



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 7 - Issue 2

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

Tampa, Florida

February 2008

## President's Report

by Jim Good

*President - Branch 599*

### Prepare Yourself

The final results from Branch 599's election run-off are in and the new Executive Vice-President is Dook Ramotar. Congratulations to Dook, and all the newly elected and returning officers. Now it's time to gather all our resources and work together so that we, the elected officers and shop stewards, can represent the members of our branch in the best way possible.

Speaking of representation, it is getting harder and harder to find carriers who are willing to step up to the plate and get involved in the union. It's great that we have over 97 % membership locally in Branch 599, but we desperately need more young blood. A large majority of officers and shop stewards are within a few years of retirement age (or already retired). What is going to happen when they are gone? Are we, as a branch, going to be able to continue to give the same kind of representation that we have been giving in the past? It's easy to say to yourself, "I'm working a lot of overtime and I don't have time to get involved". But what if everyone were to say that? We would all be in

trouble, because whether you realize it or not, if it weren't for our union we would all be TE's, working without health benefits and sick leave, hoping that we would still have a job next year. So please, take a moment to reflect on the benefits that your union has negotiated for you. Make a responsible decision to get involved in your branch so that letter carriers in the future will have the same strong representation that Branch 599 now delivers.

I have received notification that three Tampa stations will have route inspections this spring. Hilldale Station will be the first, starting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following that, on March 29<sup>th</sup> will be Forest Hills Station with Commerce beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Brandon will also be inspected beginning on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of carriers properly filling out the paperwork (1838-C's) during the inspections. For many years management filled out these forms for the carriers, but all that changed a few years back. Now the carriers must fill out the 1838-C's every day except the day of the actual inspection. This is not something we do every day during our normal routine, as you all know. That is why all carriers need to attend the route inspection classes that will be given by our branch prior to the inspections. The classes will be scheduled the week before the inspection, in the evening at our union hall. Even though management is mandated to give every carrier a

"dry run" it should not take the place of these classes. Just remember, the results of your inspection will be something that you will have to live with for the next two, three or more years. As it becomes more and more expensive for management to conduct these inspections they will become less and less frequent. So invest a few hours in learning, or in many cases re-learning what you may have forgotten. A few very dedicated union activists will donate their time to help you prepare and learn how to protect yourselves, so please take the time to help yourself.



In closing, I just want to say that I am looking forward to working with all of the new officers and shop stewards. I have decided to dedicate more time to the training and education of all of your officers, new and experienced alike. I have enlisted some of our most qualified, proven trainers to help me in this endeavor. Times are constantly changing and we must continue to learn if we are going to be effective in continuing the job that we were elected to do.

In unionism,  
Jim Good

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**Branch Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**February 7**  
**7:30 PM**

**Branch 599 Officers**

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Dook Ramotar	(813), 404-4380 cell
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516, cell 597-7396
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mike Brink	(813) 661-1106
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	A. Sam Santilli	(813) 215-7595

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Phil Chirico	(813) 657-3180
Carrollwood	33618	Dook Ramotar	(813) 404-4380
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	A. Sam Santilli	(813) 215-7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Bill Mandikas	(813) 263-8636
Hyde Park	33606	Tom Cobert	(813) 694-0711
Interbay	33611	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Interbay	33629	Jim Tobin	(813) 716-3696
MacDill	33608	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Jim Davis	(813) 961-6865
Port Tampa	33616	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 685-9034
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
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	John Duffield	(813) 899-2405
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**  
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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**

**by Dook Ramotar**

*Executive Vice-President - Branch 599*

***Running With You***

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

As you are aware by now the special run of election for Executive Vice President was held on January 3rd 2008.

Despite delivering in the cold all day and having to fight the traffic to the union hall and then home, these actions were appreciated very much by this candidate, Therefore I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who participated and voted so that your voices could be heard.

In my new role as Executive Vice President I can honestly say that I am willing to learn the Do's and Don'ts

of the office. I look forward to working along side with Mr. James Good President and Mr. Gilbert Cabanas Vice-President. I know there will be a period involving the learning process of the office. My responsibilities will be to our Union and my ability id to exert the best interest for our membership. .

My primary goal is to police the contract and I can assure you that this will not be a problem for me, as a Shop Steward I successfully did so for many years in my station. For many years I attended union training, seminars, rap sessions and conventions. I had the pleasure to personally meet and make friends with the instructors and officers of our unions; I know that I will be calling on them for assistance and guidance.

As a Letter Carrier and Shop Steward I used these words daily "IM RUNNING FOR THE BOSS TODAY", don't get me wrong I draw my strength from my inner believes and National Agreement. My added commitment my new phrase and us towards you will be in my heart and spirit. I will be **RUNNING WITH YOU!** Your concern is my concern.

I take this opportunity to thank you so very much once again for the confidence and support you have instilled in me by electing me as your Executive Vive President. I will be always available to help and assist you in any way I can... Take care, Dook H. Ramotar Sr..



**President's Station Visits**

Sulphur Springs	Thursday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>
Ybor Station	Wed, February 20 <sup>th</sup>
Hyde Park Annex	Friday, February 29 <sup>th</sup>
T. C. A. 33607	Wed, March 5 <sup>th</sup>
T. C. A. 33609	Thursday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>
Produce Station	Wed, March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Interbay 33611	Wed, March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Interbay 33629	Thursday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>



# ***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*

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## **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**

## Unionism

***B-Team Impasse and Arbitration***

by Brian Obst

Chief Steward - Branch 599



Previously we had processed our grievance through the different steps of the Dispute Resolution Process and we are currently waiting for a decision from the B-Team. As stated previously the B-Team has four possible decisions when hearing a case. In deciding a grievance the team chooses among four options. It may:

- Resolve the grievance,
- Impasse the grievance if the team cannot resolve it.
- Remand the grievance to the Step A parties with specific instructions, or
- Hold the decision pending resolution of a representative case or National interpretive case.

For the purposes of our discussion we will be looking at the Impasse part of the decisions.

**Impasse**

If the Dispute Resolution Team cannot resolve a grievance it issues a Step B decision called an "impasse." A Step B impasse decision must state in detail the reasons for the impasse, and also must include a statement of any additional facts and contentions not included in the Step A appeal. The Dispute Resolution Team sends a Step B impasse decision to the NALC National Business Agent and to the union and management Formal Step A representatives.

The JCAM addresses the handling of grievances Impassed by the B-Team and the information is printed below:

*15.2 (d) The Union's National Business Agent (NBA) or designee may Step B (d) appeal an impasse directly to arbitration at the Grievance/Arbitration Processing Center within fourteen (14) days after the receipt of the Step B impasse in accordance with the procedure hereinafter set forth.*

*The National Business Agent may appeal an impassed grievance to arbitration within 14 calendar days after receipt of the Step B decision.*

*15.2 (e) If either party's representative at Step B or the NBA or Step B (e) Employer's*

*Area representative thereafter maintains that the grievance involves an interpretive issue under the National Agreement, or some supplement thereto which may be of general application, the issue will be discussed with the appropriate National Union / Management Representatives at the Headquarters Level. If either party's National Representative determines the issue to be interpretive, a written notice will be sent to the other party specifying in detail the facts giving rise to the dispute, the precise interpretive issues to be decided and the initiating party's contention. The grievance(s) shall be held at the Step B level pending discussion at the national level or the outcome of a National Arbitration award.*

If either member of the Step B team, or the NBA or USPS Area representative believes that an impassed grievance involves an interpretive issue, the issue will be discussed with the appropriate National Union / Management Representatives at the Headquarters Level. When either party's National Representative determines the issue to be interpretive, a written notice will be sent to the other party specifying in detail the facts giving rise to the dispute, the precise interpretive issues to be decided and the initiating party's contentions. The grievance(s) will be held at the Step B level pending settlement or arbitration of the issue at the national level.

**Interpretive Step**

*In any interpretive dispute properly initiated at this Step by the appropriate National Union/Management Representative, the parties shall meet at the National level promptly, but in no event later than thirty days after initiating such dispute in an effort to define the precise issues involved, develop all necessary facts and reach agreement. The Union representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute in whole or in part. The Employer's representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute in whole or in part. The parties' national representatives may, by mutual agreement, return any dispute to Step B where (a) the parties agree that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented or (b) it appears that all relevant facts have not been developed adequately. In such event, the parties shall meet at Step B within fifteen days after the dispute is returned to Step B. Thereafter*

*the procedures and time limits applicable to Step B grievances shall apply. Should the parties at the National level fail to reach agreement, then within fifteen days of such meeting each party shall provide the other with a statement in writing of its understanding of the issues involved, and the facts giving rise to the interpretive dispute. In the event the parties have failed to reach agreement within sixty (60) days of the initiation of the dispute, the Union then may appeal it to national arbitration within thirty (30) days thereafter. Any local grievances filed on the specific interpretive issue shall be held in abeyance at the appropriate level pending resolution of the national interpretive dispute.*

Interpretive disputes are handled at the Headquarters level in accordance with the above procedures.

The issue of arbitration is handled by the NBA's office and if scheduled for arbitration the case will be assigned to one of the Arbitration Advocates in the Suncoast District. Once assigned the Advocate will get a copy of the case file and meet with the grievant, steward and any witnesses that might be able to provide helpful testimony for the hearing. The hearing is conducted similar to a court hearing and the Arbitrator is the judge. Once the case is heard the Arbitrator will take all the information for review and they have a set period of time (thirty days) to render the decision. Remember this is the end of the appeal line, the arbitrator ruling is final and may not be appealed.

This has been a general overview of the B-Team Impasse and Arbitration Process and the detailed information in the JCAM is available for review on the NALC.org website and I recommend going there and doing some review work from time to time to keep current with any changes. If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or the Branch's two Arbitration Advocates – President Jim Good and current Executive Vice President Detlev Aeppel.

As always I end with *Knowledge is the key.*

Brian Obst  
Chief Steward - Branch 599

## Union Matters

by Detlev Aepfel

*Getting Out The Vote*

**L**et me begin by offering my congratulations to Dook Ramotar our newly elected Executive Vice President. After three long months the Branch 599 elections are finally over. Now is the time for our branch to seriously consider overhauling our election process.

Let's start with the nominating process. Currently nominations for branch officers are made during both the October meeting and the November meeting. This needlessly drags out the process. In most cases the people interested in running for office have been nominated during the October meeting. Now they must wait another month on the odd chance that someone else might be nominated. This makes strategizing difficult and delays the campaign. The November nominations should be dropped.

If someone is truly interested in running for an elected office then they should be certain to attend the October meeting. If they are successfully elected there will be many occasions where they will have to do whatever is necessary to be present to represent the membership so this would be good practice. Or, with a little planning ahead, a prospective candidate could have a contingency plan in place whereby they have given the person nominating them a letter of acceptance of the nomination, to be presented to the chair in the event unforeseen circumstances force their absence.

Branch 599 needs to switch to voting by mail. There are over 1100 eligible voting members of Branch 599. During the first election, held in December, 285 members voted. That's a little over 25% of eligible voters. That vote ended in a tie. The runoff election only did a little bit better. The runoff saw 343 votes counted or a 31% turnout. A vote by mail would

provide every member with a direct avenue to participate in the election process. Illness or unforeseen circumstance would not effect a member's ability to vote. There would be no need to remember to call in for an absentee ballot. There would be no need to be certain to remember to travel to the union hall to cast a ballot. A member would only need to open the ballot they received in the mail, consider the choices, mark the ballot, and drop the ballot back in the mail.

In summary, nominations would be held in October, ballots would be mailed out in November, and votes would be counted in December. A vote by mail would greatly increase the chances that a majority of eligible members would cast a ballot for the branch officers of their choice. A majority vote would make our union that much more democratic.

In solidarity...



**Branch 599 Director of Retirees John Gebo, NALC Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland and Branch 599 President Jim Good at the Stewards & Officers Installation Dinner 2008**



**Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dupree at the Installation Dinner**

## A Point of Personal Privilege

by Leslie Ray Garcia

### Politics As Usual

**U**nion is defined as “an agreeing or leaguering together for mutual benefit.” A dictator is “a ruler with absolute power and authority, a person whose word must be obeyed.” Impeach means “to challenge the practices or honesty of; accuse; especially, to bring (a public official) before the proper tribunal on a charge of wrong-doing.” Parasite refers to “one who derives advantage or sustenance from another and gives nothing in return.”

So far I have found only one member of our local who ignored the first definition, exemplified the second definition and complied with the third. It seems that we may be in the mist of another such individual. This is much the same attitude that the Bush Administration has toward anyone that disagrees with their policies: “It is my way or it is the highway.” Unions have always been strong because they follow the democratic principle that all individuals have a voice in the organization. All officers of the union serve at the pleasure of the membership not at the benefit of those officers in power or their specific supporters.

Elections of all officers are supposed to be fair and equitable. *There are guidelines that must be established prior to the nomination of every one of the candidates.* An individual has no right to prevent an opposing candidate from campaigning on the workroom floor when the incumbent candidate or candidates have done so previously. Nor should an officer ask the incumbent candidate not to run for office because the challenger is the choice of said officer. This is highly unethical and beyond reproach! Yet when the current officer needed a specific ethnic group of members that individual was highly motivated to run with that specific candidate!

To win an election when you are not the choice candidate is difficult. I know because I did it some years ago but I did not have the thick skin to work with that officer of this Union at that time. I still don't and won't!

By the time this article is read we should know what candidates for President should

be representing their specific parties. Our national membership has selected to support Senator Hillary Clinton of New York as our candidate. However, I hope that former Senator John Edwards will be the candidate for the democratic party.

It seems that what the Bush administration stated was not the reason for war in Iraq is not exactly the truth. You know a “white lie.” Alan Greenspan stated, “I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil.”

The statements that the distribution of the oil profits would be established for the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds are also lies. It now seems that the contracts being drawn up call for 30 year exclusive rights for British and American oil companies that can not be revoked by any future Iraqi governments. The Iraqi government would technically own the oil but will not control it. In legal jargon it is not a “privatization” contract which the Iraqis are against but it is called a “production sharing agreement.” The oil companies would supposedly invest in developing the infrastructure for the oil and would get 75% of the “cost oil” profits until they got their investment back. Who deems when they've re-

ceived their investment monies no one knows. After the so called investment monies have been repaid the companies would then own the infrastructure and still receive 20% of the oil profits which is twice the usual rate. The oil profits are estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars. The Iraqi people would have no democratic control over their own major resource to which no other Middle East country has such an agreement!

None of this will work without military protection for the oil companies which will keep our military there indefinitely. The Republican catch phrase for keeping a military presence in Iraq is for our “vital interests.”

Another catch phrase is to state that our military will remain in Iraq until “victory” is achieved. The only victory will be in the profits that the oil companies will achieve with the blood of our soldiers and innocent Iraqi citizens. When will the *mission* be *accomplished*?

“The weak have one weapon — the errors of those who think they are strong.”

Georges Bidault



## Around The Horn

**Post-Holiday Blues**

**B**rothers and Sisters, as we begin the 2008 year I seem to be having some lingering affects from the Holiday Season. I don't think it is necessarily from the over eating and drinking or from trying to be 3 places at once while visiting friends and family. As I completed my 27<sup>th</sup> Christmas and Holiday Season with the Postal Service, I have seen it before, over and over and it still troubles me. You see I Love the Holidays and all the festivities that come with it. I Love the traditions and all the family functions and gatherings. I Love going to Christmas Parties and seeing old friends, reminiscing about old times, and listening and telling stories that make us all laugh. I love buying gifts that surprise and not divulging what the gift is before its time. I Love getting involved in giving and assisting the needy as I do every year. So it is very important for me, because of the excitement and enjoyment I still experience over the Christmas Holidays that I separate myself from the moods and the atmosphere surrounding the dreaded "Postal Work Place During the Holidays". Yes the dreaded (P.W.P.D.T.H) can zap all that excitement and cheer right out of you if you allow it to happen. I hate it; and every year I wish the dreaded (P.W.P.D.T.H.) could be a joyous place. I however am a realist and I just do not see that as a possibility after witnessing it for the 27<sup>th</sup> time. The long faces will always be there, and the attitude that "it's just the Holiday Season no big deal", will always be the frame of mind, and frankly this year it almost got me. When I saw several co-workers not participating in the Station Christmas

Party because of the pressure to get out of the office, I almost buckled. Knowing it is unrealistic to expect everyone to feel the joy I do for this festive time of year, I must use the word I dislike, Bah Humbug to sum this all up. In fairness, I know it is difficult to forget the unhappiness employees experience throughout the rest of the year. The difficulty to forget the scrutiny and pressures we are seemingly always under. Dealing with the fact the workforce has been short-handed for the past who knows how many years. Dealing with decisions that make you wonder who is running the place. For instance, like taking the Flyer on Christmas Eve even with DPS super heavy, knowing everyone wants to get home to his or her families. Maybe it is too much to expect Holiday Cheer!!

**Quick Hits:  
Information you should know**

- \*) T.E.s have begun to be prominent in Postal Facilities with the signing of the new National Agreement. Article 7 of the new contract allows the Postal Service to hire T.E.s.
- \*) Nationally, the number of T.E.s may not exceed 3.5% of the career city carriers covered by the contract. In each district T.E.s may not exceed 6% of the career city carriers.
- \*) T.E.s are hired for a term of no longer than 360 days, they may be rehired but there must be a break in service of at least five days between appointments.
- \*) Any T.E. who is scheduled and reports to work is guaranteed four hours pay, but may be scheduled for less than eight hours in a service day,

and less than 40 hours in a service week.

\*) The majority of the T.E.s hired in the Tampa Bay area (Branch 599) have joined the union

\*) T.E.s earn one hour of annual leave for each 20 hours worked, up to four hours per pay period. T.E.s do not earn any sick leave; they must use annual leave for illnesses or injuries.

\*) T.E.s cannot carry over annual leave from one 360-day appointment to another

\*) T.E.s are not eligible to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program during their first 360-day appointment.

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

**by Tony Diaz**

*Financial Secretary - Branch 599*




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## Health & Welfare

Retired letter carrier Frank Mendez passed away

Retired letter carrier Eugene Johnson passed away

Interbay letter carrier Bill Travis having surgery January 17<sup>th</sup>

## And The Beat Goes On

### New Blood Needed

At the first union meeting of 2008 in January our new Recording Secretary, Mike Brink did his job of reporting the minutes of the December meeting. As far as I'm concerned, he did an outstanding job and for the first time that I can remember, you could hear a pin drop while Mr. Brink spoke. Let's hope it stays that way.

I hear the Brandon P.O. has their postmaster back from temporary duty. He was gone almost four months and all were praying he was gone forever but this is the Post Office. Talking about the postmaster being back, what a lousy way to start the new year.

Now I hear thru the grapevine that

a carrier with an excellent driving record (over 30 years accident free), in moving over to let a car get by, the mirror on the P.O. vehicle was broken. Now I hear the postmaster wants to punish this carrier. Is this the way to treat your long time employees?

From reading the branch newsletter, John Gebo, who is in charge of the retirees, said that President Jim Good sometimes attends their breakfast and picks up the tab. Well, this writer is in charge of the Brandon retirees and we only meet every few months for a lunch. We would welcome President Good to attend his "step child" station of 60 routes (Brandon) for our retirees lunch. We don't expect him to buy our lunch but maybe our iced tea. Ha ha.

What's wrong with all the new carriers in Tampa? No one wants to run for

shop steward and move on up the ladder, from what I hear. Do you know that almost every office in our union is held by a retiree?

This is a damn shame. These officers have done their time as postal employees and also as union representatives.

We need new blood in Branch 599. If you have the drive there is no reason why you can't go all the way up to the top. Look at our national president: It was only a few years ago he was a shop steward in California. It can be done, so get out there and run for a Branch 599 office. We need new carriers in office.



by Ray Wallace

## Retired But Not Tired

### Election News

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Branch 599, after two elections we finally have elected an Executive Vice-President. Congratulations, Dook Ramotar!

I'm sure by now everyone knows why we needed two elections to choose an Executive Vice-President. Just in case you don't know, there was a tie for this position in the December elections. Do the active carriers care about who represents them? With the amount of carriers who voted, I would say, no.

I do know if I were still carrying mail, I would want at least one of the top three officers still carrying mail. Why? Because everything is hearsay unless you're on the workroom floor dealing with management yourself. Without that you just don't know what is going on. Knowledge

is one thing, being there is another.

There are nine retirees that hold positions on the Executive Board. In some cases it doesn't matter, retiree or active member, but in some, I believe an active member should hold the position. As Director of Retirees, I am not only concerned about retirees, I am concerned about the direction Branch 599 is going. This is your union. This is Branch 599. This has always been one of the best branches in the country. Let's keep it that way.

On January 3, 2008, as I was heading to vote, I bumped into retiree Modesto Garcia, who I hadn't seen for years. Mo and I reminisced for quite a while. We talked about Jimmie Scaglione and Joe Diaz, good union bothers and people I admired. Jimmie and I worked bingo together for years. I'll always remember his remark, when the crowd was too

loud: "The next number is B-quiet." As for Joe Diaz, I called him my adopted "God Father". If it hadn't been for Joe, I don't know what I would be doing today.

Being unemployed at the time, he was the one that told me to take the test for the USPS. Me, a letter carrier? Well, I guess everyone knows the rest of the story. I've had a great career with the post office, union and a good life, thanks to the USPS. Thanking you once again, Joe Diaz, and good health to you and all of my old buddies from the union. Next Retirees' Breakfast is on February 4, 2008.

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

Fraternally,  
John Gebo

by John Gebo

Director of Retirees - Branch 599



**Shop Steward & Officers Installation Dinner2008**



**Branch 599 President Jim Good welcomes NALC Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland**



**President Jim Good presents Attorney James Loper with a plaque making him an Honorary Member of Branch 599.**



**James Loper and wife Loraine, Mike Anderson and wife Kathy, Larry Tharrington and wife Virginia with Bill Moran & wife Shirley**

*All photos by Lomax McIntyre,*

**Shop Steward & Officers Installation Dinner 2008**



**Dennis and Veronica Lorenzo**



**Matt Rezanka and his wife**



**Branch 599 Recording Secretary Mike Brink and wife**



**Director of Retired Members Ernie Kirkland presents Jorge Miranda with his 50 year Gold Card**



**NALC Branch 599 Officers & Shop Stewards 2008**

*All photos by Lomax McIntyre, Jr.*

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599  
3003 West Cypress Street  
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