



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 6 - Issue 4

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

April 2007

President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

Management Without A Clue

I find it very disturbing that after new postal supervisors complete a sixteen week training program, consisting of both classroom and on-the-job training, they are still totally in the dark when it comes to some of the most basic aspects of their jobs. This training program, called the *Associate Supervisor Program (ASP)*, has been in effect for a number of years. An employee must pass an exam before they are considered for entry into the program. As I stated earlier, it is a sixteen week course in which the trainees must complete classroom work as well as work at a station under the guidance of a supervisor. Upon completion, the trainee is considered ready to supervise carriers on the workroom floor.

One of the most obvious areas that I find the new (and in many cases experienced) supervisors lacking in is workers' compensation. I understand that the *Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP)* is a very complicated process. There are numerous laws under the *Department of Labor* and the *Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA)* that must be followed, as well as dozens of different forms that must be filed in order for the employee to receive the benefits and coverage that they are entitled to. That is why the postal service has established the *Injury*

Compensation Department, located at the main office near the airport. But supervisors must have some basic knowledge regarding what to do when an employee has a traumatic on-the-job injury. There are three forms that must be completed when this type of injury occurs. The first, a CA-1, identifies the injury and how it is related to the job. If a CA-1 is filed, a CA-16 must be issued, signed by the supervisor and given to the injured employee. The CA-16 form authorizes medical treatment for the first sixty days and guarantees payment to the physician. In many cases medical treatment will be delayed if this form is not issued to the injured employee. It also must be noted that if this form is not issued within seven days of the accident, OWCP does not have to issue it. The third form, CA-17, must be given to the employee and filled out by the treating physician if restrictions are necessary when the employee returns to work. This form is also used if the employee is not able to return to work for a period of time.

Admittedly, the OWCP process is complicated, but the above issues are really all that the front line supervisor needs to know. Yet many don't even know these. I have had supervisors issue CA-17s for off-the-job injuries, refuse to issue CA-16s for on-the-job traumatic injuries and advise the carriers to file CA-2s (used to claim injuries that have happened over a long period of time rather than in one instance) for traumatic injuries. There is absolutely no excuse for a front line supervisor not knowing the basics of OWCP. If for some reason they cannot remember what they have been taught (hopefully), they can certainly call Janet Clayton in the Injury Compensation Department for advice.

Another problem I have found involving OWCP is the untimely processing

of the paperwork. In far too many cases the supervisor leaves the forms sitting on his/her desk for a week and then finishes filling them out and sending them to Injury Compensation. The Department of Labor gives the USPS ten days to process the necessary paperwork and forward it to the OWCP. Many times this is not happening.



Another major problem we are experiencing is the lack of ability floor supervisors have to run their operations without the approval of the powers that be on the third floor. Far too many times the shop stewards are being told, "I'll have to get back to you...". The supervisors will not admit to their inabilities but it is quite obvious. When a carrier puts in for annual leave for a Monday (which seems to be the day management can not spare any carriers), and the complement of carriers allowed off is not full, the supervisor should not have to do much thinking. They should approve the annual leave as the LMOU states and be done with it. Instead they give this lame excuse to buy them time so they can cover their butts. They also seem to have a major problem understanding what is clearly written in the national and local contracts. *The only carriers that management are permitted to count against the compliment of carriers allowed off on annual leave are as follows: those on extended sick leave (30 days or more) and those on military leave during the months of May, June, July and August. That's it! So don't let them tell you any*

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Branch Meeting
April 5, 2006
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 960-3759, cell 417-8877
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MBA / NSBA	Albert Guice	(813) 621-7931
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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	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
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	Robert Doval	(813) 727-9241
Interbay	33629	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914
MacDill	33608	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Port Tampa	33616	Robert Doval	(813) 727-9241
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	

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

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.

Jim Good - Publisher
 Kit Kelley - Editor

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

Executive Vice-President's Report

by Detlev Aepfel

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

Friends Worth Keeping

The goal of the national *Gimme 5 for COLCPE* campaign was to get 5% of our active membership contributing \$5.00 per pay period by automatic contribution to COLCPE, the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education, and 5% of our retired membership contributing \$5.00 per annuity check by automatic contribution to COLCPE. So far, 4.2% of the national membership has taken up the Gimme 5 challenge. That's a great start and those letter carriers who joined are to be applauded. Now President Bill Young has raised the bar a little higher. He believes that if we can double the number of letter carriers making automatic contributions to COLCPE we would once again become one of the top ten political action committees in the country and that would put us on an equal footing with UPS and Fed-Ex.

What has COLCPE done for us? During last year's elections COLCPE enabled the NALC to play a major role in electing a much more worker friendly congress. Numerous congressmen and senators have expressed their gratitude for the support given to them by the NALC. These

elected members of congress are very aware of letter carrier concerns and issues and refer to themselves as friends of the NALC. President Bill Young has met with these members of congress and explained the threat of contracting out now facing letter carriers and these members of congress have assured him that they would fight to stop contracting out if the need arose. As you all know, the issue of contracting out letter carrier's jobs was the major sticking point that prevented us from achieving a negotiated contract last fall. Common sense tells us that if management refused to budge on this one issue of contracting out then contracting out must be just over the horizon. We are talking about letter carrier jobs being taken away from letter carriers and given to private contractors instead. If no other solution is found then the NALC may be forced to take the issue of contracting out before congress. If it comes to that then the more friends we have in congress the better.

As of February 2007, Branch 599 had 40 members making automatic contributions to COLCPE. I am proud to say most of these members are contributing at or above the Gimme 5 level. In

addition, we have 7 other members who gave an occasional contribution in 2006. We will be assisting members signing up for automatic contributions before, during and after branch meetings beginning with our April 5, 2007 Branch 599 meeting. Active members will need to bring in a copy of their Postal Record magazine and a pay stub. Retired members will need to bring in their CSA retirement claim number. In addition, both active and retired members will need to bring in their PIN numbers. If you don't know your PIN number we can also help you get a new one. Members that sign up at the Gimme 5 rate or better will be given a free "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" Tee-shirt and will be entered in a national raffle and could win two round trip tickets to the city of their choice in the United States. Even without the contest, I think anyone that signs up to Gimme 5 is a winner since they will be helping the union win a more secure future for all letter carriers.



In solidarity...

President's Station Visits

Hilldale Station	33614	Tuesday, April 3
Town & Country	33615	Wednesday, April 4
Temple Terrace Annex	33617	Tuesday, April 10
Palm River	33619	Wednesday, April 11
Hilldale Annex	33634	Friday, April 13
Plant City	33564	Wednesday, April 18
Sun City	33570	Friday, April 20
Brandon	33510	Wednesday, April 25
Brandon	33511	Friday, April 27

President's Report *(from page 1)*

thing different. If they do ask to see your shop steward.
I have heard nothing new on negotiations for the new contract. By the time you read this we should be in the mediation process. If I hear anything your shop steward will know immediately.

Fraternally,

Jim Good
President - Branch 599

April Meetings

- Thur 4-5-07 - Executive Board Meeting
Union Hall, 6:30 PM
- Thur 4-5-07 - Branch Meeting
Union Hall, 7:30 PM
- Tues 4-24-07 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Health & Welfare

Retiree Larry Decos is in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Seminole Heights carrier David Brubaker is recovering from surgery after dog attack.

Forest Hills carrier Carol Lehde is recovering from a dog attack.

Mary Margaret Blanton, mother of Sun City carrier Sally Tedder, passed away.

Forest Hills Annex carrier Gustavo Vasquez passed away on Saturday, February 24, after his battle with cancer. He was 43 years old.

Interbay carrier Cheryl Clothier announces the birth of her first grand daughter, born on 2/25/07. She is 7 lbs, 9 oz. and 21 inches long. The parents, Lance and Nichole have named her Haylie Jade Clothier-de la Cruz. Congratulations, Cheryl.

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

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Unionism

Postal Forms That Protect Carriers

The Form 3996 and Form 1571 are management tools for running the workroom floor but when you use them properly they also are the carrier's best friend. These forms will afford the carrier with protection from the absent-minded supervisor who conveniently forgets what happened that morning or the previous day. Also they provide a record of what is happening on the route every day so when you return from being out you can see what went on with your route during that time period. That said, it raises the question: Why do carriers have such a hard time filling out these forms properly? To see if we can find the answers, let's look at the M39 and M41 for each of these forms.

Let's start with the 1571 otherwise known as the *Curtailed Mail Report*. The M39 111.2j states "...(*the supervisor will*) issue form 1571 when the carrier is instructed to curtail mail, indicating action thereon. Upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided to the carrier." Now it seems to me that the intent of the M39 is clear. If the supervisor tells you to curtail mail, they are to provide you with the 1571 at that time. There is no reason for the carrier to have to run the supervisor down later to try to get one. This is how we get the form. Now, on to how to use it properly.

The M41 under section 131.4, Reporting Requirements, parts 131.44, .45 and .46 describe the proper use of this form. The carrier is to report all mail that is undeliverable - including all mail distributed to the route but not cased and taken out for delivery, you may estimate the number of pieces of mail. This means any UBBM, CFS, markup mail and review mail that management prevents you from processing, as well as any mail management has specified for you to curtail. It naturally follows that 131.45 informs the carrier not to curtail any mail unless it is authorized by the supervisor. That is

logical since we all know we are supposed to take every piece every day unless directed otherwise but the second part is very important: Record all the facts on the Form 1571. This means if the supervisor directs you to curtail 6 feet of mail, you put the explanation "*supervisor direction*" in the remarks area. I would suggest you put down the supervisor's name as well, just to be safe. Finally, 131.46 states that once the form is filled out in the morning and you depart to deliver you are not done with this form - when you return in the evening you have to update the same form with any mail undelivered from your day of delivery. Simply stated this means any UBBM, CFS and review mail, hold mail, DPS errors etc are to be added with explanation to the form 1571 when your delivery day is over. Following the instructions for this form may seem tedious but it will protect you in the event there are questions on mail at your case. Next we'll look at the 3996.

The Form 3996 is the *Carrier - Auxiliary Control Form* and this form is used to account for overtime for your route, as well as any assistance provided to you on your route. You might know this as the *Trip Slip*. Management is tasked with providing this form to the carrier upon request, after being informed verbally as to the reason for the request. The employee shall not be denied the form and, upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided to the employee (M39 122.33). This means when you provide your supervisor with your morning estimate and you are not able to complete your route assignment within eight hours, you will need a 3996 for either assistance or overtime. You provide a verbal explanation of the reason for the overtime/assistance and the supervisor must provide you a 3996. This informing the supervisor should take place as soon as possible but not later than immediately following your last receipt of mail. Management will provide instruction to you at this time

by Brian Obst

Chief Steward - Branch 599



(M41 131.42). Remember that your estimate is based on all your mail that day, not just what will get you back by 5 PM. Once you are in receipt of your 3996, please read the directions and fill it out properly as an improperly filled out form is worthless to you if you need it later. Pay particular attention to *Item J* as this is where you will justify your need for overtime/assistance. Don't write "*heavy mail*" as this is not acceptable as an explanation. Do write things that happen to affect your delivery function such as *service talk, third bundle, union time, meeting with supervisor/station manager, fire drill, late DPS, parcels not ready*, and any of the other many things that happen to affect your delivery schedule. Also, it is a good practice to list number of parcels, footage of DPS and cased mail, number and type of accountables, any COAs processed and the amount of CFS and review mail handled, as these also impact your time. Your supervisor is tasked with initialing this form and providing you with instruction as to how the overtime/assistance will be handled.

Remember, that the M39 and M41 provide explanation on the proper use of these forms and I highly recommend that all carriers use the 5 minutes per week on the clock that you are guaranteed for review of handbooks and manuals, to familiarize yourself with these instructions. If you have any trouble, seek out the help of your shop steward and I'm certain he/she can provide you the needed assistance. Remember to ask for copies of the completed forms each day for your records. If the supervisor fails to provide them, or gives you any grief about this, tell your steward and I know he/she will remind the supervisor of the requirements of the M39 and M41 and that should settle the issue. One more thing about the 3996 is there are blocks on the bottom of the form for

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And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

Shop Stewards

It's very hard to write my articles anymore when I'm not working and Brandon carriers tell me nothing. I don't even hear anything about the postmaster any more. When I don't write, a lot of guys ask where my article was so I will try to write something each month.

I did hear this a while ago and it came from a good source so I know it's true. A carrier got back to the office past the 5 PM window. The postmaster was really upset and told the carrier that he would have to take the postal vehicle to Tampa to drop off his outgoing mail.

Well, this carrier is from the old school and works 100% by the book. He doesn't break any rules, like so many do to impress postal management. The postmaster had to wait for the carrier to return and I hear he got back to Brandon about 9 PM. This is so funny as the postmaster could have taken this mail on his way home (which I hear is in that area) and could have saved a lot of overtime.

I hear through the grapevine that Branch 599 is looking for shop stewards, or anyone who might be interested in learning about it. It takes a very special person who can do it. It really is a lousy job. There is a lot of reading of local and national contracts, going to training, being the person who management dislikes, and also having your brother and sister carriers get mad at you when you can't give them what they want. You will be asked for advice

about everything and you will have to make decisions that you won't like. To be good, there can be no favorites. Everyone is equal and you will never use your position for your own best interests. At the end of the day when all go home and forget the job, the shop steward goes home and never forgets it. Some part of it will be with you 24/7. You will be watching TV that night and your mind will wander to a grievance that you're working on. You have to have a very understanding wife, if married, because as time goes on, it seems like you are married to the union more so than to her.

Brandon at one time had it's own local. Luther Sands was the President. He left on disability. Then President Ray Sullivan resigned and the vice-president, yours truly, became president. Those were tough days. I knew no more about the union than the man in the moon. We had an overzealous 204-B who made my life miserable. Many nights I stayed up until midnight reading the contract. The tougher that 204-B got, the smarter I got with union rules.

Even if you're a quiet type person and don't get involved in anything, I still encourage you to push yourself and become a shop steward. There was no one in this world more of an introvert than this writer. No one ever knew I was there as I said nothing. I'm still quiet compared to most. However, what I got from the union is hard to express in words. It made me a 100% better person than I ever was. I gave 100% to the union and I got back that much, and more. You gain confidence and self respect in who you are. You meet a lot of great people, union as well as management. You get to travel to other

parts of Florida for training and meet others like yourself. You can go to the national conventions in other parts of the USA, as well as state conventions in Florida. If you are so inclined, there is no reason why you could not become a national officer, all the way to the top as did NALC President Bill Young. A few years ago he was a shop steward in an office in California.



It's a tough job but it does have its rewards, such as the good feeling you get when you get a carrier the justice they deserve rather than the punishment management was going to give. You, the shop steward, are the lawyer of the contract. Think it over and call Jim Good and tell him you want to be a great shop steward.

Brandon retiree John Matta's name was drawn so he could have won the *Arslan Uniform* drawing \$60.00 prize, had he been at the March union meeting.

Arslan Uniform Drawing

The jackpot for the drawing sponsored by *Bill Moran* and *Arslan Uniforms* is up to \$70.

Just show up for the branch meeting and, if your name is drawn, it's your money.

On top of that, you just might learn something new about what's going on concerning your job.

Unionism (from page 5)

the carrier providing the auxiliary assistance to enter times for travel to and from, as well as delivery time on, the trip. These are very important as we want the trip times to be put on the proper route. Thus, when we go through inspections the route data used

will be accurate for that particular route, not artificially inflating the data on another route.

This has been a quick overview of these forms but there is much more that the carrier should learn so please review the manuals and read the directions on the

form, as this will help you get it right.

That's all for now. Remember: *Knowledge is the key to success.*

Brian Obst
Shop Steward - Town and Country

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A Point of Personal Privilege

by Leslie Ray Garcia

No Consequences

President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney will never be impeached or censured even though they

- (1.) Violated the United Nations Charter by launching an illegal 'War of Aggression' against Iraq without cause, using fraud to sell the war to Congress and the citizens of the United States, misusing government funds to begin bombing without Congressional authorization and subjecting our military personnel to unnecessary harm, debilitating injuries and deaths.
- (2.) Violated U. S. and International law by authorizing the torture of thousands of captives, resulting in dozens of deaths and keeping prisoners hidden from the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- (3.) Violated the Constitution by arbitrarily detaining Americans, legal residents and non-Americans without due process, without charge and without access to counsel.
- (4.) Violated the Geneva Convention by targeting civilians, journalists, hospitals and ambulances, and using illegal weapons, including white phosphorous, depleted uranium and a new type of napalm.
- (5.) Violated U. S. law and the Constitution through widespread wiretapping of the phone calls and emails of Americans without warrant.
- (6.) Violated the Constitution by using "signing statements" to defy hundreds of laws passed by Congress.
- (7.) Violated U.S. and state law by obstructing honest elections in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006.
- (8.) Violated U.S. law by using paid propaganda and disinformation, selectively and misleadingly leaking classified information and exposing the identity of a covert CIA operative working on sensitive 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' proliferation for political retribution.
- (9.) Subverted the Constitution and abused Presidential power by asserting a "Unitary Executive Theory", giving unlimited powers to the President, by obstructing efforts by Congress and the Courts to review and restrict Presidential actions, and by promoting and signing legislation negating the Bill of Rights and the Writ of Habeas Corpus.
- (10.) Failed through gross negligence to assist New Orleans residents after Hurricane Katrina, ignored urgent warnings of an Al Qaeda attack prior to September 11, 2001, and increased air pollution, contributing to further global warming.

These are just ten reasons why the President and the Vice President should be impeached. However, apparently the media,

pundits, citizens, and the religious zealots will cry out for justice for one reason only: if they had lied about having oral sex. Impeachment proceedings start in the House of Representatives and a majority vote is necessary to impeach an official. The Senate tries all impeachment cases and two thirds of the Senate must be present before the trial may begin. To convict, two thirds vote of the senators present is necessary. If the President is being tried, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (a Bush appointee) presides at the trial. But Republicans need not worry because no such proceedings will transpire.

Saddam Hussein was a dictator, a tyrant, a murderer and probably deserved to die but he was not a threat to world peace. Hussein was the stabilizing force in that region because he was all powerful and any threat of uprisings or possible revolts by Sunni, Shiite, or Kurd would be systematically destroyed. Saddam did have weapons of mass destruction and he used them during the war with Iran and even on his fellow Iraqis. These weapons and technology were supplied by the Reagan and George H. W. Bush administrations. After the Gulf War, inspectors found that all WMDs and possible components for nuclear weapons were non-existent and no residue was ever found. With this finding, the Iraq government had ceased to be a real military threat. Therefore, the United States government under (dictator) George W. Bush had no right or reason to invade Iraq and to overthrow Saddam Hussein. If the sole purpose of the war was to establish a democracy in the Middle East, wouldn't the Bush administration have provided a better example of a democracy by having corrected our federal, state, county and city problems (see *Katrina*) rather than to simply dictate to the world how to be a democracy? Why did Bush criticize the Clinton administration for using the military in nation-building missions on November 16, 2000, at a campaign rally in Tennessee yet, as reported by the Baltimore Sun, 10/19/02, said he planned on using our military for nation building in Iraq? Did Bush tell a lie in 2000 or just maybe a little white lie?

Our founding fathers said this nation is to be a "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people." It is not a government of *might makes right*, nor is it a government for only the rich, the richer or

the richest. The Constitution of the United States is the written contract that every elected official and citizen must follow as binding law. This document has checks and balances that state that neither the legislative, executive or judicial branches of our government have more power than the others. What is so impressive about this piece of paper is that it is considered by many to be the most readable and clearly stated document ever written. It was meant to be easily understood and leave no room for mistaken ideas about what it contained. The Constitution was written so that it could: (1) form a more perfect union, (2) establish justice, (3) insure domestic tranquility, (4) provide for the common defense, (5) promote the general welfare, (6) secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. The Constitution states very simply that *only Congress has the power to declare war*. President Bush has replaced the Constitutional power of the veto with "signing statements" that challenge hundreds of laws passed by Congress and supposedly exempts the executive branch from accountability to those specific laws. The newest one involves the recently passed *Postal Reform Bill* and includes a written section in which the President "...shall construe..." in that law to allow the opening of sealed mail to protect life, guard against hazardous materials, or conduct "...physical searches specially authorized by law for foreign intelligence collection." His signing statement does not require court ordered warrants for such searches or seizures. The President sent his proposed budget to Congress, and, as of February 5, 2007, the approximate cost of this budget is \$2.9 trillion dollars. I am positive this budget's exact figure will exceed that estimated cost just like every other one of the financial estimates of this regime. The budget includes \$100 billion dollars for Iraq and Afghanistan on top of an allocation of \$70 billion dollars by Congress with another proposed amount of \$141.7 billion dollars in 2008. The Pentagon will receive an 11.3% increase in appropriation money in 2007 and about 20% of the budget for 2008. Do you realize that the war in Iraq has cost the U.S. taxpayers more money than the 13 year war in Vietnam, and that, with inflation, the Vietnam war in today's prices would cost \$614 billion dollars. The Iraq war in 4 plus years has cost the U.S. taxpayer over \$500 billion dollars according to the Congressional

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Around The Horn

by Tony Diaz

Postal Influences

Brothers and Sisters, first I wanted to thank everyone for their encouraging comments by phone, email and in person regarding last month's Around The Horn Article regarding Gus Vasquez. I was very pleased with the response and hope the information helped further promote the now Memorial Golf Tournament. Unfortunately I had to follow that article with a letter to the NALC Headquarters notifying them that our fellow union brother Gustavo Vasquez had passed away from cancer on February 24. My condolences go out to his wife and two children, who I am looking forward to meeting at the fundraiser on March 25.

As I approach the completion of my 27th year with the USPS, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of wonderful people. When I was hired in 1980, the majority of City Letter Carriers were Veterans of the Military and/or long time Veterans of the USPS. I developed a strong respect for these Veterans and today continue to have a strong admiration for them as retirees. As a PTF I was fortunate to be assigned to Seminole Heights Station ("The Country Club"), and being the

youngest carrier in the building and the new kid on the block, I was quickly educated as to the proper "Seminole Standard Operating Procedures". Some of those co-workers, Union Brothers and Sisters and friends have passed away or moved away and you get to thinking where did the time go.

As Financial Secretary, I collect and process the Form 1189's from the new retirees and also review the rosters of the previous retirees, some quarterly some once a year. It helps me keep fresh in my mind the individuals that influenced my career both Postal and Union. In saying that, the last three new retirees announced last month, Gilbert Cabanas, Mike Brousseau and Dook Ramotar are very symbolic with the NALC and Branch 599. All former Shop Stewards, all current and former TLC members and Union Officers, all involved in the continued solidarity of this Branch and all Great promoters of this Union throughout the years. I would like to congratulate the three of them and encourage them to remain active as so many retirees do in this Branch.

We should be thankful that so many retirees still care about the well being of this Branch and our beautiful building and remain very active in the daily busi-

ness of Branch 599 and certainly hope these three gentlemen will follow. The three have a plethora of knowledge and experience that would be a continued welcome to all of us. I was honored to attend a retirement party for Gilbert Cabanas and want to especially thank him for his help, guidance and friendship for over many, many years. In closing this month and staying on the subject of retirees, I also wanted to congratulate Denio Sanchez, a lifelong neighbor and one of the "Seminole Gang Veterans" along with three other retirees, Rufino Blanco, Charles W. Sams and C.E. Fritts. These four long time NALC members and I mean long time, 50 years long, have received or will be receiving the prestigious Gold Card. Great accomplishment guys and Congratulations again!!!!

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

**Personal Privilege** (from page 8)

Research Service, and about \$2.5 billion dollars a week. In this proposal Bush is seeking an additional \$50 billion dollars for 2009. To prove a point on Bush's math being fuzzier than Reagan's, Iraq was only projected to cost \$50 billion dollars, and when a White House advisor Lawrence Lindsey, suggested that the war would cost closer to \$200 billion dollars, he was fired. As a politician you have to make concessions, so Bush must be eliminating the tax cut for the wealthy 2% of Americans, right? No way, Jose! It seems that a great deal of the money will be provided for this new budget by reducing domestic programs and entitlement programs. Some \$66 billion dollars over 5 years will be cut from Medicare. That is the health care plan

(or *scheme*) for the same elderly that voted in mass for GW in 2004. During this 5 year period \$12 billion dollars will be cut from Medicaid. The scheme that helps the lazy, poor and middle class that don't want to work for \$5.15 an hour without benefits and if they'd work it would stop illegal immigration and they could pay for their own medical help! Here is a "liberal" or a Christian idea (God might like it): Do not spend additional money in Iraq and withdraw the troops from there. Use that money instead to pay for universal health care in the United States (*see John Edwards' plan*), nursery education for all 3 and 4 year olds in this country, nourishment and immunization for children all over the world against a host of deadly diseases. About 32 million children in the United States could have health coverage, 1.4 mil-

lion U.S. school teachers could be hired, 1 million affordable housing units could be built, 1.9 million 4 year scholarships could be provided for U.S. children to attend public universities, and 50% of the money would still remain. But why be a *compassionate conservative* to Americans when it will show weakness to the rest of the world and especially to the terrorists?

"It isn't so astonishing, the number of things that I can remember, as the number of things I can remember that aren't so."

Mark Twain

**Proposed Bylaw Changes
To Be Voted On
At the April 5, 2007 Branch Meeting**

**Article XV
Station Stewards**

Section 6

Currently Reads:

All Station Stewards shall receive \$85.00 per month for allowed expenses. All Station Stewards shall receive \$45.00 for attending monthly Shop Stewards Training meetings.

The President, Executive Vice-President shall be paid \$45.00 a month for attending the monthly Shop Steward Training meetings. The above mentioned stewards and officers shall not have any reduction in pay due to illness, dependent care, on annual leave or any valid circumstances that would keep them from attending such meetings.

Section 6

Proposed to Read:

All Station Stewards shall receive \$85.00 per month for allowed expenses. All Station Stewards shall receive \$45.00 for attending monthly Shop Stewards Training meetings. The President, Executive Vice-President *and Vice-President* shall be paid \$45.00 a month for attending the monthly Shop Steward Training meetings. The above mentioned stewards and officers shall not have any reduction in pay, due to illness, dependant care, on annual leave or any valid circumstances that would keep them from attending such meetings.

Standing Rules

Currently Reads:

2. The Executive Board meeting shall be held on Thursday, one week preceding the regular Branch Meeting and shall start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Proposed to Read:

2. The Executive Board meeting shall be held on the first Thursday night of each month and shall start promptly at 6:30 pm.

Perspective

by David Brubaker

Dog Confrontation

Hello, my fellow carriers in the union labor force. It's been a while but it's great to be back. I thought I'd take a little time and tell of a recent incident that happened to me. The purpose is not so much to report on a confrontation with a dog (pit bull), but to expand and pass along information that may prove helpful to you. One day, you too, may be thrust out into the unholy world of *workers' compensation* and have to tread the streets of borderline insanity, armed only with your injury and no instructions. For those of you that have walked these outer realms of reason (or lack thereof), laced with complex mine fields of paper work, and clueless, mindless robots substituting for humanity, you may want to read another article – you've been there. But for others, perhaps my experience will prepare you for an unexpected plunge down into the abyss of wandering frustration, as you proceed blindly, stumbling onward and forward, not knowing at times whether you're actually going to get proper treatment or not.

Believe it or not, I'm not trying to sound cynical, but have actually maintained a very good attitude. Okay, a small level of irritation has occasionally occurred and maybe you'll understand as we move along. Why? Because from day one I prepared myself for exactly the kind of pervasive incompetence that infiltrates all levels of our system. You might as well get a good book, get comfortable and read while you wait for help. Oh, by the way, you will be interrupted often because you need to be prepared to do much of the leg-work yourself.

On Thursday, February 15, 2007, I was attempting a dismount delivery to a house. Over the top of a pick up truck that was backed up to the front porch, I could see the front door was opened.

Not seeing anyone, I proceeded forward, and was about two-thirds of the way into the yard, when a dog, who either came out from under the truck, or off the porch, decided I was close enough. Facing him, I started walking backwards while he was about two-three feet away from me and not backing down. Quickly realizing he wanted a piece of me, I started throwing mail at him. This provided very little distraction to him and he kept moving towards me. I had about 25-30 feet to go to get back to my vehicle. Yes, all I could think about were my legs being chewed up beyond recognition. As I quickened my pace, still back pedaling, I stumbled and used my left arm to brace myself for the fall. It was at this time the owner of the dog called him off, and thus, prevented him from actually coming in contact with me. However, the fall caused me to break and dislocate my left wrist. To say it hurt would be putting it mildly.

Traveling Without A Map

Now, I begin my journey into the outer realms I was talking about. As I sit eight days later, my wrist is still in a temporary cast, still dislocated, and still broken. I'll try to be concise and try to avoid being critical, but at the same time I marvel at the people I'm dealing with, in all aspects of my sojourning, that don't seem to know what they are doing, as I walk along this precipice. I've always been amazed at the caring and concerns for others as being based on a paperwork mentality. I understand it's a job and we're not best friends, but in the approximately four to five times I talked to one of my supervisors, somehow included in the conversations, on three separate occasions, was the fact that eventually I'll be back for light duty work. Oh, by the way, "Get well soon!"

My supervisor took me to the hospital in his personal vehicle for which I was grateful (the other option was an ambulance). But we had to go back to the

station first to get the necessary paperwork. Since I had my personal vehicle keys with me I entertained the thoughts of just driving myself to the hospital. Trust me, it was real close. No, I wasn't upset, just puzzled as to why the forms could not have been filled out later.

At St. Joseph's Hospital the receptionist wanted my own personal insurance card even though he understood the injury claim to be a workers' compensation claim. When I asked why, he said, "...for demographic purposes." I gave him my card, not being in the best frame of mind but aware enough to know that *deceit* was underway. It certainly didn't take long and I'd soon come across deceit's cousin, *incompetence*, very shortly. The doctor on duty took x-rays, examined same, and said it looked bad and would probably require surgery. I was back to my station close to 4 PM (the injury occurred about 12:15 and I was paid for a full eight hour day, for which I was grateful for). I gathered my belongings, held back tears knowing the O.T. I'd be missing (just kidding), and was able to secure a ride home from fellow carrier, Maggie, by 5 p.m.

Something to consider for future reference. I was given a shot of Demerol while at the hospital and although I felt fine when I left work, I was told not to drive. I was okay with that and when I got home and stepped outside of the car, I started shaking uncontrollably. The assumption was shock, and it may well have been a factor, but the pharmacist told my wife it was the Demerol wearing off. The drugs the doctor prescribed for me were Percocet and Motrin but hey, somebody needs to save a buck, so I could only obtain the generic equivalent. At this time the prescriptions were put on my personal health insurance with the understanding that it would be reimbursed by workers' comp. By the way, the closest CVS pharmacy refused to fill the

(continued on page 12)

Perspective (from page 11)

prescriptions that evening, refused to call a 24 hour pharmacy further down to relay the information, and was generally rude to my wife. So, bless her heart, she took care of it herself by going down to the 24 hour CVS and waited for it.

The next day, Jim Good called to see how I was doing. He suggested I tell my supervisor I needed a copy of the CA-1 form that was filled out detailing the incident. The supervisor complied but let me know that it wasn't necessary for me to have it. For some unknown reason, at this time I was not given a claim number. Fortunately, my wife, who is a manager in a doctor's office and understands much of the ins and outs of the medical field, was able to get things going for me. That is, set up appointments, obtain some information, etc. She wasn't happy about it though because as time went on it seemed like we were doing a lot of the work. She called and set up an appointment to see Dr. Anthony Infante, at Florida Orthopedic Institute, on February 21, 2007.

Pause

Not much we can do right now since we have a three day weekend coming up, Monday, February 19th being a holiday. As a side note, for me personally, the drugs tend to make me drowsy but not necessarily high. On the other hand, after a few days of taking them, and about the time they should start wearing off (4-6 hours), I started feeling *yucky*. There's no desire to take more at that time, only when the pain in my arm and wrist starts building up again. The point being, I just do not feel good much of the time.

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

I called my supervisor to (hopefully) obtain a case, or file number. Nope. Instead I needed to call our Injury Comp office and talk to a lady about my case. Unfortunately, she happened to be out of town (?) and therefore unavailable,

on the 20th and 21st. In other words, no case number.

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Yes, at long last, a face to face meeting with the doctor who will help me. I arrived early, filled out paperwork, had x-rays taken again, then met the doctor. He walked in, said hello, shook our hands, and turned to see my x-rays from St. Joseph's displayed on the monitor. Before even sitting down he asked if my wrist had been set. The look of puzzlement on my face, combined with my vocalizing the word "no," must have struck a nerve because he was genuinely miffed. One of the bones in my wrist was obviously dislocated and should have been set by the orthopedic doctor on call at the hospital. I guess somebody overlooked it. Yes, I'm sure the gradual increase in pain as the medication wears off could be attributed to the fact that nerves, tendons, ligaments, etc., are stretched and moved beyond their normal capacity. Thus, I can understand why he would be upset. That's not to mention the minor numbness and tingling constantly in my left pinky and ring finger. But hey, I'm just one of many shuffling through the corridors of life, trying to make some sense of the senseless. My left arm and hand are virtually unavailable for use to me since the slightest manipulation of my protruding fingers brings pain. Obviously this is because certain nerves, tendons, etc., are not where they are supposed to be.

The doctor made copies and said he would call the doctor who saw me at the hospital and voice his disapproval as to how I was treated. Did he? I don't know. But he seemed sharp, knew what he was talking about, and both my wife and I liked him. We just felt confident we were in good hands. Since I was low on medication, one of the nurses called a local pharmacy in our home area, giving them my prescription information. As it turned out,

Percocet is a controlled substance and you must have a written prescription from a doctor, so to avoid me having to drive all the way back to Brandon (we live in Zephyrhills), the nurse called back again and got the next thing lower, which was Vicodin. When we went to pick it up, you guessed it-it was the generic equivalent. Also, shortly after leaving the doctor's office we noticed some of the paperwork had my name spelled wrong. I called the office (voicemail of course) and left a message. Later, she did call back and said she would correct it.

An additional thought: Since the doctor was upset that my bones weren't set, why didn't he allow someone to do it? Understandably, he couldn't do it in his office because he wasn't set up for it at that location. However, it would seem that he could have arranged for me to get my wrist back in alignment at another location. Okay, I'm asking too many questions. After all, I'm still alive, pumped up on drugs and still slightly coherent, and we were told that it would take 4-5 weeks before the healing process would be well underway, thus, they would have to re-break the bones and reset them. Since I am scheduled for surgery next Thursday, (3/1/07), two weeks from the date after the accident, I should be fine.

Thursday, February 22, 2007

Again, I called my work station to find out about getting a case number. No one seems to know or understand what the problem or delay is. In other words, we're all clueless. Hey, why don't I call again? I should probably change my outlook on things. It does occur to me, though, that if I were in charge, or an owner of a business, and someone under my supervision was injured, I'd really be going out of my way to get proper medical treatment, etc., for that person. But that's just me, I guess.

I did call and was able to speak with the lady in charge. She was playing catch up on paperwork from being away recently

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Perspective (from page 12)

and knew very little, if anything, about my situation. This must be extremely specialized work because it would seem that things just pile up until the highly trained person returns from being away. There's probably no one else that can do this type of work. Anyway...I gave her some personal information and a brief description as to what happened. During the course of the conversation she mentioned my right wrist as being injured. I suggested to her that she might want to make a correction in her paperwork, that it was my left wrist. She asked why? So I told her that I had just mentioned to her that when I fell, I fell on my left wrist and broke it. She said something about not being able to read the scribble on the paperwork that was sent to her. (After the conversation, I called and talked to one of my supervisors and told him what she said. He told me the information he sent was type written).

We continued our conversation and again she asked me what happened and if the paperwork had been sent in an untimely manner. The entire conversation with her didn't last that long, but it was at this point I didn't want to talk to her anymore. I calmly told her I didn't know and soon hung up.

February 23, 2007

This was an interesting day. Remarkable, but because of so many instances of human inadequacies I'll just briefly run through them, lest I bore you with laborious details.

A. My wife had previously made an appointment with Florida Medical (locally) for an EKG (required before I can have surgery) even though she did not have a case number for me.

B. Florida Medical called my wife verifying my appt., and also stressing the fact that if I did not have a case number the expense would be my responsibility.

C. My wife called me (to say she was

furious would be putting it mildly) letting me know I needed to obtain a case number (she wasn't upset with me but with the duhness of it all).

D. I called my supervisor and not only did he not have a number for me but between the two supervisors at my station, each thought the other had submitted paperwork earlier. You guessed it, since neither did, it was submitted late. (It's a good thing my mental frame work had been pre-programmed ahead of time).

E. I called the lady at Injury Comp who said she was working on it.

F. I called the other supervisor later who promised to call the lady at Injury Comp.

G. The lady at Injury Comp called to say everything was being finalized and would soon have a case number for me. This was approx. 3:30 p.m., she stated she would get back with me but never did.

February 24, 2007

Although there's not much that can be done over the weekend, except to pop pain pills and pray I don't sustain some kind of permanent damage because of the endless flowing river of incompetence in which I've been floating, there is a bright ray of hope. Yes, I did receive my case number in the mail ten days after the incident. Now, on Monday I'll be able to spend a lot of my time on the phone trying to correct, straighten out, or take care of business that others have somehow been unable to accomplish.

February 26, 2007

I won't go into a lot of detail about the various phone calls and time spent making sure that in the future my left arm and wrist will be available to me to use. But, one of the first calls I

made was to Florida Medical to give them my case number. She took the info shortly after 9 a.m. I arrived at Florida Medical by 3 p.m. (my appt. was at 3:15) and shortly after signing in, I was called up to the front desk. The lady mentioned to me that they had received a call earlier that FM would not be able to accept my workman's comp. claim number and I'll have to pay for the EKG myself. What the heck, I asked why? She didn't know but for some reason (I'll try to find out why) Workers' Comp would not pay for the EKG on this "particular day."

Yes, here I go again, trying to make sense of the senseless. I wondered if it occurred to her to call me when she found out that the procedure would be done at my expense. Just maybe I could have come unprepared to cover the cost. As it was, the EKG was \$32.00, the best I could do was give her \$35.00. Falling right in line with the pre-programmed pattern already set, she didn't have enough change to give me back the \$3.00 difference. I did receive a receipt for \$35.00 and I'm supposed to submit this with information I'll receive in the mail later. This is how I'll get reimbursed.

February 27, 2007

I called the lady at Injury Comp about 9:30 a.m. and left a message. She soon returned my call and we discussed my case. At least part of the delay stems from the fact that paperwork was submitted late. I was injured on February 15 and Injury Comp received my paperwork on the 22nd. The Department of Labor/Office of Workers' Compensation is the bureau that approves, or disapproves, injury claims and is the one tying up the flow. According to the lady at Injury Comp, when she received the info about my status, she by-passed normal procedure because of the lateness of her reception of same, and faxed the entire stack of information to the DOL. Somewhere down the line they claimed they never received all of it, so she had to re-fax all the info again. As it stands right now, and

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Perspective *(from page 13)*

after talking with the lady at Injury Comp if I go in Thursday, March 1, for surgery, not cleared through the Department of Labor, the cost will come out of my own pocket. (This Thursday will be two weeks to the day since the injury occurred).

I asked the question, that if I went for surgery, and by chance was not approved, should I go ahead and proceed, pay out of pocket, and submit for reimbursement later. Understandably, she couldn't give me a recommendation because it just may not be approved. To be quite honest with you, I believe that she's doing the best she can under the circumstances. She made the comment to me that my arm is an emergency or at least a semi-emergency. If the paperwork had been submitted promptly and efficiently, by now I may have been all approved sufficiently to move along systematically, without any delays or out of pocket expenses. Because of the lateness, the Department of Labor hasn't had enough time to act on the info. In other words, is it a real emergency? I'm not saying I'm in favor of how things are done at any level. On the other hand, if there's certain procedural guidelines that must be adhered to then they need to be followed.

(Note: While writing this particular section I received a phone call from Jim Good. If I thought I didn't know much now, more was definitely brought to my attention after our conversation. Apparently the Holy Grail of getting things done doesn't rest on the sacred case number that I thought I needed for my very existence. That's not to say it's not important, but there are ways of moving things along without it. The bottom line is that there are people in key positions in Workers' Comp that are not informed. Some knowledge about what you're doing can make a world of difference).

Undoubtedly, as I waded through a torrential and voluminous seas of bureaucratic red tape, and realize there's a lack

of training in positions of responsibility, as can be seen as you read this narrative that many things were not done, should have been done, etc., one can only hope that eventually a system that makes sense will be developed and employed. I am grateful to Jim for his insight into the situation we are currently in, as far as, individuals unable to function properly because of the lack of necessary skills. The info doesn't help my situation but at least confirms a flawed agency.

Later in the day I received a pre-op phone interview about my scheduled surgery on Thursday, March 1. The lady I spoke to explained the procedures I was to follow once I arrived at my appointed time. She did not tell me if I was approved or not. The insurance part of the program was not part of her pre-op phone interviews. (I did receive a letter from the DOL, dated February 26, stating that they did not have any evidence of me being injured.).

February 28, 2007

I received a call from Tony Diaz, my shop steward at Seminole Heights, letting me know I was approved for surgery. Also, I was left a message on my phone, recorded from Injury Comp letting me know I have been approved. It's unfortunate that until I'm actually being discharged from the hospital after the fact things could still change. All we can do is shake our heads in disbelief.

The Dog

Up until this time I've said very little about the pit bull that approached me, causing my injury to happen in the first place. Here again, it takes someone getting hurt before management takes you seriously and does something about a problem. Let me explain. By the way, I've read three reports about the circumstances surrounding my injury, and although the variations are

slight, they are all different. It amazes me how people hear but don't listen. The bottom line is that my wrist was broken and dislocated, and that's the focal point of Injury Comp.

February 16th, the day after the confrontation, I received a call from Buddy, employed at Animal Control. You may disagree with me, but after being told the dog would be declared a menace, Buddy was going to go pick it up and I may have misunderstood but I was under the assumption that the dog would be put down. In fact, later on, after listening to hearsay, I understood that's what happened. However, at Buddy's initial call, I voiced my opinion that I did not want the dog put to sleep. I went to the Animal Control center and wrote down what happened and signed some paperwork. Some days passed and I received a call from Buddy (February 28) telling me that since there was no direct contact with me (nor anyone else for that matter), he wasn't going to pursue having it put down. That was okay with me and he drove out to my place for my signature that would release the dog back to the owner. I was a little surprised that the dog was still alive but it wasn't a problem for me to sign a release form.

What's interesting about this is that apparently whenever there's a situation with an animal involving Animal Control, they file a record of the report, which later becomes public record. Buddy told me there was a report made by the USPS, per the carrier on whose route I was assisting, back on December 20, 2006. As usual, if the carrier felt threatened, oh well, we'll fill out some paperwork, and forget it. A lot of problems could have been avoided if the owners of the dog would have been forced to put up a curb side box. I guess because we are paid well and have good benefits, problems and hazards are something to laugh at and make fun of. It's something I've never understood. I can laugh and joke with others, but somehow I have the ability to understand when there's a problem situation that needs immediate attention. Maybe when one goes

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Retired But Not Tired**by John Gebo*****Retirees Breakfast***

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Branch 599, here it is already April 2007. I've been retired for three short years. It seems like only yesterday that I was being written up for not having my seat belt on in the parking lot. The same station manager that used to harass me is back in Tampa. Listen to this one, he found a vehicle unlocked, took the carrier's scanner and took it back to the station. Why didn't he just wait for the carrier to return to his vehicle and correct the problem? So watch out, Tampa carriers, he's back. I told Post Mistress Fryrear and Area Manager Tim Dose, that I would still be carrying mail if it weren't for this individual. Not really. Give me the retiree's life. No trips, no under-time, no LOWs.

We had a great breakfast on March 5th at the monthly retirees breakfast.

Perspective *(from page 14)*

into management the problems just go away.

March 1, 2007

This may seem strange to say, but out of all the miscommunications, incompetence, ineptness, piles of paperwork, etc., this was a great day. I went to Florida Orthopedic Institute for surgery. There were no rude people. Friendliness was the rule of the day. Got there about 7 a.m., and was done and on my way home by 10:45 a.m. Drugged but happy. The doctor had put a metal plate in my wrist, held intact with eight screws. I'm scheduled for an appointment on March 14, to see how well I'm progressing. I'll keep you posted on how things move along.

Those in attendance were President Good, Executive Vice-President Aepfel, Bill Brennan, Darius Lundy, Norman Bobeau, Jim Stouffer, Sy Adel, Cecil Edge, Henry Dupree and yours truly. We were honored with the presence of attorney James Loper. I first met Mr. Loper when John Bailey was President of Branch 599. John thought very highly of James. When Jim Good became President of Branch 599, he immediately resumed using the services of Mr. Loper. James Loper has been very helpful to the branch, TLC, Inc., and the letter carriers and their families over the years.

Mr. Loper came to our retirees breakfast to give us information about estate planning. He also explained to us in detail about wills, trusts, probate, and guardianship. A lot of legal questions were asked and answered. He even answered

questions about divorce (not from me, Honey). Those of us who were there got a lot of good, free advice. I would personally like to thank

James Loper for taking the time to attend our retirees breakfast to enlighten us before we make it to the big post office in the sky. For more legal information, contact Mr. Loper at the Landmark Office Center, 14310 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 290, Tampa, FL 33618-2059, Phone: (813) 964-0577, Fax: (813) 964-8867, or via email at jloper@loperlaw.com.

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

Fraternally,

John Gebo



Annual MDA Street Corner Blitz
Friday, April 13, 2007
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Members of Branch 599 will once again be out at the major intersections throughout the area collecting donations during our annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Street Corner Blitz.

Branch 599 Coordinator Eric Fleming will be coming around to all the stations to talk about the Street Corner Blitz plans and to seek volunteers to man the street corners on Friday, April 13th.

Please donate a few hours of your time to help in this worthwhile cause. The more people we can place on the streets, the more money we can collect for the MDA.

It's never too late or too early to start saving for your retirement!

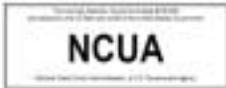
Just imagine where retirement will take you...



Tampa Postal now offers Traditional and Roth IRAs, so you can choose the one that works best for you!

Don't know which to choose?
That's why we have IRA specialists here, just for YOU!

TAMPA POSTAL
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