



Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 8 - Issue 8

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

Tampa, Florida

August 2009

President's Report

by Jim Good

President - Branch 599

A New Leader

On July 4, 2009, the presidency of the National Association of Letter Carriers changed hands for only the 17th time in the 120 years since its inception. As we were celebrating our nation's birthday the eighteenth president of our National Union was serving the first day on his new job.

I first met William H. Young on January 19, 2002, when he installed me as President of Branch 599 for my first term. He was the National Executive Vice-President at the time, serving under President Vince Sombrotto. Bill had been a full-time national officer for over twelve years when I met him, and he had served for over forty years representing letter carriers when he stepped down as National President on July 3rd.

He had made it known that he would be retiring before the end of his elected term, but everyone knew that he would not retire until he was sure that the union was in good hands. I know that President Young is sure that our new president is capable of taking on

the challenges that await him in his new position. In his farewell article from the *Postal Record* Young states; "Now it is time for me to pass the baton of leadership to a new generation of leaders."

I met our new president, Fred Rolando, at a training seminar in Ft. Myers in 1996 or 1997, when he was the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Director of Education. He impressed me so much with his knowledge of the contract, speaking and teaching abilities that I looked him up after the classes to let him know my thoughts (for what they were worth) regarding his future goals. He told me that he was perfectly content serving in his current positions; president of the Sarasota Branch, Director of Education, etc. It was very evident, however, that he was going to excel in the union, and it was just a matter of time before his abilities were recognized by those in a position to move him upward and make use of his talent.

And so it went. He soon became a Regional Administrative Assistant to Region Nine National Business Agent Matty Rose, followed by an appointment in February of 2002 to finish out the term of Director of City Delivery vacated by now Executive Vice-President Gary Mullins. Fred was elected the Executive Vice-President at the 2006 National Convention by acclamation until he

filled the president slot when President Young retired on July 3rd. After his installation by President Young he immediately appointed Gary Mullins Executive Vice-President and George Mignosi Vice-President.



The one thing that really stands out in my mind about our national officers in the NALC is the way they make themselves available to the average carrier. Whether it's a phone call or in person, if you are able to go to their office in Washington, if they come to our branch hall for an installation dinner, or however, they will always make themselves available to you. I have found that to be true of President Sombrotto, President Young, and now our own native Floridian President Rolando.

I know I speak on behalf of all the members of Branch 599 when I say "Thank You", and best wishes for a long, happy retirement to Bill Young, and pledge to our new president, Fred Rolando the full support of our branch. He will need it in these tough times that lie ahead.

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Branch Meeting

Thursday, August 6

7:30 PM

Branch 599 Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Good	(813) 417-8877
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT	Dook Ramotar	(813) 767-0322
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mike Brink	(813) 661-1106
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TREASURER	Michael Anderson	(813) 967-1615
TRUSTEE	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914
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) 264-9801
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES	John Gebo	(813) 985-5474, cell 503-1256
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	A. Sam Santilli	(813) 215-7595

Presidents Emeritus

Michael Anderson	Orbe Andux
Don Thomas	Garland Tickle

Branch 599 Shop Stewards

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 758-3061
Brandon	33511	Phil Chirico	(813) 657-3180
Carrollwood	33618	Eddie Berroth	(813) 493-5224
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar	(813) 767-0322
Forest Hills	33612	Stephen Hall	(813) 494-4669
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Rocky Randels	(813) 766-2604
Hilldale	33614	A. Sam Santilli	(813) 215-7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Butch Smith	(813) 889-3915
Hyde Park	33606	Tom Cobert	(813) 694-0711
Interbay	33611	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Interbay	33629	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
MacDill	33608	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Varick Reeder	(813) 746-0238
Port Tampa	33616	Sammy Graham	(813) 832-6644
Produce	33610	Maggie Lancaster	(813) 317-7522
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 685-9034
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 598-9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	(813) 770-7769
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Dennis Lorenzo	(813) 966-3989
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Dennis Lorenzo	(813) 966-3989
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 458-0679
Town & Country	33635	Brain Obst	(727) 458-0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914

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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

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

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

Running With You

Continuing Adjustments

In June "Running With You" attended the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention (F.S.A.L.C.). This year elections which were held for officers. At the election some were elected some lost and others chose not to seek office. At the Convention, President Bill Young announced his retirement to hand over the reigns to Fred Rolando.

I mentioned this to say that I as a new Steward sat under the teaching of Fred and deeply aware of his ability to lead this great Union. I offer congratulations to him and his ascension to the highest office of the Letter Carriers Union. As mentioned last month in my article on the M.I.A.R.A.P. Process, I was involved at Commerce and Manager Ruben Aries and I did the route at this Station in a few days we were finished. We let the Carriers have their say in the information we had and most agreed with the numbers and were even willing to accept adjustments to there routes not only to observe but to tweak the traveling and delivering to save the U.S.P.S. funds in the long run.

I ask this, who knows the Carriers route but the Carriers themselves? When you are willing to deal Fairly with each other then you can get the result you need for a successful adjustment and this is the intention of all concerned. Hopefully so, as cheating on either side would

defeat the very purpose we are setting out to do. In 1986 when I transferred to Florida from New Jersey, I started at downtown where we use to start at 5 am sometimes earlier and you would spend four plus hours in the office getting your route up to leave to deliver at that time it was long in the office and short on the street. Today it's the entire opposite. Short in the office and long on the street. It would get shorter in the office and longer on the street as technology comes on board and the mail volume continues to drop.

Carriers are spending an hour or less getting there routes up and pulled down to go to the street and this is not with all the technology in the place yet so be prepared for longer street time. We had a holiday on Saturday July 4th. Post Offices were closed and on Monday Carriers returned to their routes the word was at this office I know where Carriers always make the 5pm window. (Well, most always). Some Carriers were out after 6 pm and this is with help. Other Stations were after 6 near 7 pm, I am mentioning this to draw attention to the fact that let's say we choose to deliver five days a week and eliminate Saturday. Won't This be the same thing where Carriers who have to deliver two days work in one day or the higher Ups curtail sat mail and distribute it during the week Hopefully this would not come into play.

The Process of Involving the other stations are continuing and hopefully from my ex-

by Dook Ramotar

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599



perience at Commerce the other Stations Carriers would realize we need to cooperate and managers, and supervisors need to understand this cooperation between us, and not try to intimidate us to get their way as it would defeat our purpose.

On a personal note I was saddened to learn at the Executive Meeting of the resignation Trustee Chairman Henry Dupree from all offices of the Branch. I know Henry Personally

And counted him as a friend and Union Brother. We go back along time and I for one feel his services to this Union will be greatly missed.

On a Note to the Stewards according to the local agreement, we are to keep track of the over time each week on Tuesday of each week I review the stations O.T. Tracking and I can't comprehend why some stewards can not fulfill this agreement. I have been patient But I was told by the President he will eliminate my coming in to do the review if I can't get the stewards to follow with their fulfillment of the local agreement Stewards you should not be back two weeks from tracking if you do not get the time to do so file a grievance. Lets see how long management will deny you from keeping track of the overtime on a weekly basis. This is Running With You Until Next Month

**MDA Stoplight Collection
Friday, September 4, 2009**

On June 5th the carriers from Branch 599 collected a little over \$8,000.00 for MDA. Branch 599 has proven to be the leader in the state of Florida in raising funds for MDA, and this year we want to continue in that tradition. At the Florida State Convention President Bill Young presented me with a plaque naming our branch *number one in the state* for money collected for MDA. I was also presented with the first annual "traveling plaque", showing the branch that collected the most money each year.

I want to thank all the employees who gave of their time on June 5th, and also want to ask for your help in manning a few intersections the Friday before Labor Day (September 4th) in the hopes of once again being number one in our state. All of the branch shop stewards

have volunteered for this second collection day, and with the help of a few dedicated members we can remain at the top of the list. I know it's hard, hot work, but we all understand it's for a good cause. To be able to raise the amount of money that was raised in such a small amount of time is well worth the effort. Please take an hour out of your day on September 4th to help and be a part of such a worthwhile cause.

See your shop steward to sign up for one of the intersections. They will be at Dale Mabry & Kennedy, Dale Mabry & Fletcher and Sheldon & Linebaugh. There will also be an additional intersection in Brandon. Hope to see you helping to keep our branch number one.

Jim Good



Jim Good congratulates recent retirees Donna Eargle and Michelle Dresden

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

Honorary Member Branch 599 Tampa

***NEED UNIFORMS IN A HURRY?
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bilmor@tampabay.rr.com

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

Things You Should Know

Poor Showing for MDA

First, let's congratulate Temple Terrace Station, Shop Steward Mr. W. Sumlin for collecting the most money (\$1,083), with a close second, Carrollwood Station, Shop Steward Mr. E. Berroth with \$1,019. Now, I'd like to thank each and every volunteer who gave up their time in order to help those less fortunate, our children.

I still don't know why some stations were able to gather at least 10 volunteers for their selective corners and other stations that merged had only five volunteers and that included the two Shop Stewards. This same scenario occurred at 2 other stations that merged, with only 10 volunteers for those 4 buildings which included the 4 Shop Stewards. How disappointing to have this occur at 6 different stations. Commerce/ Hyde Park the leader of last year's MDA Drive was next to last in this year's total

collection.

So, what was the difference from last year? Was it the recession? No, only the lack of carrier participation. I sincerely hope that there was no underline reason for this lack of participation in a few of our stations. I really do not want to know the reason because the only thing that did occur was that the children were hurt, the only ones that we were trying to help in the first place. If we cannot give up some of our own time for children who cannot help themselves or deserve this tragic situation then who do we help and what do the letter carriers stand for?

I feel that the majority of the letter carriers are better than this lack of effort in this MDA Drive. Since 1952, the MDA Drive has been our only national collection drive. Letter Carriers have only been respected by all for our great deeds throughout this nation, but a team is only as strong as its member's total effort. We cannot accomplish any reasonable success without your help. The Post Office had allowed Mr. Nick Reaume and I enough time to explain the wonderful foundation drive to all the stations yet it now appears that only a few of our carriers were listening to our plead.

by **Gilbert Cabanas**

Vice-President - Branch 599

Also, we cannot blame the poor economy on this year's total money breakdown. Because this year's food drive just had its best total food drive ever. So, we know that our customers were full of compassion and were ready to help us. The only thing that was needed to reach these customers was enough volunteers to collect the food. The food drive was a huge success because all of us were helping in the cause but on the other hand, with the MDA Drive, the ones that were hurt this year were the ones that we were hoping to help our MDA children.



Because of this lack of effort by the letter carriers this year, we are going to try to correct that poor showing. Now we are going to arrange another stop light blitz which will be closer to Labor Day possibly on Friday, September the 4th. This time we will only choose 3 or 4 target corners for these special collections.

(continued on page 6)

A Point of Personal Privilege

A Challenge

Years ago, on 'Saturday Night Live' a skit was done involving a Latin ball player. His name was Chico Escuela. When asked the question about how was baseball his reply was, "Base-a-ball have been berry good to me." This was all done in jest and when I was at the old Hilldale Station at Lois and Crest in Drew Park letter carriers Mike Loreda, Oscar Alvarez and others would replay many of the skits from 'SNL'.

It was fun to come to work but as in all things times change. Now coming to work has become a job. One that is more physically demanding everyday. Over the last 2 weeks of June the heat index reached on average 105 degrees (which does not include the heat inside the LLV of an additional 10 plus degrees) and I am sure that you were told to hydrate as much as possible? Heat exhaustion is no fun. I had this happen to me two out the last four years I worked at Hilldale Annex. The ER doctor told me that continued heat episodes or

incidents become more serious every time you have one. Of course a supervisor told me it was my fault but the doctor told me that when your inner body core temperature reaches a point no amount of hydration can stop heat exhaustion because you can not intake enough liquids to alleviate your pending health condition. Only intravenous applications of fluids can cool the inner core temperatures sufficiently enough provided you get immediate medical treatment. I am so thankful that I was able to retire when I did as I know that this summer would have really taken a toll on my health. I do miss the comradery and the delivery of the mails but not the fencing with management over their DOIS / CORE figures on how much time I needed to deliver the route on a daily basis.

Over the years the discussions about our "National Past-time" have existed. The supposed experts of Major League Baseball complied what they called "Major League Baseballs All-Century Team." This group of individuals did not select the players at their respective positions. I thought that it might be fun to select what you might be-

lieve are or were the greatest players. Use the entire list of American and National League baseball players to compile your list. I do not want to alienate baseball players from the Negro Leagues however their stats are fragmented and incomplete. This is shameful because many of them such as, Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, Martin Dihugo, Smokey Joe Williams, Turkey Stearns, Mule Suttles, Buck Leonard, Pop Lloyd, Oscar Charleston, etc. may have established records that may still remain in the record books. The segregation in baseball ended with Jackie Robinson signing a professional contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League and Larry Doby with the Cleveland Indians of the American League.

This is the challenge. Select an All Star team of players to form an American and National battery of players. Select 5AL and 5NL starting pitchers, 3AL and 3NL relief pitchers, 2AL and 2NL catchers,

(continued on page 6)



by **Leslie Ray Garcia**

Around The Horn

MDA Stop-Light Blitz II

Brothers and Sisters, I begin on a sad note and want to send my condolences to the family of deceased union brother, co-worker and good friend Frank Donovan. Frank unfortunately passed in June, and I will always cherish working with him at Seminole Station, "The Country Club" beginning almost 30 years ago. Frank was a Great Man, a very proud Military Veteran, and someone who made reporting to work much more enjoyable. He helped make Seminole Station a place where you wanted to be. There was always some kind of tomfoolery going on with Frank around. No one used the words brother and pressure more than Frank. Several phrases he made famous were, you got that right brother and there is so much pressure in here you can cut it with a knife. He was a man you could always count on, someone who would give you the shirt off his back. He helped make my 89 day probation much easier. I wanted to share one story with you that never seems to get old. As I mentioned Frank was always up to something, so several of us wanted to give him a taste of his own medicine. We decided to arrive early to work one morning just before Frank reported and flip-flopped his second and third rows of his case. We wanted to see how long it would take him to realize what we had done. Needless to say, none of us could case mail because we were laughing so hard. It was so hilarious watching Frank case mail like nothing was any different. Finally 10 to 15 minutes after the switch we heard, "wait one damn minute, what the hell is going on here" We were all rolling, and the most enjoyable part was Frank laughing with us at himself. He always encouraged me to become a Branch Officer. He once told me if you do run, god willing, I will be there to vote for you. Sure enough, about four and a half years ago when I ran for my current Financial Secretary position, he was there to vote. With the assistance of fellow retiree Little Eddie Jones, Frank walked up the ramp of Branch 599 to cast his very important vote. With his small oxygen tank beside him, I heard "brother Tony I told you I would be here to vote for you, nothing was going to stop me." I will never forget that exchange,

that hug and that Frank Donovan laugh. Thanks Frank for the unforgettable memories, and thanks for being a supporter and good friend.

I wanted to address the number of calls I received in regards to my critical comments concerning the MDA Stop-Light Blitz. In my article last month, which many of you apparently read, I was critical at the lack of involvement. Some callers that did participated were offended at my remarks, some wanted to explain why they did not participate, others to let me know they would be at the next collection, and others just to mention the anger they sensed in my words. To address those were upset, my article did acknowledge the participants, and I will quote myself, "First and foremost, let me thank all the Carriers who did volunteer their precious time." I was being critical of the lack of volunteers that showed up for a great cause. Collections were down significantly from previous years, and yes the economy has made a huge impact. For that reason it is essential we have good coverage at the corners. Please do not miss our 2nd scheduled collection September 4th, see your Shop Steward for details.

Quick Hits: Information you should know

Things You Should Know (from page 5)

Please help us correct our lack of involvement this year and prove that carriers do care and will help our MDA children. We have posted these target corners on page 3 of this newsletter. Please try to plan to participate in the corner which is nearest to your station. Help us achieve a decent total in order to help this year's MDA Drive. Whatever your reason was for not being able to participate, let's try to help this time. Remember that we are not a team without you. And I'm not trying to explain our lack of participation in this year's drive, but I am trying to correct the lack of effort please help with this great cause.

Arslan Uniform Drawing

The Arslan Uniform prize for the August 6th Branch 599 meeting will be \$250.00. If you are in attendance at the meeting and your name is drawn, you will win the \$250.00, donated by Bill & Shirley Moran of Arslan Uniforms. Why not come to the meeting, hear what is going on in your union, and maybe win some big money? Hope to see you here on August 6th.

by Tony Diaz

Financial Secretary - Branch 599



*) MIARAP is continuing throughout the district. The process should be nearing completion by the end of July.

*) The Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Biennial Convention was held in June. Now retired President Bill Young was there to give the Florida delegation his parting words. Long time Branch 599 supporter Matty Pose was elected FSALC President.

*) Fred Rolando, a member of Sarasota Branch 2148, has been installed as the 18th President of the NALC. He officially became leader on July 4. He has served as Executive Vice President since December of 2006.

*) Branch 599 has one of the lowest COLCPE contributions percentages in the country. COLCPE is vital to the survival of the NALC. Next month I will go into detail explaining why COLCPE is so important.

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

Personal Privilege (from page 5)

2AL and 2NL 1st basemen, 2AL and 2NL 2nd basemen, 2AL and 2NL 3rd basemen, 2AL and 2NL shortstops, 2AL and 2NL left fielders, 2AL and 2NL center fielders, 2AL and 2NL right fielders and of course 2AL and 2NL designated hitters. With the DH not used daily in the National League you do not have to pick a player that only has DHed. For example from the AL you could put Mickey Mantle as one of your DH's or from the NL you could select Willie Mays. On my list I excluded players such as Barry Bonds, Mark McGuire, Roger Clements, A-Rod Rodriguez, etc. for steroid use. Look at the records and decide who you might think are or were the best Major League ball players.

"Ninety per cent of this game is half-mental."

Yogi Berra

Unionism

by Brian Obst

Chief Steward - Branch 599

Leadership Academy

I will ask for your indulgence as I deviate from my normal topics of discussion this month as I would like to talk about the NALC Leadership Academy this month.

First I want to thank the membership of Branch 599 for all their well wishes and support while I attended the Academy over the past six months. I have graduated on June 5th and I shall be attending the final portion of training at the Region 9 NBA's office July 21-24. This training is designed to help develop leaders for the NALC for the future. Understand that when I say leaders this doesn't necessarily mean that all the graduates of the Academy will go into positions of leadership, either local or nationally, simply by virtue of the fact that they went to the academy. This training is simply to help the trainees to develop the needed skills to become good leaders and good leaders are needed at all levels of the NALC.

The training that was attended was not easy and no matter what skill level one had attained prior to entering the classroom the first night it quickly became evident that we all were in the same situation and we would all come to lean on each other to help in our development. I was fortunate to be in a class that consisted of a great variety of skill levels from Branch Presidents, State Association Presidents, education directors, stewards and carriers. This muligan stew of skill levels allowed for a great support network as training progressed and I can say that I have developed friendships that will continue on for the rest of my life.

The training classes cover a variety of subject matter in detail and the weeks of classroom instruction are packed full of information on subjects ranging from History of the NALC and Union Values and Union Leadership to Group Dynamics and Learning and Teaching-How Adults Learn. Other classes teach and develop the Leadership Skills and Public Speaking skills necessary to be an effective leader. As the weeks progress the material moves from general information and takes on a more direct NALC tone with classes on MBA, Letter Carrier Health Plan, Contract Administration Unit, Workman's Compensa-

tion, Retirement and Negotiating Techniques and Branch Finances just to name a few. As you can see the three weeks of classroom instruction are indeed full weeks and the information imparted to the trainee is invaluable.

Like any school there is some down time and during this time it seemed that the learning never stopped. In the student lounge all the trainees met to relax and usually the conversation would drift to the topics and assignments of the day. I can say that much of the learning took place at this time as all trainees were able to freely discuss with each other in a relaxed environment with no pressure and learning simply occurred naturally.

I cannot say enough about our instructors, led by retired Executive Vice President Jimmy Williams. Jimmy, working with Jim Korolowicz and Jamie Lumm, has been able to take his years of experience and develop a curriculum that is informative and motivational. The instructors were assisted by all of the resident officers, who gave individual classes, and the NALC Headquarters support staff, who gave classes as well as assisting the instructors in some of the other classes. It is really a group effort as the

entire Leadership of the NALC is behind this training and its goal that we all should be training our replacements so that our Unions leadership never suffers from a lack of trained replacements.



I have always been a proponent of education being the key to success in any endeavor and this is no different. I highly recommend anyone interested in this training to contact you Branch leadership for direction on the application process. Be aware that it does take commitment but the reward is the knowledge you gain and the passing on of said knowledge to others as the process never ends. Before I close this month I want to tell you the same thing I told the next class that will be attending the Academy in Sept 09. Remember these thoughts: 1.) **You will only be as good as you will let yourself become** 2.) **Invest in others and you will always be a rich person.**

As always remember - **Knowledge is the Key!**

Until next month
Brian Obst - Chief Steward



NALC President William Young presents Brian Obst his certificate for completion of his NALC Leadership Academy Training

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