



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2021

## — Notice —

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

## Official Notice

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

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

Members must be present to accept nominations or have a written notice on file prior to the time and the presiding officer declares nominations closed.

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

Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.

In the event the number of nominations exceed the number of delegates allowed to our Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the **regular branch meeting on December 2, 2021.**

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

Branch 599  
Meeting  
Thursday  
November 4  
7:30 PM

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Brothers and Sisters, I have written many articles on the topic of safety and going home to your families at the end of the day safely. You have heard many times about the importance of seatbelts

and how they can save your life. You have heard how a split second can change or cost you your life. Well, this split second became a reality for a Bradenton letter carrier on September 20.

WFLA reported that Bradenton letter carrier, Michael Silvestri, age 41, was



Tony Diaz  
President  
Branch 599

(Continued on page 3)

**Branch 599 Office**

3003 W Cypress Street  
Tampa FL 33609-1617  
813.875.0599  
Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com

**Tony Diaz**  
President  
tony\_diaz599@verizon.net

*Office Hours*  
Monday – Friday  
7:30 AM – 4 PM

Rodna Kimelman Kirk  
Office Secretary  
nalc599@verizon.net

**Tampa Letter Carrier**

Tony Diaz  
Publisher

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

Branch 599 Office  
813.875.0599

**National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599**, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609-1698, publishes the *Tampa Letter Carrier* monthly. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Branch 599, NALC. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the *Tampa Letter Carrier* to the Editor via email at editor.nalc599@gmail.com and also to the Branch Office at nalc599@verizon.net no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> 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>	Tony Diaz	813.875.0599 cell/813.598.9635	tony_diaz599@verizon.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Brian Obst	727.458.0679	erif_lor@hotmail.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Michael Brink	813.875.0599	nalc599@verizon.net
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Alan Peacock	813.892.9378	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Gebo	813.503.1256	jgg7d7@aol.com
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Michael Williams	813.541.3092	mwilliams4215@gmail.com
<b>MBA/NSBA</b>	Michael Anderson	813.967.1615	mikey020@msn.com
<b>Health Benefit Rep.</b>	Detlev Aeppel	813.505.7914	dcaeppel@aol.com
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Alan Robinson	813.843.9762	arob715@gmail.com
<b>Trustees</b>	Lori McMillion, Ch.	813.263.7101	lorraine.mcmillion@gmail.com
	José Oliva	813.299.8442	joliva1938@gmail.com
	Jim Good	813.417.8877	jgood1206@gmail.com
<b>Labor Management</b>	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock		

# Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Brandon	33510/11	Luis Cruz	813.661.1636	813.431.3223
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Juan Andujar	813.935.2954	813.377.7266
Hilldale	33614	Brian Obst	813.879.4309	727.458.0679
Hilldale Annex	33634	Latoya Dupuy	813.879.4309	305.414.3527
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16		813.831.2034	
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Todd Soular	813.719.6793	813.719.6793
Produce	33610	Jerry J.D. Lewers	813.239.4084	813.528.5519
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	Stephen Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Alan Robinson	813.873.7189	813.843.9762
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Cipriano	813.988.0152	401.787.1510
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Maurice Rice	813.242.4507	813.334.3189

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

killed in a low-speed accident. A SUV allegedly ran a stop sign and struck the side of Michael's LLV. According to police, the LLV flipped on its side and Michael died at the scene. The SUV's driver was cited for failing to stop for a stop sign and has a mandatory appearance in court.

As further details were released through the police report, it was determined that the SUV was traveling at 10 MPH when it struck Michael's LLV traveling at 9 MPH. This qualifies as a low-speed accident. The definition of a Low-Speed Auto Accident commonly refers to collision that occurs at less than 10 miles per hour. When these accidents happen, the vehicles involved may have little to no damage, but the human body often fares far worse. The damage to the human body may also be magnified without a seatbelt. In the police report, it also determined that **Michael was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected at impact even at the low speed.** Then unfortunately, when **the LLV flipped on its side, it fell on Mike.** **What might have ended with bumps and bruises, and minimal damage ended with loss of life.** *Think about that next time you don't buckle up.*

Michael was an Academy Instructor, an On-the-Job Instructor (OJI) and was active in union activities. We have attended several District training seminars hosted in Bradenton and Mike always greeted you with a big smile. He was a chef, and would prepare beautiful lunches for all those who attended the training; cooking was his true passion and he took pride in his presentations. I happen to know Mike from union activities; he was a great guy, upbeat and respectful. Michael leaves behind a wife and daughter, many friends, coworkers, and his union

brothers and sisters. Prayers go out to his entire family through this most difficult time.

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

##### \*From October 13, 2021

Statement from NALC President Fredric Rolando on the Lamar Annex Shooting in Memphis: *The men and women of the National Association of Letter Carriers are deeply saddened by Tuesday's fatal shooting at the East Lamar Carrier Annex in Memphis, Tennessee. We extend our condolences to the family, friends, and co-workers of the victims. NALC stands ready to support and assist members and their families who have been affected. In addition, we will collaborate with our local branch to investigate what led to this shooting and will work with postal management to address any underlying issues. NALC has fought to eliminate workplace violence since the 1990s when such incidents were far too common, and we will focus those efforts on this terrible tragedy in the days and weeks ahead.*

##### \*USPS mail delivery is about to get permanently slower and temporarily more expensive.

Lindsay Schnell reported in USA TODAY, September 28, 2021, that the new direction of the USPS will slow services even more. The new standards were implemented on October 1 and includes First Class Mail. It will delay periodicals as much as 90% of the volume.

Ms. Schnell stated, *These service standard changes are a part of the 10-year plan Postmaster General Louis DeJoy announced in March. There has been criticism aimed at PMG DeJoy from the beginning of his tenure in June of 2020.*

She concluded: *While there is no denying, the coronavirus pandemic has made the long-time financial problems of the Postal Service even worse, you cannot lower quality of delivery service and increase prices.*

##### \*Social Media Warning

**Posting to social media while in uniform...** such as, Facebook, texting, Twitter, Messenger, SnapChat, Google+, Instagram, YouTube, MySpace, and others... **is getting carriers in trouble.**

##### **DO NOT post pictures while working in uniform or after work in uniform.**

Calling out sick and showing up on social media at a restaurant, or hair salon, or at the beach, or shopping mall is not intelligent and very careless...stay off social media while in uniform. *All USPS employees are responsible for complying with this policy.*

Common sense must be exercised at all times when on any social media site. There are USPS rules and regulations that must be followed, and I felt it was time to *again* emphasize the importance of social media.

In addition, when using social media in a personal capacity, employees may *not* speak for or act on behalf of the Postal Service. All uses of social media related to official USPS business require management consent.

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

#### Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 7

#### Veteran's Day

November 11

#### Thanksgiving Day

November 25



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

## Sponsorship Application Form

DUE BY NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 INDIVIDUAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE ON SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE:

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

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

## Players Registration Form

DUE BY NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

GOLFER 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 GOLFER 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 GOLFER 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 GOLFER 4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**\$100**  
  
**HOLE SPONSOR**  
 • Signage on tee box

**\$200**  
  
**LONG DRIVE/ CLOSEST TO PIN/ PUTTING CONTEST**  
 • Signage at designated hole

**\$250**  
  
**FLAG STICK**  
 • Name or Logo on flag  
 • Hole sign  
 (Flag to be presented to sponsor/ hole sign)

**\$500**  
  
**TEAM SPONSOR**  
 • Foursome  
 • Signage on cart  
 • Signage on hole

**\$500**  
  
**HOLE IN ONE**  
 • Sign at tee box  
 • Grand prize TBD

**\$1000**  
  
**SILVER SPONSOR**  
 • Foursome  
 • Hole Sign  
 • 4 Hats with logo  
 • Flag stick

**\$2000**  
  
**GOLD SPONSOR**  
 • (2) Foursomes  
 • (2) Flags/sticks  
 • Hats tourn. Logo  
 • Golf Shirts  
 • Banner (at registration)  
 • Lunch

\*ALL SPONSORSHIPS MAY BE CUSTOMIZED

# Unionism – Legislation, the Letter Carrier Political Fund and You

Well, you are working for the Postal Service and life is good. You are covered by the National Agreement and the union is there to help protect you against attacks from management. There are protections built into the contract to help keep you from being laid off and against unwarranted disciplinary action, your pay scale is set and your advancement in pay and seniority is locked in. What more could you ask for in a job?

Guess what, things are not as secure as you might think they are. What! You cannot be serious. Yes, I am serious and what I'm going to explain to you will give you cause to reexamine how you feel about your consideration of helping the union with efforts on legislative action and donations to the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

Many of the letter carriers working for the Postal Service today know and understand that they are working under a contract of employment known as the National Agreement. This document covers a large number of important issues about your daily employment, including: wages, hours, working conditions and the like. Many letter carriers fail to even read this document and simply depend on their elected representatives (shop stewards and branch officers) to read and understand this document for them. While the elected representatives are generally well versed on the contract, an individual should never be uneducated on information pertaining to their own position at work.

One thing contained in the National Agreement is Article 43 which is listed below, it reads as follows:

## **ARTICLE 43 SEPARABILITY AND DURATION**

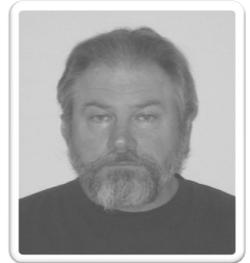
**43.1 Section 1. Separability:** *Should any part of this Agreement or any provision contained herein be rendered or declared invalid by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation or by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidation of such part or provision of this Agreement shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this Agreement, and they shall remain in full force and effect.*

**Separability. Article 43.1** *guarantees that in case a part of the National Agreement is rendered or ruled invalid either by a court or by legislation, the remainder of the agreement will remain in effect.*

Now you are probably wondering: What does this mean and how does it affect me, and why should I worry about this? The answer lies in the wording of the article. Look closely to where it says *subsequently enacted legislation or by a court of competent jurisdiction*. This means if any law is enacted by Congress or if any court decision (i.e., the Supreme Court by way of example) is made that cancels or invalidates any part of our contract the remaining parts are still in force. Have you ever heard the saying that our jobs are simply a stroke of a pen away from significant change?

This is why it is so important for all carriers to become involved in assisting our National with legislative actions. Now this doesn't mean that you need to become a one-person brigade against Washington DC. What it does mean is contacting your senators and representatives and letting them know how the issues being debated in Washington concern you and yours (the voting constituents) in the districts they represent. The NALC.org website has a dedicated

section on legislation and the details are available to help you in addressing your representatives.



**Brian Obst**  
Vice President  
Branch 599

Additionally, there are other ways to help. First is the e-Activist list where you simply provide your e-mail address so that when an issue requires action you can be contacted directly to make the calls or send the letters to your representatives letting them know that you care about the issue and that you expect them to care about it, too. You will not get any junk mail and your address will not be provided to anyone else, it is just so you can be notified directly for required action when time is of the essence.

By law, no part of your union dues can be used for political purposes, that is why the NALC has established a political action committee, the Letter Carrier Political Fund. Carriers are asked to join and make a monthly donation to the fund to help when dealing with election campaigns and helping get friends of letter carriers elected. Notice that it says friends of letter carriers, not republicans or democrats or others. The NALC understands that everyone has their own political leanings and we don't need to get into partisan political issues, we simply want to be able to help those members of congress as well as local and state representatives that support postal issues. Donations to the fund can be as small as five dollars a paycheck up to as much as you feel you want to donate. Signing up is a simple process and any Branch officer can assist you with this. I like to think of this as job insurance,

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to Joyce and family at the passing of her husband, **George McConnell** [retiree/former Br. 599 Building Manager] whose passing was September 21; to **Eric Lyons** [Interbay] and family at the passing of his sister, Tara, August 29; to **Christiane Chrissie Dantes** [Carrollwood] and family at the passing of her father, Milford Woodard, September 6; to **Robert Ortiz** [Carrollwood] and family at the passing of his father, Willie, September 21; to **Jamil Williams** [Produce] and family at the passing of his grandmother, Charlotte, September 21; to **Al Guice** [retiree/former Br. 599 officer] and family at the passing of his sister, Louise, September 22; and to Br. 599 Vice President **Brian Obst** and family at the passing of his uncle, Bill, October 10.

## Bill Helsel and Wayne Morton Retired!



Bill Helsel and Tony Diaz

President Diaz presented **William Bill Helsel** [TCA] and **Wayne Morton** [Brandon] with their retirement pin and gratuity at our October meeting.



Wayne Morton and Tony Diaz

### New Building Oversight Committee Appointed

I have appointed a new committee to assist in finding a new home for Branch 599. Appointed to the committee: Alan Peacock, Alan Robinson, Detlev Aepfel, Michael Anderson, John Gebro, Brian Obst and as President, myself. We need your help in finding a new office facility. We are looking for an existing office building for remodel or a parcel of land large enough to build to our needs. Parking space is essential to host up to 100. Please contact our Branch office at 813.875.0599 with any leads.

### WANTED - Used Uniforms

With the influx of new CCAs being hired, the donated uniforms we receive from retirees has dwindled significantly. Used uniforms, (that look presentable) are needed for our new CCA members. We currently have no Postal shirts available and are limited in shorts. Your donated uniforms would be appreciated.

## Unionism – Legislation, the Letter Carrier Political Fund and You

*(Continued from page 5)*

as it is going to help protect my job with the postal service.

As we watch the political drama in Washington DC unfold daily, remember that there are many members of Congress that would like nothing

better than to privatize the Postal Service and basically destroy the job you have to suit their own political ends. Becoming an activist is one way to help protect the job you have and your future.

Remember that looking out for your

own best interests comes in many forms. Help your union help protect your job and don't forget.....

**Knowledge is the Key.**

Until next time,

*Brian Obst*

Vice President



**PAIN REHABILITATION  
CENTER**

**OUR SPECIALTIES:**

Federal Workers  
Compensation Providers  
Auto Accident Injury Specialist  
Slip n Fall Specialist

**SERVICES  
PROVIDED:**

Physical Therapy  
Acupuncture  
Chiropractic Care  
Massage Therapy  
NCV's

4150 N Armenia Ave. #102  
Tampa, FL 33607

P: (813) 877-6900

F: (813) 877-6941

<http://www.mrtherapycenter.com>

**NOTICE**

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

**Shop Stewards will Meet**

Tuesday 7 PM

November 2

November 30

**Executive Board Meets**

Thursday 6:30 PM

November 4

December 2

**Branch 599 Meetings**

Thursday 7:30 PM

November 4

December 2

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

**Retirees Breakfasts**

Monday *Date to be Announced* 9 AM

Denny's Restaurant

at Dale Mabry & Spruce

2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday *Date to be Announced* 8 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher

12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637



**A.R. Tony Huerta Branch 599**

National Association of Letter Carriers  
3003 W Cypress Street  
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com

Tampa Letter Carrier  
Volume 20 • Issue 11 • November 2021

**NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAMPA FL  
PERMIT NO. 1285**

*Need some*  
**Holiday**  
**DOUGH**  
*this Season?*

Get **\$1,200** for all your Holiday Expenses without the High-Interest & Long-Term Debt of Traditional Credit Cards.

**All you need to get approved is:**

- ✓ Be employed for at least 12 months
- ✓ Have Automatic Loan Transfer\*
- ✓ Have established direct deposit for at least 6 months

**Special 12-12-12 Holiday Loan**

**80 YEARS**  
1941 - 2021

**TAMPA POSTAL**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

800.782.4899 • [www.tpcu.org](http://www.tpcu.org)

**NCUA**

\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Closed-End Loan, doc stamps will be paid for by member. Offer valid between Oct 1, 2021 and Dec 17, 2021. Direct deposit required during the life of the loan. 12% APR reflects 0.25% APR Discount for Automatic Loan Payment Transfer. Must be employed for at least 12 months and enrolled in direct deposit for at least 6 months prior to loan. All accounts must be current and in good standing for 6 months at the time of the loan. Existing holiday loan must be paid off to qualify for a new loan. This is not a pre-approved offer. Member must apply. Certain restrictions apply.