



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2016

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

In case you missed it:  
**Food Drive update**  
Brothers and Sisters, as I reported last month, we collected 821, 042 pounds of food for Hillsborough County Food Banks. This will go a long way to feeding the hungry in our community. Without our contributions the Food Banks and pantries would struggle to feed the amount of people in need of food.

Again, it was awesome to observe carriers helping carriers, many carriers staying after work, off the clock to help out. Many came in on their scheduled day off to assist their brothers and sisters who worked and collected food throughout the day.

**Special thanks to the retirees** who donated their time to assist; it is good to see retirees staying active in our community. Next year I will solicit all retirees to attend the Food Drive Committee Meetings, and get involved with the planning.  
**Thank you to all!**

**Heat**  
From coast to coast letter carriers deliver mail under

extreme weather conditions from bitter cold to extreme heat. As we head into August there are still another 2 plus months of the extreme heat that await our carriers in the Tampa Bay Area.

Heat exhaustion occurs when people are exposed to high temperatures for extended periods of time without hydration. When you deliver mail in Florida weather you must know what symptoms to look out for and exhaustion prevention. Extreme heat kills more people than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and lightning combined.

### What Is Extreme Heat?

Conditions of extreme heat are defined as summertime temperatures that are substantially hotter and/or more humid than average for location at that time of year. Humid or muggy conditions, which add to the discomfort of high temperatures, occur when a dome of high atmospheric pressure traps hazy, damp air near the ground. Extremely dry and hot conditions can provoke dust storms and low

visibility. Droughts occur when a long period passes without substantial rainfall. A heat wave combined with a drought is a very dangerous situation.

**Drink Plenty of Fluids:** During hot weather you will need to increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. During heavy exercise in a hot environment, drink two to four glasses (16-32 ounces) of cool fluids each hour.

**Warning:** If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask how much you should drink while the weather is hot.

Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol, or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.



**Tony Diaz**  
President  
Branch 599

Branch 599  
serving  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

**Branch 599  
Meeting**

Thursday  
August 4  
7:30 PM

**Branch 599 Office**

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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.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.

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# Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	Grant Daniels	813.661.1636	850.210.4906
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	813.961.2962	813.263.7895
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jiminez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Forest Hills	33613	Ed Humphries	813.935.2954	813.787.3914
Hilldale	33614	Darrick Smith	813.879.4309	813.446.5555
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	315.491.6234
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Jackie Allen	813.831.2034	813.508.1440
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	508.615.6517
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.239.4084	646.346.3288
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Aric Person	813.634.1403	813.545.7779
Seminole Heights	33603	Walt Rhoades	813.237.4569	813.389.1708
Sulphur Springs	33604	Steve Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Joe Bitz	813.873.7189	813.465.0004
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Alan Robinson	813.873.7189	813.843.9762
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Smith	813.873.7189	813.326.0717
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

# Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

## Facts About Heat Exhaustion

1. Heat injuries occur when the body reaches temperatures of 104° Fahrenheit or higher, which may cause cellular damage after 30 minutes or so of elevated temperatures.
2. Heat stroke from exercise is one of the 3 leading causes of sudden death in sports activities.
3. Deaths from heat-related issues between 2005 and 2009 rose to higher rates than any others observed during any other 5-year periods in the past 35 years.
4. Since 2010, there have been at least 20 deaths related to heat.
5. 100%. That's the survival rate for heat exhaustion when rapid, proper treatment is given to someone suffering from the issue.
6. 31% of the deaths from heat exhaustion symptoms were attributed to exposure to excessive natural heat.
7. In 2006, which is the second hottest year that has ever been recorded, 3,100 US workers had a heat-related illness that caused them to miss work.
8. 44. That's the number of heat-related occupational deaths that were reported in the US in 2006.
9. According to the National Weather Service 10 year average for heat fatalities was 170 between 1998 and 2007.
10. Those most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people, people with high blood pressure, and people working or exercising in a hot environment.
11. The death rate in the US for heat-related causes since 1979: 0.5 per 1 million.
12. On average, 38 kids die every year

in vehicles because they were forgotten about and left in the heat. Since 1998, that's an average of 1 child dying every 9 days.

13. More than 70% of heat stroke deaths occur in children younger than age 2. 3 out of 10 of those incidents occur when a child enters a hot location and cannot escape on their own without the caregiver's knowledge.
14. Since 1998, 619 children have died in vehicles from heat-related issues in the USA.
15. A car can reach 110° when temperatures are only in the 60s. Heat exhaustion can take place when the outside temperature is as low as 57°.
16. There were 5 player deaths in America 1931-1959 from heat. There were 103 player deaths in America 1960-2000.
17. Heat exhaustion rates are the highest for athletes who play high school football.

—HealthResourceFunding.org

During the summer months you will hear The National Weather Service say high temperatures today will be in the low 90s near the coast and the mid-90s inland. However, the heat index, a measure of heat and humidity, is expected to range from 100 to 105. A heat index over 103 can lead to dangerous heat disorders with prolonged outdoor exposure or activity, according to the weather service. While forecast heat index values have not been high enough to warrant a heat advisory, it will still be hot enough to create a hazard for sensitive groups such as those who labor outdoors, the weather service says. Residents should limit time outdoors. If you need to be outdoors, dress light, drink plenty of water, limit activity and take breaks in cool areas out of the sun.

—TBO.com staff

## Canadian Union Postal Workers (CUPW) News... July 5, 2016

Canada Post said it has issued a 72-hour lockout notice to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), raising the possibility of a work stoppage by Friday, July 8, 2016. The announcement came hours after Canada Post said its latest offer presented on June 25 was fair and reasonable and that it still hoped to negotiate a deal with the union. But in a statement early Tuesday, Canada Post said it plans to suspend the collective agreement as of Friday. It blamed prolonged negotiations, the union's strike mandate and the financial cost of a rapid decline in mail volume. Canada Post says it has told the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) that the contract offer it made late last month should be considered the mail service's *final* offer. In a statement issued late Monday afternoon, **Canada Post called the contract proposals presented to the CUPW on June 25 fair and reasonable framework for settlements.**

On July 1, the union presented a counter-offer, which Canada Post says is *not affordable* and would add \$1 billion in costs over the term of the contract. The union, meanwhile, is accusing Canada Post of preparing to lock out workers and creating uncertainty by warning the public to avoid the post office. Earlier, Canada Post spokesman Jon Hamilton said the Crown corporation is hopeful the two sides can hammer out a deal, noting it still hasn't given the 72 hours' notice required to call a lockout. The CUPW, meanwhile, has a strike mandate from its members, but also has yet to call for any job action. That puts the timeline, if any, for a work stoppage at Thursday at the earliest. Both sides remain at the negotiating table and

(Continued on page 4)

# It's a Fact! 2015

- The United States Postal Service delivers **more mail to more addresses** in a **larger geographical area** than any other post office **in the world**.
- 153.9 million delivery points Nationwide.
- 244,365 total delivery routes.
- 32,000 total facilities.
- 5,600 postal employees were attacked in 62 cities by dogs.
- There are more than 263,000 Mobile Delivery Devices (MDD) deployed.
- 19.4 U S Postage Stamps were printed.
- The Postal Service app was downloaded 1.7 times last year.
- Online customers have increased 33.9% since 2010.
- Online revenue has increased 55.5% since 2010.
- In 1912 the Letters to Santa Program began.
- The USPS would rank 43rd in Fortune 500 if it were a private sector company.
- Postal Inspectors seized more than 42,000 pounds of illegal narcotics.
- Postal Inspectors reported 6,000 arrests, with 5,300 convictions.
- 23 million in drug trafficking proceeds.
- 65 million pounds of mail were delivered to military installations around the world.
- 168 Land-based Post Offices/160 on ships.
- 1,300 military delivery ZIP codes around the world.
- **\$0. - No tax dollars for operating expenses.**
- The lowest ZIP code - 00501, the highest ZIP code - 99950.
- The longest rural delivery route 187.6 miles daily, 240 boxes.
- The shortest rural delivery route 1.2 miles daily, 312 central delivery boxes.
- Most common Post Office names: Clinton (26 locations), Madison (25), Franklin and Washington (24).

—USPS Postal Facts



**NALC**e-Activist  
Network

Join together with tens of thousands of other letter carriers to make your voice heard! NALC will send you email alerts when it's time to act on issues affecting active and retired letter carriers and the future of the Postal Service. [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

Hamilton says he hopes they can reach an agreement that is *affordable and reasonable*.

**The union, meanwhile, called the company's latest offer *an insult*.**

While many issues are on the table, the dispute ultimately boils down to money. Changes to employee pension plans have been a key sticking point in negotiations. The company wants to switch new hires to a defined contribution plan, different from the current one which guarantees a reliable payout every month. The union doesn't want that and has also proposed some wage hikes. A representative from Canada Post says in a written statement that the union's proposed plan would add *at least \$1 billion* in costs over the next three years. The statement also says that two other unions representing Canada Post workers have agreed to

the pension changes and only CUPW is holding out.

Canada Post is mired in a changing economic climate for its core business. While the company took in more than \$8 billion revenue last year—an increase over 2014's level—the volume of mail being delivered has shrunk for several years in a row. Canada Post delivered 8.9 billion items last year, down from 9.1 billion in 2014, and a figure that would have been much smaller were it not for growth in parcel delivery partially offsetting a large decline in letter mail. The last time Canada Post experienced a work stoppage was in 2011, which included 10 days of rotating strikes and a lock-out before the previous Conservative government mandated the company to end the dispute with back-to-work legislation.

—CBC News

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

\*) Consider the postage stamp; its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.....*Josh Billings*

#### \*) e-Activist

I urge everyone who is not already an e-Activist to sign up; it is free and simple. With all the changes and legislative issues we are dealing with, being an e-Activist helps you stay in tune. The following is the ad from NALC.org: *NALC members! Join tens of thousands of your brothers and sisters to make your voices heard! NALC sends e-mail alerts when it's time to act on issues affecting active and retired carriers and the future of the Postal Service.*

**Look forward to talking to you again on the next *Around The Horn from the President's Desk***

# The Birdseye View

Due to the requirements to have articles a month in advance of when our members actually receive them it appears to be old news by the instant media standards we are accustomed to. July actually brought news in many ways that we have waited for with some good results and some not so good. The world is still a very dangerous and crazy place, with many shake-ups in different nations regarding decisions that affect so many other nations economically, strategically and defensively. Whether it involves new trade agreements, new treaties or backlashes for abandoning old ones that have existed for decades. As a nation we are at a vulnerable point as to how the pendulum will swing and the direction our leadership will be chosen according to many of these new revelations that are taking place. How the effect of this fallout will change the issues associated to the need for legislative reform seem to trickle into many of the decisions already transcending from contractual disputes especially when the financial conditions of the US Postal Service and the burdens caused by these disputes become secondary to our contract or federal laws.

Too many times in recent years, we have noticed that the abuses or disputes of employees become secondary to burdens that are financial constraints placed through regulations and legislation placed on the US Postal Service. It will be interesting to see if there will be legislation that will end this era that has lasted for 10 years and financially stripped the US Postal Service of billions in assets that have affected service and loss of thousands of jobs during the worst recession since the Great Depression. There is currently a bill S. 2051 in the Senate for Postal Reform that would only require 80% of the prefunding liability already required from the Postal Service's revenue. The House has a proposed bill:

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2016 that still requires 100 percent of the current prefunding liability. So as Congress spins their wheels and spends the money earned by sale of stamps and services it seems as though they have just created a stamp tax revenue scheme that does little to provide the public with adequate service and sustainable income for the Postal Service to be able to provide it in a universal manner while receiving no tax dollars as other agencies do that are not required to prefund their future retirees' health benefits.

Another bill introduced in the Senate by Senator John McCain is an assault on veterans by restricting veteran's preference in hiring for federal employment. Another example of limiting employment for those who have served and sacrificed for our national security and make up a large sector of employees in the US Postal Service.

Our neighbors to the north have it even worse than we do with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers declining to accept the recent contract offer from Canada Post. They are at risk of tens of thousands of workers being shut out of workplaces within days.

Government service is never appreciated enough by those we serve or in many cases by those we work for. The result from the Arbitrator deciding the fate of the American Postal Workers Union Contract used language and based decisions from the settled contract of the National Rural Letter Carrier Association Contract. It brings a lot of new conversion to career status for their Postal Support Employees which are the equivalent of our City Carrier Assistants along with contract and COLA increases as well as six paid national holidays. On the glance at it, there seems to be hope for the supplemental work force

through gains and improvements.

Time will tell a lot leading up to the national elections and how the working class will decide based upon our continued sacrifice and devaluation as to who they feel will represent the working class and working families.

All the final AFL-CIO endorsements will be available by the August branch meeting for the local, state and national elections. Local elections take place on August 30, which is on the last Tuesday of the month. If you are receiving your voter registration cards there should be information that assist you in making sure you have the opportunity to vote. Remember that effective July 1, we are all available to vote by mail in the entire State of Florida in all elections...you don't have to be absent for this process. Make sure your address and voting districts are correct and if not, contact your County Supervisor of Elections office by phone or online. If you are not sure whether you are currently on the vote by mail process, ask, and if not, request that you receive the vote by mail ballot which is only available for up to two years at a time. This information was provided by the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections office; contact your own county office to confirm your information before the elections start and find out the deadlines for your own county.

Our Tampa offices of the US Postal Service no longer have a 1700 (5 PM) Window of Operation Letter of Intent due to recent arbitration decision. Currently, there is a management unilateral window of operation that they established as 1800 (6 PM). What that means to you is that they expect carriers to return by 1800 (6 PM). This time

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**Alan Peacock**  
Vice President  
Branch 599

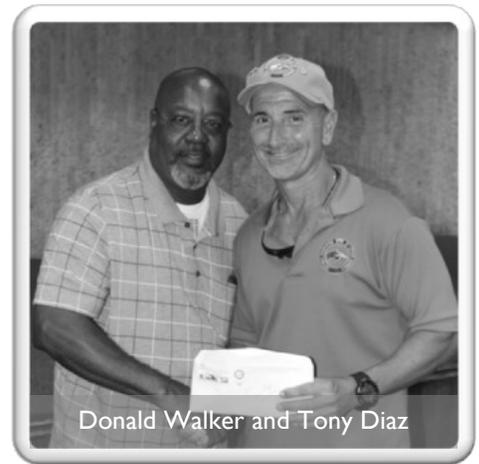
# Valdiri, Torres and Walker Retired!



Julita Valdiri and Tony Diaz



Angel Torres and Tony Diaz



Donald Walker and Tony Diaz

Congratulations to

**Julita Valdiri** [Temple Terrace], **Angel Torres** [Sulphur Springs], and **Donald Walker** [Plant City], who received their retirement pin and gratuity from President Tony Diaz during our July Branch meeting.

## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to Ruth and family at the passing of her husband, **Russell Person** [retiree], June 19; Una Lou and family at the passing of her husband, **Earl Batton** [retiree], July 5; to the family of **Michael Garvin** [retiree] whose passing was May 30; to **George Bouboudis** [Produce] at the passing of his father, June 24; to **Jim Carte** [Interbay] at the passing of his mother, July 9; and to **Michael Ehrlich** [Palm River] at the passing of his father.

**Get well prayers** go out to **David Bradley** [Carrollwood], who was admitted to Moffitt Cancer Center for treatment.

## The Birdseye View

*(Continued from page 5)*

was established by management and should be staffed properly to accommodate their decision without violating the National Agreement. If you have any concerns regarding the unilateral decision, contact your steward or the branch office. Basically this is to inform you that we have no agreement or local memorandum that mandates carriers being off the street by a certain time; there is still a National Agreement that deals with overtime issues and when it is appropriate to

force carriers that do not desire to work overtime on or off their assignment. If there are Over Time Desired carriers and City Carrier Assistants available to avoid forcing, then it should not happen. Remember if you are forced to work and you feel that it is a violation and they instruct you to do it anyway...obey the instruction and ask to see your steward, if you didn't volunteer, then write a statement for your steward to verify you didn't volunteer. The facts and the clock rings will prove whether there

was a violation or not. In any certain terms we no longer have a Window of Operation agreement so we are moving on to represent the National Agreement as we should!

Looking forward to hearing something more positive in the near future, but we will always be defenders of the underdog no matter the circumstance or challenge.

Fraternally in Unity Always,  
 Alan Peacock  
 Vice President NALC Branch 599

### **Shop Stewards will Meet**

Tuesday 7 PM  
August 2  
August 30

### **Branch 599 Meeting**

Thursday 7:30 PM  
August 4  
September 1

### **Executive Board Meets**

Thursday 6:30 PM  
August 4  
September 1

### **Sunday Work Party**

at our Hall 9-11 AM  
August 7  
September 11

### **Retirees Breakfasts**

Monday August 1 9 AM  
Denny's Restaurant at Dale Mabry & Spruce  
2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday August 9 8 AM  
Bob Evans Restaurant  
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon

# **ARSLAN UNIFORMS**

*Bill & Shirley Moran*

Gold Card Member Branch 1477 St. Petersburg  
Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

***NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?***  
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FAX 727.585.9367  
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