling them they really were in control of their own destinies when in reality, Iranians were being exploited by powers antithetical to its interests. Iran in effect was being held hostage, and by the power of the people they would free their nation. Militant revolutionar-



ies (especially those of the Mujahedin-e Khalq of Iran, or MEK), political reformists, labor activists, and Muslim clergy banded together to fight the Shah.

Then came September 8, 1978, Black Friday. The Iran Front Page calls it the turning point of the revolution: *As protests against the Shah's rule continued during the spring and summer of 1978, the Iranian government declared martial law. On 8 September, thousands gathered in Tehran's Jaleh Square for a religious demonstration...The soldiers ordered the crowd to disperse, but the*

*order was ignored. Initially, it was thought that either because of this reason, or because of the fact that the protesters kept pushing towards the military, the military opened fire, killing and wounding dozens of people.*

It is reported that up to if not more than 100 people were dead. Leftvoice.org wrote of the aftermath of the massacre: *A general strike was immediately launched among the main sectors of the industrial working class in response. Above all, oil workers in Tehran and the petrochemical complex of Bandar Shapur initiated the strikes and inspired workers in Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Abadan to join them. These strikes quickly spread to state factories, transport sectors, and also telecommunications. In a few days oil production fell by 30%, having an impact on the world market. The demands for wages and for improvements in living conditions quickly took on a political character, with demands for the fall of the Shah.*

Demonstrations and protests continued until the government was crippled, and on January 16, 1979, when it was obvious the Shah had lost all support, he left Iran. The Revolution had swept away a monarchy that had lasted for thousands of years.

Sixteen days later, on February 1, 1979, Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar was alone in his office wondering about the man coming to Iran. It was the Ayatollah Khomeini whom Bakhtiar had no choice but to invite back from his exile or risk a revolution on top of a revolution. He had seen the banners, particularly one that said, *We want an Islamic Republic under Khomeini.*

*An Islamic Republic? How will that work?* Bakhtiar had shared the thought with his ministers. He was not even aware of any book that articulated such a concept. As he stared through

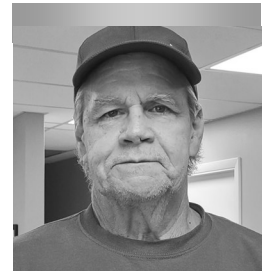
(Continued on page 10)

# Down the Building Manager's Rhoad

We would like to call on all the Regular Carriers to step up and help our CCAs.

If each one of you would donate one uniform in good condition,  
we could help them until they get their own uniform allowance.

Please assist us, so all of them can look professional.



Walt Rhoads  
Building Manager  
Branch 599

## Greetings from the MBA's Desk!

Every day carriers come in and out of our offices working hard every day to deliver America's mail. A lot of our brethren need help and don't know where to turn for good insurance. One of the things that everyone should consider is a good insurance plan; we have many life insurance options to discuss from the MBA's Desk.

First off, the MBA offers both term and whole life insurance policies that vary from 20-year plans to plans where you pay-in to the age of 65. There's even the option to put more money into the plan now to make sure that your loved ones have something when you pass.

Secondly there are differences between Term Life Insurance and Whole Life Insurance.

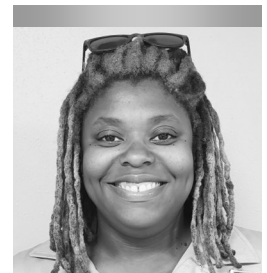
Term Life Insurance

- ◆ You have the benefits if you keep your policy active.
- ◆ If renewed, the term's *premiums will go up*.
- ◆ Premiums are cheaper than whole life insurance premiums.
- ◆ Coverage *decreases* over time.

Whole Life Insurance

- ◆ Will cover you for your whole lifetime.
- ◆ The premiums are fixed.
- ◆ Coverage *does not decrease* over time.

- ◆ You can build up the cash value of the policy and cash it in, in case you don't need the policy, or you can borrow against the cash value of the policy at a low interest rate of 8%.
- ◆ The younger you are when you start a whole life insurance policy, the cheaper the premiums will be.



Bonita Lattimore  
MBA/NSBA Rep.  
Branch 599

Lastly, let's talk about how much you can be covered for. The amount of money that you can be insured for can be anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

So, remember to take these things into consideration when you are trying to plan for your family when the time comes to purchase a life insurance policy. The sooner you plan this out, the better your family can be.

If you have any questions regarding any of the life insurance policies, please contact me.

[nalc.org/MBA](mailto:nalc.org/MBA) for more information.

*Bonita*

## Matt Speaks: Iran/Persia: A Stamp History

*(Continued from page 9)*

the window looking at the Tehran skyline, the door to his office opened and his thoughts were interrupted by his staff. Khomeini they had told him, had landed.

The Ayatollah descended the plane as hundreds of his Iranian compatriots surrounded the aircraft cheering, *We will die for you Imam! Every day is Ashura!* And amidst all of

this, Journalist Peter Jennings asked Khoemini, *How does it feel returning to Iran?* He responded *Hichi* (Nothing). Khomeini's return also became a postage stamp.

*Matt*



## From the Treasurer's Desk – 16th Edition

Brothers and Sisters,

### **A Story to tell...**

An interview I want to share: I was recently informed that one of our Branch 599 retirees was having health issues due to effects from COVID. This retiree is a long-time friend of mine and helped me out tremendously when I was first hired. The retiree's name is Jeff Fisher and he retired in 2008. I was actually shocked to hear it was Jeff, always healthy and full of energy. I have spoken to Jeff several times since I was made aware of his condition and I am glad we have connected again. I asked Jeff if he would agree to an interview with me for the newsletter that I would craft into my article. *This interview/article was approved by Jeff Fisher, and I thank him for his time and sharing his circumstances with us.*

### **A little about Jeff**

Jeff began his career in 1979 and worked at Sulphur Springs and TCA offices before bidding to his *retirement route* and retiring from Carrollwood. Jeff was always a handyman, nothing regarding construction he did not know about or know how to fix it. Jeff retired to the beaches of Pinellas County, St. Petersburg and for 14 years was *living the dream at the beach*. The life Jeff and his wife, Paula, dreamed about. They will be celebrating their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary in December.

### **Life Changer**

In January 2022, Jeff was diagnosed with COVID, and after the initial illness, he dealt with COVID symptoms (fatigue and brain fog). Jeff figured he would recover since he had all his vaccinations and had never smoked cigarettes. However, these symptoms continued even when Jeff was hospitalized in June of 2023 for one week with pneumonia. He was also informed he had a form of pulmonary fibrosis, a condition in which the lungs become scarred. Symptoms include shortness of breath, a dry cough, feeling tired, and weight loss. It was at this time that

Jeff was told some shocking news, he was a candidate for a lung transplant. Jeff began to do research and spoke to a number of medical professionals. His findings were limited, there was little information about lingering effects from COVID since it was very new and there were so many uncertainties. At that point Jeff started tests after tests, plenty of blood work, various heart tests, many many CT scans, sleep tests, preparing for the transplant. Adding to Jeff's ordeal, during all the testing the doctors discovered Jeff had a blockage in his heart. Jeff had a stent inserted in his heart and was placed on blood thinners as well. The testing continued until Jeff ended up in ICU in November 2023 with the lung infection. Jeff began to use oxygen at this time, up to 10 liters, that is a lot. During his time in the hospital, he was told he was no longer a candidate for the lung transplant because of a previous illness with leukemia. As I interviewed Jeff, he paused and emphatically said, *This has been a real life changer.*

### **Some good news**

Today, Jeff has seen some improvement; he uses oxygen as needed, about 2 liters now, and is sleeping with only a half liter. He cannot do many things because he gets fatigued and winded still, but he is able to enjoy doing some things and of course the beach. He has several different oxygen machines available to him at his home, both portable and stationary, and is on prednisone and an antibiotic for infection. Once a month he gets a blood infusion for his IgG levels. IgG levels are a measure of an antibody that helps fight infection. The blood infusion is working with Jeff's immune system so it can do its job to protect his damaged lungs. Jeff appears to have an IgG deficiency, a health problem in which your body doesn't make enough of those *fighting* antibodies.

He told me he takes a nap every day; it helps him get through the day.



Tony Diaz  
Treasurer  
President Emeritus  
Branch 599  
NALCREST Trustee

Throughout the interview, Jeff never complained about his health condition and seems to be making the best of it. Having known Jeff for so many years, this did not surprise me. He has always been one to take things as they come, deal with it, and move on. He has survived a serious ordeal, and he made it very clear when he said, *I would not be here today if not for Paula.*

At the end of my interview, Jeff stated, *I am still enjoying my retirement, but it is not now what I quite envisioned it to be.*

*Thank you, Jeff,* for your friendship over the years, your support throughout my career is very much appreciated. Hopefully, you will continue to show progress and enjoy many more years of retirement.

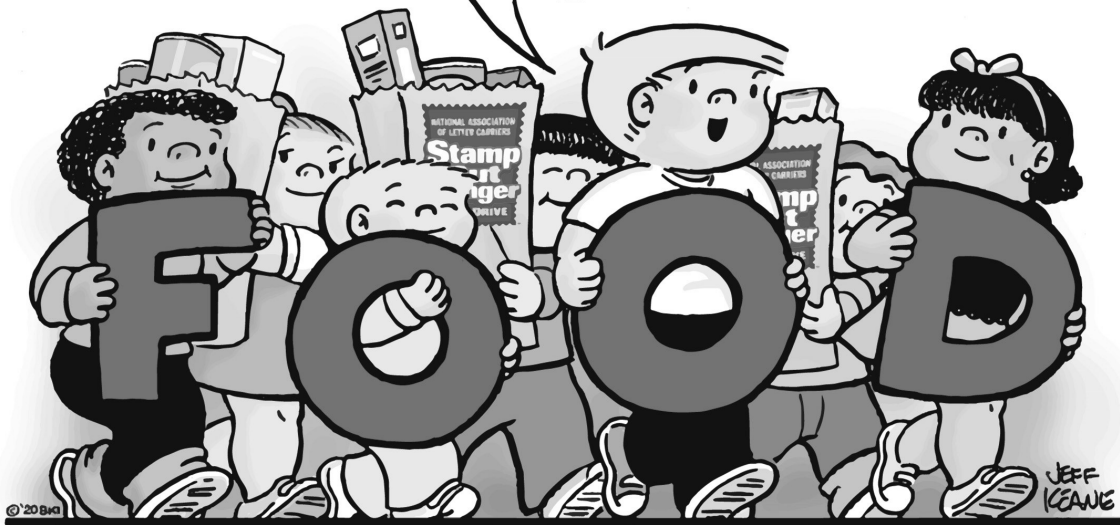
### **Quick Hits:**

#### **Information you should know**

In an effort to help discourage and stop the attacks on Letter Carriers throughout the country, HR 7629 was introduced. This bipartisan legislation would provide \$7 billion in funding for the Postal Service to secure its infrastructure, including the installation of high-security collection boxes and the replacement of items carried by letter carriers with more secure electronic versions. The funding would be appropriated over five years, \$1.4 billion annually in fiscal years 2025-2029. When key infrastructure is devalued and more secure, letter carriers will be safer on their routes. Since 2020, there have been more than 2,000 crimes committed against letter carriers on the job. Many of these attacks involve a gun or another weapon. Letter carrier robberies climbed to 643 last year,

*(Continued on page 13)*

THIS SPELLS  
HELP FOR LOTS OF  
FAMILIES THIS  
YEAR!



# LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

Saturday  
May 11

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.  
WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

*National Partners*





## Let's Talk about Safety and Insects

We have entered spring and with that comes all sorts of mischief from flowers blooming, pollen everywhere, and lastly insects coming out. USPS has had an increase in parcels which will continue, and with that, increased parcel pickups. One thing I have noticed over the last several weeks is that a lot of times, we carriers are under constant pressure to get our work done and sometimes we forget to examine what we are doing before we do it. Lately with the weather warming up, all sorts of things have been making their way into our work that we might not normally deal with. So, let's talk about the increase in insects.

First off, there are many different types of stinging and biting insects from wasps, bees, spiders, scorpions (yes Florida has scorpions), and caterpillars. Many of these insects are just doing what they were born to do, which is eating, finding secure locations to build nests, and traveling to wherever they are going. They usually

will not bother you if you don't happen to bother them, but sometimes we carriers must, for us to get our work done. Remember, a lot of these insects have protective measures in place to keep them safe, like stingers, spines, needles, and jaws.

Secondly, let's talk about keeping ourselves safe from stingers, spines, needles, and jaws. When we are either delivering the mail or doing parcel pickups, take a moment to just look at what you are about to handle before you touch it. Spiders love to spin webs right underneath the handles of mailboxes, out of sight, and you can easily grab one before you realize it. Also, wasps and bees build nests around or inside mailboxes, especially wasps and nobody that I know of likes to be stung.

Lastly, we have parcel pickup with packages that have been sitting on doorsteps, mailboxes, by garage doors, or wherever the customers decide to

leave it to be picked up. These pickups are usually sitting there for hours and with that time insects could have crawled inside or hanging around on the sides. Examine the boxes or bags before you grab them. Caterpillars like to crawl over things, and I have seen as many as 20 on a box. They have needles and spines that a carrier could easily grab without realizing it and the next thing you know you have pain for days. I usually move the boxes that I pick up with my foot to see the sides before I pick it up.

Taking a few moments to actually look at what we are doing could save us from a life-threatening event. Be safe out there, Carriers.

J.D.



J.D. Lewers  
Labor Management Rep.  
Branch 599  
NALC Safety Task Force  
Representative

### Take Action!

- ◆ Enough Is Enough: Protect Our Letter Carriers Act
- ◆ Stop the Raid on our Postal Pension Fund
- ◆ Support the Federal Retirement Fairness Act
- ◆ Expand care options for injured federal workers
- ◆ Support the USPS Shipping Equity Act
- ◆ Repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset

At [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), choose the Government Affairs tab, then Legislative Action Center. Under Take Action, click Read More. Then follow the directions.



## From the Treasurer's Desk – 16th Edition

(Continued from page 11)

an increase of nearly 30 percent, and the number of robberies resulting in injuries doubled, according to the

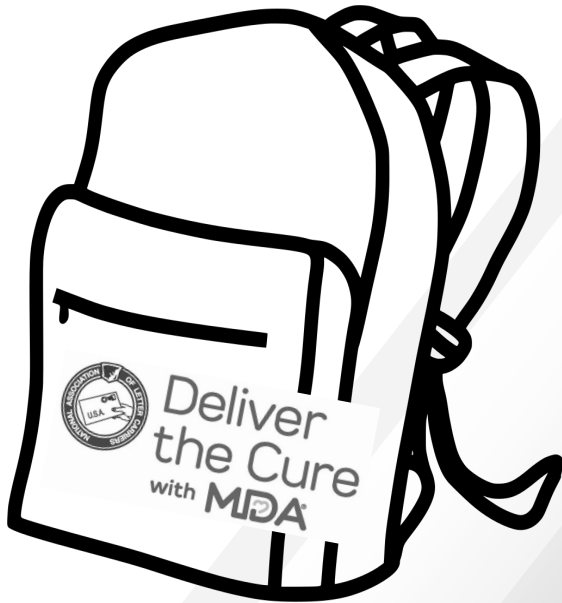
United States Postal Inspection Service. We no doubt need this bill passed.  
—[nalc.org](http://nalc.org)

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

NALC BRANCH 599

# Back-to-School Bookbag Giveaway

K - 5\*\*



*Sample of items included:*

- Bookbag
- Pencils and Pencil Case
- Note Books / Composition Book
- Crayons / Markers
- Rulers
- Pencil Sharpener
- Kid Safe Scissors
- Erasers
- Notebook Paper

**Sunday July 28 12-2 PM**

You must come to Tampa Letter Carriers Hall to pick up bag(s) and submit \*cash donation.

315 W. Busch Boulevard, Suite C, Tampa FL 33612

Call our Branch office to get on the list: 813-875-0599.

**Deadline to call is Friday, July 19, by 3 PM.**

\*A \$5 donation to MDA per bag / Limit of 2 bags per family

**Only 60 Bags Available**

## Retired...but Not Tired

I want to thank all the retirees who attended our *Retiree's Open House* on Friday, March 15. There were 15 retirees, and all were able to see our new offices. It was wonderful to visit and catch up with each other with laughs and storytelling. Branch President Brian Obst and Vice President Michael Smith both spoke to the retirees about the building and upcoming events. Pizza and beverages were provided for our first retirees' open house.

*Thanks* to Branch Treasurer Tony Diaz and Branch Secretary Rodna Kirk for helping organize the get-together, and a mention to Sharon Stodghill for baking her famous chocolate chip cookies. My hope is to keep these get-togethers going. Maybe a retirees'

field trip to a local museum, park, or a specific event. Anyone with ideas to help plan for an upcoming event, please contact me.

**Remember, we have a location change.** The next Retiree's Breakfast will be on May 6 at 9:30 AM. The new location: The Cuban Sandwich Shop at 10434 N Florida Avenue. This group meets on the first Monday of the month. Please come out and join us!

At our last breakfast, Monday, April 1, only 2 retirees showed up. It was our first at The Cuban Sandwich Shop, and the service and food were excellent.

We have another retiree group that meets on the second Tuesday of the month, at Bob Evans, 12272 Morris

Bridge Road, in Temple Terrace, at 10 AM. I am going to try to be at Bob Evans as well.

The next Temple Terrace Retirees Get-together will be held again at Gaspar's Patio Bar and Grill, 8448 N 56th Street, in Temple Terrace. The date will be Friday, May 24, for lunch at 12 noon. All retirees are invited to all scheduled events.

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

*John*



John Gebo  
Director of Retirees  
Branch 599

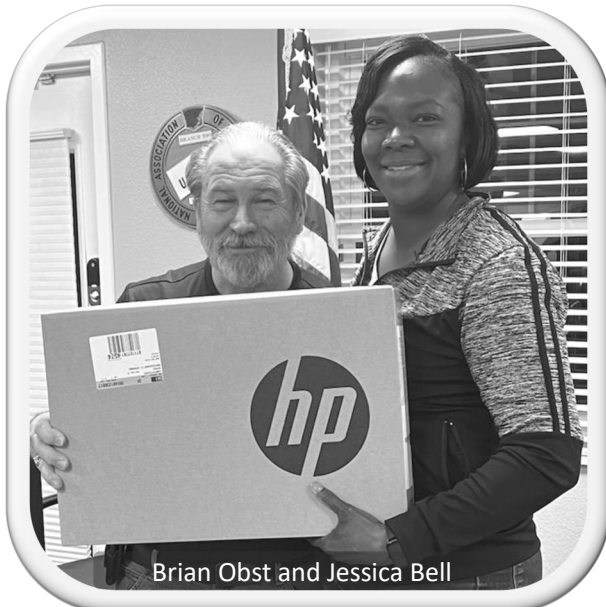
## Winners of MDA Raffle!

*Congratulations* to the winners of our Raffle to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association!

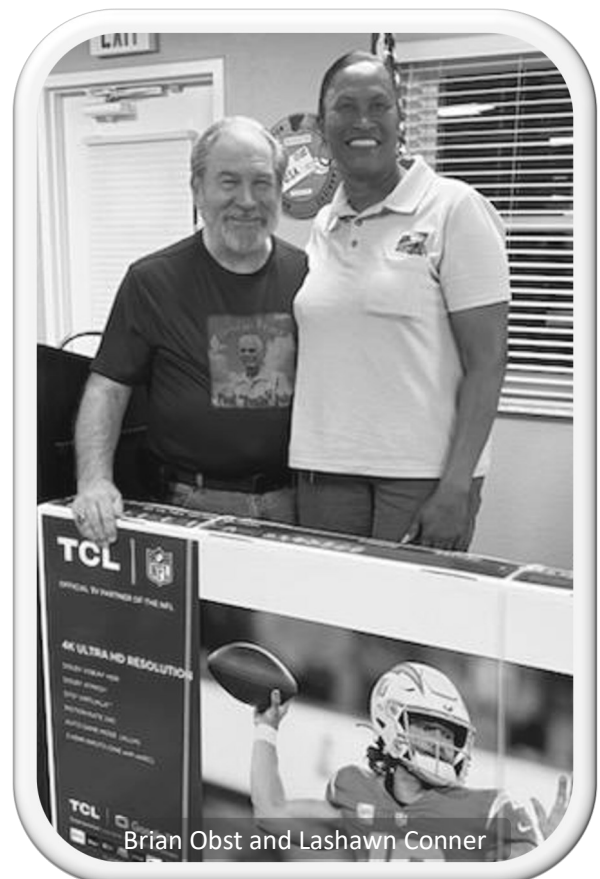
Laptop Winner is **Jessica Bell** [Brandon], and

TV Winner is **Lashawn Conner** [Town & Country].

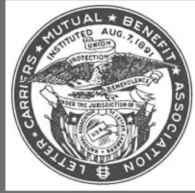
*We raised \$2,704 with this MDA Challenge!*



Brian Obst and Jessica Bell



Brian Obst and Lashawn Conner



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### INSURANCE AND ANNUITY PRODUCTS OF THE MBA:



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MBA Family Retirement Savings Plan ✓

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MBA Term Life Insurance ✓

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### MBA/NSBA REPRESENTATIVE

**BONITA LATTIMORE**

**(813) 473 - 2786**



### BRANCH 599

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TAMPA, FL 33612**

For more information:

**800-424-5184**

Tue/Thur 8-3:30 ET

**202-638-4318**

Weekdays 8-3:30 ET

[www.nalc.org/mba](http://www.nalc.org/mba)



**“Mary Lou Jackman - William Corbeau”  
2024 Florida State Association of  
Letter Carriers Scholarship Application**



*Al Friedman, President*

**\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT CUT OR REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS APPLICATION, AND PRINT LEGIBLY\*\*\***

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  (You must select only ONE box. If more than one child is eligible, please use a separate/additional forms.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch Name and/or Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Member Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I certify the above named member of the FSALC is in good standing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Local Branch President or Secretary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**(DO NOT CUT THE APPLICATION, MAIL ENTIRE FORM. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)**

\*\*\*\*\* TO QUALIFY, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET: \*\*\*\*\*

- 1) The student must have graduated from an accredited High School or have a GED.
- 2) The Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
- 3) Applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. Winners will be notified by mail. **DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF OF ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME.**
- 4) Applications must be postmarked on or by July 1, 2024. Entries received with a postmark after July 1, 2024 will not be open or returned. Only one application per applicant will be accepted.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be a total of four (4) scholarships awarded - two for female applicants and two for male applicants - each in the amount of \$2000.00. This drawing will be held during the NALC 73rd Biennial Convention, August 5 -9, 2024 in Boston, MA. Winners will be notified via mail.



**FSALC USE ONLY**

**RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS TO:  
John W. Mitchell  
FSALC Director of Education,  
1440 7th Street Southeast  
Winter Haven, FL 33880**



# CALL NOW IF YOU'VE BEEN INJURED ON THE JOB.

Fed-Hurt is here to make sure you don't get mistreated by OWCP.

We specialize in getting your claim approved

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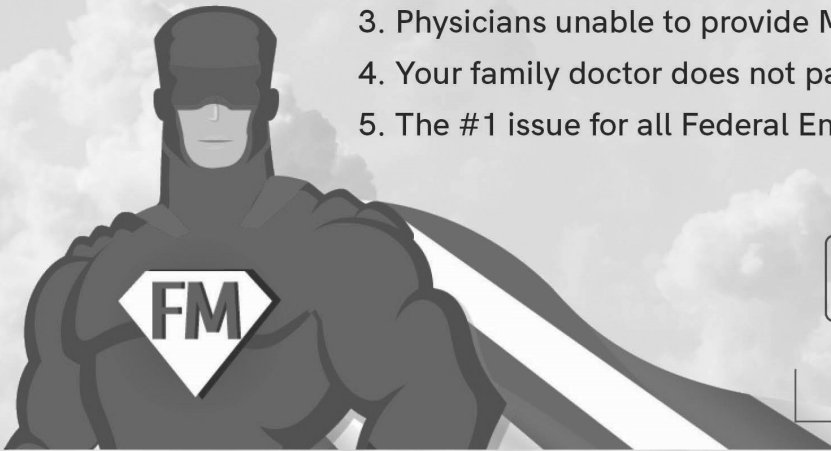


Locations nationwide

## INJURED ON THE JOB AND HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING AN OWCP DOCTOR?

### TOP 5 PROBLEMS FACING ALL INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS:

1. Federal Employees cannot find a qualified OWCP physician.
2. Physicians will not provide care unless they have an approved claim.
3. Physicians unable to provide MRIs, or other diagnostic testing.
4. Your family doctor does not participate with OWCP.
5. The #1 issue for all Federal Employees are denied claims.



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Fed-Hurt is a fully accredited and approved medical provider in good standing with OWCP and maintains licensure across all states where we provide treatment. We NEVER partake in nor entertain fee-for-referral agreements with Unions or any other organization, nor do we solicit payments or kickbacks for referrals. Our billing practices adhere strictly to direct invoicing to OWCP.

**CALL NOW. DON'T LOSE YOUR BENEFITS.**

# Addressing OWCP issues...let's get it right

There have been many articles in our newsletter over the years regarding on-the-job injuries. These are regularly asked questions you need to know:

1. What do I do first?
2. Who do I notify?
3. What paperwork do I need?
4. Who will help me through this?

Correcting OWCP issues are time consuming, frustrating, and if not corrected can delay medical treatment that could cause more severe prolonged injuries. So how do you avoid these issues? How do you get it right?

The **answers** to the above questions should help the process.

1. Report the accident immediately, explain exactly what happened, with a time and place (address).
2. Your supervisor or manager, and if you cannot reach anyone, your steward or our Branch office. It is important to notify someone.
3. Register an account on ECOMP at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov). The forms needed are, CA-1, CA-16, and CA-17, know your forms, ask questions, and do not rely on management to submit your forms without verification.
4. Your supervisor and/or manager should assist you, however, this is not always the case. Do not allow management to delay you going to [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov); this is critical to your case.

## *Other tips:*

1. Your online account at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov) will be available to download should you need a paper copy of any of your forms.
2. Write a detailed, thorough, complete, and legible statement. Some important information to consider, if applicable: the time, the place, the conditions, the surface(s), any contributing factors, possible witnesses, and any hazards.

## **On the Job Injury – Forms needed, simple math,**

$$CA-1 + CA-16 = CA-17$$

CA-16 must be signed by management,

Authorization for Examination and/or treatment.

Any questions...call the Branch office; ask for Brian Obst, 813.875.0599.



National Association of Letter Carriers  
 599 Tampa Florida Inc.  
**315 W Busch Boulevard, Suite C**  
**Tampa FL 33612**  
 813.875.0599 Fax 813.870.0599  
 www.nalc599.com  
 Tampa Letter Carrier  
 Volume 24 • Issue 5 • May 2024

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\* This program does not apply to existing loans financed with Tampa Postal FCU. First payment is due 60 days from loan closing and no interest for 30 days. Valid for vehicles refinanced directly with the credit union between March 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024. Some restrictions apply. Contact the credit union for complete details.

