



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 6 - Issue 11

A.R. "Tony" Huerta - NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

November 2007

## President's Report

### *A Busy Year's End*

As we move toward the close of 2007, it's going to be hard to keep up with everything that's going on. The branch will be holding election of officers and shop stewards, as well as nominations and elections of delegates to the next National Convention to be held in Boston in 2008. Both Tampa and Brandon will be negotiating new Local Memoranda of Understanding, carriers will finally see the initial results of the new National Agreement in the form of a retroactive COLA and 1.4% pay increase for the period from November 25, 2006 through September 28, 2007, and I will be attending a National Training Seminar in mid-November regarding the new National Agreement. All these things are in addition to battling management regarding withholding of residual carrier positions for excessed clerks, improper minor route adjustments and numerous violations of Article 8 pertaining to forced overtime.

The branch held its first round of nominations for officers on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the monthly meeting. Nominations will be opened again at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with elections to be held at the branch meeting on December 6, 2007 between the

hours of 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Nominations for the election of delegates to the National Convention, to be held in Boston the week of July 21, 2008, will be made at the November and December branch meetings, with elections to be held at the January meeting if necessary.

Meetings have begun between management in Tampa and Branch 599's negotiating committee to draft a new Local Agreement, and will begin in Brandon by the time this newsletter is printed. We are hoping to clean up some of the ambiguous language in Brandon's LMOU that has been there for too long. The carriers in Brandon have been meeting for some time now voicing their opinions on what changes need to be made.

All carriers should have received the COLA lump sum settlement of \$686 by now, and are scheduled to receive the retroactive 1.4% payment (for the period from 11/25/06 through 9/28/07) on November 30, 2007. Carriers are also scheduled to receive an additional 1.8% pay increase effective November 25<sup>th</sup> of this year.

President Young has scheduled a National Training Seminar for November 16-18<sup>th</sup> of this year to update all the local presidents on the changes in the new contract. I'm sure

that this will be a very comprehensive program with instruction being given by many of the National Resident Officers. I look forward to attending and bringing back much information to share with your newly elected officers and shop stewards.

Finally, I have been informed by local management that we are once again under withholding. This time it is the result of the closing of the St. Petersburg plant, resulting in the excessing of many clerk positions. It is management's, and Labor Relations' position, that because some clerks hold a Level Six position that they can be excessed into a City Carrier Grade 1 position. The union disagrees and we have filed grievances in installations where withholding is being done. Until the grievances are ruled upon, all carrier positions that are posted for bid and no one bids on, will be held for excessed employees. This means that until a decision is rendered no Part-Time Flexibles will be converted to Full-Time Regular. I, as well as your shop stewards, will keep you updated.

*President - Branch 599*



## Official Notice of Nominations and Election of Officers of Branch 599

### Nominations

Nominations for the election of officers of Branch 599 will be held at the regular Branch meeting on November 1, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall, 3003 West Cypress St, Tampa, FL 33609. Candidates must accept nominations at the time made or, if absent, in writing. Candidates may accept nominations for only one office. Self nominations are acceptable. Nominations will be held for the following Branch offices: President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Three (3) Trustees, MBA/NSBA Representative, Health Benefit Representative, Director of Retirees, and Two (2) Labor/Management Representatives. The terms of office will be for three (3) years beginning January 19, 2008.

### Elections

The election will be conducted by secret ballot on December 6, 2007 at the Union Hall, 3003 West Cypress St, Tampa, Florida. The polls will be open from 2:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Any member who is in line at 7:30 will be allowed to vote. Any member who for any reason will be unable to vote on December 6<sup>th</sup> may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots should be made by telephoning the Union Hall at (813) 875-0599 (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) beginning November 2, 2007 through November 21, 2007.

## Official Notice of Nominations and Election of Delegates to the 2008 National Convention

Nominations will be held at the regular branch meetings on November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 6, 2007, at the union hall at 3003 West Cypress St, Tampa, FL 33609, for delegates to the 2008 National Convention to be held in Boston the week of July 21-25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Any member, in good standing, is eligible to be nominated. Elections, if necessary because of the number of nominees, will be held at the January Branch Meeting. In order to be a paid delegate the member must meet the qualifications in Article 5, Section 15 of the Branch Bylaws.

**Branch 599 Officers**

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 907-9685, cell 505-7914
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516, cell 597-7396
RECORDING SECRETARY	Cindy Perez	(813) 766-1220
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 681-5688
TRUSTEE (Chairman)	Henry Dupree	(813) 621-6471
TRUSTEE	Jose Oliva	(813) 873-2747
TRUSTEE	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
HEALTH BENEFITS	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	John Gebo	(813) 985-5474, cell 503-1256
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Phil Chirico	(813) 657-3180
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	(813) 263-7895
Commerce	33602	Rickey Robinson	(727) 409-1911
Forest Hills	33612	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Alan Robinson	(813) 843-9762
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	(813) 215-7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Bill Mandikas	(813) 263-8636
Hyde Park	33606	John Livingston	(813) 253-3651
Interbay	33611	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Interbay	33629	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
MacDill	33608	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Port Tampa	33616	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 685-9034
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 872-1542
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Mike Sovan	(813) 872-0709
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Dennis Lorenzo	(813) 966-3989
Temple Terrace	33617	Frank Pereira	(813) 610-1801
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914

**Presidents Emeritus**

Michael Anderson Orbe Andux  
James Butler Don Thomas  
Garland Tickle

**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](mailto: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. All articles are subject to editing and revision at the discretion of the publisher & editor. All articles must be submitted no later than the fifth of the month. Submit articles as .txt, .doc or .wpd documents attached to email sent to [newsletter@nalc599.com](mailto:newsletter@nalc599.com).

Jim Good - Publisher  
Kit Kelley - Editor

**RETIREES BREAKFAST**  
**(In Tampa)**  
**First Monday of Every Month**  
**9:00 AM at**  
**The Coffee Cup**  
**4407 N. Hubert**  
**in Drew Park**

**RETIREES BREAKFAST**  
**(In Brandon)**  
**Second Tuesday of Every Month**  
**8:00 AM at**  
**Buddy Freddy's**  
**134 Gornto Lake Rd S.**  
**in Brandon**

Read the *Tampa Letter Carrier* online at  
<http://www.nalc599.com/newsletter.htm>

## Executive Vice-President's Report

### What Does The Computer Say?

**M**any letter carriers are expressing concern over the daily struggle to discuss their estimated workload with the supervisor. Although these should be intelligent conversations they routinely change into confrontation and discord. This is not just a problem limited to the Tampa area. Letter carriers around the country are complaining about the daily ritual of arguing with the supervisor about what DOIS says. This problem is so extensive that it is being addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) attached to our new National Agreement signed into effect on October 9, 2007.

This new MOU codifies several issues important to letter carriers. The MOU defines DOIS as a management tool used to estimate the carrier's workload. Period. The letter carrier is still bound by the requirements of the M-41 to provide the supervisor with a valid estimate of how much time will be needed to complete the work available. The

supervisor is still bound by the proper scheduling requirements of the M-39. Both the letter carrier and the supervisor are bound by the responsibilities placed upon them by the M-41 to discuss the workload and to use PS Form 3996 and PS Form 1571 when needed. What all this means is, "DOIS projections are not the sole determinant of a carrier's leaving or return time, or daily workload."

It goes without saying that it has become more difficult for letter carriers to formulate a good estimate. It is easier to estimate how much more time you will need due to higher volume than it is to estimate how much less time you will need due to reduced volume. This problem is further compounded by later starting times which increase the effects of traffic, daylight, and weather conditions. As professional letter carriers we must do our best to take these factors into consideration when giving our estimates.

The MOU also compels management to undertake improvements of DOIS which should move DOIS closer to reality. Five minutes will be added to office time to compensate for functions listed as items 8 through 13 on the inspection form PS 1838-C that were previously left out of DOIS. In subsequent inspections the actual averages for lines 8 through 13 will be used.

The MOU further mandates that "...Management is responsible for accurately recording volume and other data in DOIS. Other than obvious data entry errors, route based information may only be changed through a full-count and inspection or minor adjustment." Management must make every effort to assure that the figures that are put into the DOIS program are as accurate as possible. Failure to do so is a violation and subject to the grievance procedure. Management is also forbidden to manipulate the data to suit their needs. As of October 10, 2007 there should be no more arbitrary 80% to standard office expectations. Base data for each route should reflect the results gathered from the most recent inspection. If this is not the case you should ask your steward to investigate and file a grievance if needed.

None of us are living in a dream world. Management may comply fully with the MOU and conflicts will still arise during the estimate process. Letter Carriers need to

by **Detlev Aeppel**

*Executive Vice-President - Branch 599*

approach the situation well prepared. Know how much true volume you actually have. Calculate your fair effort office time, as demonstrated during your last inspection, and don't run past it without cit-



able cause. Be aware of extras such as excess accountables, deviations for Express Mail, and excess parcels. Give these elements their due consideration when estimating their impact on your street time. If the supervisor tells you what the DOIS estimate is for your route for that day then thank him/her for the information. Then tell him/her what your estimate is based on what you know about the workload you have that day. Ask for and fill out completely PS Form 3996 if you will need overtime that day and PS Form 1571 if you will be curtailing any mail that day. If your supervisor refuses to authorize your overtime or to give you auxiliary assistance be sure that fact is noted on your 3996. Use carbon paper or get a copy made before you leave for the street. Do not argue with your supervisor. Assure your supervisor that you will do the best you can. Do the best you can. When the designated time arrives, usually before 3 o'clock PM, give the supervisor a call to report your progress and to ask for instructions if it appears that your estimate was more accurate than DOIS.

Never, under any circumstances, ask, "What does the computer say?" The computer is just a tool. As such it is subject to the skill, whim, or failure of management. *Garbage in, garbage out.*

In Solidarity...

**Branch Meeting  
Thursday  
November 1  
7:30 PM  
at the Union Hall**

### TLC Board Meeting - September 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by chairman Obst. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read. Financial report by John Gebo. Building Manager's report by Mike Anderson. A plumber tried to scope the sewer lines from men's restroom to the street but will have to go through the roof. Rain has postponed this. Cockroaches have been a huge problem. A new exterminator has been called to see about solving this problem. The cost will be \$245.00 initially, with an \$89.00 monthly fee. Discussion. A monitor was purchased for the building manager's office. All dates for rentals in November have been put on hold pending completion of bathroom remodeling. Donation Committee report by Adam Noble. A thank you letter was read from Meals on Wheels. A recommendation and motion were made to donate \$500.00 to Morning Star School. Discussion. Passed. New Business: Motion to increase hall rental to \$1100.00 per rental. Seconded. Discussion. Passed. Motion to have the building manager get two estimates in next few days and hire the best available company. Seconded. Discussion. Passed. Motion to have building manager research the possibility of putting bumpers in front of double doors in the back of the hall. Discussion. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Jim Good, Secretary - TLC, Inc.

# **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*

## **Talkin' Triglycerides**

**Y**ou've probably gone to the doctor to have your cholesterol levels checked at some point. If you haven't, now is the perfect time for you to learn more about the hidden heart dangers of cholesterol and other lipids, or types of fat in the blood. September is National Cholesterol Education Month, and results from a recent National Lipid Association (NLA) survey indicate Americans have a lot to learn.

You might have heard of LDL, "bad" cholesterol, and the health problems it can cause, but there are two more lipids the NLA wants you to know about: HDL, "good" cholesterol, and another important lipid, triglycerides.

Triglycerides are a type of fat produced by your body as it digests the things that you eat and drink. High levels of triglycerides (normal is below 150 mg/dL) can lead to serious illnesses including heart disease, kidney disease and stroke. The risk of developing heart disease doubles when triglycerides levels rise above 200 mg/dL. When triglycerides are above 200 mg/dL and HDL is below 40 mg/dL, the risk for heart disease increases four-fold.

Patients who are overweight or have other risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure, low HDL and elevated blood sugar, are more likely to have high triglycerides.

This year, as part of National Cholesterol Education Month, the NLA is encouraging all Americans to talk to their doctor about "good" and "bad" cholesterol as well as their triglycerides. Results from the NLA's recent "Moving Beyond Cholesterol"

survey paint a troubling picture of lipid knowledge in the United States. The survey found that fewer than half of patients have ever discussed the subject of lipids with their doctors. Of those that did, the majority said the discussion lasted five minutes or less. Only a third of patients who walked away from lipid discussions felt well informed.

"We need to do a better job of educating patients about the dangers of cholesterol and triglycerides," says Dr. Jerome Cohen of St. Louis University Health Center. "Doctors and patients need to work together to ensure patients understand the results of their lipid profile, and their appropriate goals and treatment options."

High triglycerides, low HDL and high LDL levels are typically treated through a combination of healthy eating, increased exercise, and when necessary, one or more medications.

Visit <http://www.lipid.org> to learn more about cholesterol and triglycerides or to find a lipid specialist who can assess your lipid profile and set up a treatment plan that's right for you. The life you save could be your own.

Numbers To Know:

LDL: Less than 100 mg/dL

HDL: Above 40 mg/dL for men, above 50 mg/dL for women

Triglycerides: Less than 150 mg/dL

Courtesy of ARAcontent

## Unionism

### *Appeal To And Hearing At Formal A*

Last month we left off at the point of not being able to resolve the grievance at Informal A so we now need to appeal the case to the Formal A step of the Dispute Resolution Process.

As I stated previously some of the stewards do the Informal as well as the Formal Hearings so you will do the appeal yourself, however those who do not hear the Formal A hearings will need to prepare the files for the Formal A representative so they may appeal and be prepared for the hearing.

The filing of the appeal is simply providing the Formal A representative of management with a copy of the 8190 form for the grievance and notifying them that the union is appealing the case to Formal A for a hearing. This should be done by the Formal A representative and it must be done within 7 days of the signoff date for the Informal A hearing. Once management has received the appeal and the 8190 form, they have 7 days to schedule and hear the Formal A appeal. These time limits are important and should be strictly adhered to in an effort to avoid any time limits arguments by management. In the rare event where a time limit extension is required, be sure to get it in writing to protect the rights of the grievant.

Once you have appealed the case to Formal A you should be prepared to hear the case, however you can continue your investigation. You should be reviewing your files and ensure that you have everything you need to present the best possible case for the grievant. Management is still under obligation to provide you information that is deemed necessary to presenting your case. At the hearing you may present up to two witnesses to establish points to bolster your case and management may do the same. The union determines if it deems the presence of the grievant to be necessary at the Formal A hearing, and they should not be precluded from being at the hearing unless they are considered to be detrimental to the case. Remember that while at the Formal A hearing this is now the union's grievance, we are still representing the grievant who initially filed the grievance and we should not take lightly his concerns on this matter.

Once you arrive at the hearing and get started the first thing should be the assignment of the GATS number. This is the Postal Service's tracking number for the grievance case and there is a block on the 8190 form for this information. Next step will be determined by the type of grievance issue, if it is a contract issue the burden of proof lies with the union and we must prove that the contract was violated so we must present our contentions and arguments first and management will respond to them. If the issue is a discipline issue then management has the burden of proof and they must present their evidence, contentions and arguments. We simply have to prove that they are wrong by disproving the contentions they present. Remember we are innocent until proven guilty even though it might not seem that way in the postal service.

After the hearing is complete, if the case has been able to be resolved you will fill in block 19 of form 8190 with the details of the resolution of the case and both parties will sign and date in the appropriate sections. You should also fill out the Branch 599 Grievance Settlement form for the Formal A step and make this a part of the file for record keeping. In the event that you are unable to resolve the grievance at the Formal A step then there is an abundance of information required to be filled in on the 8190 form. Block 16 is the undisputed facts block and in this block all the information that both parties agree on should be listed as well as any agreement to extend time limits. Block 17 is the union contentions section and it should be filled with a detailed accounting of all the contentions and issues raised by the union in the case at hand, remember the 8190 form is read by the members of the B Team when you appeal the case forward and your contentions should be clear and concise with supporting evidence not just conjecture and second hand knowledge. Block 18 is the management contentions section where management will provide the same information for their side of the case. After you receive the information for all the blocks then both parties will sign off on the 8190 in the appropriate section and the grievance is ready to be prepared for appeal.

You have now finished hearing the case and it has been decided that the case cannot be resolved, you have filled out the 8190 form and both parties have signed off on the case,

now we have to prepare for the appeal to the B-Team. The first thing that must be done is you must provide management a complete copy of the file for the case. This is a part of the Formal A process,



by **Brian Obst**

Chief Steward - Branch 599

to cooperatively build a case file and by cooperatively build a case file, I mean both parties have the ability to add items to the case file in an attempt to prove their point. This is not to say that management may simply wait until the end of the Formal A hearing and then produce a number of documents that they want in the file. They must have disclosed these documents previously and both sides should have discussed them as issues in the hearing process. Once the file is complete it should have a table of contents page and all pages should be numbered so as to ensure that no documents are slipped into the file after the completion of the preparation of the file. You must provide management a complete copy of the file at the end of the hearing, or at the end of the day of hearing if both sides agree to any time of extension. Remember if you agree to any time of extension, always get it in writing and do not sign the 8190 form until you have finished putting the package together. This means if you hear the case on Friday and management asks to have the weekend to put together their written contentions together, you will not sign the 8190 form until Monday when you have all the case paperwork together. This is important as the 8190 form is the moving document and the time limits start when you sign the form so you do not want to shorten your time for appeal to the next step.

Once again this has been a simplified discussion on the appeal to Formal A and the Formal A hearing process, if you have questions you should consult Article 15 of the JCAM and follow up with your steward or branch officers for any answers that you may need. Next month we will finish the appeal to the B-Team including the Letter of Additions and Corrections as well as what is happening at the B-Team level when the case is heard. Until then remember, *knowledge is the key.*

Brian Obst - Chief Steward

### **Health & Welfare**

Coralia Reyes, mother of Town & Country letter carrier Louis Reyes Jr., passed away on October 10, 2007.

## A Point of Personal Privilege

### *False Hopes*

In the September 2007 issue of our national union's Postal Record, President Young addressed an issue caused by a misinformed letter carrier. This female letter carrier, a self described Republican, telephoned the Rush Limbaugh radio program. The letter carrier implied that the NALC had only allowed Democratic candidates to respond to our presidential survey questionnaire. Naturally and as usual the ever studious anti-labor pundit of the Republican party, Limbaugh lashed out with a venomous and verbal tirade against not only the NALC but all unions! He stated that the NALC leadership was railroading the members into endorsing only Democrats for President! Limbaugh continued to demean and castigate by insinuating that there was an NALC conspiracy to hide facts and information that there were Republican presidential candidates. Rush apparently believes that all letter carriers are uneducated, ignorant and do not read the newspapers like President Bush, we do not listen to the radio or watch television for any news about pertinent issues? The letter carrier and Limbaugh did not seek the truth however Rush did manipulate the facts to support the Republican and conservative point of view. President Bill Young mailed Mr. Rush Limbaugh the entire facts. Bill told the so called "Big Fat Liar" that all 18 presidential candidates were mailed surveys and they were informed that they had 7 weeks to respond. 7 Democrats responded to the NALC's survey and to add further insult to injury none of the Republican candidates responded to the International AFL-CIO's survey. Therefore none of the Republicans were not allowed to participate in the debate held at Soldiers Field in Chicago in August of 2007. Yet millions of Limbaugh's listeners and 40% of our union membership continue to follow the Republican game plan of continually telling the same repeated lies long enough so that they will be believed as truthful! Adolph Hitler and his 1933 to 1945 propaganda minister, Paul Joseph Goebbels did the same thing during their reign of terror.

It has become clear that President Bush will pass on his war to the next President. He revealed this to the country during an

address to the nation. I am not surprised by this because Bush has always had another country, business or an individual to bail him out on any of his incompetent decisions or business deals. The Democrats in the Senate have tried to pass legislation to set a specific date to withdraw the troops out of Iraq but it was again torpedoed by the Republicans! Senator John McCain, Republican candidate for President, continues to state that there will be 'no surrender in Iraq.' I have the greatest respect for Senator McCain because he survived being a POW and served his country which is more than I can say about the current President. However, when naval officer John McCain was captured in Vietnam after having his jet shot down, why did he 'SURRENDER' to the North Vietnamese? Apparently the shoe only fits when someone else is wearing it?

President Bush attacked the Democrats and an add from Move-On.org for attacking General Petraeus which printed his name as General Be-Tray-Us. President Bush stated "I thought the ad was disgusting. I felt like the ad was an attack not only on General Petraeus, but on the U. S. Military. And I was disappointed that not more leaders in the Democrat party spoke out strongly against that kind of ad. And that leads me to come to this conclusion: that most Democrats are afraid of irritating a left-wing group like Moveon.org or more afraid of irritating them, than they are of irritating the United States military." Yet, he was never outraged by the blogs and television attack ads from Republicans and conservative groups that ambushed Vietnam decorated veterans, triple amputee Senator Max Cleland and Senator John Kerry. Bush never condemned the ads attacking Senator Cleland as being unpatriotic or that the Vietnam Swift-boaters were lying about Senator Kerry's decorations and his heroism. The President only attacks or allows attacks against those individuals that speak out against his policies or contradicts them! He believes in freedom of speech when and only when he or the Republicans are speaking.

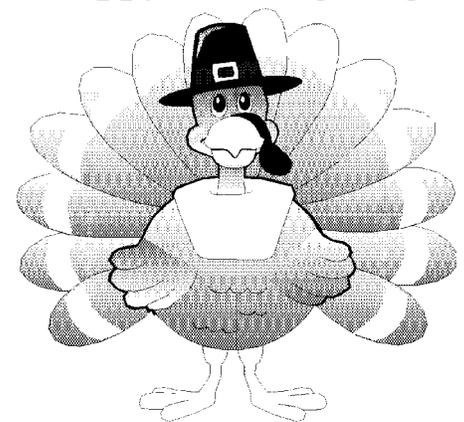
Now for one of the many hypocrisies of this President, the proposed veto of a bill to increase the expansion of the 'children's health insurance program or (CHIP).' President Bush stated that "this bill is too costly, unacceptably raises taxes, extends government-covered insurance to children in families who can afford private coverage and smacks of a move toward completely federalized health care." Dean Baker wrote that the war in Iraq

is costing American taxpayers \$120 billion a year. This is equal to approximately 4% of the total spending of \$400 per person per year. The bill likely to be approved by Congress which is about \$30 billion different than Bush's proposal would be about \$6 billion over 5 years (\$20 per person per year). The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this moneys would insure an additional 4 million children. The Bush Administration refuses to help our own because they would rather spend on average \$120 billion a year on the war in Iraq. This is approximately \$10 billion a month or roughly \$0.3 billion a day. Yet the President and his advisors can not comprehend that every 20 days enough money is spent in Iraq which would make up the difference between the SCHIP bill that will likely to be sent to the White House. The CBO estimates the additional funding would insure an additional 4 million children. Here is some more fuzzy liberal math. 200,000 children can be insured for one year for one day of expenditures in Iraq! The compassionate conservative could additionally finance SCHIP by cutting the subsidies that private insurers receive from the Medicare program and the Medicare prescription drug benefit could be changed so that drug companies charge the same prices to individuals as they charge to the Veterans Administration. These industries made huge political contributions for these subsidies and the God almighty dollar comes first before our children's health!

"We have two kinds of morality side by side: one which we preach but do not practice, and the other which we practice but seldom preach."  
Bertrand Russell



## Happy Thanksgiving



**Donations Committee Report**

by Adam Noble

**E**ach month the Donations Committee of the Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. recommends to the Board of Directors that a donation be given to a local (Tampa, Brandon, Ruskin, or Sun City Center) charity. The donation will be used by that charity to help in the local community.

We all know of local charities that are working hard to give a hand up to those who need help from time to time. The Donations Committee would like to know of these charities.

If you wish for them to know that we may be able to help them, have them write to:

T.L.C. Donations Committee  
3003 W. Cypress St.  
Tampa, FL. 33609-1617

Please include a contact person and a phone number. Thank You.

**THE FINAL INSPECTION**

The soldier stood and faced his God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?”

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
“No, Lord, I guess I ain’t.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I’ve been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn’t mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn’t be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don’t, I’ll understand.”

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

“Step forward now, you soldier,  
You’ve borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets,  
You’ve done your time in Hell.”

Author unknown

# 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**

## Around The Horn

by Tony Diaz

Financial Secretary - Branch 599

***Elections & Quick Hits***

**B**rothers and Sisters, election time is upon us, and Nominations for the election of officers for Branch 599 will held at our October and November Branch meetings. Here is an opportunity for anyone interested to become involved in a variety of positions that directly affect the every day operations of your Branch. There are many offices Nominations will be held for; President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Trustees (3), MBA/NSBA Rep., Health Benefit Rep., Director of Retirees, and Labor/Management Representatives (2). The new term begins on January 19, 2008 and the duration served 3 years. The election will take place on December 6, 2007 at the Union Hall, before the regular Branch meeting. Absentee ballots are available by request by telephoning the Union Hall from Nov 2nd, thru Nov 21st. Another option is to get involved in the operations of our beautiful Union Hall. The TLC Board meets once a month and is responsible for the upkeep, remodeling, Hall rentals and anything having to do with our Union Hall. Currently we are finalizing details to completely remodel both the men and women's bathrooms to make them handicap accessible, which is required and necessary. The TLC Board recently approved a much-needed interior renovation aimed to improve the appearance of our Hall. Should this be something you might want to get involved in, make yourself available. Board openings are posted in our Local Newsletter when they become available, there are no elections in 2007. The objective of this article obviously is to encourage everyone to get involved in your Union. We need to get more of our members involved to educate and update on the most recent topics that pertain to us all. I would be elated to see our Union Hall filled that first Thursday of every month. Get involved!!!

I want to begin a new segment this month, a suggestion by a member and a loyal Around The Horn reader. In keeping with my Article Title, "Quick Hits" will hopefully provide readers with the latest news and developments happening locally as well as nationally just in case you missed it.

**Quick Hits: Information You Should Know**

- Our new contract will have been signed by the time you receive the Newsletter, but did you know; President William H. Young announced on September 20th that the 2006-2011 National Agreement, ratified by a vote of the membership (104,346 to 11,895), would be signed on October 9th. President Young and Postmaster General Jack Potter will conduct the signing ceremony at the headquarters of the United States Postal Service at 10 a.m.
- President William H. Young announced on September 26th that the lump sum payment of \$686 to cash out the COLA from November 2006 through May 2007 would be included in carriers' October 19th paychecks, which you should have already received.
- The back pay for active carriers related to the 1.4% general wage increase covering the period between November 25, 2006 and the end of Pay Period 20 (September 28th) will be paid in their regular paychecks on November 30th.

- Eight new PTF's were hired for Tampa and will be dispersed to Stations throughout the city.

- President William H. Young announced on Sept. 12 that the NALC has endorsed Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) in the 2008 presidential election. Sen. Clinton was the overwhelming choice of letter carriers in a nationwide poll of NALC members.

- The NALC Health Benefit Plan has announced that CIGNA HealthCare, will be the new network provider for doctors and hospitals for Plan members beginning January 2008, this is a great move.

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

**HERBALIFE.**

- Personalized Weight Management
- Targeted Nutrition
- Energy & Fitness Products
- Personal Care Products

All products backed by world-renowned doctors and scientists, plus a 30-day money back guarantee!

For a free sample pack contact:

Marilyn Good  
Office: (727) 954-8364  
E-mail: [mgoodnutrition@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mgoodnutrition@tampabay.rr.com)  
Website: [mgoodnutritionmall.com](http://mgoodnutritionmall.com)

## Carrier Craftsmanship

by Sam Santilli

*Dealing With Change*

**F**irst and foremost I would like to start my article by saying thank you to all my union brothers and sisters for the support, the monies, the prayers, the food and the true union spirit. During the tragic loss of my son the outpouring of support and thoughts were very comforting. Once again, my homies at Hilldale were there at all times making me proud to be a Hilldalean.

Enough of that because it is going to be a tough road for all of us union brothers and sisters.

It looks as if change is inevitable involving the way we carriers deliver

mail. Its been 15 years since DPS started putting our mail in delivery sequence and it's just as bad today as it was at its inception. Now, our flats are going to be subjected to this process of double and triple handling of the mail.

So as letter carriers, proud of our work, we try to fix all of management's creations that don't work the same as the thought processes behind them. Longer hours on the street, frustrating heat, nagging customers, less supervisor time (maybe ?). We should and will deal with the changes as always.

One thing we should do is to never forget:  
1. Why we work 2. Why do we have to deal with bad ideas 3. Why ? Why ? Why ?

Don't get caught up in the incessant complaining we all do and hear. Try a new

approach, a new motto if need be:

Live, laugh, and love,  
for life is short and things change.



I worked for my children but I also spent lots of time with them. Don't let your job be number one because life changes happen quickly.

That's how I see it. Tell me how you see it.

Write to me at:  
P.O. Box 151904  
Tampa, FL 33684

Thank you and god bless.

Union brother "Sam" Santilli



"Justice For All"

**You have many rights as an American citizen today. It is important to know and exercise your rights. But, if you don't know your rights ... you don't have any!**

A Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc., membership gives you the ability to access professional legal services at a fraction of the usual cost.

We also take away the worry and frustration of locating a lawyer who can help, no matter what the problem.

Any time you have a legal problem or question, you can have access to a quality law firm through a Life Event Legal Plan membership.

Now the services of a capable lawyer and preventive legal care are just a phone call away!

Want to understand more or receive additional information to join?

Take a look at your new offered benefit today.

**Contact: Lisa A. Harrison, Independent Associate  
813-731-3396 or [www.prepaidlegal.com/hub/Harrison\\_L](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/hub/Harrison_L)**

## Things You Should Know

### *In The Good Old Days*

**T**he good old days, how many of you have heard that one? Let's go over a few of those wonderful days. First, you were hired as a temporary indefinite employee, temps as they were called. That placed your name on a long list of temps just in order to become a certified employee. Your score had to be the highest at the time of employment and or you reminded a temp. The difference between the two, the certified carrier receives all the benefits, the temp none of them. Some temps stayed in that status for a few years. Those years as a temp did not count towards your retirement only when you were certified did your time begin. The temps did work more hours because they were not paid time and a half. Temps were also offered split schedules back then, you would work four hours, go home for two hours, and then return for four more hours. As

you can see, the Postal Service always had casuals and TE employees, only with different titles in other eras. This practice was finally stopped in May '68; all employees were now paid time and a half, along with certification at time of employment. In the good old days our Downtown carriers had fixed days off, so the temps worked every Saturday for them. This is one of the 22 items in our local MOU, which was changed to rotating days off in the early 70's. That item had caused quite a division among the carriers in the good old days. Downtown and Seminole stations were mostly bicycle routes back then, try riding a bicycle with dogs in the area. This method of delivery was eliminated in the early 70's, because of the safety factor. We were also on a collection schedule, with two weeks on, and two weeks off. The collections schedules ran from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with shorter hours 4-6:30 on Sundays. All collections started at the sectional center, which was on Swan Avenue, these collections also ended there. All temps worked out of a "pool", meaning you would receive a call at 5 a.m. or not. A supervisor would call with instructions

as to what station to report to work that day. You were still responsible for you collection duties, even though you carried a route that day. Some temps were chosen to work at a fix station, but most remained in the "pool", until they were converted. The pay scale had 21 steps, with the last three steps, 15-18-21; each needed three years in between to achieve the final step. You career could be over before reaching that last pay step (21 years), this without accomplishing your high three years. There are some good and bad points in every era. In the good old days, there were very little street or office supervisors, only 2 in any station. Today there is 2 supervisors at any desk. Our Union has achieved great many accomplishments in our past and present, but we must continue to strive improving, for better working conditions. Maybe our good old days are the ones we are presently enjoying.



by **Gilbert Cabanas**

*Vice-President - Branch 599*

## Retired But Not Tired

### *Retirees Report*

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters of Branch 599,

In the months of October and November nominations for branch officers will take place. December 6th you will be voting not only for branch officers, but Shop Stewards as well. By no means should elections be taken lightly. For the next 3 years those elected will be representing YOU and running the union. Soon candidates will be writing letters to members and going to stations to get your support. Ask questions: Why are you running? What are your qualifications? Do you work for the good of the membership? Are you a leader or a follower? The main thing is to vote. Every vote counts. At the last election this writer lost by two votes as Financial Secretary. Popularity or Qualifications.

Facts or Fiction. Truth or Lies. Everyone is entitled to get a ballot. As a union member it is your duty to vote either my mail-in, or at the union hall on December 6.

On Oct. 1 the retiree's breakfast was held at the Coffee Cup. Ted Freeman, long time retiree, has been in attendance the last two months. It is always great to have new faces show up. Talking about the good old days and how it was. Reminiscing always brings back a lot of memories and a lot of laughs. Who were the good supervisors and who were the bad and ugly? Consensus was about 2% good, 98% bad. They know who they are so does everyone else. No need to mention names because I don't want writer's cramp. We talked about our health plan replacing the Coventry Healthcare PPO with the CIGNA HealthCare Shared Administration PPO network. Also a lot of B.S. Go Bulls-Bucs-BoSox. At the September breakfast we had 16 in at-

by **John Gebo**

*Director of Retirees - Branch 599*

tendance. At the Oct. 1 we had 11 happy, healthy retirees. Speaking of happy, how about a Big Happy Birthday to Sy Adel. Sy celebrated his 84th birthday October 1. Fernando Quintanilla celebrated his 85th birthday this past September. Wishing you both the best in your Golden Years. Thanks to those who attend our breakfast and make it successful. So to Dupree, Munns, Rossell, Bobeau, Krezel, Lundy, Oliva, Stoffer, Freeman and Adel, thanks for showing up. We had several M.I.A. Hope to see you next month, November 5, 2007, 9AM, at the Coffee Cup, 4407 N. Hubert.

So, as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans sang, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."

Fraternally,  
John Gebo



## Sam Santilli

### Memorial Foundation



Dear Friends,

Tragically, our community lost a very special young man this summer. Sam Santilli was 16 years old and was going to begin his 3rd year at Hillsborough High School in August. Two of Sam's favorite activities were soccer and the marching band. It was through these activities that Sam learned the importance of respect and teamwork, which he demonstrated continually on the HHS soccer field and in the HHS Marching Band

It is with this in mind that a memorial foundation has been established to pay tribute to Sam's memory. The purpose of this foundation is to create opportunities for selected students of Hillsborough High School and to enable them to participate in soccer or marching band activities that might not otherwise be possible. Teachers, coaches, and administrators of Hillsborough

High School will identify deserving students and appropriate activities or items to sponsor with Foundation funds.

Bernstein Global Wealth Management will be responsible for investing the proceeds of the Foundation; the goal is to distribute only investment proceeds each year, thus maintaining the principle and allowing the foundation to be perpetual. Each recipient will receive a letter acknowledging his or her grant from the Foundation with the responsibility of using the gift wisely and appropriately. It is felt that students who honor this responsibility will pay tribute to Sam's memory and will lay the groundwork for the spirit of philanthropy in their own lives.

Individuals who wish to donate to the Foundation may do so by sending a check to:

**Sam Santilli Memorial Foundation**  
**c/o Nicole Fielder, VP BankAtlantic**  
**12951 N. Dale Mabry Highway**  
**Tampa, FL 33618**

Please note that the Foundation is a Florida Not For Profit Corporation that is in the process of applying for its tax exempt/ deductible status, and expects confirmation of this in the near future. Therefore, donors will be able to deduct their contributions to the Foundation. Any questions regarding the Foundation may be directed to any member of the Board of Directors listed below at telephone number: 813-879-7478.



Thank you for your consideration in helping us to honor the memory of our beloved friend, your classmate, your family member, Sam Santilli.

Sincerely yours,

*John Rayhack, M.D.*  
 John Rayhack, M.D.

*Mary Anne Swenson*  
 Mary Anne Swenson

*Joy Langworthy*  
 Joy Langworthy, OTR/L

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>

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

## Take a Break This Holiday Season... SKIP Your Loan Payment!



No matter how big or small your holiday plans may be, some extra spending money will definitely help. That is why your Credit Union is allowing you to skip one or all your loan payments this holiday season.

For a small fee of \$30 per loan, you are able to skip your payment for the month you choose (November or December).\*

To skip one or all your loan payments (excluding MasterCard, 1st Mortgages and Home Equity Loans) log on to [www.tpcu.org](http://www.tpcu.org), call 813.264.4969 or stop by any branch location.



**TAMPA POSTAL**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

\* A \$30 payment deferral fee per skipped monthly loan payment(s) will be added to the balance of the loan. Interest will accrue on all loans affected by the program, which may cause that maturity date on all loans to be extended. Restrictions apply. Contact the credit union for more information. To skip your payment(s) you must contact the credit union no later than October 29th.

