



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 4 - Issue 10

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

October 2005

President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

Help and Understanding

Everyone in our country is well aware of the death, injuries and devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina throughout Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Although the final figures are not available, as I write this article upon my return from the Committee of President's Meeting on September 14th, we were told by our National President Bill Young that as many as 2,000 postal employees are still missing. We can only pray that they are safe and will be located soon.

President Young urged all carriers to donate to the Postal Employee's Relief Fund, either through the Combined Federal Campaign or through an envelope that will be attached to the next issue of the Postal Record. It is the position of our national office that we need to help the carriers through this disaster in the long run, through the time when they are rebuilding their homes and getting back on their feet in the months to come. He says that they are being taken care of now as far as their immediate needs are concerned with food and temporary housing. He does not see a need to do as the APWU is doing, that is moving some of their union brothers and sisters out of areas like the Houston Astrodome and into hotel rooms. He states, and I agree, that this could cause many more problems such as who gets to go into the hotel

rooms and who is left to fend for themselves.

Branch 599 has begun a collection to aid the carriers in the areas hit by the hurricane and help with their immediate needs. I have been in contact with Lew Drass, the National Business Agent for that area of the country, to find out what is needed and where these things can be sent. He is trying to set up a collection center in Baton Rouge and if this is successful we will either ship or send by truck the articles that are needed. If this does not work out Branch 599's Executive Board will decide where our collection funds will do the most good to help our brother and sister carriers.

President Young also brought out the fact that if there were ever an event that could be considered an "emergency" under the meaning of our National Agreement, that this was it. This emergency could, and more than likely will, cause postal management to go outside the guidelines of the contract in regards to excessing, overtime, placement and seniority issues. Carriers that are relocated to areas of the country so that they and their families have a safe place to stay will in all likelihood go to work, at least temporarily, delivering mail in nearby stations. Displaced carriers and all career postal employees are currently being paid administrative leave, but eventually this will have to end. President Young asked all branch presidents for their and their members' understanding in this very unsettling time, and I ask the same of all of you. If we as a branch are able to offer temporary employment to current carriers displaced by this disaster, I know that we will all show our understanding and knowledge that it could have been us

looking for work in a new location rather than them.

Another issue of importance that was addressed by President Young was the boycotting of the AFL-CIO Convention in Chicago by five major unions representing over three million members, and the ultimate withdrawal of these members. President Young voiced his concerns regarding the NALC remaining in the AFL-CIO, but stated that we would remain for the immediate future and let the membership decide whether or not we would stay during our National Convention in August of next year. President-Emeritus Sombrotto, who was also at the COP Meeting supported Young's decision to let the delegates to the convention decide.

Our Labor Day Picnic was a huge success with well over 500 people attending. I want to thank and congratulate Chris Albrecht, who was in charge of organizing the event, for a job well done. This was Chris' third year as chairman of the Labor Day Picnic Committee and every year turns out better than the year before! I also want to thank all the volunteers who helped out throughout the day, from setting up in the morning to putting everything

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Branch Meeting

Thursday

October 6, 2005

7:30 PM

Branch 599 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Detlev Aepfel	(813) 907-9685, cell 505-7914
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516, cell 597-7396
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cheryl Clothier	(727) 385-7337
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 681-5688
TRUSTEE(Chairman)	Henry Dupree	(813) 621-6471
TRUSTEE	Jose Oliva	(813) 873-2747
TRUSTEE	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	Jack Newman	(813) 805-2942
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Michael Stewart	(813) 310-1292
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
MAPS COORDINATOR	Chris Albrecht	(727) 791-7162

Presidents Emeritus

Michael Anderson	Orbe Andux
James Butler	Milton McConnell
Don Thomas	Garland Tickle
Lenin Perez	

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

3003 W. Cypress St.

Tampa, Florida 33609-1617

Tel: (813) 875-0599 Fax: (813) 870-0599

email: nalc599@verizon.net

website: <http://www.nalc599.com>

Branch 599 Shop Stewards

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Miroslaw Oldziej	(813) 661-1636
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	(813) 968-7491
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Eddie Alvarez	(813) 892-6553
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	(813) 935-0244
Interbay	33611	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Interbay	33629	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
MacDill	33608	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 681-6890
Port Tampa	33616	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 872-1542
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Ken Lee	(940) 368-4771
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Pedro Jiminez	(813) 727-9280
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Anderson	(813) 681-5688
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	(813) 505-7914

TAMPA RETIREES BREAKFAST

First Monday of Every Month

9:00 AM at

The Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert

in Drew Park

BRANDON RETIREES BREAKFAST

Second Tuesday of every month

8:00 AM at

Buddy Freddy's

134 Gornto Lake Rd S.

in Brandon

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. Submit articles as .txt, .doc or .wpd documents attached to email sent to: newsletter@nalc599.com

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

President's Report *(from page 1)*

away after the picnic was over. It couldn't have happened without you all. I know all who attended had a great time, and for those who didn't attend try to make it next year, especially if you have little kids. They really enjoyed themselves.

Notice of Nominations and Elections

Nominations for delegates to the 2006 National Convention in Las Vegas will be held at the October 6th and November 3rd branch meetings. Elections, if needed will be held at the December 1, 2005 branch meeting. These meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Nominations and elections shall be in accordance with Article 5 of the Branch by-laws and will be held at the union hall at 3003 West Cypress, Tampa, FL 33609.

Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic



Health and Welfare

The mother of Mark Demicheli, Town and Country carrier, passed away.

Raymond Kimball, retiree and lifetime member, passed away.

Foster Watts, father of John Watts, passed away.

John Zuilkoski, retiree, recovering from serious accident.

TLC, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The August 23, 2005 meeting was called to order by Chairman Obst at 7:00 pm. The reading of the previous meeting were accepted as read. Financial report by John Gebo. Building Manager's report by Jack Newman. Maintenance man Gary Stone resigned on August 8th. The recreation room floor was cleaned by Leon. There are two Saturdays still not rented in 2005, and six rentals are scheduled so far for 2006. A discussion was had about possible leaks on the roof of the union hall. A discussion about the vacant maintenance man position began, but a motion was made and passed to table the discussion until the September board meeting. The Muscular Dystrophy Association requested that we supply five volunteers to answer the phones on Labor Day for the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Jim Good, Lance Jones, Brian Obst, Adam Noble and Dean Minter volunteered for two hours in the morning on Labor Day. Donation Committee Chairman Quintanilla made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Department. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Jim Good
Secretary
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

September Meetings:

Tues 9-27-05 - TLC Board of Directors Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 9-29-05 - Executive Board Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

October Meetings:

Tues 10-4-05 - Shop Stewards Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 10-6-05 - Branch Meeting
Union Hall, 7:30 PM

Tues 10-25-05 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 10-27-05 - Executive Board Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Attention All Members

The Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. By-laws, Article 2, Section 11 reads: "When a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, and there are no alternates available to fill that vacancy, any member, in good standing, of Branch 599 NALC may submit a written request to be considered to fill the vacancy. The Board of Directors will decide by a majority vote as to whether the applicant(s) will be appointed".

Because of the resignation of two board members TLC will be accepting applications for these two positions. Any member who wishes to be considered to fill these vacancies must submit his/her name to the following address by October 20, 2005. Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., 3003 West Cypress, Tampa, FL 33609-1617. These new directors will serve the remainder of their appointed term, which will end on election day in December of 2006.

Jim Good
Secretary
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

President's Station Visits

Town & Country	9/29/05
Carrollwood	10/06/05
Palm River Annex	10/12/05
Hilldale Annex	10/14/05
Brandon 33510	10/18/05
Brandon 33511	10/19/05
Sun City Center	10/21/05
Plant City	10/26/05



Unionism

by Brian Obst

Article 35 - Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Section 1. Programs

The Employer and the Union express strong support for programs of self-help. The Employer shall provide and maintain a program which shall encompass the education, identification, referral, guidance and follow-up of those employees afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and/or drug abuse. When an employee is referred to the EAP by the Employer, the EAP staff will have a reasonable period of time to evaluate the employee's progress in the program. This program of labor-management cooperation shall support the continuation of the EAP for alcohol, drug abuse, and other family and/or personal problems at the current level.

An Employee's voluntary participation in the EAP for assistance with and/or drug abuse will be considered favorably in disciplinary action proceedings.

These words are taken directly from the National Agreement and are indicative of

the spirit of cooperation between management and the union with one thing in mind - helping our members who might have problems. The program provides for free *confidential* counseling to all postal employees and their family members by trained outside professionals.

It is the confidentiality that is the cornerstone on EAP counseling. The EAP counselors are bound by very strict codes of ethics, as well as federal and state laws, requiring that information learned from counseled employees remains private. Putting it simply it means that any information divulged in a counseling session remains confidential and may only be released with the employee's voluntary, written consent. As an individual who seeks counseling, one need not fear that others will find out what went on in that counseling session. The knowledge that counseling will be for helping the individual address their issues and will not be used against them by their employer is what makes this program a valuable asset for employees and it should be used as

such.

Speaking frankly, there are times in everyone's life where one might need help in dealing with an issue. These are the times that this program is designed for because failure to address a problem may cause problems at work and in one's personal life. This program provides the assistance should one need it. Don't be afraid to use it.

Much of this article is taken verbatim from the National Agreement and I urge you to familiarize yourself with this article and feel free to call the Suncoast EAP representative Ms. Cynthia Copp at 800-EAP-4-YOU (1-800-327-4968). Remember, it is never wrong to ask for help nor does it make you weak for doing so.

Yours in Brotherhood

Brian Obst
Steward, Town and Country



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

813-877-4785

A Point of Personal Privilege

Disaster and the Government Response

Something that a terrorist organization could only have dreamed of happened to a major area of the United States. The fact is this incident was not man-made. This was a natural disaster that was a catastrophe of epic proportions. Could this hurricane have been avoided? The devastation could not have but the lack of response should have been avoided! In June of 2004, for the first time in 37 years federal budget cuts all but stopped major work on the New Orleans area's east bank hurricane levees. These were a complex network of concrete walls, metal gates and giant earthen mounds that needed to be constantly repaired, maintained and upgraded. The area in question was facing Lake Pontchartrain to the east of New Orleans. Full funding for these projects was denied by not only Congress but by the Bush administration. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested \$27 million for a fiscal year to pay for hurricane-protection projects around the lake. The Bush administration countered with \$3.9 million. Congress appropriated \$5.7 million. The Army Corps requested \$78 million for projects to improve draining and prevent flooding in New Orleans. The Bush administration budgeted \$30 million even though these included ambitious projects to improve water drainage in New Orleans' neighborhoods. Congress appropriated \$36.5 million. Do you know that the flood waters in New Orleans were said to have been rising a foot a minute once the levees were breached? Where could anyone have gone who was unable to evacuate? How much time did those people have to evacuate once the levees broke?

This is what happens to any individual that puts politics and party aside and speaks as a free American against the Bush administration. A Republican from Mississippi, former Congressman Michael Parker, who headed the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers from October 2001 until March 2002, was ousted from that position when he publicly criticized a Bush administration proposal to cut the corps' budget. Here is a timeline on what actions were taken prior to and after the hurricane hit August 29th:

1. Friday, Aug. 26: Gov. Blanco declares a state of emergency in Louisiana and re-

quests troop assistance.

2. Saturday, Aug. 27: Gov. Blanco asks for a federal state of emergency. A federal state of emergency is declared giving federal officials the authority to get involved.

3. Sunday, Aug. 28: Mayor Ray Nagin orders a mandatory evacuation of New Orleans. President Bush is warned of levee failure by the National Hurricane Center. The National Weather Service predicts the New Orleans area will be uninhabitable after the hurricane arrives. The first reports of water toppling over the levees appear in a local newspaper.

4. Monday, Aug. 29: Levees breach and New Orleans begins to fill with water while Bush travels to Arizona and California to discuss Medicare. FEMA chief, Brown, finally responds to this federal emergency and dispatches employees but allows them two days to arrive on site.

5. Tuesday, Aug. 30: Mass looting is reported because of the security shortage cited in New Orleans. The Pentagon says local authorities have adequate National Guard units to handle hurricane needs despite the governor's earlier request. TV coverage of the hurricane is round the clock and Bush returns to Crawford for the final days of his vacation.

6. Wednesday, Aug. 31: Thousands of people are trapped at the Convention Center and Superdome of New Orleans and local authorities run out of food and water supplies. Bush finally returns to the Capitol to establish a task force to coordinate federal response.

7. Thursday, Sept. 1: The New Orleans mayor issues a "Desperate SOS" to the federal government. Bush states "I don't think anyone anticipated the breach of the levees" despite multiple warnings and his earlier briefings.

8. Friday, Sept. 2: The Bush administration, lead by Karl Rove, begins to blame state and local officials despite their repeated requests for assistance.

9. Saturday, Sept. 3: Bush blames local and state officials and a senior administration official is caught lying by claiming that Gov. Blanco had not declared a state of

by Leslie Ray Garcia



emergency or asked for help.

Did you know that the Louisiana National Guard had minimal equipment and staff available to assistance their state if an emergency was declared because most of the units trained in this type of disaster with their equipment were sent to Iraq!

This is supposed to be the most advanced and most powerful nation in the world yet all evidence raises a disturbing question: If the Bush administration lacked the preparation and the urgency to respond to this type of disaster, what would happen if a terrorist act of this proportion occurred?

Why didn't the Republican controlled Congress have an emergency session declared to appropriate money sooner? Wasn't this as important a life or death matter as the Terri Shiavo incident?

Our NALC contract with the USPS ends in 2006 and Bush has stated he is for privatization of the USPS and has stated he will veto any form of HR22 that appears on his desk. November of 2006 and 2008 are extremely important in that elections will be held for expiring seats in the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Oval Office. If you are for a strong health insurance for all Americans, real living wages for all Americans, a strong government that is interested in the welfare of American workers, jobs and all citizens, an American educational system second to none and a strong infrastructure of state, county and local governments in America rather than places like Iraq, etc.? It is too bad that 55 million people could not see the forest for the trees.

"If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

John F. Kennedy

And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

*Heard It Through
The Grapevine*

Most carriers when they retire, the last thing they want to think about is the post office. They put up with all the BS for 30 years and now they've finally made it and it's, "I'm out of here!"

Not pinning any medals on myself, but I can't get the post office out of my blood. If I had not had two minor strokes and been medically advised to retire I most likely would still be carrying mail. So as a result I still stay in close contact with the officers of Branch 599, read other branch publications, and listen to my brother carriers from Brandon on what all is going on in our Postal Service, etc.

All of this helps me to write these articles and I try and make it somewhat interesting to read for all of you. When I can't do that any more, I will stop writing. When I was active it was so much easier to know what to write. Now its all on info I can gather from wherever.

I hear through the grapevine that the Brandon Postmaster is another tyrant from the old school that I was told was a thing of the past in the post office. Sorry to say, this guy slipped through the cracks. Brandon has a good group of craft employees working there, both

clerk and carrier. R.W. O'Neill was postmaster for years and not bad as postmasters go. At least he was a people person with feelings. Then along came Fairbanks as postmaster. I went to the post office and met Fairbanks and he also was a people person with feelings, so the morale in Brandon was always high. Don't get me wrong, there were always grievances about something but in general it was okay. Then Fairbanks left and a lousy OIC was there and I'm sure all were praying another O'Neill or Fairbanks type person would be put in the position.

Now I hear that Brandon morale is at an all time low, productivity is low and going to work is a chore. I hear the postmaster does not believe in talk but only in discipline. Letters of Warning are going to everybody. Its pretty bad when managers are going out on stress, isn't it? I've said this before but an officer in the U.S. Army once told me, "No matter what position a person holds in authority, when we all get up in the morning we all put our pants on one leg at a time." But I do believe there are some postal managers that climb a step ladder and jump into their pants both legs at the same time so they can be "different".

The September branch meeting had a total of 52 carriers. That's a shame when the union president is talking about route

inspections that are coming in the near future and other items that can affect your future. But the Labor Day Picnic had over 500 that attended. It was all free (your union dues paid for it) and you deserve this for being union members – but try to get to the union meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month, for your own benefit.

I heard there is a record number of six carriers up for termination in the branch, which proves something is wrong. More reason to attend your union meetings to learn how to protect yourself.

Tampa has a two page paper called "Tampa's Voice." On the front cover is a small article by Nancy Fryrear, Postmaster. In one I read recently, Ms Fryrear wrote that when every thing goes wrong, you should eat chocolate, that eating some thing sweet helps your mind to overcome the stress.

As I was reading that article I was thinking to myself, since its Ms. Fryrear's managers who are causing the stress to begin with, it would be nice if she would send a couple of pounds of chocolate to each of the stations in Tampa and ten pounds to Brandon. Ha ha!



Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic

Around The Horn

Hurricane Katrina

Brothers and Sisters, I hope any one reading this article that has family in the path of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina has heard good news. The pictures, the images are forever engrained in my mind. The path of destruction unbelievable and very frightening. One week later it seems like a bad dream. No one storm could devastate such a broad area as Katrina has done, could it? With the difficult time I had with our own hurricanes last year I can relate to the frustration, the feeling of helplessness, the anger and the exhaustion of the people affected by this terrible tragedy and theirs is multiplied by ten. Loss of life, loss of belongings, loss of normal everyday routine are some things these people of the Gulf Coast must deal with.

Our brothers and sisters in that region are without homes, a work place, missing family members, and many have not been heard from themselves. Postal facilities have been destroyed, leveled and flooded. Mail was seen floating down the streets and canals of these towns. The Postal Service is reaching its displaced employees through a toll-free number – 1-877-477-3273. Employees can notify the Postal Service of their location and perhaps work close to where they have found safe ground rather than take annual or LWOP.

The Postmaster General announced the USPS is donating \$250,000 to the Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF).

Services are gradually being restored in some of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. Postal facilities are being reopened to attempt some kind of mail delivery and establish mobile retail centers to serve customer needs. 40,000 change of address card have been filled out, faxed or emailed in and that figure is expected to double.

I have watched countless hours of the disaster on CNN, FOX and MSNBC and the words that come to mind are horrific, catastrophic and just unbelievable. My frustration comes in watching the relief efforts and how unprepared we were as a nation for disasters where so many people must be evacuated, rescued and treated and where the necessities we so depend on (electric, water, toilets and phone) are non-existent. Hopefully this will educate and better prepare all of us should such a devastating event happen to us. Take a look at the areas we live in and imagine the chaos of a category 5 hurricane. Florida would be destroyed should a hurricane hit with the size of Katrina. Where would we all go? Where would we find safety? How would we protect our families? Scary isn't it? The

lines, the congestion, the panic, the feeling of being trapped and helpless is all overwhelming. Hard to imagine whole cities completely wiped out and along with it the history, family possessions and a way of life that will be just a memory.

We can all help with donations. In fact the NALC has set up a charity to assist victims of Katrina. Anyone interested please see your shop steward or call our local Branch 599 office at 877-5491.

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



Anthony Moran

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Parties

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★ Member Branch 599 ★

From The Chair

by Brian Obst

*Chairman - Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.****Recreation and Relief***

Good day from the chair of TLC. September is well under way and our Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic was a smashing success. Over 500 plates were served consisting of ribs, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings as well as ice cream, cotton candy and snow cones, a big hit with the kids, so everybody left with a full belly. This annual festive occasion gets better every year so lets all start planning to attend next years event. In keeping with our tradition of working with charities in our community a donation box was set up for the MDA and I'm proud to say that we were able to raise almost \$1,000 for MDA in our neck of the woods. Once again the members of Branch 599 and their families have stepped up to the plate and hit a home run.

Day Picnic trouble named Katrina was having a devastating effect on the gulf coast of the United States. Many of our union brothers and sisters are now homeless and in need of our help.

At the last branch meeting a motion was passed allowing the branch to donate \$1,000 to the Hurricane relief fund that the NALC is setting up to help. I am proud to announce that, after polling all the available members of the board, TLC, Inc. will be matching the \$1,000 donation made by the branch. Now lets all make sure that we all follow up at all stations, the members of Town and Country have stepped up and donated \$300 to the cause. Lets all follow that example and do all we can to help our brothers and sisters in their time of need.

As I'm sure you have all seen, there

are some vacancies on the TLC board and we are looking for some Branch 599 members in good standing to step up to fill them. Please submit your applications to the board through the branch office.



In closing, once again I would like to remind all members that the TLC board meetings are open to all. We are open to new ideas and would like to hear from the membership so think about attending a meeting sometime. Until next month, I remain as always your TLC Chairman.

Brian Obst
Chairman
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Even while we were enjoying our Labor

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*Find out how you can help protect your assets on Oct. 6th.

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?

SHOP BY PHONE FROM HOME

320 PATLIN CIRCLE EAST PHONE: 727-584-4307

LARGO, FL 33770-3063 CELL: 727-543-0705 FAX: 727-585-9367

bilmor@tampabay.rr.com

U S POSTAL UNIFORM DEBIT CARDS EXPIRING 12/31/05

To those of you who have a U S Postal Debit card used for purchasing your uniforms and the expiration date is **12/31/05** you will be receiving your new card sometime in November. Be sure that you activate it when you receive it.

If you have moved since you received the card you have in your possession, Citibank will be mailing your new card to your old address unless they have been notified of your current address. Your new card **will not be forwarded** to your current address.

To see if Citibank has your correct address, call them – 24/7 – at 1-800-287-5003. When the voice mail operator says “Welcome to Citibank,” press 2 right away. This will get you to a Customer Service Representative. You will be asked for your 16-digit account number, which is your debit card number beginning with 4715-86. Tell the rep that the reason you are calling is that you have moved, and you want to make sure that they, Citibank, have your correct address. For security purposes, the rep will talk to the cardholder, only. So be prepared to answer questions regarding your postal career. Be sure to active your card when you receive it.

Bill Moran, Uniform Rep.

Carrier Uniform Collection

On Saturday, September 17th I received a phone call from Bridgette Robertson, Tampa Customer Relations Coordinator. She told me that Gary Sawtelle, Suncoast District Communication Specialist, was in Gulfport, MS working with the USPS employees who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. I called Gary and was informed that a contact point had been set up to collect uniforms for the carriers who had to evacuate their homes, in some cases with only the clothes on their backs.

On Monday the 19th Building Manager Jack Newman, office secretary Shirley Hickman and myself boxed up all the uniforms we had been collecting over the years and shipped them, at USPS expense, to the station in Gulfport. We sent

approximately 200 shirts, 100 pairs of pants and 100 pairs of shorts. I also contacted the Presidents of the Clearwater and St. Petersburg branches and they also sent uniforms. Bill Moran from *Arslan Uniforms* offered his assistance and additional uniforms were sent from their home office in Cincinnati.

I am now asking if any carriers have extra uniforms they are not using to give them to your shop steward or drop them off at the hall to replenish what we have sent, or to further assist with more if they are needed.

Jim Good
President - Branch 599



Branch 599 Labor Day Picnic



If You Have Money To Burn...

...Keep Paying Rent

Don't Burn your hard earned money each month on rent. Property values in Florida continue to rise, making your new home payments an investment, not an expense!

Contact our Mortgage Specialist Today to Discuss the Simple & Rewarding 1st Mortgages
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A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599
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