



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019

Official Notice

Election of Officers of NALC Branch 599, Tampa FL

Nominations for the following positions as Officers of Branch 599 have been accepted.

A formal election will be conducted by secret ballot on December 5, 2019, at our Branch hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609.

The polls will be open 2:00–7:30 PM.

Any member who is in line at 7:30 PM will be allowed to vote.

Elections will be conducted for the following persons to serve as Officers of Branch 599 for a term of three years. Names are listed in alphabetical order with no order of preference:

Vice-President

Brian Obst
Warren Sumlin

Treasurer

John Gebro
Maggie Lancaster

Sergeant-at-Arms

Luis Cruz
Mike Fite
Mike Williams

Trustees

Jim Good
Lori McMillion
Joe Oliva
Sebastian Parker

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all Branch 599 Brothers and Sisters!

The nominations for 2020 Branch officers are complete. Elections will be held December 5, from 2 to 7:30 PM at our Union Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street. Remember, your vote counts, your vote is important. I hope to see all of you on Election Day. Good luck to all the candidates running for Branch office.

On a personal note:
It has been an honor,

privilege and pleasure to serve as your President for the past 6 years and I look forward to the challenges over the next 3 years. While the position of President comes with many responsibilities, the rewards of this position are far greater. Whether it is answering a contractual or personal question, or giving advice or getting someone on track, it is all gratifying. The relationships I have been able to

develop with you and in cases with your families is what makes this job special. I have had the delightful experiences of helping many of you with your retirement and the excitement of telling a CCA *you are now a fulltime regular carrier!* These are powerful experiences; both are life changing events, both very



Tony Diaz
President

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Branch 599
serving
Brandon
Plant City
Sun City
Tampa

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday
December 5
7:30 PM

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@yahoo.com

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

Rodna Kimelman Kirk
Office Secretary
nalc599@verizon.net

Tampa Letter Carrier

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Publisher

Phyllis R. Thomas
Editor
editor@nalc599.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.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

| Position | Officer | Phone | Email |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Tony Diaz | 813.875.0599 cell 813.598.9635 | tony_diaz599@verizon.net |
| Vice President | Brian Obst | 727.458.0679 | |
| Recording Secretary | Michael Brink | 813.875.0599 | |
| Financial Secretary | Alan Peacock | 813.892.9378 | apecock.nalc@verizon.net |
| Treasurer | John Gebo | 813.503.1256 | jig7d7@aol.com |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | J.C. Howard | 813.310.0689 | |
| MBA/NSBA | Al Guice | 813.465.9754 | |
| Health Benefit Rep. | Detlev Aepfel | 813.505.7914 | |
| Director of Retirees | Alan Robinson | 813.843.9762 | retirees@nalc599.com |
| Trustees | Lori McMillion, Ch. | 813.263.7101 | |
| | José Oliva | 813.299.8442 | |
| | Jim Good | 813.417.8877 | jgood1206@gmail.com |
| Labor Management | Nick Cullaro | 813.541.8159 | |
| | Warren Sumlin | 813.486.7612 | |
| Presidents Emeritus | Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson James Good • Alan Peacock | | |

Shop Stewards

| Station | ZIP | Steward | Station No. | Steward's No. |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Tampa Stations/Branches | | Chief Steward, Brian Obst | | 727.458.0679 |
| Brandon | 33510/11 | David Rivadeneira | 813.661.1636 | 813.403.9525 |
| Carrollwood | 33618 | Eddie Berroth | 813.961.2962 | 813.493.5224 |
| 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 | Nick Cullaro | 813.935.2954 | 813.541.8159 |
| Hilldale | 33614 | Sam Wantje | 813.879.4309 | 941.979.6485 |
| Hilldale Annex | 33634 | Varick Reeder | 813.879.4309 | 315.491.6234 |
| Interbay/Port Tampa | 33611/16 | Jonathan Jones | 813.831.2034 | 813.293.2208 |
| 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 | Varick Reeder | 813.719.6793 | 315.491.6234 |
| Produce | 33610 | Frank Webb | 813.239.4084 | 813.340.0300 |
| Ruskin/Sun City Ctr | 33570 | Bert Fristad | 813.634.1403 | 813.352.0864 |
| Seminole Heights | 33603 | Walt Rhoads | 813.237.4569 | 813.389.1708 |
| Sulphur Springs | 33604 | Steve Hall | 813.237.4569 | 813.494.4669 |
| TCA/Hyde Park | 33606 | Michael Smith | 813.873.7189 | 813.326.0717 |
| TCA/Peninsula | 33609 | Michael Williams | 813.873.7189 | 813.541.3092 |
| TCA/West Tampa | 33607 | Michael Williams | 813.873.7189 | 813.541.3092 |
| Temple Terrace | 33617 | Michael Cipriano | 813.988.0152 | |
| 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)

special. We will continue to educate and develop stewards through training for the future of this Branch and the NALC. We will continue to be active in the community with the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and supporting our #1 Charity, Muscular Dystrophy Association. So thank you to all who have supported me over the years. It has been my pleasure to serve you throughout my years as an officer of this Branch. I look forward to serving as your President of Branch 599 for 3 more years.

Branch 599's MDA Golf Tournament had a record day!

Our 6th Annual Branch 599/MDA Charity Golf Tournament was another record breaker! The tournament was Sunday, November 3, again at Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club for the 4th consecutive year. The staff at Heritage Harbor loves our tournament, rating it one of the best run tournaments they host yearly. Each year we have improved on our totals, thanks to hard work, great sponsors, and all of you who contribute.

Records broken this year: players, the tournament was sold out, the most hole sponsors and the most raffle tickets sold. We will present MDA with a check in December for over

\$11,000 for the 2019 year!

The day was beautiful, not a cloud in the sky. *Thanks* to all the golfers who participated, to the hole sponsors, and to our donors. *Thanks* to all the volunteers who came out to help with registration, raffle ticket sales, 50/50 raffle sales, taking pictures, and assisting with the putting contest. **Special thanks to all the employees at Carrollwood Station, 6 hole sponsors that ties their own record.**

And finally, there are no words that can describe the effort by our Golf Tournament Coordinator, Alan Robinson. His tireless effort over the months leading to the tournament made this a truly great event. Alan has spearheaded this tournament all 6 years. To his credit, hustle and determination, we have improved on our totals every year. This however, and Alan will tell you, is a team effort; we succeed together for a great cause. (Pictures are included in the newsletter.)

We had a special guest, Arden Fisher (see photo inside). Arden is an 11 year old boy that was the star of the event! Arden, who is related to Alan Robinson, was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy 7 years ago at the age of 4. He and his family spent the entire day with us and had a wonderful time. Arden rode the course in a golf cart set aside for him

and his family. He shook everyone's hand and thanked all the participants for being a part of the charity event. Arden smiled all day long, taking the day in, he has become our inspiration. We all thanked him for coming out and being so pleasant. We are attempting to get Arden more involved with other MDA activities through our State President, Al Friedman.

We will begin the planning for our 7th Annual MDA Tournament in early 2020. Hopefully any of you who did not or were not able to donate or play this year will join us next year! We are looking for title sponsors to help pay the expenses associated with organizing a big event like this. We are also looking for 620 Radio, The Sports Animal, to play a bigger role and help us promote this event next year.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*The CCA hiring freeze in the Sun-coast District has been lifted. Hiring should commence again, but it may be too late for the holidays.

*No news on any conversions, we will continue to fill vacancies to create vacancies for conversions.

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

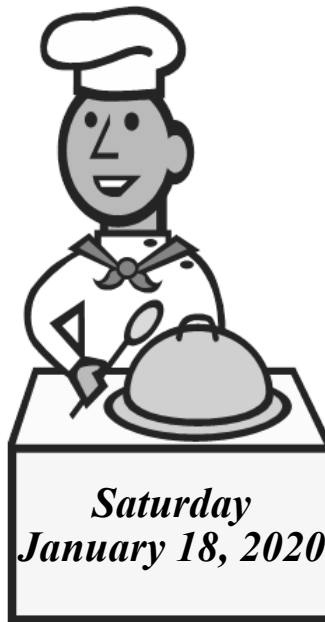
Branch meetings...

December 5 • January 9 • February 6 • March 7 • April 4 • May 2 • June 6 • July 11 • August 1

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations to Robert & **Jasmine Francois** [Town 'N Country] on the birth of their daughter, Payton, who was born October 29; to **Gary Nisson** [Town 'N Country] on the birth of granddaughter, Briar, whose parents are Amber & Cory Rose; and to Laila & **Abdel "AJ" Salah** [Town 'N Country] on the birth of their daughter, Alina, October 26.

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to **Leddyon Lewis** [Ybor City] at the passing of her mother, Yolanda Sykes Daniels, October 5.



*You are invited to attend our
Member Appreciation Dinner and
Installation of Officers & Shop Stewards
to be held at
Letter Carriers' Hall
3003 West Cypress Street
Tampa, Florida 33609
Doors open at 6 PM*

*Dinner will be served from 6:30 PM
Installation of Officers & Shop Stewards to follow.
BYOB – Beer, Wine and Set-ups Available*

Tickets

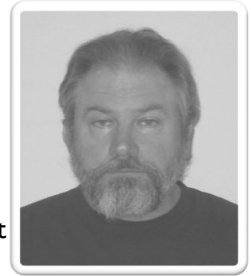
*Retirees – please RSVP the Branch Office at 813.875.0599.
Deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, January 8.*

*Active Letter Carriers – contact your Shop Steward
\$20 each member (includes your spouse or date)
Refundable when you attend.*

Guest tickets - \$20 per guest



Unionism – Legislation, the Letter Carrier Political Fund and You



Brian Obst
Vice President
Branch 599

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 thinking, *What does this mean and how does it affect me, and why should I worry about it?* 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 the NALC 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.



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 also. 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. No-

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

As we watch the political drama in

(Continued on page 6)



Branch 599 Holiday Party

Sunday December 15 11 AM-3 PM

Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, 3003 W Cypress Street

*Santa Claus v Face Painting v Balloon Figures v Craft Table v Bounce House
Toys for Each Child v DJ v Refreshments/Snacks*

*RSVP by December 9 to your Shop Steward
or call the Branch Office 813.875.0599*

*Please bring a new unwrapped toy
in support of our Letter Carriers Toy Drive.*



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

from your Branch Officers, Stewards, and Staff

Unionism — Legislation, the Letter Carrier Political Fund and You

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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. Be-

coming 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
Stations/Branches Chief Steward

Our 6th Annual MDA Golf Tournament...



Deliver
the Cure
with MDA

Our 6th Annual MDA Golf Tournament



Thanks to all who participated in the 6th Annual Branch 599/MDA Golf Tournament! It was a fun day for all, for a great cause.

PS – our favorite MDA kid is Arden, he is awesome!



was a huge success!



Deliver
the Cure
with **MDA**

Brian Obst for Vice-President

NALC Leadership Academy Graduate

Trained by the Best at Headquarters and the Region 9 Staff

Battle Tested against Postal Management for 22 years



I am your current Vice-President working closely with President Diaz to better working conditions for all carriers in Branch 599.

I have served the membership in many capacities over the last 22 years and one thing is clear – I have always been there for our members.

I ask for your support to continue to serve as your Vice President.

Remember:

Knowledge is the Key

Vote Warren Sumlin Vice President NALC Branch 599



Dear Union sisters and brothers, I am asking for your support on December 5th to represent you as the Vice President of Branch 599. I have never been afraid or intimidated to fight for the rights of our membership, and will never side with management to do harm to a fellow carrier. I am Union Strong and Union Proud!

Over nine years Naval Aviation
Bachelors of Science from University of South Florida
Shop Steward and Formal A Rep over 15 years
Route inspection specialist - COR trained and qualified adjuster
Former Trustee - Former TLC Board Member - Current Labor/Management Rep
EEO Redress - Safety Captain

I will not allow management to bully or intimidate employees and will never utter the phrase "There is nothing we can do for you." I believe there is always a solution to every problem. I understand all our brothers and sisters deserve the best representation possible. We do not come to work to be harassed ; we come to work to do our job and provide a service to the American public. Thank You and in **Solidarity** we will all succeed.

MAGGIE LANCASTER FOR TREASURER OF BRANCH 599

TO MY FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

MY NAME IS MAGGIE (MAGDALENE) LANCASTER AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE FOR **TREASURER**. HERE ARE MY QUALIFICATIONS: A LETTER CARRIER FOR ALMOST 12 YEARS, SHOP STEWARD, PAST TRUSTEE, AND CONVENTION DELEGATE FOR 12 YEARS WHERE I ATTENDED TRAINING CLASSES ON FINANCE AS WELL AS OTHER TOPICS TO HELP MY FELLOW CARRIERS. A GRADUATE OF ST. LEO UNIVERSITY IN 1995 WITH A DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJORED IN ACCOUNTING. I HAVE HELD POSITIONS IN ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND PAYROLL. I CURRENTLY VOLUNTEER AS COST ANALYSTS IN CHARGE OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS AT MY CHURCH. I DO A PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT EACH MONTH WHICH SHOWS WHERE THE COSTS ARE APPLIED.

I FEEL THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHERE THE MEMBERSHIP DESERVES **FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY** OF HOW THE DUES ARE BEING SPENT. I WOULD PREPARE A ONE PAGE FINANCIAL REPORT SHOWING, BY CATAGORY, WHERE YOUR DUES ARE BEING USED. IT IS TIME FOR THE MEMBERS TO SEE THIS KIND OF BREAKDOWN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON **THURSDAY DECEMBER 5** WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE FOR ME.

IN SOLIDARITY,

Paid Political Advertisement

MIKE FITE

Candidate For Sergeant-at-Arms

For many years I have been a Union member of Branch 599
Currently Chairperson of the Branch's Budget Committee
USMC Veteran-Hire a Vet!

Thank you for your vote on Election Day
Nominated by J.C. Howard-Sergeant-at-Arms
Polls open December 5, 2:00 PM-7:30 PM

Paid Political Advertisement



**RE-ELECT
JOHN GEBO
FOR
TREASURER**



The EXPERIENCED Incumbent
41 Years as a member of NALC Branch 599
14 Years as Financial Secretary ★ 6 Years as Branch Treasurer
7 Years as Recording Secretary ★ 41 Years as an NALC Health Plan Member
Past: Shop Steward, Trustee, Director of Retirees
"Retired but **NOT TIRED**"

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am up for re-election for TREASURER of Branch 599. On December 5, 2019 I am asking for your support and vote. As I have in the past, I will continue to work for the best interest of the Branch and all members.

My thanks to each and every member for the support you have given me over the years. Once again, I am asking for your support for my re-election. Thanking you in advance for your support and hopefully your vote.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
John Gebo



Paid Political Advertisement

**RE-ELECT JOE OLIVA FOR
TRUSTEE**

The Incumbent with Experience
52 years as a member of Branch 599
35 Years as Trustee
52 Years as a NALC Health Plan Member

I am once again up for re-election for Trustee of Branch 599. I am asking for your support and vote on December 5, 2019. As in the past, I will continue to work for the interests of all the members and this great Branch.

My thanks to each and every member for all your support you have given me over the years.

Thank you in advance for your vote and support.

Sincerely and fraternaly,
Jose Oliva,
Trustee, NALC Branch 599

Paid Political Advertisement

Application for Branch 599 Maintenance Position

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ SMS Capable Cell Phone: (____) _____

Year Retired (from NALC if applicable) _____

List of required basic duties for this Maintenance Position:

1. Plumbing skills to include maintaining and repairing of toilets, urinals, faucets and sinks.
2. Tile Work to include repair and installation.
3. Painting skills.
4. Carpentry skills.
5. Remove/Replace A/C filters in accordance with outlined posted schedule.
6. Routine cleaning throughout the building to include mopping, vacuuming and emptying of trash receptacles.
7. Routine lawn maintenance to include grass cutting, trimming and edging as needed.
8. Remove/Replace light bulbs/fixtures as needed. (Lift available for main hall ceilings.)
9. Make necessary trips in your own personal vehicle to purchase necessary/needed supplies with Branch Credit Card (i.e. soda, water, coffee, sandwiches, pizza, etc.) for meetings and/or special events.
10. Be available for "scheduled event" table set up when needed. Notification of dates and times required to be scheduled with Branch Secretary during normal Branch Office hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM).

Please list any prior training or general knowledge; past working or maintenance experience below:

Reasons you feel as if you would be a good fit for this position given the flexible hour requirements and frequent need for your time and availability:

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM
December 3
January 7

Branch 599 Meeting

Thursday 7:30 PM
December 5
January 9

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM
December 5
January 9

Sunday Work Party

at our Hall 9-11 AM
December 8
January 12

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday December 2 9 AM
Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday December 10 8 AM
Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher
12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT AFTER 30 YEARS AS YOUR POSTAL SALES REPS, SHIRLEY AND I WILL BE RETIRING DECEMBER 31, 2019.

30 YEARS! WOW! I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY WE MADE A TON OF FRIENDS DURING THAT TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND FIRST, AND A CUSTOMER SECOND.

THANK YOU **SO VERY MUCH** FOR BEING AS LOYAL TO US AS YOU WERE. WE ENJOYED EVERYONE OF THOSE 30 YEARS SERVING YOU. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL,

Bill & Shirley Moran



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
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**Skip Your
 Loan Payments.**

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 Holiday Skip-a-Payment promotion is here to help!

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*By signing this form, you agree to allow Tampa Postal FCU to withdraw the applicable fees associated with skipping your loan(s) from the account you designated on the form. Interest will accrue on all loans affected by the program, which may cause that maturity date on all loans to be extended. If recent data shows you have been delinquent on any accounts, the Credit Union reserves the right to deny your application to Skip-A-Payment. If your request is denied, the Credit Union will contact you. Remember, to skip your November 2019 loan payment, you must complete and return this coupon with payment information completed no later than October 31st, 2019. To skip your December 2019 loan payment, you must complete and return this coupon with payment information completed no later than November 30th, 2019. Restrictions may apply.

