



# Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

## Around The Horn from The President's Desk

*Happy New Year* to all Branch 599 Brothers and Sisters! May the 2021 year bring peace, prosperity, enough of the COVID-19 vaccine supply for all, many retirements, a ratified new collective bargaining contract with the USPS and many, many CCA conversions.



**Tony Diaz**  
President  
Branch 599

2020 will be defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to global social and economic disruption, mass cancellations and postponements of events, worldwide lockdowns, and the largest economic recession since the Great Depression according to Wikipedia.

As we begin another year, we are faced with many challenges in 2021. We will have an opportunity to ratify a new collective bargaining contract with the USPS. We will all continue to make decisions based on the concerns with COVID-19. The pandemic will be with us well into 2021, even with the vaccine(s) rolling out. We must continue to protect our loved ones and make the right decisions; carelessness could jeopardize their safety.

*Congratulations* to our

### — BREAKING NEWS —

NALC, USPS reach tentative National Agreement.  
Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for more details.

newly elected Branch stewards for the 2021 year! We will work to train and support all our new stewards and continue to develop our returning stewards. Several offices begin 2021 with no union steward which will need to be filled by current stewards or will be covered by the Branch office.

Steward Training/Meetings are held the Tuesday before the first Thursday of each month. Our monthly newsletter has the scheduled dates of all meetings and any changes due to conflicting holidays. Anyone interested in becoming a future steward or alternate steward, please attend the shop steward

trainings/meetings monthly. If for nothing else, to educate yourself and learn more about your job and how to handle issues that present themselves.

As I mentioned above, hopefully early in 2021 we will hear of a ratification of a new contract with the USPS. Arbitration hearings had many challenges. COVID-19 had delayed many phases of the negotiating process. The normal face-to-face meetings with the top USPS management and the NALC Executive Council were cancelled and virtual meetings had to be setup with all the participants. Subcommittee meet-

*(Continued on page 3)*

Branch 599  
*servicing*  
Brandon  
Plant City  
Sun City  
Tampa

**Branch 599**  
**Meeting**  
Thursday  
January 7  
7:30 PM

**Branch 599 Office**

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President

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7:30 AM – 4 PM

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**Tampa Letter Carrier**

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**National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 599,**

3003 W Cypress Street,  
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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 5<sup>th</sup> of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

# Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
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	Michael Smith	813.326.0717	mosmith46@gmail.com
<b>Presidents Emeritus</b>	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux • Donald Thomas Michael Anderson • James Good • Alan Peacock		

# Shop Stewards

<i>Station</i>	<i>ZIP</i>	<i>Steward</i>	<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Steward's No.</i>
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510/11	David Rivadeneira	813.661.1636	813.403.9525
Brandon	33510/11	Luis Cruz	813.661.1636	813.431.3223
Carrollwood	33618	Tina Bausch	813.961.2962	813.892.2282
Commerce	33602	Cynthia Williams	813.242.4507	813.778.4373
Forest Hills	33612	JR Sanchez	813.935.2954	773.849.6229
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Juan Andujar	813.935.2954	813.377.7266
Hilldale	33614		813.879.4309	
Hilldale Annex	33634	Latoya Dupuy	813.879.4309	305.414.3527
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16		813.831.2034	
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Warren Sumlin	813.719.6793	813.486.7612
Produce	33610		813.239.4084	
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570	Cherry Berry	813.634.1403	585.230.0266
Seminole Heights	33603	Michael Smith	813.237.4569	813.326.0717
Sulphur Springs	33604	Stephen Hall	813.237.4569	813.494.4669
TCA/Hyde Park	33606	Jessica Rodriguez-Perez	813.873.7189	939.425.0280
TCA/Peninsula	33609		813.873.7189	
TCA/West Tampa	33607	Michael Williams	813.873.7189	813.541.3092
Temple Terrace	33617	Lori McMillion	813.988.0152	813.263.7101
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)

ings aimed at negotiating specific portions of the contract faced the same fate. The challenges and delays however did not deter from NALC's main objective, to present the best and most represented case possible and secure a contract beneficial for all active letter carriers.

### Branch 599's MDA Golf Tournament big success!

Our 7th Annual Branch 599/MDA Charity Golf Tournament was another great time for all! The tournament was Sunday, November 22, again at Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club for the 5th 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. This year however, presented some difficult hurdles due to COVID-19. Many of our previous business donors are reeling financially and many past golfers are not participating in social events. With that said, we still presented MDA with a check in December for a little over \$9,000 for the 2020 year. This was as gratifying as any other year because of the unknown, not knowing what to expect. Who would sign up to golf? What sponsors would be able to donate? Well, we got our answers loud and clear. First the

day could not have been more beautiful, not a cloud in the sky. The golfers showed up in force, 110 of you, that is an accomplishment on its own. We thank all the golfers who came out and those who were so generous with our raffle. *Thanks* to the hole sponsors, and to all 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. Finally, there are no words that can describe the effort by our Golf Tournament Coordinator, Alan Robinson. His tireless efforts we see every year, but the effort was really unmatched this year. Over the months leading to our tournament, Alan was determined to make the tournament another success, as he has done all 7 years. This tournament has become a *must attend* tournament. However, and Alan will tell you, success is a team effort. (Pictures are included in this news-letter.)

**We had a special guest, Arden Fisher** (see photo inside). Arden is a 12-year-old boy that is the star of our event! Arden, who is related to Alan Robinson, was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy 8 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 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 will begin the planning for our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual MDA Tournament in early 2021. 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. Zac Blobner, a morning show personality on 620 played in our tournament for the first time and had a wonderful time. In fact, the following 2 days while on the air he mentioned our tournament.

### Quick Hits:

#### Information you should know

\* USPS Benefits:

The Postal Service offers generous annual (vacation) – 13 days of annual leave per year for the first 3 years, 13x8 = 104 hours, increasing to 20 days per year after 3 years of service, 20x8 = 160 hours, and to 26 days per year after 15 years of service, 26x8 = 208 hours. In addition, Postal employees get 10 official holidays per year.

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

## Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

**Our deepest sympathy** and prayerful support is extended to Karen and family at the passing of her husband, **Timothy Marx** [Retiree], October 26.



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

**Saturday January 16 5-8 PM**  
**Dinner at 6 PM**



**Tampa Letter Carriers Hall**

3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609

Spaces Limited to 100 People, COVID Social Distancing Restrictions will be followed.

**Call Branch Office to Reserve a Spot 813.875.0599**

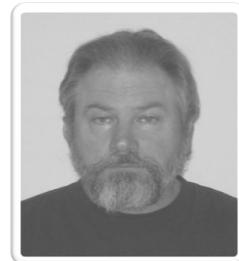
**No Later than January 8, 2021**

**BYOB – Setups Available**

**Member +1 ♦ Non-Retirees \$30 per person**

*If you are unable to attend, please contact the Branch Office to cancel no later than January 11; this will save the Branch from paying for your reservation.*

# Unionism – What kind of CCA do you want to be?



**Brian Obst**  
Vice President  
Branch 599

Being a City Carrier Assistant (CCA) in today's Postal Service is far from easy, but if one goes into the job with the right attitude and works hard, it will turn into a rewarding career as a Letter Carrier.

All carriers employed by the Postal Service are aware of the rigors of the job that all new employees must learn to work through and most will help so the task of learning is not too daunting. As a new CCA, one must understand that there is much to learn and it will take time to acclimate to the job. That being said, I must also point out some of the bad habits that newly hired CCAs have been demonstrating on the job.

Let us start with CCA Bob Johnson (simply a name to make writing easier – not a real person). Bob is the latest CCA hired in the city. He has attended all the proper training (i.e., Shadow Day, Carrier Academy and Suncoast Driving Training) and has now reported to his new station for OJI (On the Job Instruction) to finish his training. CCA Johnson is very attentive to his trainer and observes all the tasks demonstrated for him to become a proficient carrier. He completes his training and management begins to assign his trips on various routes in the station. This is where the problems start.

CCA Johnson begins to have issues with some of the regular carriers based on his feeling that he should not have to do things to help maintain the routes he is performing trips on. CCA Johnson is not separating the review mail that he returns to the station for the regular and he is heard commenting, *That is not my job*. Additionally, he refuses to pay attention to

reminder cards for the areas he is delivering and simply puts all mail in most of the boxes, without regard to whether the address is vacant or not. Finally, he is also failing to read the addresses on the mail and has been misdelivering both mail and parcels to incorrect addresses on his many trips. CCA Johnson says it is because management is rushing him and the regular carriers are not helping him and this is the cause of his delivery issues.

In addition to the delivery issues, CCA Johnson has been wearing a uniform he obtained through the union, but it looks dirty all the time and portrays as if it was ironed with a cold rock. The shirt is never tucked in and at times his pants seem to ride far too low.

Does this individual remind you of anyone you may know? For me, this character is a combination of many CCAs that I have been working with during the past several years. Is this the type of employee that the new CCAs should be? I know the answer to this is a resounding...**NO**. It is important for the new employees to understand how important all the details of the job are and how they represent not only the Postal Service when they are out delivering mail; more importantly the new employees are a direct reflection on all of the other carriers working with them. If you are representing yourself and the Postal Service like CCA Johnson and you are the last carrier the public has had contact with, do you think they will have a positive experience? It is not likely.

It is important for the new CCA to understand that there is much more to this job than simply putting mail in a mailbox. The Postal Service is an

American institution and delivering the mail is only part of what we represent to the American people. Since we are in every neighborhood every day, we serve as a safety net for the community residents. When we see something that doesn't look right, we make a call; when a resident is injured or ill, we take notice and get them needed help. We care about our customers as evidenced by our National Food Drive and the Toys for Tots Drive held every year. Our customers count on us in more ways than one can think of, so it is important to ensure we present a positive image and do quality work. As I always say, as long as I am their letter carrier, they are my customers.

Yes, I have been a little harsh on CCA Johnson, but it is only to help him learn some important lessons, and to be fair, I have also seen and worked with many excellent CCAs. They are the ones that do their best every day while striving to correct any errors they might make and are always trying to learn so they can get better at their chosen job.

I say that all CCAs should seek out your stewards and senior carriers for help, ask for advice and then don't ignore it – use it to get better. Remember, every carrier on the workroom floor was in your position at one time. The position might have been called something else, but we all had to learn the same way. Don't act like you are doing someone a favor when you are delivering mail on their

*(Continued on page 6)*



Region 9  
**Retirement Training**

When **January 17**  
 Where **WebEx**  
 Time **1-4 PM**

Please contact the Region 9 office for login information.

Lynne Pendleton, NBA  
 1101 Northchase Parkway, Suite 3  
 Marietta GA 30067  
 678.942.5295

## Unionism — What kind of CCA do you want to be?

*(Continued from page 5)*

route and don't tell carriers with many years of experience that they don't know what they are doing, as it will only make it harder for you if you alienate the carriers you will need to work with as you move forward with your career.

Our president told us at the Branch meeting that at present, approximately 56% of the active carriers of the NALC are converted CCAs to regular or CCAs waiting to make regular. As you may have heard me say before –

You are my replacement. It is important that you understand your position and you take it seriously because you are the future of the Postal Service's Letter Carriers. What kind of carrier do you want to be?

I suggest that you read the publication put together by the NALC called CCA Resource Guide, it is available on our website [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) under the Workplace Issues tab on the Resources Main Page. This publication has all the important information all CCAs need to know and would be a

great benefit as you find your way as a new CCA.

The decision is up to you. Are you going to be a quality CCA or are you going to be CCA Johnson, only you can make that decision. I hope you make the correct one.

As always, I am available to assist in any way I can. I can be reached at Town and Country Station or on my cell at 727-458-0679.

Remember...**Knowledge is the Key.**

*Brian Obst, Vice President*

# Region 9 Updates

I would like to take this time to wish everyone and their families a Happy New Year!

2020 has come to an end, while some may say it could not have ended soon enough; I have to reflect on how proud I am to be a letter carrier and even prouder to serve you as your National Business Agent.

The beginning of 2020 started off on the right track, many branches had their Installation of Officers, State Trainings, District Trainings, and Region 9 had its very first *Boot Camp* for new stewards. Then March 2020 roared in like a lion and the world started shutting down due to COVID-19.

When the virus hit the shores of the USA, the rest of the country sheltered in place while Region 9 letter carriers braved the invisible danger presented by COVID-19 to serve the American public. While this virus has to be respected, and with fear in our hearts, letter carriers as essential workers reported for duty. There was no dispute, our customers showed their appreciation to their letter carrier with cards and notes, gifts of hand sanitizer, and homemade masks.

New Stand Up Talks (SUTs), Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were being negotiated daily to keep our members safe. With all the new guidelines in place, Region 9

members continued to deliver essential goods to every community. As each state began to open back up and life was trying to return to normal in a COVID kind of way, the parcel volume never declined. The members of Region 9 continued on just as we always do, working longer hours to make sure every parcel got delivered. Our customers noticed and appreciated our work by ranking letter carriers once again as the most trusted government employee.

September begins, the nation starts to get ready to return children to school, looking forward to football season, cooler weather and NALC begins negotiations of our National Agreement. Oh wait, it's 2020! A presidential election is on the horizon and our thoughts quickly turn to the thought of delivering political mail. As I walked through various stations, I saw more political mailings this season than I have seen in my 34 years of service. Carriers informed me there were as much as nine different sets of postcard thin sets of political mail every day. The United States Postal Service was in the news daily, with the media questioning whether or not the Postal Service could get the political mail and absentee ballots delivered. Well guess what? As usual, the letter carriers of Region 9 did it – *We Delivered!* Customers witnessed carriers working diligently to make sure every vote was counted. By November 4, videos were posted on social media with the American public

clapping and cheering for their letter carriers, magazine and newspaper articles were published applauding our members for yet another job well done!

Then December came and we went straight into holiday and/or peak season. The holiday parcels started to pile up on top of the essential goods parcels, then the holiday catalogs and then the holiday cards. Region 9 members have been working 60 to 90 hours A WEEK. Every office dealt with increased leave for COVID, record breaking amounts of election mail, and a full year of peak period parcels. The year of 2020 will be remembered as the year like no other.

However, despite all the obstacles of 2020, all the letter carriers of Region 9 continued to do what they do best and that is to deliver the best damn service to their customers.

In closing, please stay safe and know you are appreciated. I am very proud to work for you as your National Business Agent and wanted to thank you for being amazing city letter carriers.

My sincere wishes for a Happy New Year.

In unity,  
*Lynne Pendleton*  
National Business Agent, NALC Region 9



Lynne Pendleton  
National  
Business Agent  
NALC Region 9



at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)

Get involved!  
Your future depends on it!

# Our 7th Annual Branch 599 Golf Tournament



*Thanks to all who participated in our 7th Annual Branch 599/MDA Golf Tournament!*

It was a fun day for all, for a great cause. Through COVID-19 our players and sponsors stepped up!

Our favorite MDA kid, Arden, enjoyed the socially-distanced day hanging out and saying hi; he and his family are amazing!



# for MDA was a huge success!



## Deliver the Cure with MDA®



# Our year-end donation to MDA!

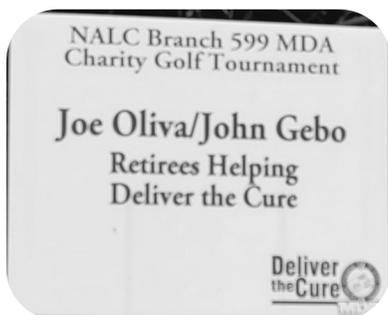
Branch 599 President Tony Diaz and Golf Tournament Coordinator Alan Robinson present MDA Coordinator Erin Authier with a check in the amount of \$9,066.52 for our 2020 year-end donation.

Branch 599's donation was a result of our MDA Golf Tournament and the 50/50 raffles at our monthly union meetings. This donation will go a long way, as donations were down 70% for the 2020 year due to COVID-19.

*Thanks to all who contributed to this success! Erin was thrilled and appreciative of the efforts of Branch 599.*



Alan Robinson, Erin Authier, and Tony Diaz





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<http://www.mrtherapycenter.com>

**NOTICE**

Meetings are subject to change  
due to the upsurge of COVID-19.

**Shop Stewards will Meet**

Tuesday 7 PM

January 5

February 2

**Executive Board Meets**

Thursday 6:30 PM

January 7

February 4

**Branch 599 Meetings**

Thursday 7:30 PM

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 8

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

**Retirees Breakfasts**

Monday *Date to be Announced* 9 AM

Denny's Restaurant

at Dale Mabry & Spruce

2004 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Tuesday *Date to be Announced* 8 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant off Fletcher

12272 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace 33637



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

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

813.875.0599 • Fax 813.870.0599  
www.nalc599.com

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