



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 4 - Issue 1

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

January 2005

President's Report

Fighting For Your Rights Today

First of all I want to thank all of the members who voted to re-elect me as president for the next three years. Rest assured that I will continue to do all in my power to provide the best possible representation to every member of Branch 599.

I also want to congratulate the new and returning officers and let them know that I look forward to working together with them for the betterment of our branch. Through their vote the membership has chosen the direction that they want their branch to go. No more in-fighting, no more petty politics but a cohesive Executive Board that understands the meaning of the term *unionism*.

I realize that the members were bombarded with a barrage of negative campaign mailouts in the weeks prior to the election, but I ask that we put all of that behind us now and look toward the future. I have been told that many members have stayed away from the monthly branch meetings because of the behavior of certain members. Hopefully now those individuals will realize the will of the members and change their ways.

I also want to thank Jimmy Dean and the rest of the election committee for a job well done.

I want to invite all members to attend the Retirees/Installation Dinner Dance on Saturday, January 15, 2005. The dinner will be catered by Catering by the Family and the new officers will be installed by NALC President William Young.

It is quite an honor to have President Young here for the ceremony and he will be assisted by our national business agent's regional assistant, Kenny Gibbs. Further details about the dinner are listed elsewhere on this page. The Postal Service has exercised their option and pulled out of the Route Inspection/Adjustment Memorandum effective December 21st. All local agreements signed prior to that date will be honored so the agreement signed between Sun City Center and Branch 599 is still in force. I am currently discussing a possible agreement with Tampa OIC John Naegle but I am unsure of the outcome of those talks. Either way by the first of the year the door will be open for route inspections/adjustments of some kind.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry

Christmas and Happy Holiday Season. Have a safe and Happy New Year and let's all start off the year with a new, positive attitude towards our branch!



TLC

by **Jim Good**

President - Branch 599

Retirees/Installation Dinner

The Retirees Installation Dinner will be held on Saturday January 15, 2005. Retirees please call the Union Hall for ticket information. Active members please see your shop steward. NALC President William Young will attend as the installing officer.

Florida State Convention

Any member wishing to be a delegate to the FSALC Convention, who did not sign the nomination list at the December meeting, may do so at the January 6th branch meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT..... 3
- OUTSIDE THE LINES.....4
- WHAT-A-YA DOIN?.....5
- AND THE BEAT GOES ON.....7

Branch 599 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	John Watts	(813) 971-5525, cell 240-5995
VICE-PRESIDENT	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 907-9685
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cheryl Clothier	(727) 385-7337
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	John Gebo	(813) 985-5474
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 681-5688
TRUSTEE(Chairman)	Henry Dupree	(813) 621-6471
TRUSTEE	Butch Smith	(813) 933-4676
TRUSTEE	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Jack Hencoski	(813) 685-9034
MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Lance Jones	(813) 264-9801
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	Jack Newman	(813) 805-2942
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
MAPS COORDINATOR	Chris Albrecht	(727) 791-7162

Presidents Emeritus

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

Branch 599 Shop Stewards

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 661-1106
Brandon	33511	Miroslaw Oldziej	(813) 661-1106
Carrollwood	33618	<Pending>	()
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	John Watts	(813) 971-5525
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Eddie Alvarez	(813) 264-6532
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	(813) 264-9801
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	(813) 935-0244
Interbay	33611	Marie Brown	(727) 584-2447
Interbay	33629	Alfonso Higareda	(813) 741-1687
MacDill	33608	Marie Brown	(727) 584-1687
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 719-6793
Port Tampa	33616	Alfonso Higareda	(813) 741-1687
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	<Pending>	()
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Pedro Jiminez	(813) 677-6014
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Anderson	(813) 681-5688
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 907-9685

TAMPA RETIREES' BREAKFAST

First Monday of Every Month

9:00 AM at

The Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert

in Drew Park

BRANDON RETIREES' BREAFAST

Second Tuesday of every month

8:00 AM at

Buddy Freddy's

134 Gornto Lake Rd S.

in Brandon

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>**

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. For submission guidelines, send email to: writer@nalc599.com or go to <http://www.nalc599.com/writer.htm>

Jim Good - Publisher

Kit Kelley - Editor

Vice-President's Report

Building A Stronger Branch

Let me begin by saying thank you to the membership of Branch 599 for electing me to the position of Executive Vice-President. Thanks also to the many members who stepped forward to campaign on my behalf. I am truly humbled by the support and encouragement I received from so many of you. I look forward to serving all members of the branch to the best of my ability.

My door will always be open and my ear will always be willing to hear your concerns.


Now that the election is over it is time for all of us to put the past behind us.

We all must bury the hatchet and work to unify our branch. We must have no finger pointing and no brooding over what was said or done. Building a stronger branch makes us all winners.

Remember to mark your calendar for the Retiree's and Installation Dinner scheduled for January 15. National NALC President Bill Young will be the guest speaker. He always enjoys mingling with letter carriers so if you have not met him or chatted with him now is your chance.

I want to wish everyone a happy Holi-

day Season! Take time to enjoy your family and friends. Tell some one you love them. Our relationships define our lives.

In solidarity... 



by Detlev Aeppel

BRANCH 599 OFFICERS ELECTION RESULTS

President: Jim Good

Executive Vice-President: Detlev Aeppel

Vice-President: Gilbert Cabanas

Recording Secretary: Cheryl Clothier

Financial Secretary: Tony Diaz

Treasurer: Mike Anderson

Board of Trustees:

Henry Dupree, Terry Franklin, Joe Oliva

Organizing at Arms: J. C. Howard

BA/NSBA Rep: Al Guice

Health Benefits Rep: Lance Jones

Director of Retirees: Jack Newman

Labor Relations Representatives:

Brian Obst, Veronica Lorenzo

NOTICE TO BRANCH 599 DIRECT PAYING RETIREES

Union dues for Retired Members not on dues withholding must be paid by January 31, 2005.

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1-C of the Branch Bylaws States: *Retired members are required to pay \$20.00 annually to the Financial Secretary.*

Checks should be made payable to Branch 599 and mailed to:

Branch 599, NALC

3003 West Cypress St.

Tampa, FL 33609-1617

Branch Meeting
Thursday
January 6, 2005
7:30 PM
at the Branch 599
Union Hall

Outside The Lines

by Leslie Ray Garcia

Morals And Government



The branch elections have finally come and gone and we as members have elected individuals that represent the *New Coalition* or the *Good Team*. There were quite a few political flyers mailed out and quite a few letters mailed out by the various candidates. I found some letters contained misleading and partial statements. Many of them were venomous and filled with innuendos. Those candidates did not receive my vote. This is one of the reasons why I no longer am part of the local political union scene, hence my by-line.

A congressional \$388 billion *must pass* appropriation bill had neatly tucked in it a potentially far-reaching anti-abortion provision. The language in this bill would allow federal, state and local agencies to withhold taxpayer money from health care providers that refuse to provide or pay for abortions, or refuse to offer abortion counseling or referrals. This provision tells health care companies, hospitals and insurance companies they are free to ignore ROE v WADE, and other state and local laws and regulations currently on the books which make certain that

women's access to reproductive health services includes access to abortion. Also within this appropriation bill were: hidden amendments that weaken the Endangered Species Act and protection of critical habitats; provisions to eliminate protection of all endangered species from pesticides; a rider to authorize the largest public-lands logging in history; \$17 billion in pork barrel water projects that were never debated in the Senate; a waiver of environmental review of grazing rights to Western ranchers at below-market prices even when the grazing will destroy public lands; provisions to allow oil drilling in the Alaskan wildlife refuge; and a provision allowing commercial fishing within wilderness areas of Alaska.

Didn't the Republicans spend a great deal of time whining about how the Democratic minority had been obstructing the GOP legislative agenda? Yet the Republicans, who control all branches of government, managed to obstruct themselves, especially the reform bill on intelligence that the 9 / 11 Commission recommended. Yes, they voted it down. So who is obstructing

their agenda now? I know: Bill Clinton!

I guess having a living wage, social security, health benefits, sick leave, family medical leave, worker's compensation, overtime, minimum wage, unions, unemployment insurance, Medicare, a quality education, a healthy environment, work place safety requirements, civil rights and affirmative action (which have been predominately and consistently voted for by Democrats) are not considered by most Republicans as morally right nor vital to the citizens of the United States. If these programs are not morally right, what is?

"When a man wantonly destroys a work of man we call him a vandal; when a man destroys one of the works of God, we call him a sportsman." Joseph Wood Krutch

Think About It!



What-Ya-Doin'?**by John Gebo***Financial Secretary - Branch 599****Retired But Not Tired***

WHATA-YA DOIN? Making a list, checking it twice, getting ready for the holidays.

Congratulations to President Jim Good on his re-election, and to all the newly elected officers of Branch 599, and to my successor, Tony Diaz.

The membership has spoken and has chosen the direction that they want to go in the next three years. United as one.

During this past election you received many mailings, some filled with accusations and lies. It seems that some individuals would go to extremes to discredit the integrity and credibility of others. Yet they call themselves union brothers and sisters. Let's hope all of this B.S. stops and that we can be united as one and be proud to say, "I am a member of Branch 599." Support the new administration, come to union meetings and get involved. As I wrote in my paid political ad last month, the union is only as

good as its membership. The membership is supreme.

I am sure by now that you have heard I lost the election for Financial Secretary by two votes. Due to the closeness of this count, I asked for a recount. This was done and it came out exactly as the first count. I would like to thank Jimmy Dean, Chairman of Elections, and his staff for a job well done. I would also like to say thank you to Pat, Jimmy's wife, for all her hard work behind the scenes.

A special thanks to the retired and active carriers of Branch 599. Thank you...thank you.... thank you! It has been an honor and a privilege to have served you over the years from Shop Steward to Financial Secretary. I have made a lot of great friends over the years and have many great memories of going to State and National Conventions, and socializing with my union brothers and sisters. I can look back and say I had a great career as a union member

and officer of the branch. *Thanks for the memories, as the song goes.*

Retired, but not tired! I would like everyone to know that I will still be active in Branch 599 and help in any way I can.

I hope each and everyone has a very prosperous and happy New Year.

Hope to see you at next month's meeting and at the Retirees-Installation Dinner on January 15, 2005.

Till then, I ask Whata-ya-doin?

TLC

***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

Unionism

by Brian Obst
T rustee - Branch 599

2005 - A New Year



Well, the election is over and a new year is upon us. It is time to reflect over the year gone past and to prepare for the coming year and all the challenges it will present.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the members of Branch 599 who took part in the election process, it is an important part of your union and I am glad to see that many of you do not take it for granted. I would also like to welcome aboard the new members of the branch Executive Board, as well as welcome back those returning members. We have a great task ahead of us.

The next three years will present us with many unique challenges as we strive to maintain and improve the working conditions for the members of our branch as well as the members of the national union as a whole. Remember that we have a president in the White House who has our union on a list of things which he wants to change and the changes he has in mind are not for our benefit. We will need strong representation in both a local branch level as well as a national level if we

are to maintain our jobs and benefits in the manner we are accustomed.

Now is the time to seek out your state and national political representatives (i.e. congressmen, senators, governors, etc) and make your needs and concerns known. Let Washington know how we feel for if we are silent on these issues we may "go quiet into that good night" and I know that is not what we want. It doesn't take much to make a call or send a letter or fax and the impact it can have is great. Ask your local branch representatives for information and see how much of an impact you can have in helping your union stay strong and vital. Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank you, the members, for having the confidence in me to vote me to the position of Labor Management Representative. I hope that I can perform the job up to the level of faith that you have shown in me. I look forward to working with new representative Veronica Lorenzo to provide the best representation possible for you the members.

Please remember that in the front of

this newsletter are the names and numbers of all your branch officers and shop stewards. This is a resource for all members so please use it and lets all pull together for the benefit of our branch and union as a whole.

Here's hoping everyone had a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Looking forward to a new year of harmony and brotherhood,

Brian Obst **TLC**

Message From The Election Committee Chairman

by Jimmy Dean

The 2004 Branch Elections have been completed and the following officers have been duly elected by a majority vote of the ballots cast: President: Jim Good; Executive-Vice President: Detlev Aepfel; Vice-President: Gilbert Cabanas; Recording Secretary: Cheryl Clothier; Financial Secretary: Tony Diaz; Treasurer: Michael Anderson; Sgt.-at-Arms J.C.Howard; Trustees: Henry Dupree, Terry Franklin, and Jose (Joe) Oliva; MBA/NSBA Representative: Al Guice; Health Benefits Representative: Lance Jones; Director of Retirees: Jack Newman; Labor Mgt. Representatives: Veronica Lorenzo and Brian Obst.

I would like to thank the members of the Election Committee, Bill Mandikas, Lee Lorfald, and Ella Winner, for their tireless work at the polls and in tallying nearly 600 ballots from 1:00 pm Thursday till 7:30 am Friday.

I would also like to recognize the following people for staying up with us for all or part of the entire process to observe the tallying of the votes cast: Glynis Alexander, Jimmy Cantrell, Lance Jones, Pat Krezel, Brian Obst, Lenin Perez, Fernando Quintanilla, Jaime Rodriguez, Butch Smith, Hector Spindola, and Mike Stewart.

As you and your families gather to celebrate your own traditions during this Holiday Season, I wish you all good health and a prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,

Jimmy Dean

And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

Big Challenges Ahead

I hate to have Mr. J. Watts say this is a political statement but, now that the election is over, I'd like to say this writer is happy that the *Good Guys* won. President Jim Good's slate, that is. Sorry that John Gebo lost by two votes. That must hurt but, by the same token, Gebo had fourteen years. Now that he is retired from the Post Office, maybe it's time to move aside and let an active carrier take on that role. Good luck, Tony.

Here we are, another new year. Wow! 2005...damn I'm getting old. I've seen so many of my brother carriers leave this world, some younger than I. Age has no bearing on when we will leave. Life is so short. As our Brother Person would say, it's a shame we spend so much of that time fighting among ourselves

We have a lot of big challenges to face in the coming years. We need to stand behind our re-elected Branch 599 president. As I've heard Mr. Watts say at past meetings, the carriers rule with their votes. Well, you have all done so. Now let's get down to business.

We may work for the government but I've seen a lot of items happen in the outside world that down the road will happen here. If you read the news, there are folks working for the Bush administration that think you, as an active carrier, are being paid too much. They also think I am paid too much with my retirement and that both active and retired carriers have too many health benefits.

Well it would be great if those folks lived in our world. They make thousands but as always we get the shaft.

Because of the time limits in getting this into the union for publication by the tenth I will continue these news items in February. In the mean time, I pray we all have a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2005. I put health first cause if you don't have your health you sure as hell won't be happy.

TLC



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

Proposed Bylaw Change
Article 2, Section 4
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Reads: At the biennial meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, recording secretary and three (3) trustees, each of whom shall be members of the Board. No member may be a candidate for more than one elected office simultaneously. The Board of Directors shall appoint a building manager and assistant building manager at their discretion. Remuneration for officers of the Board and the building manager shall be as directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Proposed Change: At the biennial meeting of the Board of Directors, The Board shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, recording secretary and three (3) trustees, each of whom shall be members of the Board. To avoid any conflict of interest or impropriety no member may be a candidate for more than one elected office or appointed position of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. simultaneously, to include all members who are bingo workers and their elected committee due to sole control of their operation. The Board of Directors shall appoint a building manager and assistant building manager at their discretion. Remuneration for the officers of the Board, building manager and assistant building manager shall be as directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. These requirements do not pertain to elected shop stewards and officers of Branch 599 NALC or its membership.

Proposed Bylaw Change
Article 10 - Bingo
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Reads: Tampa Letter Carriers & Auxiliary 179 Bingo will be a separate organization governed by a committee of three elected annually by the bingo workers. This committee, consisting of a Chairman, Co-chairman, and Treasurer, will have sole control over all operations pertaining to bingo, and will submit all proceeds, after expenses, to the Treasurer of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. A financial report will be made monthly to the membership of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., by the Bingo Committee.

Proposed Change: Tampa Letter Carriers and Auxiliary 179 Bingo, will be governed in accordance with the bylaws of Tampa Letter Carriers Inc., and the Articles of Incorporation as well as the entire membership. A Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Co-chairman, and Treasurer, will be elected at the biennial meeting of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., they will be responsible for all operations pertaining to bingo, and will submit all proceeds after expenses for winnings, to the Treasurer of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. A financial report will be made monthly to the membership of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., by the Bingo Committee. Any remuneration for the elected committee and members of bingo will be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Article Submissions

* Articles should be submitted in digital format. However, handwritten or typed articles may be accepted if submitted by the 5th of the month.

* Articles in digital format may be delivered as email attachments, on 3.5" diskette, or on CD-ROM. Acceptable digital formats include generic text's .txt, Rich Text Format's .rtf, Microsoft Word's .doc and WordPerfect's .wpd .

* Articles should be mailed, delivered or emailed to the branch office no later than the 10th of the month. Mail or deliver to

Tampa Letter Carriers

3003 W. Cypress St.

Tampa FL 33609-1617

or email to

newsletter@nalc599.com

813-875-0599

Photo Submissions

* Photos may be submitted as photographic prints or in digital formats on CD-ROM or by email.

* Prints should be 4" X 6" or smaller.

* Acceptable digital photo formats include .jpg, .tif or .psd .

* Digital photos should be at a resolution of 150-300 DPI and no larger than 4" X 6". Photos should be accompanied by a text file which include names of those in photo, captions, the name of the photographer and an explanation of what the photo is about.

* All prints will be returned upon request.

Writer's Guidelines

* Articles should be in digital format and may be delivered as email attachments or on CD-ROM. Acceptable digital formats include generic .txt , Microsoft Word's .doc and WordPerfect's .wpd .

* Articles should have no indents, no all capitalized words and should have only one space after punctuation and at the end of sentences.

* Articles should be logically organized and written with separate paragraphs for each topic in the article.

* Each paragraph should be signified by a hard return. In other words, hit "enter" twice at the end of a paragraph.

* Handwritten articles should be submitted directly to the branch office.

* Articles should include the writer's signature (except for submissions in digital format), the name of the writer, the date of submission, and the writer's telephone and email address.

* Articles submitted may be about work issues, union issues or business, personal experience or memories, or any other subject you think might be of interest to the readers.

* Articles must be factually accurate and must not include personal attacks, slander or any plagiarized material.

* Brief quotations and excerpts are permitted but all quotations and excerpts in the article must be attributed to the original source within the article itself.

* All photos must also include photographer or source information.

* All articles must be checked for spelling and grammar errors prior to submission.

* Writers should choose a name for their column and should also title each article submitted with a title that relates to the subject or theme of the article.

* Writers should also submit a writer's head and shoulders digital or print photo for inclusion in their columns. The photo should be shot against a plain, light colored background and should include the writers head and upper torso from just below the shoulders to just above the head. Photos should also meet the submission guidelines for photos as listed above.

* Arrangements may be made to photograph article writers at the branch office. Call for details.

A printable email copy of these guidelines is available by sending an email to: writer@nalc599.com

Send questions and comments to the editor at: kkelley@nalc599.com

2004 Toys For Tots Toy Drive



Branch 599 Christmas Party





Tampa Bay's Best!

*A benefit is not truly beneficial if you have to pay for it!
Open a Checking Account at Tampa Postal FCU and
experience one of Tampa Bay's Best Checking
Accounts. One without all the tricks and gimmicks!*

Open a Share Draft Checking Account today and experience:

- No Monthly Service Fee
- No Minimum Deposit
- No Minimum Balance
- No Per Check Fees
- No Direct Deposit Requirement
- No Limit on Checks Written
per Month
- FREE ABBY Online Banking
- FREE ABBY Phone Service
- FREE Overdraft Protection
- FREE Starter Checks
- FREE MasterMoney Check Card
- FREE Consolidated Monthly
Statement

www.tpcu.org



A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599
3003 West Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617
(813) 875-0599 fax (813) 870-0599
<http://www.nalc599.com>

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA FL
PERMIT NO. 1285