



Tampa Letter Carrier

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Nominations & Election of Delegates to the 2013 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention

Nominations for delegates to the 2013 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention in Jacksonville, Florida will be taken at *regular Branch meetings* on October 4 and November 1, 2012; election on December 6, 2012, if necessary. Regular Branch Meetings are held at our Union Hall, 3003 W. Cypress Street, Tampa FL 33609, at 7:30 PM.

2013 FSALC Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Jacksonville Riverfront - June 19-24

- Members must be present to accept nominations or have a written notice on file prior to the time and the presiding officer declares nominations closed.
- Any member having applied for, or served as a supervisor within the last two years, including detail to an acting supervisory position, is ineligible for nomination.
- In the event the number of nominations exceed the number of delegates allowed to the Branch, an election will be conducted with the results announced at the regular branch meeting in December.

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

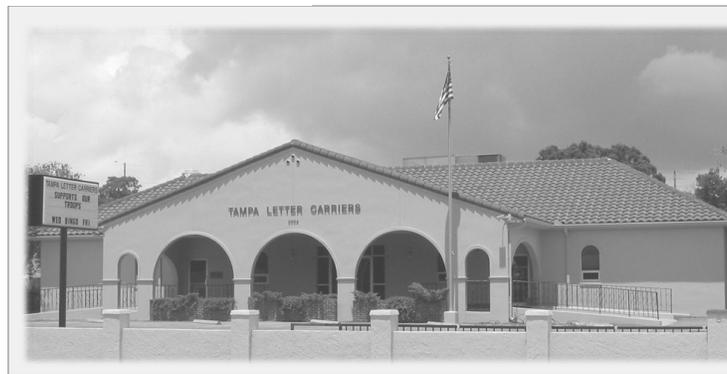
Government Elections

The election is coming down the stretch and we will know what our future is depending on its outcome. The GOP Platform is very negative in its proposal to divert all Postal operations to the private sector as introduced in the Republican National Convention Platform.

NALC President Fred Rolando is asking all Letter Carriers to get out the vote and encourage *vote by mail*. The two major candidates that support our future, our jobs and our benefits as well as working class Americans are President Barack Obama and Senator Bill Nelson. There

are many other key elections throughout the entire country, but if we lose the Presidency and the Senate we will be plagued by those who plan to eliminate Federal

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
October 4
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
Tampa FL 33609-1617

813.875.0599

Fax 813.870.0599

www.nalc599.com

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Monday-Friday

8 AM – 4:30 PM

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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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 no later than the 5th of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
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Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
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Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967	
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061	
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	
Trustee Chair	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
Trustees	John DeRosa	813.850.8418	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle ☐ Orbe Andux		
	Donald Thomas ☐ Michael Anderson		
	James Good		

Executive Board

Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

October 4

November 1

Shop Stewards

will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

October 2

October 30

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	813.960.8894	813.263.7895
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.874.6809	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.889.3913	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1403	
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Brian Obst	813.873.7189	727.458.0679
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	813.270.5035
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 Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

agencies and especially Federal Employees' Unions. If one looks at the GOP Platform from a worker's standpoint they will see that there is an outstanding corporatist view regarding jobs. They want to eliminate OSHA and EPA, creating unsafe working conditions for those that have jobs, and the ability to cut costs by easing the requirements of protecting the environment, like polluting air and water supply. The stalemate that has delayed the recovery has proven the trickle-down theory has not supplied or created sufficient new jobs. But we do have the largest increase in millionaires and billionaires who are out to buy this election and it would be difficult to understand how anyone who has fought and served to protect the U.S. Constitution would support that kind of destruction to our most sacred right. We are attacked on a daily basis as being antiquated and that we can't survive as the Pony Express of the twenty-first century, yet we are the *most trusted* Federal agency repeatedly year in and year out, by far more trusted than the current Congress that refuses to fix what they did to this agency in 2006. Congressman Issa, the richest man in government, has done everything he can in his position heading the committee that controls fixing the problem in a bipartisan manner by the majority support of Congress. He has purposely prevented any bipartisan solutions from going to the House floor. That makes him a *dictator* and a *traitor* to the American public by continuing a tax placed upon the Postal Service, its employees and its customers. This systematic approach is what has placed the hardship and mistreatment of the employees of the Postal Service and how it affects their jobs, their families and even their lives. There has been a total deterioration of

trust and pride in what was and still is a vital component of our economy that extends to millions of other private sector jobs that depend on the Postal Service. The very fact that we are the *most trusted* agency is probably why we are the agency that they have targeted. According to the *Federal Times*, the GOP Platform intends on cutting 10% or 210,000 jobs from the federal workforce which could entail gutting entire agencies.

Arbitration hearings started in September and will end sometime in October with the binding Arbitration decision coming sometime in November. There continues to be a pay freeze in federal sector jobs and that may affect the Arbitrators decision regarding our contract as it did the APWU and the NRLCA in their contracts. Getting a new contract is a high priority, but getting one that is followed is an even greater priority. When we continue to have the same abuses contract after contract even after a (JCAM) Joint Contract Administrative Manual is agreed upon. It seems so costly and unnecessary, but we just can't agree on interpretation that has been agreed upon; everybody wants to be chief.

Our *Fill the Satchel* drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association has been changed to October 14, due to a predicted storm that is coming in the Gulf. We are having less time to prepare for events that mean so much to those less fortunate than us and fewer volunteers to participate. Thanks to all who helped last year we raised over \$4,400 for MDA, which was a huge

improvement over the previous year. Let's get out the support for collections and *Bowl a Thon* and maybe we'll get another great idea to help those kids by *making a muscle* for them!

District

Another meeting with the District Manager will take place on September 18 with the Union leadership from the district. We will probably find

out what the future plans are for route inspections this fall. Hopefully they will do some planning to use something other than the Carrier Optimum Routing System (CORS) which has never been a good program other than creating a lot of time wasting issues that have to be corrected at a premium cost. We are dealing with the sixty-day reviews from the last inspection and mis-adjustments and adding back some routes and auxiliary routes. We know carriers didn't like it when they were doing minor adjustments but the last (JARAP) Joint Alternative Route Adjustment Process was less expensive and less damaging than doing 6-day counts, especially with the use of CORS. Any process where we work together will always be better than one we are left out of until it is done then we have to file grievances to correct the problems.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

In this newsletter there will be new Bylaw proposals that we will vote on in the October meeting. These new proposals are for dues increases that are needed to improve two things that affect our branch and how we repre-

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Treasurer's Report – August 2012



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

July 31 BB&T **Operating Account** \$20,531.95

Deposits

NALC Secretary Treasurer [2]	\$18,685.86
Back Dues [1]	100.36
Lakeland Newsletter	250.00
BB&T Operating Account Interest	.15

Expenses

Branch Officer Salaries [13, monthly]	\$2,336.04
Branch President Salary [3 PP]	7,382.40
Branch Office Secretary's Salary [3 PP]	3,600.00
Branch Office Secretary's Health Benefit	645.00
Branch Steward Salaries [19, monthly]	2,845.00
Stewards Lost Wages [18 hours]	483.51
Editor/Webmaster Salary [monthly]	160.00
Security Guard during Branch Meeting	45.00
CPA/Tax Attorney	450.00
IRS Taxes [form 941] for July	2,902.17
US Treasury	93.63
Retirement Gratuities	150.00
Reimbursement [refreshments]	55.35
Florida AFL-CIO 150 members [2]	240.00
West Central Florida	175.00
NALC Convention Deposit Refund	170.00
Food Drive Gifts [4]	150.00
Donation	25.00
Pitney Bowes	72.16
QuickBooks Pro Online Service	24.95
Verizon [phones & internet]	741.07
AT&T Wireless	94.10
Staples [office supplies]	231.54
BB&T Online Service	14.95
BB&T Service Charge	2.00

July 31 BB&T **Building Fund Account** \$32,507.43

Deposits

Hall Rentals [5]	\$3,049.33
Rec Room	27.00

Expenses

Building Manager	\$600.00
Rental Workers [2]	207.00
Custodial Services [2]	300.00
City of Tampa Police Department	820.00
City of Tampa Utilities	444.16
TECO Gas	104.04
Adver Signs, Inc.	190.00
Rental Refund of Deposit	1,069.33
Crenshaw Termite & Pest Control	39.59
Reimbursed Expenses [3]	309.85

Accounts as of August 31

BB&T Operating Account	\$18,937.04
BB&T Building Fund	32,641.71
MidFlorida Credit Union Savings	254.90
MidFlorida Credit Union CD	100,000.00
Regions Bank CD	50,000.00
USAmeriBank CD	200,000.00
USAmeriBank MM [Training Fund]	11,259.31
Total Balance Available	\$413,092.96



Learn more here: www.nalc.org
Click the *Gimme 5 for COLCPE* logo to learn more and then sign up as an e-activist!

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, the 68th Biennial NALC Convention endorsed President Barack Obama's reelection. As the presidential election nears, the NALC will lobby and support the Obama campaign. In the September issue of the *Postal Record*, President Fred Rolando's Message explains the NALC's position loud and clear. He acknowledges the diversity of our union and the full range of political beliefs. I found his article worth sharing with you as we are in the election season. **The following are highlights from his message:**

We have not just democrats, independents and republicans, but every variety of liberal, moderate and conservative as well, from the social democratic left to the Tea Party right. This, of course, would seem to make the task of endorsing candidates for political office a bit tricky. But in reality, it shouldn't and doesn't.

President Rolando goes on to point out, that as a labor union, we support candidates who support Letter Carriers' interests as workers. We focus on the pay and benefits of our members, primarily. But we also focus on the rights of all American workers to organize and collectively bargain—and their ability to achieve economic security through decent health care and pensions—since our ability to negotiate decent contracts that preserve our standard of living depends on a healthy labor market for all working families.

Then President Rolando makes two important points: First, in the presidential race, our endorsement of President Obama comes despite the disappointment with his position on Saturday delivery. That position led many NALC delegates at the National Convention in Minneapolis to oppose an NALC endorsement, even as they urged delegates to vote for Obama. There was virtually no support for Mitt

Romney, given his antiunion and anti-public employee views and his record as a financial pirate at Bain Capital. The overriding sentiment was Obama saving the American auto industry, advancing the cause of unions in his NLRB and Labor Department appointments and successfully fighting to provide universal health insurance for all working people—even if he has not delivered for postal employees. But the majority of delegates did vote to endorse and to work for President Obama's reelection anyway because Mitt Romney embraces the Paul Ryan budget that would slash our health and pension benefits and he has employed a chief economic advisor who supports deregulation and privatization of the Postal Service.

Second, our endorsement is made with the understanding and acceptance that not all city Letter Carriers make their voting decisions based on their workplace or basic economic interests. We understand and respect that other issues may be more important to some of our members. All members have the right to vote as they please. But for those of you who care most about your job, your standard of living or the future of the Postal Service, we urge you to follow the NALC's lead and work to elect the candidates we endorse this month. Our diversity is our strength.

Please stay in tune to the topics that are vital to the continued existence of the Postal Service as we know it today.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) The **NALC and the USPS began arbitration proceedings on September 6, 2012.** During the arbitration process the two sides can still come to an agreement before the decision is solely in the hands of the arbitrator. Our National officers are very prepared and will be working diligently to present a strong case in the most difficult contract negotiations to date. Hopefully

our positives and the fact that letter carriers are the most important craft in the Postal Service will outweigh the doom and gloom the USPS will present.

*) **There are 3 new bylaw proposals that will be voted on at the October union meeting.** These bylaws are extremely important, and there is a dues increase involved. The bylaws are intended to increase the building fund for its continued maintenance and to prepare ourselves for several expensive projects our beautiful Letter Carriers Hall will need in the very near future. In addition, to assure that our officers and stewards continue to receive the best education and training available. If you have any questions concerning the bylaw changes, which will be posted at your Station, please contact me, your steward, or the union office for more information. I ask that you support the bylaw changes; they are needed to help move us into the future.

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



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

Retirees Breakfast

Monday October 1

9 AM Coffee Cup

4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Sunday Work Party at the Hall

October 7

9-11 AM



**AFL-CIO
Labor Marchers
during Republican
National Convention
in Tampa, signing
American Second Bill
of Rights.**

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

sent you, our members. First, the retiree's dues will be voted to change from \$20 per year to \$36 per year. This is mainly to defer the expense for the annual retirees' banquet that we give them every year. As you already know, when every member retires they receive a gratuity that basically pays their dues for several years; all they have to do is come to the branch meeting to receive it and hopefully continue their membership once they receive their CSA number.

Secondly, the active letter carrier's dues will be increased about \$54 a year. We want to deduct the same hourly dues rate that you're paying now, but change it to 1 hour per pay period instead of 2 hours per month. [We don't receive dues monthly, we get them biweekly and some months have more than 2 pay periods. We want to eliminate some of the current confusion.]

The increase will be put to the following use: \$1 per pay period [\$26 per year] will go to the training and convention fund and \$1 per pay period [26 per year] will go to the building fund. This all will coincide with how our dues are received, which is bi-weekly from National every pay period. We have dramatically cut expenses through all the consolidation of positions that existed with Tampa Letter Carriers Inc. and our officers are doing more with less like carriers are. Improving our training and convention funds enhances the training provided by National and the State that directly translates to better informed representation.

Taking better care of our building will help us improve its income producing capabilities, which are increasing under our current building manager, Lomax McIntyre. Last year we did \$14,000 in rentals and this year so far we have done \$39,000 in rentals. With a little help we can improve the needs of our building and we can better train your

representatives. Speaking of which, many stewards will be attending the state training seminar in Punta Gorda, October 26–28. There will also be a COP meeting October 13–15, that I will attend in Las Vegas. We hope to bring back good news about the progress of our arbitration hearings and news about the future of the Postal Service. It is very important that we support each other during this very difficult time in our history as we continue to fight to protect our jobs and the future of our company and the customers we proudly serve. Above all while we are pushed to do extreme things, remember we didn't create the financial mess the postal service is in and we can't fix it, so be safe and don't endanger yourself or others and don't tolerate being treated with any abusive or disrespectful behavior.

Fraternally in Unionism and Solidarity,
Alan Peacock
President, NALC Branch 599

Proposed Bylaw Changes

ARTICLE VII Fees, Dues, Fines and Assessments

Section 1: (B)

Now reads as:

Annual dues shall be twenty-four hours pay of a Grade 1, Step O, Letter Carrier, payable in advance at the rate of two hours per month. A member placed in a LWOP status for more than thirty-(30) days shall not be required to pay Union dues until the member is returned to a pay status.

Section 1: (B)

Proposed to read as follows:

Annual dues shall be the pay of a City Carrier Grade 1, Step O, payable in advance at the rate of one hour per pay period. A member placed in a LWOP status for more than thirty-(30) days shall be required to pay Union dues payable to the Financial Secretary until the member is returned to a pay status.

Signed by
John De Rosa, Tony Diaz,
Gilbert Cabanas, and
Leslie Raymond Garcia.

ARTICLE VII Fees, Dues, Fines and Assessments

Section 1: (C)

Now reads as:

Retired members prior to October 1982 will be required to pay \$20.00 directly to the Financial Secretary. All active members collecting OWCP benefits will pay their Union dues directly to the Financial Secretary.

Section 1: (C)

Proposed to read as follows:

Retired members prior to October 1982 will be required to pay \$36.00 directly to the Financial Secretary. All active members collecting OWCP benefits will pay their Union dues directly to the Financial Secretary.

Signed by
Gilbert Cabanas, John DeRosa,
Tony Diaz, and
Leslie Ray Garcia.

ARTICLE VII Fees, Dues, Fines and Assessments

Section 1: (F)

Now reads as:

Each month \$1.00 per active member shall be set aside in an appropriate savings institution for the purpose of establishing a General Fund. Such General Fund shall be under the control of the Trustees of the Branch.

Section 1: (F)

Proposed to read as follows:

Each pay period \$2.00 per active member shall be set aside in the appropriate savings institution as follows: \$1.00 each pay period per active member shall be placed in the Training and Convention Fund and \$1.00 each pay period per active member shall be placed in the Building Fund.

Signed by
John DeRosa, Tony Diaz,
Leslie Ray Garcia,
and Gilbert Cabanas.

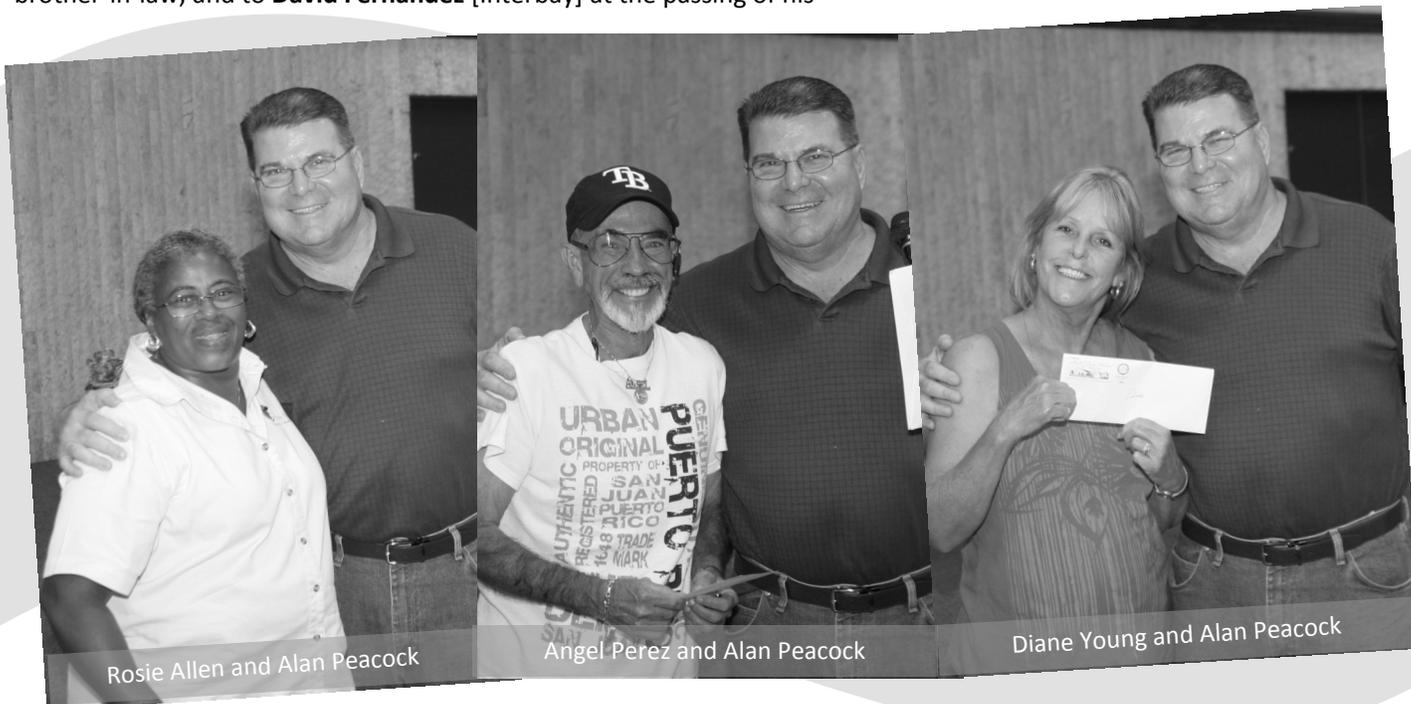
Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Get well wishes & prayers

are sent to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] at Cypress Palms Assisted Living, Largo.

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to Martha and family, whose husband, **Pedro Pete Rodriguez Jr.** [retiree] passed August 28; to **Julia Monsanto** [Town 'N County] at the passing of her father; to **George Czanko** [Palm River] at the passing of his brother-in-law; and to **David Fernandez** [Interbay] at the passing of his



President Alan Peacock recognized **Rosie Allen** [Ybor], **Angel Perez** [Ybor], and **Diane Young** [Forest Hills] during our Branch meeting in September and presented each of them with a check from the Branch for their retirement.

Get Out the Vote!

New information regarding *Get Out the Vote* phone banking, from now until the 2012 General Election:

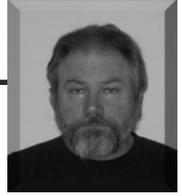
Labor 2012, in support of our endorsed candidates, is off and running!

The AFL-CIO will be conducting phone banking in various locations throughout the West Coast Central Labor Council area.

Tampa Letter Carriers Hall, 3003 W Cypress Street, Tampa FL is designated for phone banking from 6-8 PM every Monday night until the election.

Volunteer opportunities abound! Please join us in committing to *volunteer one day each week*, either phone banking or canvassing. For information or directions call 813.875.0599.

Unionism—Fostering a Cooperative Work Environment



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

One of the best things you can do as a steward is to foster a cooperative work environment between yourself and management. **What! Are You Crazy?** This is the usual response I get when I talk to others about this issue. I know that throughout the years, many stewards look at management as the enemy and would do anything they could to avoid working with management other than to file grievances. This outlook may have had a place in the past but it is neither helpful nor conducive to a stable work environment relatively free of grievance issues that we all strive to achieve for the members we represent.

First let us examine just what *fostering a cooperative work environment* means for the steward and management. As we all know, we operate daily under the guidelines of our *National Agreement*, which in conjunction with the USPS handbooks and manuals provides the rules by which both sides work under. As stewards, we are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring management compliance with these guidelines; failure to do so by management gives rise to the grievances we file to force the required compliance to these rules.

Now let us imagine how our jobs as stewards would become smoother if we were able to resolve many of the same issues before they occurred, simply by talking to management to point out the actions they are taking that will give rise to a grievance. In doing this, the parties can attempt to correct problem areas that cause grievances and try to reach agreement on the proper actions to take to remain in compliance with the *National Agreement*. I know that right now many of you are screaming that I already do this and management refuses to listen, or they ignore any of your attempts to help them remain in

compliance with the *National Agreement*. This is understood, that not all of the supervisors and managers will listen or give you the opportunity to help them and in these cases you will need to follow the guidelines of the *National Agreement* and file timely grievances and process them through the system to a resolution.

The idea of fostering a cooperative work environment only works if both parties are willing to work together to reach the common goal of reducing the grievance load that we are currently seeing. It is a fiscal reality that the Postal Service is having financial difficulties and the time and money spent on grievance issues is something that they should be addressing. What better way than to utilize the union steward to help follow the guidelines of the *National Agreement*. It is what both parties want and if the parties can learn to cooperate and address issues before they become grievances, so much the better.

Now let me assure you that this article in no way is advocating not filing grievances when there are violations that must be addressed; that is our job in ensuring contract compliance and representing our members. What I am saying is if you become aware that management is taking actions or making plans that violate the *National Agreement*, then approach them and address the issue by attempting to show them where they are making the error and provide suggestions as to how to address the issue within the contractual guidelines. We need to make management understand that the steward is their best source of information and working with the steward is to everyone's benefit. Understand that this places an important responsibility on your heads—knowledge. If you don't know the *National Agreement*, then management will

never consider asking you for assistance. Learn the agreement and when asked for information get back to them with the information as quickly as possible. Don't guess if you don't know, tell them and make some calls to get the answers needed and get back to them with the answers. Also don't be afraid to show them where the answer can be found; this will go a long way in helping to develop the working relationship you are looking to establish with management.

This will require some work and a desire to make it work by both parties but if you succeed you will find that your job will be more enjoyable and smoother in working with management. Yes, there will still be grievances that you need to file, but many of the grievances on repetitive issues can be almost eliminated if you work together to enforce the contract.

As I have stated before, the only things you have as a steward are your credibility, your integrity and your knowledge. Take these and apply them in the manner we have spoken of in this article and I believe you can see a great improvement in your working relationship with management which will make it better for both you and the members that you represent.

As always I will leave you with –
KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY.

Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward



Points to Ponder

MDA Fill the Satchel Drive

originally scheduled for September 9 has been postponed until October 14. This is the primary charity of the NALC and we were the first National Sponsor of MDA. We need all of you to help us with the drive so we can help those who have been stricken with these muscle diseases. Make plans now to come out for a couple of hours on October 14 to do some good for those who need our help. See your steward or call the Union Hall so we can plan accordingly.

Let's all *make a muscle* for MDA!

National Agreement

The arbitration case for our new National Agreement began on September 7; it was reported to us, and over the next thirty days both sides will present their cases to the arbitration panel. Upon conclusion of the hearings, the panel will retire and review the testimony and return a decision within forty-five days. As this progresses our National officers are still diligently attempting to negotiate the sticking points in an effort to gain a negotiated deal. Either way, you can expect that we will have a new *National Agreement* by the end of the year.

Why do politicians and political parties feel that they need to lie in an attempt to gain the upper hand in the election process?

On page 25 of the *Republican Party Platform* they speak of dismantling and privatizing the Postal Service. They even have the temerity to state that this is needed due to the woeful underfunded Postal Pension Plans. If I recall, the OIG and two impartial outside the Postal Service entities did audits of our pension plans, both CSRS and FERS, and found CSRS to be overfunded by between \$55-75 Billion and the FERS plan was overfunded by \$11

billion. That is *Billion* with a capital B... in what universe could that ever be considered woefully underfunded? When is Congress going to take responsibility for the financial mess they have put the Postal Service into because of the radical requirement of prefunding future retiree health benefits for 75 years? Oh and let's not forget that we are required to do this in a ten-year period. Why are we the only company in the United States and probably the world that has to do this? The people this money is being set aside for do not even work for the Postal Service yet, and if current hiring practices continue they never will. **Stop Lying to the American People and tell the TRUTH—What do you really want our money for?** They also compared today's Postal Service to the Pony Express and said we are obsolete and unable to do the job anymore. Ask these same Republicans if they get their mail every day, do their constituents receive the mailings from them and do we deliver the reelection materials they mail with their Postal franking privilege? If we are so bad, why are we the most trusted Federal Agency in the United States for many years running and if we are obsolete, then why do they keep using our service?

Remember this during the upcoming elections...**this is still a government of the People, by the people and for the people**...so when you hear foolish things like "*Corporations are people*" think about what that means. I don't know of any corporations that are registered voters...only the working people that makeup the corporation may vote in elections. Also, why do people want to make it harder for people to vote? They should be making it easier for people to vote...don't disenfranchise the people, empower them. I don't know about you, but I

want a government that cares about *all* Americans and seeks to make *all* Americans' lives better...not just a few fat cats with money who think that makes them better than the rest of us. Remember none of these fat cats got rich without the work of the American Workers, unless they inherited the money. How much product do you think Wal-Mart would sell if the American Worker wasn't there running their stores; show some appreciation and pay them a fair wage and give them some benefits!

Examine history and learn from it or you are doomed to repeat the failures of previous civilizations. The quickest way to find revolution is to try to keep people downtrodden and suffering; sooner or later they will say enough and then revolution takes over. If you don't believe me, one need only look into the Middle East and all the countries that the governments were overthrown in this year...the people didn't revolt because they were happy.

This rant was sponsored by me, A Proud American who fails to understand why People in power think everyone is stupid.

Brian Obst

Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

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