



Tampa Letter Carrier

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2014

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

Convention Report

Brothers and Sisters, the 69th Biennial Convention, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from July 21-25 is now history. The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Compassion was well represented by 21 delegates from Branch 599, both active and retired members. *Thank you* to the membership for sending our delegation once again. There were many outstanding classes and materials offered. The materials/handouts were shipped back to Tampa for all the stewards who did not make the convention. These materials will be used at the monthly steward training meetings. There were many terrific speakers lined up by the convention committee... legislators and fellow union leaders. These are friends of the NALC that we support and they support our fight(s). The ongoing fight(s) to keep six-day delivery, to keep the benefits we have negotiated and earned over the years, to protect door to door delivery, to shield against privatization, outsourcing and just total dismantling of the United States Postal Service. We are under attack, by

Congressmen like Darrell Issa (Booo), who is on a mission to destroy the USPS. This Congressman is the NALC's worst enemy; he will do anything and spare no expense to make the USPS extinct. In addition, there were several awesome videos, the history of the NALC and the great postal strike were very enlightening, plus Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Food Drive.

Two of the guest speakers were dynamic with their presentation to the delegates, who represented all 50 states. The first was **Ed Schultz**, you know him from The Ed Show on MSNBC and nationally syndicated radio talk show host. Ed is a supporter of not only the NALC but for the entire labor movement and the middle class. He has hosted our national president, Fred Rolando, on numerous occasions and has been very vocal in support of six-day delivery. During the introduction, President Rolando stated, *There is no greater defender of unions and no stronger warrior for*

workers anywhere in the media than Ed Schultz. He was tremendous, he was engaged, well educated to all our issues, our struggles, and was very aware of the NALC's constant fight on Capitol Hill. He gave us his commitment that *I will be there for you.*

The second speaker was equally as energetic, emphatic, and educated to letter carrier struggles. **Senator Bernie Sanders**, Independent-Vermont was very vociferous when speaking about cutting services instead of building services and products. His most profound statement was, *I want you to know the work you are doing is not only important to the jobs in the Postal Service, it is vitally important to the future of the entire American economy.*

Please visit nalc.org, and click on NALC Convention Coverage to view their entire



Tony Diaz
President
Branch 599

(Continued on page 3)

**Branch 599
Meeting**

Thursday
September 4
7:30 PM

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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 no later than the 5th 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	Warren Sumlin	813.661.1636	813.486.7612
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	813.960.8894	813.493.5224
Commerce	33602	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale/Annex	33614/34	Varick Reeder	813.879.4309	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	Clement Cheung	813.831.2034	813.758.5910
Palm River Annex	33619	Pam Benton	813.663.0048	813.475.0753
Plant City	33564	Mike Thomsen	813.719.6793	303.916.3196
Produce	33610	Elvin Rodriguez	813.237.4280	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	J.D. Lewers	813.237.4569	813.528.5519
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Troy Figueroa	813.873.7189	347.403.1644
TCA/West Tampa	33607		813.873.7189	
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

Around The Horn from The President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

speeches...they are a *must see*.

Make no mistake, Brothers and Sisters, we fight the fight on the workroom floor and deal with mis-management every day. However, our real fight is on the floors of Capitol Hill. As many years as I have been an e-Activist, a COLCPE contributor and a lobbyist when called upon, it still amazes me how aggressive and how prominent we must continue to be legislatively to fight the battles just to maintain a workroom floor. We are big time players on Capitol Hill thanks to all the COLCPE contributions.

Facts from the Convention

Since September 13, 2013...

- 4,700 PTFs have been converted to full-time.
- There are 2,500 PTFs remaining nationwide.
- Over 8,300 CCAs have been converted to full-time.
- Over 6,300 of which were previously TEs; about half the total of all TEs.
- Preliminary figures...I have heard anywhere from 6,300 to 7,200 delegates assembled in Philadelphia, representing close to 500 branches across all 50 states.

Looking Ahead to 2016

The 70th Biennial National Convention in 2016 has been set for August 15-19 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Even though it is two years away, we must begin planning for the anticipated expenses to attend this convention. We will need to make some changes in our convention structure and the number of paid delegates we send. Reducing the number of paid delegates is something we must address, possibly looking at 12. In accordance with our Branch Bylaws Section 14, we would conduct nominations and elections for delegates to the convention. I have

conferred and will continue to educate myself by talking with same size branches and the financial challenges the National Conventions present. Financially we need to do what is in the best interest of the Branch, for the present as well as into the future.

CPR Classes

The second CPR class is being planned for sometime toward the end of September or in October. Looking at a Tuesday night, 7 PM start, at our union hall. In trying to keep the cost very reasonable once again, I have secured a cost of \$20 per person. Upon completion you will be presented a certification from the American Heart Association; this certification is good for two years. Hopefully you get registered to attend; this is a very important service I wanted to organize and offer to all of you. The first class in May was attended by 45 carriers and family members. My goal is to have at least 100 certified in CPR. This is a cause very near and dear to me, as my life was saved by someone newly certified in CPR, my wife.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) **Next work party** will be held Sunday, September 7, from 9 -11 AM. We will be working on the grounds and organizing the storage room behind the stage.

*) **Wanted**—we are in need of new volunteers to *step-up* with union activities. If you are interested, please contact your steward, myself or the Branch 599 office. There are many opportunities...you can *step-up* and make a difference! From stewards to coordinators to work parties, there is always something going on where you can get involved. We must transition for the future of this Branch and for our union. Getting new members trained will insure that the Branch and our union stay strong into the future.

*) **MDA Bowl-A Thon**, August 24; report next month.

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

Shop Stewards will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

September 2
September 30

Executive Board Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

September 4
October 2

Sunday Work Party at our Hall

September 7 9-11 AM

Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathy

and prayerful support is extended to **Kerry Bolio** [Interbay] and family at the passing of his father; to **Brendan Bolio** [Hilldale] and family at the passing of his grandfather; and to Gary Nisson [Town N'Country] and family at the passing of his step-mother.

M.J. Casale Retired!

President Diaz recognized **M.J. Casale** [Interbay] during our August Branch meeting and presented her with a check from the Branch for her retirement.



Branch members in good standing can join us in Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/nalc599

Retirees Breakfasts

Monday September 8 9 AM

Coffee Cup Restaurant
4407 N Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Tuesday September 9 8:30 AM

Bob Evans Restaurant
SR-60 & Falkenburg Road, Brandon

The Birdseye View

(Continued from page 5)

out was great and we did what this branch can do to help find the CURE and *Make a Muscle*. Some other future

fundraisers have been mentioned, such as a bingo night and a golf tournament with all proceeds going to MDA. Stay tuned and if there are any other ideas, please bring them forward.

Fraternally United for Unions and Working Families,

Alan Peacock
Vice President



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

The Birdseye View

The tangled web that continues to be woven in the USPS and the effects that it has on its employees and its customers seems never ending or improving. What will it take before something totally implodes and the realization of non-compliance with past agreements, settlements, Joint Statements, and not to mention all the DRT decisions, Arbitrations and National Contracts. Apparently the plan is as simple as divide and conquer, because if you throw enough crap against the wall something is bound to stick and it may take an epic period of time before anything is ever resolved. To make something perfectly clear to all members, we don't manage the US Postal Service; as your representatives we only monitor the contractual compliance of the National and Local Agreements, and we are designated as the bargaining unit representatives for all the city letter carriers whether they are members or not. We encourage all to be members in the best interest of *Carriers of a Common Cause*.

Let's lay out some ground rules for all carriers to follow in the event that you feel that your contractual rights are being violated. First and foremost, if you feel you have a dispute, you inform your immediate supervisor and inform them of your issue. If you are not able to resolve that issue at that time, you request to see your Shop Steward. Management is required, if the Steward is present, to allow him/her to see you within two hours or no later than the end of that tour. If your steward is not present or there isn't one assigned to your unit, request in writing that a steward be requested and it is management's responsibility to immediately contact your local union branch office and notify the President of your request and the President or his designee will be scheduled to see you. As the grievant, you need to provide your steward with a statement of what the

issue is whether it is contractual or that you were issued discipline; this is one of, if not the most important step of the grievance process this is your story of the facts of the violation or dispute. In the case of a supervisor taking you to the office for something, you need to always ask if this is an action that could lead to discipline, if the answer is yes, then they are required to have representation for you for any investigative interviews in accordance with your Weingarten rights. If the reason is for a private discussion, then that is not an area that falls under Weingarten Rights and neither is the issuing of a discipline letter. Any discipline letter has to include a clause that informs you that you have the right to file a grievance within 14 days of receipt of the discipline, at that time you must request to see your Shop Steward or request in writing that one is provided for you. Failure to do this in the time frame of 14 days without a signed extension between the union and management could forfeit your rights to file or defend your contractual rights. The other types of disputes are considered class action grievances where the steward is aware from statements or during investigations where s/he discovers a violation has or is occurring and the steward files on behalf of the class that could include a group, zone, or installation. It is important for all members to understand that each of us have responsibilities in seeing that violations are enforced and your statements as witnesses are very vital to the success of your stewards as your advocates. That is the way we combat divide and conquer by staying united in a common cause.

Vote by Mail!

The primary election is already underway and as usual, Florida is the laughing stock of the nation again. After a Tallahassee Judge has ordered that

Congressional District boundaries were drawn illegally by the state legislature and ordered to be redrawn by August 15, 2014;

this is in violation with an amendment to the state constitution that the voters passed in 2010. The best solution for voters again is to avoid an issue with your ballot or polling precinct by simply requesting the absentee ballot that allows you to vote by mail and is returned directly to your county Supervisor of Elections office. This evident again as to the need for Floridians to have a constitutional amendment that simply calls its vote by mail instead of absentee ballot that many think requires you to be away during the election, which is not true. Vote by mail with your absentee ballot and end voter suppression and support the USPS and your job.

After several conversations with Alan Cohn, candidate for Congressional District 15, and inviting him to attend one of our meetings...he will be at our meeting on September 4, 2014. Many of our members live in that district which covers parts of east Tampa, Temple Terrace, east Hillsborough and part of Polk counties and hopefully those members will be attending. Alan Cohn will be running against Dennis Ross whom has *not* been co-sponsor of any legislation to save six-day delivery, door delivery, or any legislation to end the bleeding of funding from the USPS.

MDA

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will already have had our first and only MDA function *prior* to the Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon; hopefully the turn-



Alan Peacock
Vice President
Branch 599

(Continued on page 4)

A Blunderful Blizzard of Boz

While attending the 69th Biennial Convention of the NALC in Philadelphia, this correspondent pondered over what information or sense of the gathering I could convey to the members of Branch 599. It came to me while attending the Friday morning workshop entitled *The Strike at 40*.

We were shown the 2010 video about the great postal strike of 1970 and afterwards listened to a panel of letter carriers who had participated in the strike. They recalled, not with bravado, but with humility, how they made their decision to defy their employer and the federal government. New York's Branch 36 voted in the late evening of March 17, 1970 to stop working and was followed by others in Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland,

Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Denver and Chicago.

This was no easy decision. Their livelihood was at stake. They could have faced jail and their actions could have forced retribution against the union itself. They were desperate. Their pay and working conditions were intolerable. But because of their courageous action, reform was possible.

Today our situation is different. Our future will be forged by the way the Postal Service is managed. Congress is the ultimate arbiter of the rules that will govern how this management takes place.

We need to convey our viewpoint to Congress and we need to elect friends of the postal unions into Congress.

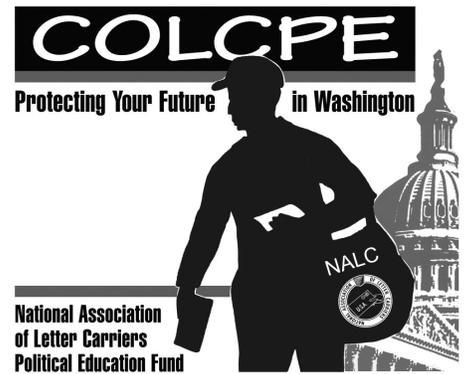
Jim Boczarski
Convention Delegate
Branch 599

Do we need to call a wildcat strike?
No.

Do we need to take the risks our brothers did in 1970?

No.

All we need to do is support COLCPE. Five bucks a pay period. We can do this!



Branch 599's Delegates to 69th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, July 21-25



Robert's Corner:

Subsidiary Motions are applied to other motions and are as follows: *Lay on the Table*, *The Previous Question*, *Limit or Extend Limits of Debate*, *Postpone Definitely*, *or to a Certain Time*, *Commit or Refer*, *or Recommit*, *Amend* and *Postpone Indefinitely*.

By means of Subsidiary Motions the original motion may be modified, or action postponed, or it may be referred to a committee to investigate and report, etc. They may be applied to any main motion, and when made they supersede the main motion and **must be decided before the main motion can be acted upon**. Subsidiary motions, except to lay on the table, the previous question, and postpone indefinitely, may be amended.

When we are debating a main motion one may think the proposal can be improved if it is changed in some way. An amendment is the way in which one might introduce or propose a change – which, if adopted, modify the wording and, within limits, often the meaning of the main motion. Amendments should say *exactly* where in the main motion the change is to be made, and *precisely* what words to use. Put an amendment together just as if you were giving detailed, word by word directions to the Chair on how you would like to change the motion. A vote on your amendment does *not* decide whether the main motion will be adopted, only whether the wording in the main motion will be changed. An amendment proposed must *in some way involve* the same question raised by the motion it amends. This is known as the requirement that an amendment must be germane. After an amendment is adopted, the motion is adopted and the main motion as amended may be further debated and further amended. In the end, a vote is taken on the main motion *as amended*.

There are several types of these amendments: *Insert or add words (or a paragraph)*, *Strike out words (or a para-*

graph), *Strike out and Insert words*, *Strike out a Paragraph*, and finally *Substitute* which is essentially a form for amending paragraphs that parallels striking out and inserting words. *Substitute* may be offered for a paragraph or paragraphs, or any larger units: sections, articles, or even an entire motion.

To insert words, one states, “*I move to insert the words...*” and where in the main motion one wishes to insert those words. If one desires his/her amendment to be put at the end of the motion, they would call for an amendment to add words. To add words, one states, “*I move to add the words...*” To strike out words one states, “*I move to strike out the words...*” Finally, if one desires to strike out and insert words, one states, “*I move to strike out the words... and insert the words...*” and where in the main motion one wishes to insert and strike out those words. The same principle applies to the amendment of paragraphs.

An amendment to a main motion may itself be amended by a *Secondary amendment*, sometimes called an *amendment of the second degree* or an *amendment to the amendment*. Secondary amendments may not themselves be amended – there can be no third degree because they are too confusing. Instead of proposing a secondary amendment, one simple approach is to tell the group that if they will vote down the pending amendment, you will then offer a different version, **which you may then describe**.

If some member seconds your amendment, the Chair states it, and then the member seeks recognition again to speak for the amendment. This begins debate on the amendment, not the main motion. The Chair, in stating or putting the question, ensures that the members know exactly what is under consideration. The Chair states the amendment; gives the main motion as

it would read if the amendment were to be adopted; and makes clear once more what is the *amendment* that is to be debated upon or voted on.



Mike Brink
Recording Secretary
Branch 599

On occasion, while a motion is being debated, someone will get up and offer what he or she terms a *friendly amendment* to the motion, the maker of the original motion will *accept* the amendment, and the Chair will treat the motion as amended. **This is wrong**. Once a motion has been stated by the Chair, it is no longer the property of the mover, but of the assembly. Any amendment, friendly or otherwise, must be adopted by the full body, either by a vote or unanimous consent. **There is NO provision that after a member introduces a motion and it is seconded whereby another member asks for an amendment to the previous speaker's motion as stated if the maker of the motion will accept**. The member who wishes to amend the motion is to follow the guidelines referenced above. Any amendment made by a member must be presented in the proper format and in accordance with *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Once the members have voted on an amendment, that specific matter is considered settled. If the members have voted down an amendment to add certain words, you can not propose another amendment to add substantially the same words in the same place.

Excerpts from the above may have been taken from www.robertsrules.org and *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief* written by Henry M. Robert, III, William J. Evans, Daniel H. Honemann and Thomas J. Balch with the assistance of Daniel E. Seabold and Shmuel Gerber.

West Central Florida
Federation of Labor's

2014 Labor Day Celebration

**24 Foot
Rock
Wall**

**Family
FUN!**

Monday, September 1, 2014

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Lupton's Boggy Bottom Ranch
8407 Lupton Place, Plant City, FL 33567
<http://www.luptonscatering.com/Ranch.html>

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Volleyball**

**Inflatable
Jumper**

Join us on Labor Day for a family-style picnic on
the holiday that Labor made!

**Endorsed
candidates
& elected
officials**

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and canopies.
Don't forget sunscreen and bug spray!

For more information, contact:
West Central Florida
Federation of Labor,
AFL-CIO Central
Labor Council
Phone: 863-583-3330
E-mail: cschroeder@wcff.org

The event is open to everyone (free admission);
however, BBQ tickets must be purchased or reserved in
advance by contacting your local union.

BBQ tickets will be available at the event for \$12.00 per
person—adult or child.

More Photos from NALC Convention in Philadelphia





West Central Florida Federation of Labor's 2014 Endorsement Candidates

PO Box 76108 • Tampa, Florida 33675 • 863.583.3330

As of July 1, 2014...All announced candidates at the time of the screenings were invited to participate in the COPE process for consideration of endorsement. Candidates were provided a questionnaire and, if completed and returned to signify their interest, invited to address the COPE Committees at scheduled interviews. At the interview meetings, held in April, May and June, union members representing different local unions questioned candidates on issues affecting workers and their families and voted on endorsement decisions.

State-wide Races

Governor.....Charlie Crist *
 Attorney General Perry Thurston *
 Attorney GeneralGeorge Sheldon *

Hernando County

Florida House, Dist. 35Rose Rocco
 County Commission, Dist. 2..... Jimmy Lodato
 County Commission, Dist 4 Daniel Oliver
 School Board, Dist. 1 Mark Johnson *
 School Board, Dist. 5.....Cynthia Moore *

Hillsborough County

U.S. Congress, Dist. 15 Alan Cohn
 Florida Senate, Dist. 22Judithanne McLaughlan
 Florida House, Dist. 63 Mark Danish
 13th Judicial Circuit, Grp 8John Dingfelder *
 13th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 19 Michael Scionti *
 13th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 20 Karen Stanley *
 County Judge, Grp. 12..... Chris Nash *
 County Commission, Dist. 4 Janet Dougherty *
 School Board, Dist. 2..... Michelle Popp-Shimberg *
 School Board, Dist. 4.....Melissa Snively *

Manatee County

Bradenton City Council, Ward 3 Paul Thomas

Pasco County

Florida House, Dist. 36 Amanda Murphy
 Florida House, Dist. 38Beverly Ann Ledbetter
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 1Laura Snell *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 16 Brian Battaglia *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 21Philippe Matthey *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 35Bruce Boyer *
 County Commission, Dist. 2Erika Remsberg

Pinellas County

Florida Senate, Dist. 20Jack Latvala
 Florida House, Dist. 65Carl Zimmermann
 Florida House, Dist. 67Steve Sarnoff *
 Florida House, Dist. 68 Dwight Dudley
 Florida House, Dist. 79Darryl Rouson
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 1 Laura Snell *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 16Brian Battaglia *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 21 Philippe Matthey *
 6th Judicial Circuit, Grp. 35Bruce Boyer *
 County Commission, Dist. 2 Patricia Garard
 County Commission, Dist. 4 Mark Weinkrantz
 School Board, Dist. 2..... Terry Krassner *
 School Board, Dist. 3..... Peggy O'Shea *
 School Board, Dist. 4..... Ken Peluso *
 School Board, Dist. 6..... Linda Lerner *
 School Board, Dist. 7.....Rene Flowers *

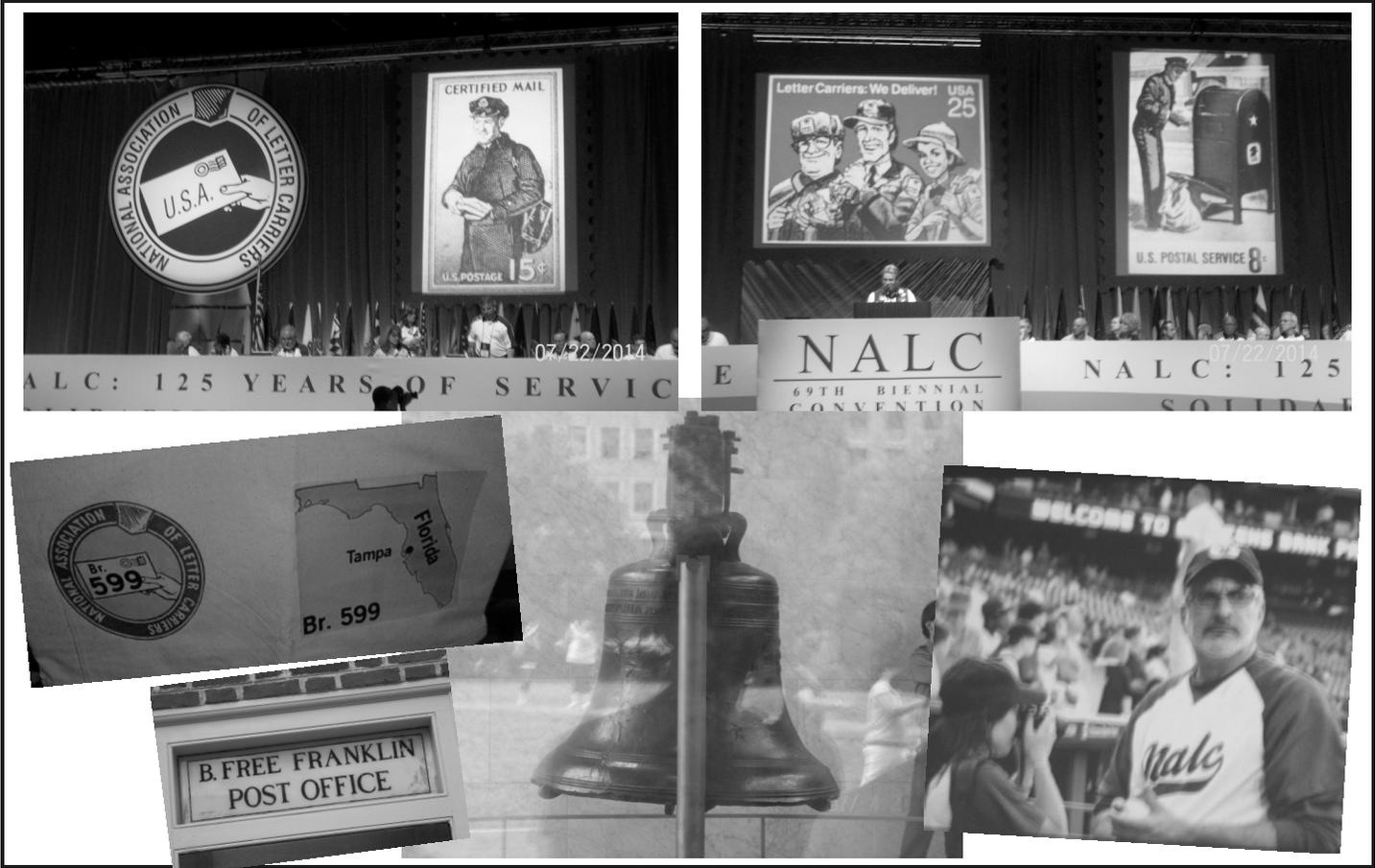
Polk County

U.S. Congress, Dist. 15 Alan Cohn

Constitutional Amendments

1. Water and Land Conservation..... Support
Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands.
2. Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions..... Support
3. Prospective Appointment of Certain Judicial Vacancies Oppose

***Denotes candidates/races that will appear on the primary election ballot.**



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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bilmor@tampabay.rr.com



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