



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 6 - Issue 7

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

July 2007

## President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

### Fighting Contract Routes

I began working for the Postal Service in February of 1974 and have seen many changes since that time. None of those changes, however, have been as radical and more of a threat to the future of letter carriers than what is currently happening.

As every carrier represented by our branch knows we were one of the first areas that experienced Highway Contract Routes (HCR). They started with the International Mall and have spread to condominiums, office buildings, housing projects and residences throughout the county. In the beginning, grievances were filed, only to be withdrawn because arbitrators were ruling that the postal service was following the guidelines of Article 32 of the National Agreement. Cost analyses were completed, and since it was more cost effective to contract out the deliveries that is what was done.

Last year NALC's position changed when it became evident that the postal service had decided to contract out all new deliveries and rename them Contract Delivery Ser-

vice routes. This was, in the union's opinion, a dramatic change from what Article 32 allows. HCRs were developed as a method of delivering quantities of mail from one area to another, occasionally stopping en route to deliver mail to a single stop. It made sense to contract out that type of service. CDS routes, on the other hand, are the first step in an attempt to privatize the delivery of mail. Deliveries to residential areas are put up for bid to the lowest bidder, who then can sub-contract the actual delivery to whomever he/she chooses. Although CDS routes account for only a small fraction of total deliveries at this time, the door has been opened for privatization and we need to act quickly if we are going to have a chance to stop this threat to our jobs.

There are currently two bills, one in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate that we as letter carriers can and should support. HB 282, a *Sense of the House Resolution* which is not binding, states that the House believes that mail delivery should not be contracted out. S-1457, introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), currently has 22 co-signers and states, "Except as provided under paragraph 2, the Postal Service may not enter into any contract under this section with any motor carrier or other person for the delivery of mail on any route with 1 or more families per mile". Please contact your Senators and Representatives and either thank them for their support or ask them to support these bills if they have not already

done so.

That is the first way that the NALC has chosen to fight the threat of privatization; through legislation. The second way is through collective bargaining; proving our case in the arbitration process now going on regarding our contract. Finally, we have filed two National Level Grievances rebutting management's position on their rights under Article 32. As I said, the union believes that Article 32 pertains only to actual Highway Contract Routes, not the Contract Delivery Service routes currently being instituted. We have also filed a national grievance regarding a case in Reno, NV where ten positions were abolished and put up for bid as CDS routes. These were intra-office runs and collections, but they were still letter carrier positions.

So you see we have a very important battle before us. We need the help of every letter carrier to insure the future of our jobs as we know them.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have already conducted an informational picket at the main airport post office. This was scheduled for Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 until 6:00 pm.

It is imperative that the public become aware of management's attempt to privatize our jobs. Now is the time to stand together to protect our future.



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?.....3
- UNIONISM.....5
- POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.....6
- AROUND THE HORN .....8
- A.T.B.G.O.....9

**Branch 599 Officers**

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

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

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

**Presidents Emeritus**

Michael Anderson Orbe Andux  
James Butler Don Thomas  
Garland Tickle

**A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599**  
**3003 W. Cypress St.**  
**Tampa, Florida 33609-1617**  
**Tel: (813) 875-0599 Fax: (813) 870-0599**  
**email: [nalc599@verizon.net](mailto:nalc599@verizon.net)**  
**website: <http://www.nalc599.com>**

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

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

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

## Are We Having Fun Yet?

### *Proper Work Methods*

**I**t has been a while since I last wrote an article for The Tampa Letter Carrier so I will try to make it short and not ramble on.

So many changes since I retired. The Carrier Academy is not what I had hoped it would be after all the effort I put forth to make the Suncoast District a number One Academy. The National level was pushing very hard to make training an ever present part of all new and many older carriers, yet the local levels have still not accepted the fact that carriers should be trained. Their attitude is still to throw them to the wolves and they will either pick it up on their own or just get rid of those who don't. A number of the older carriers still have the attitude of "Well, I never got trained". Things were different in the old days and we had to pick up and go with the changes. Now we are in a different world and in a different time with more things to do on the street and more bundles to deal with more scanning and more accountability. More addressed third bundles to deal with and no room in the vehicle to deal with them.

How do I deal with four or five addressed sequenced mailings? It is rather easy. If you are on a park and loop you only have three bundles to deal with. If you are on a mounted route there is almost no limit to the bundles you can carry, but you can only carry what you can fit on the ledge of the vehicle. Therefore, you must keep the bundles in the back of the vehicle and move one street at a time to the front and fit it on the ledge.

Can I put a tub or maybe two tubs on the floor board and work from the tubs? No, this is an unsafe practice and the floor board is not a working area. Better yet with the new CRV replacing the LLV, there is no floor board to work from.

I will give some excerpts from the Carrier Academy training manual that may very

well surprise some carriers, and probably upset some carriers, but we must perform our duties as safe as possible:

"When delivering the mail on a foot route, the carrier must unstrap the first bundle; verify the street, block and street number with the street sign and number on the first house. Combine the mail in your hand with the mail from your satchel at each delivery point. Mail should be carried in the hand and satchel only. Place the mail into the receptacle. Do not place letter or flat mail on steps, porches or in unauthorized locations."

**"Delivering Motorized routes:** For delivery on motorized routes, mail is placed on the vehicle tray facing the driver. Verify addresses before placing in receptacle.

"The lap belt must remain fastened at all times while the vehicle is in motion. An exception for the shoulder belt may be made in the LLV. The shoulder belt may be unfastened when the driver is restricted from reaching the curbside box.

"When operating a vehicle on delivery routes and traveling in intervals of 500 feet (1/10 mile) or at speeds not exceeding 15 MPH between delivery stops, the door on the driver's side may be left open. When entering or crossing intersecting roadway, all external doors must be closed. For vehicles with separate driver and cargo compartments, only working mail should be kept in the driver's compartment while performing delivery.

"When delivering curbside mailboxes, place vehicle in neutral on level ground or in park when on a hill. If the approach to mailbox is blocked delivery must be attempted by dismounting where it is safe to do so. Before leaving the vehicle for dismount deliveries, be sure to curb the wheels, put the vehicle in park, set the handbrake and turn off the ignition and remove the key. Use wheel chocks

where locally required."

**"Delivering Park and Loop Routes:** Delivery on park and loop routes is basically the same

as for foot routes with relays. The vehicle is used as a moveable relay box from which the carrier withdraws mail, placing the mail into the satchel before beginning each relay. For large or heavy parcels on park and loop routes, the carrier may begin the loop at the point of the parcel delivery or bypass the stop until the loop is complete and then drive to the delivery point with the mail and the parcel. When traveling between park and relay points, and when entering or crossing intersection roadways, all external vehicle doors must be closed."

One other misconception that I would like to touch on is the "one-motion-to-the-box": "Carriers should collect outgoing mail before placing mail into the receptacle. Prior to putting the mail into a mail box, mail must be combined into one bundle. This will allow one motion when putting mail into the receptacle. For Centralized delivery, the carrier may perform more than one motion." Therefore, on a curb line box, pull up to the box, place the vehicle in neutral or park, open the box to remove any outgoing mail if it is in the box. Prepare your mail into one bundle, checking for your next delivery at the same time, bundle the mail and place it in the box. Close the box and move to your next delivery.

I am always at the branch union meetings and I will be more than happy to answer questions about the training manual. I will attempt to shed light and make available in future articles the proper techniques for delivering the mail.

Treasurer - Branch 599



# ***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*

---



**Your union cares about you!  
That's why you can now have Aflac  
Payroll Deducted  
Call  
Lynne Herrick  
(813) 376-2799**

## Unionism

## Opting on Temporary Vacancies

Article 41, Sections 3, 4 & 5

**O**pting is a procedure allowing for exercising seniority in filling a temporary vacancy in a full time duty assignment. The period of vacancy must be for a minimum of 5 days.

Eligible employee for opting would be Full-Time Reserve, Full-Time Flexible, Full-Time Unassigned and Part-Time Flexible letter carriers. Those employees not eligible for opting would be Probationary employees and carriers acting in 204(B) supervisory positions.

Duty assignments which are eligible for opting are vacancies in Full-Time Grade 1 assignments, this would include Reserve Regular assignments. Vacant routes under consideration for reversion are available for opting until they are reverted or the position is filled, provided that the vacancy is for a period of at least five days. Those positions unavailable for opting would be Auxiliary routes as they are not full time, Full-Time Flexible positions as they are not bid positions and Carrier Technician positions. Carrier Technician positions are higher level positions and they are covered under a separate heading in Article 25.

When opting on vacancies it has been determined by arbitrators that the vacancy must be for at least five days. This has been determined to be five work days not calendar days although the five work days may include a holiday.

Posting of vacancies and procedure to be followed for opting is set out in the LOMU (Local Memorandum of Understanding) which states the following: A chart will be posted at each delivery unit.

This chart will list all full-time craft duty assignments of five days or more that will be vacant for any of a variety of reasons. This chart will be posted in an area that is accessible to the carriers, as soon as possible and will be kept current at all times. It is agreed that management must post qualifying positions for preference bidding no later than Tuesday each week with the exception of holiday weeks where the posting must be by Monday. Requests for opt bid on an assignment should be made on a 3971 form, submitted in triplicate. Ensure when you submit your opt bid that you completely fill out the 3971 and are provided back a signed copy showing the supervisor signature as having received the form, this is for your protection.

It must be clearly understood that the carrier making the opt bid request is volunteering for a change in schedule; that is, hours and days to comply with the assignment and that they will maintain the assignment for the duration of the vacancy. This means that one cannot change their mind partway through a vacancy and also should the vacancy extend longer than initially thought to be they are required to maintain the opt until the vacancy ends.

Involuntary assignment and removal from an opt bid is a contractual violation that may not occur. Management may assign a carrier to a residual vacancy however if the carrier is on an opt bid they may not be compelled nor may they volunteer to move to the assigned position until the opt bid ends. The exception to the rule is that a part-time employee may be "bumped" from their hold down to provide sufficient work for full-time employees. Full-Time employees are guaranteed 40 hours of work per service week and

they may be assigned to occupied opt bid assignments if there is not sufficient work available of a particular day. This is still a last resort option and should it occur it does not terminate the bid. Another exception is when the T-6 is bumped by the regular carrier called in on SDO. In the event of this the T-6 must go to a vacant assignment on their string if there is one and absent of a vacancy on the string the T-6 would then "bump" the opt bid on their string for that day.

Employees on an opt bid are entitled to work the regularly scheduled days and hours of the position they have an opt bid on. While this guarantees the bidder to work the hours and days of the schedule of the assignment it does not, in the case of a part-time flexible employee, guarantee the day off from the schedule unless the bidder is not scheduled by management.

The information presented above is taken from the 2004 Edition of the JCAM (Joint Contract Administration Manual) as well as the LMOU Tampa, FL Branch 599. Should you have any questions please contact your station steward or contact the Union Hall. Both publications are available in your station for review and I encourage all members to familiarize yourself on these issues. If you feel that Management is not properly following these guidelines please see your steward for you options to help correct any deficiencies.

Remember knowledge is the key.

Yours in brotherhood,  
Brian Obst -Steward -Town and Country

Chief Steward - Branch 599



**Branch Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 5, 7:30 PM**  
**at the Union Hall**

## A Point of Personal Privilege

### *The Same Old Tune*

**E**ver since the 2000 appointment of George W. Bush by the U. S. Supreme Court, he and members of his political party accidentally or deliberately quote out of context, have selective memory, even allow lower government officials to be the scapegoats and just out right fabricate facts to fit any situation or supposed crisis. This type of deception should be eliminated by the President and the President must be held accountable for any of these actions. Previous administrations can not be blamed for this lack of honesty, integrity or complacency. By being tolerant of these actions this President has seriously damaged our democratic political system. President Bush has taken the art of fabrication to a level never achieved by President Nixon. He has exploited the media and circumvented the Constitution with total disregard and disdain. The media is as much to blame because they have allowed Bush to blur and distort the truth with an array of falsehoods, half truths and misleading implications. They have allowed this administration to spin any story with the inference of 'fear' they want and the press prints these half truths and other statements without investigative reporting! I don't know about those of you that disagree with my point of view but when I was an adolescent any type of untruth was deemed a lie! Doesn't it state somewhere that "Thou shalt not lie?" The President allows his 'Roving' hounds to accuse any dissenter questioning the rhetoric as being unpatriotic in a time of war, un-American because they are not supporting the troops in Iraq and anyone's opposition is attacked and discredited by organizations that have frequently attacked or attack Senators John Kerry, Edward Kennedy, Hillary Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore and Representatives Nancy Pelosi, John Conyers, Jack Murtha, etc. In so doing this, there can be no honest discussion or debate on issues that are necessary for the survival of this great democracy!

A Republican from Alaska, Congressman Don Young, while on the floor of the House attempted to quote Abraham Lincoln on Lincoln's opposition to President James Polk's war plans with Mexico. Young stated that "Congressmen who willfully take actions during wartime that damage morale and undermine the military are saboteurs and should be arrested, exiled or hanged."

Of course Mr. Young seems to have changed some of the wording just a little bit. You know fudged a word here or there and even may have added some spice to liven up what he decided Lincoln actually said! However, this is what Abraham Lincoln truthfully said "Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion and you allow him to do so, whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such purpose - and you allow him to make war at pleasure. Study to see if you can fix any limit to his power in this respect, after you have given him so much as you propose. If, today, he should choose to say he thinks it necessary to invade Canada, to prevent the British invading us, how could you stop him? You may say to him, 'I see no probability of the British invading us' but he will say to you 'be silent; I see it, if you don't.' The provision of the Constitution giving war-making power to Congress, was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons: Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us." Lincoln wrote these words while America was at war with Mexico and when he was a member of Congress. President Polk launched that war because he said American blood had been shed on American soil by Mexico. In a Congressional resolution Lincoln required Polk to justify his claim by identifying the spot where that blood was shed! Lincoln specifically asked the wartime President, "Let him answer fully, fairly and candidly. Let him answer with facts and not with arguments. Let him attempt no evasion and no equivocation." Polk did not respond and with the aid of John Quincy Adams, Lincoln sought a formal investigation of the president's pre-war intelligence claims and of his use of secret funds to launch his fraudulent and illegal war. With this pending investigation Polk announced he would not seek re-election. A descendant of President Polk William Polk authored a book with former senator and World War II hero George McGovern. The book outlined a plan to end the Iraq War which all Republicans scuffed at and claimed that it was nothing but a plan for "cut and run."

by Leslie Ray Garcia

It seems back in January of this year that California Democrat Congressman Sam Farr introduced legislation that would repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002. This would have stopped the 'surge' in its tracks and would have mandated the immediate withdrawal of US Forces from Iraq. Congressman Farr stated. "The longer this war drags on, the clearer it becomes that it is the wrong war at the wrong time for the wrong reasons. Trying to make up for the fact that the administration insisted on going into Iraq with too few troops more than three years ago by escalating our involvement now is not a 'new strategy.' There is a way forward, but that way is through withdrawing, not sending more troops." The Congressman further stated. "When the Republicans were in charge of the House and Senate, they insisted that President Clinton had to have permission to go into Kosovo." When asked about Farr's legislation, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said, "I don't think Congress has the authority to do it and you can't run a war by a committee of - you know - 435 in the House and 100 in the Senate." Once again that dreaded disease of memory loss attacked the senator because he couldn't remember he supported legislation in November of 1993 that set a timetable for the military action in Somalia by cutting off funding when there was a Democrat in the White House! This was not deemed "Cut and Run" but it was to get the soldiers out of harm's way?



As of May of 2007 President George W. Bush's poll numbers have reached a low approval rating of 28%. Yet, he states that if his increase in funding for the war is not done, the military will be faced with massive shortages because of the "irresponsible" Democratic leadership. President Bush must be in a dream world because even with the 'surge' and passage of funding "the Army and Marine Corps will be short thousands of vehicles, armor kits and other equipment needed to supply the extra forces." Army LT. General Stephen Speakes and retired Colonel Mitch Mitchell, as do other high ranking retired military officials, agree that the military is short on armor kits for vehicles and even if the kits were available there are not enough vehicles to armor up in the first place. New combat units will have to share available vehicles unless five brigades of up-armored Humvees fall out of the sky. It has

*(continued on page 7)*

**Personal Privilege (from page 6)**

been stated that "accelerated deployments would mean less time for units to train and fill out their ranks. Brigades are required to have an aggregate number of soldiers before deploying but may still face shortages of specific ranks and job skills." The end result will be a larger increase in deaths of our soldiers and many more wounded soldiers. Approximately 40% of Army National Guard units only have their required equipment and the issue is so chronic that it is speculated that it will take years to overcome this inadequacy. Additionally, it is quite obvious that the current troop rotation has put our military into a readiness "death spiral" which may take decades to remedy. The Pentagon was ordered to no longer include the death of our military personnel by suicide bombers in the weekly body count. Who is the dastardly individual to suggest this? People, all of Iraq is a combat zone not just one specific area! Will this imply that the troops are winning the war by lowering the actual casualty count of American troops in the news? Just like the flag draped coffins returning home are not allowed to be photographed because of bad publicity?

Mr. President, it is time to come home from 'Crawfordland' and return to the real-

ity of the real world. You sir, continue to ignore the will of the people, the advice of generals that you have relieved because of their disagreement with your handling of your war, you have put our troops in harm's way by sending them into war without proper equipment, limited their training, increased their combat deployment and when injured they have been denied or not given the proper care at medical facilities (see Walter Reed) in the United States. Sir, in a survey of more than 28,000 people in 25 countries they were asked to rate 12 countries, Britain, Canada, China, France, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, North Korea, Russia and the United States as to having a positive or negative influence on the world. You sir apparently do not care about world opinion nor do you care about the opinion of over 60% of all Americans. Your thought process of "it's my way or the highway" is archaic and not that of a leader in our world today. Before your cowboy foreign policy our country's influence was rated the most positive in the world. It now has the third highest negative ranking behind only Israel and Iran! "It appears that people around the world tend to look negatively on countries whose profile is marked by the use or pursuit of military power," said Steven Kull the director of the Program on International Policy Attitudes. President Bush your failed war on terror

has come at a cost too high in death, wounded and moneys. "Based on data gathered by the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism which is funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the study concludes that since the invasion of Iraq, the average yearly incidence of fatal terrorist attacks by jihadist groups around the world has risen 607% with a 237% increase in the rate of fatalities." Your decision to invade Iraq has increased worldwide terror seven-fold! You have less than two years to truthfully and honestly fulfill your White House propaganda sign of 'Mission Accomplished?' Maybe you will once again don your flight suit that you rarely used when you were supposed to be on active duty in the Air National Guard when your term of office expires and actual fly a combat mission in Iraq while it is daylight rather than flying in Air-force One to Iraq at night to serve a fake turkey dinner on Thanksgiving for a photo op?

*"Sweet is war to those who have never experienced it."*

Latin proverb

**Health and Welfare Report**

Raphael Hernandez, brother of Carrollwood carrier Hector Hernandez, passed away.  
Clark Alday, retired carrier and former Branch 599 Recording Secretary, passed away.

# TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS PRESENT

# BINGO

COME JOIN THE FUN

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30  
GAMES START AT 6:30

AT THE TAMPA LETTER CARRIERS HALL

3003 W. CYPRESS ST.

TAMPA, FL. 33609

813-877-4785

## Around The Horn

**Contracting Out**

**B**rothers and Sisters hope everyone had enjoyable and safe Memorial Day Holiday and you took time to pay tribute to our fallen Heroes. If you are a loyal reader to my articles you are then aware of the seriousness I have approached the topic of "Contracting Out." The Contracting Out or Contract Delivery Service (CDS) is a plan to outsource letter carrier work to contractors with no benefits, low wages and no union protection. It is the single biggest threat to the survival of the United States Postal Service, as we know it today. President Young has taken this threat publicly and to Congress where he testified before a House oversight subcommittee. In his testimony President Young pointed out contracting out delivery work, the very heart of what the Postal Service does, jeopardizes public trust in the mail system. Employing part-time, low-wage workers with no benefits will harm service over time. "Congress should act to stop the cancer of contracting out now, before it spreads and undermines the most affordable and efficient post office in the world." The NALC has begun an All-out campaign that began with a demonstration on April 17 in Washington D.C. where carriers from at least 20 states participated. Hundreds of NALC members along with a large group from the National Rural Letter Carriers Union (NRLCA) marched the streets of D.C. with posters and signs ending at the USPS Headquarters L'Enfant Plaza.

The informational picket also included NRLCA President Donnie Pitts, walking side by side with president Young holding a giant-size postcard addressed to Postmaster John E. Potter. Not only has President Young been backed solidly by President Pitts he has the support of Mail Handlers President John Hegarty, Supervisors President Ted Keating and Postmasters President Goff. Pitts questioned the quality of the contract hires as well as what scrutiny they will undergo before being hired. Many Congressmen and Representatives are now questioning how contracting out would affect security. This has been my main concern, and as I covered in my February 2007 article; should America trust the security of the mails to just anyone who wins a bid to contract out? Should doctors and lawyers and corporate America trust their important documents and checks to any person hired off the streets? Who are these future contractors? Are they felons? Embezzlers? Are they Terrorists? All these questions are now being asked as President Young campaigns to alert and educate all of America the consequences of contracting out. I still say and I will quote myself "We need to make this a security issue, and through the Senate and Homeland Security we could build momentum in our fight against contracting out." Apparently people are listening and taking action over concerns that the independent contracting firms do not use the same extensive recruiting and screening processes the USPS does in hiring and training mail carriers. The fact that the secure and reli-

able deliveries of mail service Americans depend on is in jeopardy. This apprehension has prompted prominent Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa to introduce a Senate Bill to outlaw "Contracting Out". The bill, S. 1457, is titled the "Mail Delivery Protection Act of 2007" and would forbid the Postal Service from entering into any contract "with any motor carrier or other person for the delivery of mail on any route with 1 or more families per mile. The only exceptions allowed are contracts already in effect at the date the bill is ratified. President Young applauded Senator Harkin for taking this courageous stand against those forces that would destroy the USPS and at the same time is calling for other members of the Senate to support this bill. Despite Congressional guidance the U.S. Postal Service has continued an aggressive program to outsource **OUR** mail deliveries. On top of that last year the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act became law prompting the House of Representatives to clearly and overwhelmingly reject contracting out of mail delivery. Brothers and Sisters take this seriously, this is a huge threat to our jobs, when called upon to contact an elected official(s) through the e-Activist network, email, phone or letter, let your voice be heard in support of this bill or any related legislation.

Financial Secretary - Branch 599



Look forward to talking to you again on the next [Around The Horn](#)

**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE  
June 14, 2007**

**ARTICLE V—ELECTIONS**

**THIS PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE WILL BE VOTED ON DURING THE AUGUST 2nd BRANCH MEETING**

**Section 1:**

**Currently reads:**

Nominations for elective officers shall be made every three (3) years at the regular October and November meetings and the elections shall be held at the regular meeting in December.

**Proposed to read:**

Nominations for elective officers shall be made every three (3) years at the regular November meeting and the elections shall be held at the regular meeting in December.

**And The Beat Goes On**

by Ray Wallace

**Meetings & Missing**

I never realized how popular the "And The Beat Goes On" column is with some of the Brandon carriers and retirees. I saw retiree Alice Worthington and she asked, "Where was your last article?" Then on May 1st, we had our Brandon retiree luncheon and all of them said the same thing.

I saw John Matta and he said he was at the office and the regular postmaster was gone on TDY and John said he had not seen so many happy faces in a very long time. That's great news. Maybe the s.o.b. postmaster is gone for good. Let's pray that he is.

Al Neubaum and his wife Donna sold their house in Lakeland and are moving to North Carolina to be close to their daughters. They were at the luncheon. I told Al maybe he could make a meeting before he leaves. His reply was that he was there a while ago and I said, yes to pick up your Branch 599 retirement check. Al said, "Can you think of a better reason"? Well he is 100% union anyway and we will miss seeing him at the retiree luncheon.

George Bell was in from Arkansas for medical treatment and we pushed the luncheon up a week so he could see

some of his co-workers. George was wishing he could see Postmaster Nancy Fryrear. I called her office and told the secretary about the luncheon but got no reply. We all worked for Nancy when she first started in Brandon on her way up the ladder.

Ron Burkett, George Bell, Bill Lister, Lou Fowlkes, Luther Sands, Jose Hernandez, Al Neubaum, John Matta, Terry Simpson, Phil Singletery, Frank Guckian, Jack Davis, D. Nelson, Jeff Pearson and yours truly, were all at the luncheon. I send out the notices and as you can see, that is a total of 15 out of 35 who attended.

Twenty missing but hey, maybe next time. Look at the Tampa union meetings. They're lucky if they have 100 there, and how many city carriers are there? It's the same all over the country. I send out postcards to each retiree and if there is no response then no more postcards. I don't think too many send out postcards anymore.

It feels very strange to walk into the lobby of any Post Office. We work there for 30 odd years as carriers and never know what the lobby looks like. I remember patrons asking if I would buy them a book of stamps and I had to reply that I can't even buy my own. They would always say, yeah, tell me another one. It's a shame that John Q. Public has no idea of how postal management treats their employees. Well, hurricane season is upon us. Let's

hope they all miss the Tampa Bay area. We have been very lucky so far. I dread turning on the weather reports after June 1st. There could be a storm a few thousand miles away and they make it sound like it's going to hit here in the next hour. We are all adults and know what has to be done. They seem to enjoy scaring the hell out of us. Enough already!



In regard to my last article on skin doctors. I, for sure, didn't mean for you not to go to a dermatologist. But be careful on your choice and make sure you are billed correctly.

I was reading some past articles of mine and in every one of them I am talking about how serious something is with your job. I keep trying to impress upon you how important it is to go to the union meeting and to read this paper.

As the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used to say, "I have a dream...". The same goes for this writer. I have a dream that someday postal management will wake up and realize that the craft employee is their bread and butter and is keeping the Post Office going, not outside contractors.

*And The Beat Goes On*

**President's Station Visits**

Commerce Station	33602	Wednesday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>
Seminole Station	33603	Friday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>
Sulphur Springs Station	33604	Wednesday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>
Hyde Park Carrier Annex	33606	Friday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Wednesday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Thursday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>



## Things You Should Know

### *Saving For Your Future*

**W**hat do most letter carriers talk and dream about every day? Retirement right? When is the right time to save for it? Now is the right time. Do you pay yourself first or do you put that off until another day? Well, believe it or not that day will arrive, but will you be prepared for that day? You cannot stop time, but you can save for it.

The first thing you can do is open an IRA withholding account through the Postal Credit Union. The second thing you can do is save 10% in your thrift plan. Remember your thrift plan is tax free now and your IRA account will reduce your total tax at the end of the year, both ways you will win win.

Some may complain that they are struggling right now in their lives. But you certainly don't want to struggle when you retire. Because then you would be forced into another job at half your current salary. So don't let that day arrive without saving a small part of what you have earned. Your plans for retirement will not be fully enjoyed or accomplished without a real saving plan.

Well, whether you are 10 or 30 years away from retirement, it's never too early to start saving for your future. You will definitely arrive at that date, so plan to arrive with part of your earnings. Please don't think that your retirement check will be the solution to your money problems, because once again you will be just getting by. Please don't count of friends and relatives to provide you with some of your

needs, because if you don't provide a safety net for yourself, then no one else will. Remember, one parent can provide and care for three children, but three children cannot provide or care for one parent.

So if you can pay for rent, a car, or even child support, then you must save for your future. It is your money, so why not save some of it for your future life. You don't have a choice in the aging process, but you do have a choice in the saving process. Someone once said that you're only young once, but remember, you will be old forever. So please save for your own future, because only you can ensure a better and more enjoyable life.



by Gilbert Cabanas

## Thanks To All

**D**ear Fellow Union Brothers and Sisters, I want to extend a warm Thank You to you all. You have been so supportive of me with your kind words and commitment to make our Food Drive a success. It is my pleasure to announce that we broke the One Million mark again with a total of 1,030,100 pounds of food collected in one day.

I applaud you for working as a Union should, a group effort, a TEAM! My thank you's continue beyond the NALC to the Rural Carriers, who get stronger in their support every year; to Cardinal Health, who donate box trucks and drivers every year with so much desire to get the job done; to our MVS drivers and their willingness to work through miles of traffic and long night hours; to management, who have helped get me the time I needed most to accomplish some of the tasks; to The Flyer, who start putting the word

out for us in their magazine; to the Printer who prints our t-shirts; and to Publix, who are a huge benefit with supplying us the bags! Thanks also to Mayor Pam Iorio, who is very valuable in issuing her Proclamation Letter. This year we also received one from Governor Charlie Crist.

I would like to individually give credit to President Jim Good. He has helped me in many ways. I am amazed at how he knows what to do when there are so many things to know. A big thanks to: Pat Desarno, who is always willing and able when you need him; Ella Winner, who was able to help with the Publix bags on short notice; Rodna, our office secretary, who went beyond her normal duties to help me redesign forms and get papers in order to make tasks run smoother; and to Will Carey from Tampa Bay Harvest (he is always calling me to check on how things are going and if I need any assistance).

## by Lori McMillion

Branch 599 - Food Drive Coordinator

This is wonderful! I also need to thank the Produce Station carriers. They had to fill my space and deliver my route which I know is extremely tough (ha ha). And thanks also to Mark Andrews, who helped in the warehouse for many hours sorting out food. (see pic in June TLC newsletter, pg.3).



Last but not least, thank you to my family who put up with my time away and the TV dinners. Thank you to everyone who has a positive attitude every year no matter how much we collect, no matter the slight mistakes that slip out.

Overlooking the negative to create something so positive is a reward only volunteers experience. So please volunteer!



Is your family multiplying?

**Do you need more room?**

May through August: Tampa Postal is offering a **NO ORIGINATION FEE** Special!

*You could  
save over  
\$1,000!!\**



Call to speak with a  
Mortgage Specialist today!

813.264.4969 x319

[www.tpcu.org](http://www.tpcu.org)



*Savings based on Origination Fee; Origination Fee based on sales price!*

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599  
3003 West Cypress Street  
Tampa FL 33609-1617  
(813) 875-0599 fax (813) 870-0599  
<http://www.nalc599.com>

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

"Address Service Requested"