



# Tampa Letter Carrier

Volume 4 - Issue 9

A.R. "Tony" Huerta NALC Branch 599

Tampa, Florida

September 2005

## President's Report

### Postal Reform: Will It Be Bush-Whacked?

As you all probably know by now, H.R. 22, the House of Representative's bill on postal reform was passed on July 26<sup>th</sup> by an overwhelming margin of 410-20. This is the most significant hurdle that the bill has cleared since its inception a decade ago. The Senate version of this legislation, S. 622, will not be voted on until Congress returns to work after Labor Day.

Representative John McHugh, R-NY and sponsor of H.R. 22, stated, "This reform is critical, not only for the continued operation of our nation's Postal Service, but truly for the millions of individuals and businesses who rely on the availability of universal mail service. Americans have an expectation that the Postal Service will abide by its well-known, although unofficial, motto - a commitment to deliver. The USPS would not be able to continue meeting those expectations, at least without significant cost increases, without this update to its business model."

What many people do not know or understand is that mail delivery is a \$900 billion industry that represents nine million jobs and nearly nine percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Lack of reform could put at least 1.5 million industry jobs at risk. McHugh also said that the American taxpayer, individuals, small businesses, non-profits and

als, small businesses, non-profits and corporations, can not afford the tax increase that would come in the form of increased postal rates without the passage of postal reform through H.R. 22.

That being said, the same day that the house passed H.R. 22 the White House repeated its threat to veto any bill that has "an adverse impact on the federal budget". As the bill now stands, it would add to the deficit because it would return the responsibility for funding the military cost of Postal Service retiree pensions to the Treasury Department. (The USPS is the only federal agency that currently funds these pensions.) On the positive side, it would also free up \$73 billion in CSRS overpayments, currently held in escrow, allowing the USPS to use some of that money to keep down postage rate increases and pay health care liabilities. The bill would also guarantee universal service, allow the Postal Service more pricing freedom on certain services, establish a new Postal Regulatory Commission and grant the Postal Service greater flexibility to raise postage rates.

There are differing opinions on what will happen to the bill now that it has been passed in the House. Gene Del Polito, president of the trade group Association for Postal Commerce, stated: "This could go either way. The administration has made it abundantly clear that it will follow through on its threat to veto any bill that is other than revenue neutral. So, I suspect that between here and President Bush the bill will find a way to become revenue neutral. But it is still a wide-open question if a postal reform bill will ever be signed into law". Robert McLean, executive director of the trade group Mailers

Council, feels that the overwhelming support for the bill will make it clear to the administration that it should reconsider its position since nearly every member of the house says that we need postal reform.

So what can you, as letter carriers do to help get these two bills passed and signed into law? First, if you have not already done so, sign up as an *e-Activist*. Branch 599 currently has 370 members signed up, and while that's good, it means that we still have almost 700 to go. Simply go to the NALC website at <http://www.nalc.org> and fill out a one minute form so that you can be kept current on important issues that affect your career.

Secondly, write to your Senators and President Bush and let them know that you, as a letter carrier, support the two postal reform bills. Let them know that the Postal Service should be treated the same as other federal agencies regarding military retiree pensions and remind them that the Postal Service should not bear the responsibility of balancing the federal budget. It is the responsibility of the administration and Congress to balance the budget and it should not come at the cost of much needed postal reform.

by Jim Good  
President - Branch 599



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT .....	3
UNIONISM.....	5
AND THE BEAT GOES ON .....	7

**Branch Meeting**

**Thursday**

**September 1, 2005**

**7:30 PM**

**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	Cheryl Clothier	(727) 385-7337
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	Jack Newman	(813) 805-2942
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
LABOR - MANAGEMENT	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
MAPS COORDINATOR	Chris Albrecht	(727) 791-7162

**Presidents Emeritus**

Michael Anderson	Orbe Andux
James Butler	Milton McConnell
Don Thomas	Garland Tickle
Lenin Perez	

**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>**

**Branch 599 Shop Stewards**

Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	(813) 657-9690
Brandon	33511	Miroslaw Oldziej	(813) 661-1636
Carrollwood	33618	Freddie Nimphius	(813) 968-7491
Commerce	33602	Dook Ramotar Sr.	(813) 780-6254
Forest Hills	33612	Warren Sumlin	(813) 486-7612
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Eddie Alvarez	(813) 892-6553
Hilldale	33614	Gilbert Cabanas	(813) 855-0516
Hilldale Annex	33634	Lance Jones	(813) 220-1292
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	(813) 935-0244
Interbay	33611	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Interbay	33629	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
MacDill	33608	Jim Knotz	(813) 832-6644
Palm River	33619	J.C. Howard	(813) 621-1976
Plant City	33565	Misty Bauer	(813) 681-6890
Port Tampa	33616	Dean Minter	(813) 767-6538
Produce	33610	Eric Fleming	(813) 310-8274
Ruskin / Sun City Center	33570	Jack Hencoski	(813) 633-5422
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	(813) 872-1542
Sulphur Springs	33604	Matt Kokich	(813) 431-3686
Tampa Carrier Annex	33607	Ken Lee	(940) 368-4771
Tampa Carrier Annex	33609	Pedro Jiminez	(813) 727-9280
Temple Terrace	33617	Mike Anderson	(813) 681-5688
Town & Country	33615	Brian Obst	(727) 507-0135
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aeppel	(813) 505-7914

**TAMPA RETIREES BREAKFAST**

**First Monday of Every Month**

**9:00 AM at**

**The Coffee Cup**

**4407 N. Hubert**

**in Drew Park**

**BRANDON RETIREES BREAKFAST**

**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. It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for publication must be signed by the writer. All articles are subject to editing and revision at the discretion of the publisher & editor. Please submit articles to the branch office no later than the tenth 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

## Executive Vice-President's Report

by Detlev Aepfel

Executive Vice-President - Branch 599

**Rap Session Update**

The Region 9 Rap Session was held at Callaway Gardens, near Pine Mountain, Georgia, August 5-7. Branch 599 was represented by Jim Good, Mike Anderson, Lance Jones, Brian Obst, Terry Franklin, and Detlev Aepfel. The Rap Session included training classes and presentations on current issues by National Business Agent Judy Willoughby and Director of City Delivery Fred Rolando.

Fred Rolando explained some of the details concerning the split in the AFL-CIO and how this could affect the NALC. The Service Employees International Union and the Teamsters, which represent about 1/3 of the membership of the AFL-CIO with 3.2 million members, have withdrawn to form the Change to Win Coalition. The dispute centers on whether unions should focus on organizing or focus on political action and education. This change in membership may change how the AFL-CIO is funded. Local groups such as Branch 599 may be required to join central labor councils which could mean that a dues structure such as 4 cents per member per month might be established. These issues will receive further feedback and discussion at the National Rap Session in Miami.

Forced over time remains a widespread problem. The Contract Administration Unit is preparing a white paper on this subject. The report will be posted on the national web site when it is complete.

Work is continuing on the new scanners that will replace the current out dated ones in use. The new scanners will be known as Intelligent Mail Devices. These devices will be able to capture a digital image of the customer's signature. Although the USPS has ordered 300,000 of these scanners there is no working prototype yet so no one knows what they will look like or how they will work. So far the program is 4 months behind schedule.

The USPS is offering several new services. Address Element Correction is being offered to mass mailers. Mailers getting back large amounts of undeliverable mail due to bad addresses could pay \$15.00 per 1000 to have a computer attempt to correct the bad addresses. The computer currently can fix 30% of the bad addresses. Phase II of this program would take the remaining 70% of the bad addresses that the computer couldn't fix and send them to the letter carrier at the station to see if they can figure it out. Premium Forwarding Service will also be offered to customers that put in a temporary forwarding order of 2 weeks to one year. The premium service will involve putting all of the customer's mail in a priority envelope (including bulk business mail) on a weekly basis and sending it to the new address. There will be a \$10 charge to establish this service and \$10 per week for the duration. A specific employee, probably a clerk, will be named Designated Control Point Employee (DCPE) and will be charged with keeping track of the start and stop dates.

The national DOIS grievance is moving ahead. This grievance will address a laundry list of problems with how this program is used. The list includes: base data can be changed at will by management, the program automatically changes 613 time into Administrative Leave, office time is fixed with no lines 8 - 13, and % to standard can be readily manipulated. But you knew that!

Discussions are also continuing on the Minor Adjustment issues. At what point is a minor adjustment too large to be considered minor? Will the M39 141.18 and 141.19 be used to evaluate and adjust routes or will it be anything goes?

Management has already made it clear

that health benefits will be a major issue during the next contract negotiations. Currently employees pay 20% of the premium costs for the health plans and management pays 80%. This applies to all employees whether they have NALC health benefits or something else. Think about how much you pay for your benefits and realize management wants you to pay more. Even a shift of a few per cent could cost you hundreds of dollars extra each year. Former National Business Agent Wayne White addressed the assembly to encourage signing up for regular COLCPE contribution by declaring, "Put your money where your mouth is and don't be a hypocrite!" Well said, Wayne.

In Solidarity...



ACCORDING TO THESE MSP REPORTS MILLIE, YOUR TG HERE DELIVERS THE ROUTE IN HALF THE TIME YOU DO. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!

## Health and Welfare

Deendial Ramotar, brother of Dook Ramotar, Commerce, passed away

Mother of Rhonda Nelson, Temple Terrace, passed away

## TLC, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The 7/26/05 meeting was called to order by Chairman Obst at 7:00 pm. The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as read. Financial report by John Gebo. Building Manager's report by Jack Newman. A lock was installed on the Pepsi machine. Jack discussed the damage to the building from a previous rental for a high school graduation. The responsible party has not made good on paying for the damages, so a lawyer will be contacted. A motion was made and passed to retain a \$1,000.00 deposit for all future graduation parties. A motion was made and passed to raise the rental fee for the hall to \$900.00, with the charge for branch members being ½ of the regular fee. Two vacancies are open on the Board of Directors and there are no alternates left. Secretary Good will print a notice in the September Tampa Letter Carrier Newsletter notifying members of the procedure to follow if they are interested in applying for a vacant position. He will also fax copies of the Notice to the stations for posting on the Union Bulletin Boards. A motion was made and passed to donate \$250.00 to Mary Martha's House. A motion was made and passed to purchase a new Microsoft Publisher program for the newsletter editor's computer. A motion was made and passed to reimburse the office secretary for refreshments for office guests (soda and snacks) that she purchases for the office. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Jim Good  
Secretary  
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

OUT THERE



## August Meetings:

Tues 8-23-05 - TLC Board of Directors Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 8-25-05 - Executive Board Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Tues 8-30-05 - Shop Stewards Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

## September Meetings:

Thur 9-1-05 - Branch Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:30 PM

Tues 9-27-05 - TLC Board Of Directors Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

Thur 9-29-05 - Executive Board Meeting  
Union Hall, 7:00 PM

## Attention All Members

The Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc. By-laws, Article 2, Section 11 reads: "When a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, and there are no alternates available to fill that vacancy, any member, in good standing, of Branch 599 NALC may submit a written request to be considered to fill the vacancy. The Board of Directors will decide by a majority vote as to whether the applicant(s) will be appointed".

Because of the resignation of two board members TLC will be accepting applications for these two positions. Any member who wishes to be considered to fill these vacancies must submit his/her name to the following address by September 20, 2005. Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc., 3003 West Cypress, Tampa, FL 33609-1617. These new directors will serve the remainder of their appointed term, which will end on election day in December of 2006.

Jim Good  
Secretary  
Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.

OUT THERE



## Unionism

by Brian Obst

## Letter Carriers And Forms

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 these forms out properly? To see if we can find the answers lets look at the M39 and M41 for each of these forms.

Let's start with the 1571 otherwise know 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 and 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 ft of mail you put the explanation "Supervisor direction" in the remarks area and 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. Now on to 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 8 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 (M41 131.42). Remember that your estimate is based on all your mail each day not just what will get you back by 5PM. 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, like: Service Talk, Third Bundle, Union Time, Meeting with Supervisor/Station Manager, Fire Drill. Late DPS, Parcels not ready and many other things that can and do happen to affect our 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 amount of CFS and review mail handled as these will also impact your time daily. 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 utilize 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 the carrier performing 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 so that when we go through inspections the route data used will be accurate for the route not artificially inflating the data on another route.

(continued on page 6)

# Muscular Dystrophy Association Stoplight Blitz Report

by Eric Fleming

Labor-Management Representative - Branch 599

## A Complete Success

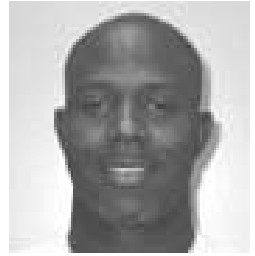
Brothers and Sisters, I would like to thank you for your support and hard work during our annual Muscular Dystrophy Stop Light Blitz. It was my pleasure to serve as coordinator for this year's event. Although challenging, it gave me a unique opportunity to visit with my union brothers and sisters to encourage participation and further awareness of just how devastating this disease really can be. When Jim Good asked me if I wanted to be the coordinator for this fundraiser, I gladly accepted and went on to take full charge of the planning and preparation that is necessary to pull off a successful event. Along with keeping in close contact with Jim, I was also fortunate to have assistance from Detlev Aepfel, who was very instrumental in helping me make this year's event a complete success. When I needed advice or direction, my union brother was there and ready to offer his opinion and assistance.

During the preparation phase, I was able to visit several city carriers across the

city. While the visits were more like mini pep-rallies, it helped me to understand what it takes to reach people's giving side (which is not always easy). Of course I had help from the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Jessica Boles, Coordinator for our District, Cory Lee Taylor, District Director and Christina Hutyra, Spokesperson. Christina was very helpful during each and every visit. She touched my heart deeply, from the time I met her and throughout the campaign. Although exhausted some days, she came out to visits at most of the stations. She wanted to show people what their donations in the past have done and that their future donations will only continue to help people who have Muscular Dystrophy. I would like to thank the MDA team for accompanying me as I attempted to rally support from my brothers and sisters for this event. I would also like to thank Nancy Fryrear, our Postmaster, for her support during my station visits and throughout the entire fundraising event.

The day of the event I visited several collection sites. At these sites I ob-

served carriers and non-carriers devoting their free time to help a very worthy cause. The volunteers at the Dale Mabry & Fletcher intersection want to say a special "thank you" to clerks Nicki Irvin, Tina Lockwood, Barbara Redding, Manager Rick Redding and Supervisor Daphne McClellan.



This year we almost doubled our number of volunteers and added five new locations. These additions resulted in more than a 50% increase from last year's total. On that note, I must extend a special thank you to Robin Perez of Bay Gulf Credit Union, who so graciously volunteered the use of their coin counting machine and the assistance of several tellers to help us tally the funds collected.

I am pleased to say that this year's event was a complete success and I hope that each year the brothers and sisters of our union will continue to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association Stop Light Blitz until we find a cure. Once again, I want to thank all of you for your support.

I have listed the total monies collected at the thirteen intersections below, as well as the grand total for the branch that was turned over to MDA.

Brother Eric Fleming  
Steward &  
Labor Management Representative  
Branch 599

Hillsborough Ave & Himes	\$ 1701.56
Kennedy Blvd & Ashley St	\$ 755.11
56 <sup>th</sup> St. & Busch Blvd	\$ 960.90
Hwy 301 & SR 60	\$ 822.40
Gandy Blvd & Dale Mabry	\$ 1353.76
Dale Mabry & Fletcher	\$ 1791.45
Brandon	\$ 1550.65
Kennedy & Dale Mabry	\$ 2290.95
Fowler & Nebraska	\$ 888.48
Hillsborough & 56 <sup>th</sup> St.	\$ 1062.77
Busch Blvd & Florida Ave.	\$ 1581.33
Sun City	\$ 702.33
Bearss & Florida	\$ 1301.46
Bingo	\$ 145.98
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$16909.13</b>

### Unionism (from page 5)

This has been a quick glossing over for these forms and there is much more that the carriers 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

## And The Beat Goes On

by Ray Wallace

### Summer Stuff

As I write this at the start of August and this will be the September issue, I most likely say this every year: Where did the summer go? They say if you're happy or extremely busy time will seem to go faster. Well, I know there have been plenty of times I have not been happy but that never made the time slow down. Time seems to have gone extremely fast since I was 16. From 1 to 16 seemed like it took forever. After 50, watch out; its like being on a jet.

Hope I see you at the Labor Day picnic on Sunday, September 4th at the Union Hall. Donations of \$5.00 for MDA will be accepted at the door.

I saw in our branch paper that our branch president Jim Good retired from the post office. I could understand why. When I've gone into the office and saw him sitting at his desk smoking his big cigar (I wonder if his wife lets him smoke in the house?), wearing a shirt and tie, and with a secretary, I often thought to myself, "Could this guy ever go back to working for a living as a letter carrier?" Well now we know the answer, huh? Hell no!

A lot of union presidents do retire while in office. Lenny Perez did, St. Pete President John Bourlon did and our National Business Agent Mattie Rose did. So if you're going to run for president make sure you're near retirement age so you don't ever have to go back to working in the summer heat as a letter carrier. (I made sure I didn't say working for a living. Ha ha!)

I had the pleasure of seeing in person at the union hall Tampa Postmaster Nancy Fryrear, whom I had not seen in quite a few years. She said, "Good to see the person who taught me every thing." and I replied, "You must be reading A.T.B.G.O." I for sure did not teach her everything but I did teach her about the NALC contract, something most floor managers could care less about. But Ms. Fryrear did care.

The post office sure has changed a lot. All the managers I knew in Brandon, the more grievances, the more money wasted, the more discipline, the further they went up the ladder. So Mrs. Fryrear, consider yourself lucky you broke the mold. (The old ways of their thinking.)

Just when we think maybe the post office is getting better, I read in the St. Pete union paper that the president, O.D. Elliott,

became aware that the St Pete post office hired private investigators to spy on carriers and clerks who called in sick with the charge of one case at \$500.00. What ever happened to the postal inspectors?



Since upper management reads these articles maybe you can help out a senior citizen in Brandon. A carrier was telling me that a patron who is age 87, while walking to get his mail from the box on the curb fell and got quite a bruise. He then sent a letter to the postmaster asking if he could have his box up on his house. The postmaster (from what I was told) replied, "Can't you get one of your neighbors to get the mail for you?" God forbid we help out an 87 year old! How long does he have left to get mail? Can someone help this old guy out?

I heard that Dave Stephens is back to the craft of carrying mail. Two long time, non-union Brandon carriers re-joined Branch 599: Ronnie English and Mike Brink. I'm sure credit for this has to go to the new shop steward Terry Franklin.

#### E.S.R.C. PRESENTS: TAMPA POSTAL EMPLOYEE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**WHEN**-Sunday, September 25, 2005

**WHERE**-Heritage Harbor Golf and Country Club

19502 Heritage Harbor Pkwy - Lutz, FL 33558

**TIME**-8 AM Shotgun Start

**COST**-\$55.00 Per Player – MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005.

**LIMITED TO THE FIRST 132 PLAYERS – NO WALK UPS**

**DINNER AFTER**- Ribs & Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Rolls and Butter, Cookies, Tea & Coffee

Send check or money order to:

**ESRC, PO BOX 24834, TAMPA, FL 33623**



## Around The Horn

by Tony Diaz

*Financial Secretary - Branch 599****MDA Stoplight Blitz***

**W**anted to start my article this month talking about the MDA STOP LIGHT BLITZ. Letter Carriers again are collecting on street corners for Jerry Lewis' kids. Last year was our first year back after a long lay off. Back in the day it was commonplace to see Letter Carriers collecting for MDA at least once a year. As the MDA telethon approached the public associated us with the MDA and we were always successful. Last year possibly because it was our first year, carrier turn out was low and that was reflected in the collections. This year however, turn out was great and collections were way up at all corners. I have always said it is about turn out, the numbers reflect the coverage area and that makes a difference. I think it is a Great cause, and yes it is hot and yes it is tiring and yes the fumes are sometimes bad but the satisfaction is worth all that. Letter Carriers turned out in numbers, doubling last year's collectors, and management came to help also!! We col-

lected \$16,909.13 . WOW great job to all who participated and the good thing is there is room for improvement. I believe with additional equipment we can hit \$20,000. The collection took place at 13 different street corners. I am proud to say turn out at the corner of Busch Blvd & Florida Ave was triple what we had last year. We collected \$1,581.33 which was 4<sup>th</sup> best city wide compared to last years last place finish with a collection of just over \$700.00. Great job, our collection total was the biggest increase from a year ago, and you know it was a lot of fun. So take a bow carriers at Seminole Station and Sulphur Springs for a job well done. By the way the #1 corner in the city was Kennedy & Dale Mabry with a total of \$2,290.95..... 2<sup>nd</sup> was Dale Mabry and Fletcher with a total of \$1,791.45 and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Hillsborough Ave & Himes with \$1,701.56. I wanted make sure I again mentioned and thanked my co-workers at Seminole Station for their generosity and for really stepping up to the plate. One of our co-workers has had some serious health issues. Recently he was out of

work for several weeks and with his ongoing health problems he is out of leave completely. Well we came to his aid using the leave donation program and gave him approx. 3 weeks of donated leave. In addition we collected \$320.00 from our small station for our brother in need. A combined effort (carriers, clerks and management) helped made this awesome gesture a success. Thanks again!! I am proud to say August 9, 2005 was my 25-year anniversary with the Unites Postal Service. Yes I have survived and I think I am still somewhat sane!! I can remember my early days and the brothers and sisters I worked with: names like Bailey, Dosal, Donovan, Sanchez, McConnell, Mason, Renner, Gebo and Little Eddie Jones are just a few. I am fortunate and grateful for their wisdom and guidance through my probation and some of their advice I still put to use today!! Look forward to talking to you again on the next [Around The Horn](#)

**Region 9 NALC Rap Session**

**From The Chair**

**by Brian Obst**

*Chairman - Tampa Letter Carriers, Inc.*

***Repairs and Recreation***

**G**ood Day once again from your TLC Chairman. It's good to be back. Sorry for no article last month but I was taking a family break in Las Vegas. I did manage to do some fact checking for a future convention while I was there and I think it is going to be a great place to go for the delegates.

It's already time for the September newsletter to go to press. Where does the time go? Seems like only yesterday that the board was elected and started on the many tasks at hand for the new year. Now as September creeps up on us, the board is beginning to start on preparations for the next National Convention in Las Vegas in August 2006. It won't be long until it will be time to go so you can bet your TLC, Inc. Board of Directors will be looking into any way to help make the time in Vegas more rewarding for the delegates. Enough said about that for now but keep watching for further developments.

Recently we have had some major repairs at the Union Hall dealing with 2 of our air conditioner units and Building Manager Jack Newman has informed me that they are back up to snuff and we don't have to worry about being too hot at our meetings and functions. Also repairs to our electric eyes for our gates were accomplished with little difficulty so they are also back up to par. Way to go, Jack! Keep up the good work.

Coming up is the Branch 599 Annual Labor Day Picnic at the Hall. I hope all members take the opportunity to come and take part in communing with your fellow union brothers and sisters and their families. Chris Albrecht has always done a great job putting it together and there will be great food and fellowship for all. Remember we are trying to raise money for MDA at the same time so keep those who are affected with this crippling disease in mind when you come out and let's see if we can make a difference for them.

Once again we the members of the board send out our best regards and thanks for their service to the membership to the following members who have departed from the board: Cheryl Clothier, James Cantrell and Mike Stewart. Also we bid a fond farewell to Building Maintenance Man Gary Stone, who after many years of service has decided to leave his position. We wish them well in their future endeavors.



Remember that all members are welcome at our meetings and I again extend an invitation to you to come down and bring your thoughts and ideas with you so we can truly fulfill our mission of service to the members of Branch 599. That's all for now but I will return next month with more *From The Chair of TLC*.

Your Chairman,  
Brian Obst

**Region 9 NALC Rap Session**



# ***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*

---

**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**

## A Point of Personal Privilege

### *Can You Hear Me Now?*

**F**irst, I want to thank all brother and sister letter carriers for their efforts during the stop light blitz for MDA. A special thank you goes out to all other craft employees and to those from management who opted to assist. Most of the letter carriers who volunteered had to work a full day in the heat prior to our three hour collection. On that specific day it had been the hottest day of the month with the temperature at 90 plus degrees and the heat index above 105 degrees. It seemed even hotter because of all the traffic. At the Himes and Hillsborough corner, cold towels, water and Gatorade were furnished for the volunteers by Branch 599.

Rumors abound within our craft about grievances won or lost, early outs, etc. I have heard that the USPS is going to hire private investigators to check on craft employees that call in sick. This rumor comes on the heels of a fiscal year net profit of \$1.71 billion dollars. Another rumor going around has the union losing a grievance pertaining to the mandatory installation of the ventilation fan in all LLVs. The resolve was supposed to be that it was mutually agreed that the vent fans would not be beneficial.

During a stand up talk I was presented my 35 year service pin and a booklet that had a letter of commendation for my years of service from Postmaster Nancy Fryrear. During the talk the postmaster implied that letter carriers may be called into the office by the station manager because of the increase in office times and street times. During our last route inspections everything was red-lined except pure casing time and pure delivery time. DOIS does not allow for any exceptions! There is no credit for the increase in office times throughout the city when we are doing what the clerks used to do or should be doing. We have the edit books, the new pink cards, the new COA's, the verifica-

tion on all forwards for spelling and their numeric addresses, scan points in the office, the distribution of mails back into the hot case by separating the letter and flat mails as to first class, second class, third class, etc. (even though we receive the mails all mixed together.) Then there are the tubs of flats that are sorted any which way and are never faced properly. (Except during check week.) Can someone explain to me what the coffins are for on the side of the cases? And how about some time to check our parcels to see if one is leaking, damaged or even mis-thrown? Often times those parcels are priority and are delayed if we don't check each one's address prior to delivering our routes. Mis-sorts cause the mail to be delayed by as much as 24 hours and thus our projected numbers are down. I get so irritated with management when they talk about the quality of service to our customers but truth be known all they care about is DOIS which bases its numbers on quantity. Management does not take into consideration any of the human factors with this job. It seems as you get older you can no longer do the work as thoroughly. The weather conditions take their toll on your body as does the ever increasing street delivery time. It is too bad that the union and the USPS can't get research done by an independent company to find out if there is any indication that the increase in vehicle accidents, sick calls and on the job injuries coincide with the increase in hours worked. Maybe this could create a safe working environment.

The supposed deficit of 25 letter carriers throughout the city totals to 1000 man hours a week that we have to try to absorb. Tampa is supposed to be hiring 7 PTFs but that only furnishes us with about 28% of our break even needs. I don't think this is going to lessen our work load because by the end of December I know of at least 3 letter carriers from one station that are supposed to retire. How many from the other 20 stations are retiring by then?

by Leslie Ray Garcia



Finally, in the June issue of this newsletter I submitted an article chastising the Bush administration. I was condemned by some of my brothers and sisters as being anti-American and accused of being against our soldiers. They requested that their names be withdrawn from the mailing list and even threatened to withdraw from the union if I did not change my political perspective. To these "true Americans", I suggest that they read *The Constitution of the United States of America*. This is the same one I volunteered to defend by joining the military after getting medically approved to enlist from 1964 to 1970 and by serving 8 months in Vietnam. I did not check "no" about overseas duty, nor did I have more important things to do and I did not have boils on my rear end!

"We have met the enemy, and he is us."  
Walt Kelly

---

#### President's Note:

On July 20<sup>th</sup> Branch 599 received a "B" Team decision regarding a class action grievance filed regarding the ventilation systems for the LLVs. The grievance was denied, stating that "there is no requirement that these ventilation systems be installed in all LLVs".

Postmaster Fryrear stated, after the decision from the "B" Team, that she will begin installing these systems as the LLVs go into the VMF for routine maintenance. This could have been agreed to as settlement of the grievance, but no offer of any kind was made by management. Hopefully she will make good on her statement.

At no time did the union state that the ventilation systems would not be beneficial, in fact the union's offered resolve was that the systems be installed.

Professional Financial Management Help  
**A WEALTH OF INFORMATION  
FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE**



*A Message from the MEMBERS Financial Services Program*

**When you're pondering your financial situation, you should know you don't have to go it alone! You can meet with Lorena Hollahan, the MEMBERS Financial Services Representative serving members of Tampa Postal Federal Credit Union. Lorena is an experienced professional with backing and support from hundreds of experts in insurance and financial management. She can provide the guidance and information you need and will take the time to get to know you and provide personal attention. Lorena will work with you to review your strategies, answer your questions, and create financial projections. Simply call 813-264-4969 ext.308.**

Representatives are registered through, and securities are sold through, CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member NASD/SIPC, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free (866) 512-6109. Insurance sold through licensed CUNA Mutual Life Insurance Company Representatives, and in New York, licensed insurance representatives of other companies. Nondeposit investment products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the credit union.

---

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