



The Twig of the Branch



Branch 1477 West Coast Florida Letter Carriers
Serving:

St. Petersburg — Largo — Dunedin — Pinellas Park — Indian Rocks Beach
Punta Gorda — Englewood — Bradenton Beach — Palmetto — Ellenton

VOLUME 344

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

MARCH , 2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

By, O.D. Elliott

STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE:

I recently had the opportunity to re-read a November 1981 Yale University research project concerning stress among Postal Workers. This project was the focus of a 1989 TV Documentary which high-lighted acts of violence among Postal Workers which seemed to be precipitated by great amounts of stress – at home, in the family and particularly in the workplace.

The 1981 Yale research project concerning stress among Postal Workers consisted of a “Job Stress and Health Survey” of Letter Carriers and Clerks of New Haven, Connecticut. Although more than two decades have passed since completion of the Yale research project, I felt it would be of interest to list the key sources of job stress for Carriers, as identified by the project, and to note the projects summary. (Underling added for emphasis.)

Key Sources of Stress:

1. Tensions resulting from little or no influence over Supervisory decisions which affect their job.
2. Conflicting Supervisor demands.
3. Having to do things against their better judgment.
4. Poor Morale.
5. Understaffing which leads to long hard overtime

hours.

6. Working under time pressure.

7. Dangerous or physical demanding work.

8. High noise levels.

9. Little or no job control.

10. Little chance to use abilities.

11. High level of hostility and harassment, some of which hostility comes from the public, but most intense abuse is from Supervisors.

In summary, the researchers reported that their survey found a high profile of job stress for Letter Carriers. It indicated that Carriers suffered a wide range of stressful conditions which was partly reflected in increasing emotional problems and chronic illnesses such as heart disease and high blood pressure. The survey noted that many factors seemed to point to a general rise in alcohol and drug use which could lead to further health problems. The researchers concluded that if there were no meaningful changes in the most stressful aspects of the Carrier job, pressures would continue to build, resulting in further deterioration of morale and health, while increasing the amount of job dissatisfaction.

Even though this survey was conducted over two decades ago, it could have been conducted yesterday and the results and findings would have been very nearly the same or worse.

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Letter Carrier Hall
Branch 1477, N.A.L.C. (727) 531-1477**



Les Talk
Executive Vice President
Les Stroup
lstroup@tampabay.rr.com

The Shop Stewards of this Union are the eyes, ears, and the voice on the workroom floor. The following Shop Stewards and Alternates were hard at work at our monthly (February) Shop Steward Meeting: **Chris Hubble, Rudy Betancourt, Chris Hampton, Ralph Brown, Willie Cochran, Rich Underwood, Tom White, Bob Brown, Glenn Fagan, Steve Warshawer, Ken Grasso, Doug Eggers, Brenda Mavretic, Larry Gaskin, Keith Northup, Rick Hadden, Miguel Sanchez, Bonnie Baldwin, Claudia Harvey, Patricia Meeks and Joe Rudolph.**

IF YOUR SHOP STEWARD IS NOT LISTED, ASK THEM WHY?

Shop Stewards **Jamie White, Lori Bell**, and Alternates **Barbara Brooks** attended the (February) South Meeting. The following carriers also attended: **Sharon Winesett, Michael Audit, and Joe Henschen.**

Without someone to represent all Union Letter Carriers, Management would steamroll craft employees at every turn to get the results that they desire. If you think that you have problems now, take a second to contemplate what it would be like if Management had no opposition. Not a pretty sight is it? Support your Shop Steward and show Management that we are united. The Steward is the key to a strong union.

We have a few new Shop Steward and Alternates this year. For some of these, it will be their first time as a Union Representative. They will need the support of their respective zones. Being a Shop Steward is not easy and their pay is minimal. Let's give the following Stewards and Alternates that needed support so they can make your zone a better place to work:

- Chris Hampton – Northside Zone 2**
- Willie Cochran – Midtown Zone 12**
- Richard Underwood – St. Pete Beach**
- Terry Helton – Crossroads Zone 9**
- Ron Wahlers – Crossroads Zone 10 N**
- Frank Pattie – Seminole Unit 74/72**
- Ed Bartholomew – Pinellas Park Unit 81**
- Ed Weaver - Crossroads 10S**
- Alan Hutchinson - 10S**

Special Thanks go out to the following Officers, Shop Stewards and Alternates who unselfishly gave up their Sunday, February 5th (Super Bowl) to attend a District Training Seminar that was held at the Tampa Letter Carrier Hall: **Ken Grasso, Tom Phillips, Willie Cochran, Lori Bell, Pam Poineau, Tanya Gillispie, Maurine Bibens, Rudy Betancourt, Dennis Jones, Bob Brown, Ralph Brown, Patricia Meeks, Tom White, John Wenk, O.D. Elliott, Joe Henschen, Chris Hampton, Harry Strzyzynski, Keith Northup, Mike Miller, Gene Markey, and Les Stroup.**

Recently I attended a Human Resources Shared Service Briefing. On January 30, 2006, Benefits, Retirements and Separations will be moved from the Tampa District Personnel Office to the Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC). The location of this facility is in Greensboro, North Carolina. There will be 450 employees at this call center, whereas we had 1350 employees nationwide. In the past, Letter Carrier's could make a telephone call and even make an appointment to meet face to face with a retirement specialists. Now, Shared Services will put you in contact with a person (over the telephone) and presently it is toll free call (1-877-477-3273). I was assured that employees would receive a one (1) hour retirement consultation. With 900 fewer employees, I foresee a lot of problems. If you have computer skills, you need your USPS PIN and employee identification number. The web address is <http://liteblue.usps.gov>, if you are using your own computer. If you have access to a postal computer, you can go to <http://postalpeople.usps.gov>.

Under Article 41.2B4 of the National Agreement, part-time flexibles (PTF's) may utilize their seniority to bid on full-time craft duty assignments that are temporarily vacant for a period of five days or more. This preferential bidding process is also referred to as opting. An assignment for which a PTF has successfully opted is commonly referred to as a hold down. Article 41 further provides that a PTF who successfully opts must remain on that duty assignment for the duration of the vacancy and may not be involuntarily displaced from such an assignment. Additionally, the contract provides that employees on hold downs are *unconditionally* entitled to work the regularly scheduled days and hours of the assignment. It should be remembered, however, that a PTF who assumes the duties of a full-time regular by virtue of opting nevertheless maintains the status of a PTF. As such, the USPS is not prevented from scheduling a PTF on a hold down to work overtime on what would be the nonscheduled day of that assignment.



IN SOLIDARITY

REPORT OF THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

By, Joe Henschen

The following is taken from the book *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela: *The challenge for every prisoner, particularly every political prisoner, is how to survive prison intact, how to emerge from prison undiminished, how to conserve and even replenish one's beliefs. The first task in accomplishing that is learning exactly what one must do to survive. To that end, one must know the enemy's purpose before adopting a strategy to undermine it. Prison is designed to break one's spirit and destroy one's resolve. To do this, the authorities attempt to exploit every weakness, demolish every initiative, negate all signs of individuality—all with the idea of stamping out the spark that makes each of us human and each of us who we are.*

Our survival depended on understanding what the authorities were attempting to do to us, and sharing that understanding with each other. It would be very hard if not impossible for one man alone to resist. I do not know that I could have done it had I been alone. But the authorities' greatest mistake was keeping us together, for together our determination was reinforced. We supported each other and gained strength from each other. Whatever we knew, whatever we learned, we shared, and by sharing we multiplied whatever courage we had individually. That is not to say we were all alike in our responses to the hardships we suffered. Men have different capacities and react differently to stress. But the stronger ones raised up the weaker ones, and both became stronger in the process. Ultimately, we had to create our own lives in prison. In a way that even the authorities acknowledged, order in prison was preserved not only by the warders but by ourselves.

Prison and the authorities conspire to rob each man of his dignity. In and of itself, that assured that I would survive, for any man or institution that tries to rob me of my dignity will lose because I will not part with it at any price or under any pressure. I never seriously considered the possibility that I would not emerge from prison one day. I never thought that a life sentence truly meant life find that I would die behind bars. Perhaps I was denying this prospect because it was too unpleasant to contemplate. But I always knew that someday I would once again feel the grass under my feet and walk in the sunshine as a free man.

I frequently use these words and those in the closing paragraph (for motivation). Over the years, as an officer in this Branch, and a Letter Carrier, I have experienced along with you many prison like delivery units. Reports at general membership meetings frequently highlight a Postmaster, Manager or Supervisor's warder like tactics. I have, in past articles likened some Management styles to terrorism, only used to disrupt our lives. I currently work in one of those units just as do our brothers and sisters on 66th street. It is difficult some mornings to find the desire to make the short drive to the office. If a poll was conducted throughout the Branch, I believe only few units could not share the same sentiment now or from the recent past. Mandela shows a road map to overcome this type of treatment. Know first what the authorities want. Understand that only a small amount of the treatment we face daily is due to postal operational changes and goals. We are simply faced with individuals that are no different than those warders on Robben Island. They are only motivated by stripping away our dignity and nothing else. I do not believe the Supervisor of 10-South has a portion of his bonus based on the number of Carriers he disciplines or whether he can force a Carrier with thirty plus years into retirement. I will never be convinced that the more a Supervisor berates a Carrier the more productive he/she becomes, just as I do not believe there is a goal that rewards the delivery of bulk mail in historical Northeast St. Petersburg or on the Beach, three weeks after the sale has ended. After all, the first loose page recently inserted into my route book states something along the line of we work for the mailer **and** the patron. Do not patronize us with service talks about timely delivery of delivery conformation pieces, or making scan percentages of some drop shipment with cheerleader niceties and fail to allow the core of the job to be completed correctly (or at all). Do not ask for input then give an Official Discussion for contrary opinions. There was a time when told of the expectations, Carriers were allowed to follow through. We are now left to guess how or why and only told of the what. Our dignity can remain intact when we stay together. "To do this, the authorities attempt to exploit every weakness, demolish every initiative, negate all signs of individual-

ity—all with the idea of stamping out the spark that makes each of us human and each of us who we are.”

I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being an optimist is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There are many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way leads to defeat.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

By, Harold Strzyzynski

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 9, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President O.D. Elliott.

Invocation by Greg Welsh

Pledge of Allegiance led by O.D. Elliott

Minutes accepted as printed in Twig for 1/12/06. (Motion by Gene Carroll, second, passed.)

NEW MEMBERS: No Members

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

SECRETARY: Harry Strzyzynski – Reading of 1 Official Correspondence.

TREASURER: - Tom Phillips – Financial Report. (Motion to accept by Anne Przetocki) It received a second and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES: Gene Markey – Four New Retirees, Guy Anteniese, T.J. Hollingsworth, Mike Miller, Paul Rountree. Retiree Al Lyons is hospitalized at the V.A. needs visitors.

MBA DIRECTOR: Bob Brown – Went to District Meeting Sunday. Topics were COLCPE and Postal Reform.

HEALTH BENEFIT DIRECTOR: Ken Grasso – New Director of Health Plan T.O. Malley. I did 23 Eye Glass Reimbursement Applications this month.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Keith Northup – Books Audited all in order.

EDITOR: John Boulton – Spoke on the importance of

COLCPE Contributions. Donations to COLCPE are needed. You now have payroll deduction which makes it easier. We only, have about 14 members who are currently making automatic COLCPE contributions through payroll deductions.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Welsh – Excused

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Henschen – Excused

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Les Stroup – **Sad Report:**

Eric Bonds – Palmetto – Grandmother (99) passed away

Lori Bell – Punta Gorda – Aunt passed away

Ralph Brown – Steward – Midtown – Father passed away

Alfred Lyons – Retiree Gateway – VA Hospital (please call 204-8740)

Jimmy Blaine – Retiree St. Pete – Passed away

Donald Dykens – Retiree St. Pete – Seriously ill

Kenneth Boisvert – Retiree Pinellas Park – Passed away

Joann McNutt – Englewood – Son serious auto accident

Susan Chavaz - Englewood – Brother passed away

Thomas Ryan – Retiree St. Pete – Passed away

Les Stroup – Executive Vice President – Son hospitalized Phenomena – heart

I attended a meeting in Tampa, they informed us that the facilities that house our records – Personnel Files, is being moved to Greensboro North Carolina. Stewards need to get the paper work that I have requested, so that we can properly fight the new DOIS Program. I conducted a Shop Steward Training for 4 new Stewards and 2 Alternates.

POLITICAL LIASON: Leo Murray – S.662 Postal Reform was passed by the U.S. Senate on 2/9/06, by unanimous consent. The Bill will now head to a Conference Committee to work out the differences between the House version (HR22) and the Senate version before we can reach final approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Voting for By-Law change on changing Down South meeting.

By-Law failed to pass by one vote.

NEW BUSINESS: O.D. Elliott installed the Shop Stewards for 2006 and was assisted, by John Boulton

GOOD OF THE SERVICE: O.D. Elliott –

District 2 Meeting on 2/5/06 at Tampa Letter Carriers Hall. For Stewards given by our National Business

Agent attended. We had 18 Officers and Stewards in attendance.

Branch Car has been purchased a 2005 Ford Taurus, with only 6700 miles on it. After taxes, title, and trade in, we paid \$11,217.68

State of Florida recently audited our books to determine our Workers compensation Insurance premiums. We passed with no problem, thanks to Tom Phillips & Keith Northup having all the financial reports available and in order.

Secretary-Treasures Training in Baltimore MD next week. Treasurer Tom Phillips will attend.

We have had good responses to the NALC update list

New Name Old Program DPS and Go is now in effect, of course there are abuses by Management, Grievances being files.

Branch 1753, Bradenton has elected new officers and voted not to merge.

19 Paid Delegates for the National Convention

Air Fare and Rooms have all ready been paid for this is a very important Convention, we have election of National Officers, also our Contract is up this year.

We have received a favorable Step 4 Decision on FLMA.

Collection for COLCPE was taken up by Leo Murray \$100.00 was donated by Wayne Zona.

WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:

50/50 – Gary Ssavnicki \$133.00

Lotto – Keith Northup

Christy Carr donated a new uniform shirt won by Paul Rountree

Auxiliary Drawings:

1. Bob Meeks
2. Bonnie Baldwind
3. Fred Assidy
4. Joe Rudolph
5. Joe Rudolph
6. Scott Tyler
7. Tricia Meeks

EDITORS REPORT:

By, John Bourlon

HAVE YOU DONE IT YET!!!!!!!

Have you made your contribution to the COLCPE fund yet? **Those who have not, I know.** I know exactly who in this branch have done so. There were 16 members who made their contribution thru the payroll deduction and 14 who made donations directly to headquarters. This is the total of 30 out of 1454 members. 50% percent of those who donated are retired. Embarrassing isn't it? Well. Not really. It is your money and it is your job. It would seem to me that to contribute just one dollar a week, (the price of a sausage and biscuit) would be a wise choice to insure job security. Yeah, I know. You must be tired of hearing. "donate to COLCPE, Don't forget, and Give to COLCPE". Want to know something? You have not heard the end. Even though I am retired and I have made my contribution I will still give to COLCPE to insure the probability that this Postal Service, as we know it today, will still be there when you become eligible to retire.

Look, it is simple. Do one of two things. Either sit down and write a check for \$26.00 AND MAIL IT TO THE NALC Headquarters, 100 Indian Avenue North, Washington, DC, 20001, Attention COLCPE, or better yet, why don't you see your Union Steward and look into making an allotment to have the deduction taken out of your pay - Just a dollar a week. If you are retired it's easy. Just pick up the phone and call (888) 767-6738, or go to www.opm.gov click on employment and benefits, under retirement service click on "Service online" then follow the prompts, Just a dollar a week. That's all. Just one dollar.

HEALTH BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVE:

By, Ken Grasso

Food of the Month – Wild Rice

Wild rice is more than a delicacy, it has big health benefits

In some parts of the world, the word for "to eat" literally means "to eat rice." It may be the world's most popular food, supplying as much as half of the daily calories for half of the world's population.

The most nutritious kinds of rice are brown and wild rice, say doctors at Louisiana State University. They have high amounts of fiber, complex carbohydrates, and essential B vitamins, and they contain a compound that

reduces the amount of cholesterol produced by the body.

In the mineral department, a cup of wild or brown rice contains half the daily value of manganese, 27 percent of selenium, 20 percent of magnesium, and 18 percent of a person's daily requirement of tryptophan.

Half a cup of brown rice contains two grams of fiber. This means it passes quickly through the colon, reducing the risk of cancer.

The fiber in brown and wild rice binds with estrogen so there is less of the hormone circulating in the bloodstream. High levels of estrogen have been shown to trigger changes in the cells that can lead to breast cancer.

While white rice is softer and fortified to contain B vitamins, it lacks fiber, containing only 1/10th the amount in brown rice.

Long-grain and wild rice are the gourmet's favorites. Short-grain, however, has similar health benefits.

THE RETIREMENT CORNER:

By, James E. (Gene) Markey

The **Largo Retiree Breakfast Group** met on Thursday, February 2, 2006. Attending were: **Bill Guenther, Bob Miller, Bill Koutney, Eamon Grant, Rufus King, Richard Rink, John Hammock, Les Stroup, Sam Miller, Gene Markey Dorian Sobat, and Pat Grant.**

Their next breakfast will be on **Thursday, March 2, 2006** at **9:00** a.m. at the **Boris Family Restaurant**, 11311 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

The **St. Petersburg Retiree Breakfast Group** met on Wednesday, February 15, 2006. Attending were: **Don Kosior, John Layner, Bob Trimble, Gil Migliano, Gene Markey, Hank Goettelman, Ron Cherry, Everett Perkins, Richard Compheer, Don Markey and Bob Williams.**

The next *St. Petersburg Breakfast* will be on **Wednesday, March 15, 2006** at **Denny's Restaurant**, U.S. 19 and 50th Avenue North in St. Petersburg.

The following Carriers have retired since the first of the year: **Alphonso Gilstrap (Largo), Guy Ateniese (St. Petersburg), Theo Hollinsworth (St. Pete Beach), Paul Rountree (Northside), and Mike Miller (Gulfwinds).**

TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

By, Larry Gaskin

Who is responsible for your safety?

The USPS constantly reminds us how concerned they are about our safety. Yet, they have a strange way of showing this great concern. On Friday, February 3, 2006, most of Pinellas County received a record amount of rain in a short period of time. The television and radio news was warning everyone to stay off the streets because of severe flooding. However, Management in the Seminole Post Office instructed the Carriers to plunge ahead. In one instance, a Rural Carrier was told if the water was too high for her vehicle, she should get out and walk, this was a direct order from the Acting Station Manager. The Rural Carrier was also told that the mail was not to be brought back to the Post Office. Many Carriers called the office for guidance; they were shocked at Management's lack of concern for their well being.

One more example. A Carrier on Limited Duty for an injury was coaxed into violating her doctor's restrictions. She felt guilty for not being able to perform more task, to help her fellow Carriers.

So, who is responsible for your safety? YOU ARE!!!!

Fact: You are never required to follow any instruction that creates a safety hazard. Think of it this way, if you perform an unsafe act, you will be disciplined. The Carrier on the Street is the only person who can decide if an unsafe condition exists. You should call Management and advise them of the hazard but, it's your call. Someone sitting in their comfy office can not tell you otherwise. They do not have magical powers, really they don't. If they were capable of making important decisions, they would be out on the street doing it, instead of hiding from the weather. Do not be intimidated by people who cannot do your job. We are all adults; we know when not to push the envelope too far. Always remember, **those who can deliver the mail, do. Those who can't, supervise.**

Stay Safe

GREETINGS FROM SEMINOLE/LARGO

By, Keith L. Northup Sr.

Trustee/Chief Steward

The 5:00 Window: We are hearing a lot about the 5:00 o'clock window. This is a goal from District, which they want us to meet on a daily basis. This does not give our Management the right to violate Article 8 of the National Agreement. I need the help of my fellow Carriers.

ers to insure they do not violate our contract. Carriers on the Overtime-Desired List should still get their overtime in spite of the 5 o'clock window. Management has the right to tell you when to case the mail you delay in the morning. They can keep you at work at night casing mail. They do not have the right to force non-volunteers to carry pieces just because of the 5:00 o'clock window they want to maintain. Inform your Steward when you think they have broken the rules and we will look into each incident every time Management does it. When our Supervisors break the rules, someone should be paid. We want to keep an even playing field for all.

Customer service from our standpoint: We should all be looking for ways to improve the service to those that depend on us daily. Getting to know habits for older customers is something we all need to do. Anything could happen and we the Carrier are the first line of defense for many of our customers. We know when customers fail to pick up mail as they have picked it up for years. In many cases, the Carrier could know if something is wrong prior to their family finding out. Keep your eyes open for anything that does not seem just right. The life you save could be your friends. Good customers are hard to replace.

Respect for all: Many of the rules placed into effect by the Postal Service are both for craft employees and Managers. We all have to follow them on an ongoing basis. Respect is one thing we all seem to forget sometimes runs both ways. We all earn respect when we follow the rest of the rules. We do not get anywhere by yelling because we cannot have it our way everyday, when we are told to do something different than we have always done. You may have been doing it wrong and a correction is required to bring you into compliance with the rules. It may work for you if you try it. You could be building your respect at the same time.

Think about our UNION working to improve our working conditions. Life as a whole is better for Letter Carriers, thanks to the Union. Have a nice day; I'll see you at the hall.

BARB'D WIRE OVER CHARLOTTE: By, Barb Brooks

HATS OFF" to our SPO, Richard Barber and Steward Jamie White for getting the safety issue finally resolved regarding the excess sand in the parking lot. I am certain that forms are either shuffled or filed according to Management's stance on certain issues, and certainly Mr. Barber has been active on safety and can attribute another victory here in Punta Gorda.

Jamie had extra sod and worked it out with our maintenance man Greg Ortel, completing this task in only a couple of days! It makes for easier footing, loading, plus prevents hamper wheel jams and saves my back from additional strain and jerking. I have put another bug in his ear about our hard trays and how broken and obsolete they are. Of course I did not fill out any paperwork, but am hoping that his wheels are turning with a reward type system. I will be heading into his office again soon for a follow-up

Karin Banks is out recuperating again after some personal surgery and we hope that she is getting some much needed pampering for her husband, Doug. She has had several surgery battles in the past year, so we are hopeful that this will be a great cure-all for a more lengthy time to come. Keep your Chin up, Karin. . . *we are pulling for you!*

Rural Carriers are gearing up for route counts in both the Annex and Punta Gorda so the mail volume will be an interesting item to watch. A few familiar faces will be coming out of retirement to assist. Freeman Shaw and Joan Harter will be part of the manpower for two weeks. It is nice to see them involved.

Our Steward, Lori Bell has been active in launching a bank drafting contribution form for us to easily participate in COLCPE. This is an ideal means for our committee on Letter Carrier Political Education to budget their donations. These donations do not come from our Union dues but are crucial to have our voice echoed by representatives in office and stand up for our views and issues. For as little as 5.00 per month (only \$60.00 a year) , we can contribute painlessly and practically effortless, with a monthly bank-draft! I am glad I am signed up and urge each and every letter carrier to help shape our future and livelihoods by donating as little as the mere 5.00 per month to show once again how we always come together! Lori Bell can be contacted personally on her direct cell number at 815-6042 and she will quickly help you with the short form to fill out, aiding a great cause, our future! Next month I will report how close to our goal of 100% participation we are. - -stay tuned and please consider donating to COLCPE!

This month will mark the first meeting we have at the BRAND NEW' library on Forrest Nelson and 41. What a great place to arrive early to, with free public internet computers, a concession stand, gazebo's overlooking a peaceful canal, a colorful and exciting children's wing, comfortable seating around magazines and newspapers... you'd have to walk into our meeting with a terrific sense of well-being and relaxation! Just another GREAT reason to come to our meetings, the

4th Thursday of each month, experience the magnitude of our new public library! Pizza and atmosphere, YES!

NEWS FROM THE ANNEX:

Connie Laine's daughter was bitten by a recluse spider and in serious conditions. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and family.

**Leo Murray
Congressional District 10 Liaison**

The following members of Branch 1477, active and retired, were listed in the special February issue of the Postal Record for their 2005 contributions to COLCPE.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Terry Adamskie | Bruce Gibney |
| Guy Ateniese | Kenneth Grasso |
| Bonnie Baldwin | Joseph Henschen |
| Lori Bell | David Higgins |
| Rudy Betancourt | John Kamuda |
| Johnny Bourlon | William Koutney |
| Robert Brown | Leo Murray |
| Lloyd Cole | Everett Perkins |
| Richard Dimetre | Thomas Phillips |
| Orville Elliott | Michael Pizzorusso |
| Glenn Fagan | Thomas Rivello |
| John Free | Sherry Rollins |
| Amy Fuhr | Leslie Stroup |
| Larry Gaskin | Gregory Welsh |
| Pamela Gervais | Charles Wendling |

If you are not a COLCPE contributor, WHY NOT? 2006 is an election year. Elections will be held for a third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives. COLCPE contributions go to viable candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who support us, both Democrats and Republicans who have pledged their support for the NALC position on issues like Postal Reform. Electing our friends to the House and Senate helps to provide job security for active Letter Carriers and peace of mind for retired Letter Carriers.

S.662 Postal Reform was recently passed by the Senate and the bill is now headed to a conference committee to work out the differences between the House version (H.R.22) and the Senate version before final congressional approval is reached. The President has threatened to veto Postal Reform because the bill would return the costs of military pensions (\$23 billion dollars) from the Postal Service to the U.S. Treasury. It may be necessary later this year to ask our friends in the House and Senate to override a Presidential veto.

Postal Reform is too important of an issue for you not

to get involved. Contribute to COLCPE. Support legislators in both parties who support a strong Postal Service and will protect collective bargaining rights, your job, paycheck, retirement and health benefits.

**NALC AUXILIARY #181
By, Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson**

Twenty years ago, I knew I wanted to join our Auxiliary! At State and National Conventions, and Trainings, at Union Meetings, and at social events I saw this group in action. They were always the first in line when any help was needed and they did more than their share of the work. I remember **Gerry Bourlon** took the minutes at the State Conventions, giving up her time to join in Auxiliary activities and sight-see. I can't remember a time when **Joyce Keller** and **Margaret Perkins** weren't cooking at each Union meeting. Every time we had a party at the Union Hall, the auxiliary ladies were there hours before, decorating and cooking, before rushing home to change and come back to support their husbands and our Union. The Auxiliary must be the heart of our Union.

Don Keller, **Clarence's** brother from Ohio, visited our February Auxiliary meeting. They're going to check out some Model A's in Vero Beach, while Joyce recovers from two surgeries. One more to go and hopefully, she'll be as good as new. **Alice Wannike**, **Bill Moran**, **Sally Madden**, and **Everett Perkins** are recuperating, too, while **Marlene** and **Gene Markey** are vigilantly attending to **Marlene's** mother, **Emily**, who is in intensive care with pneumonia, heart and renal failure. **Pat O'Donnell** is taking care of her 98 year old mother. We wish and pray for the best for all.

Please join the Auxiliary at the Union Hall: Call any Auxiliary member to attend.
March 15, 7:00 P.M. monthly meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month)
March 17, 6:00 P.M. St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dirty Bingo
April 2, 2:00-4:00 P.M. Auxiliary Tea and teacup exchange

- Raffle winners:
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bobby Meeks | 5. Patricia Meeks |
| 2. Fred Assidy | 6. Bonnie Baldwin |
| 3. Cindy (Battista) | 7. Joe Rudolph |
| 4. Scott Tyler | 8. Joe Rudolph |

Happy Birthday to **Margaret Perkins** on March 29!
Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson filling in for **Marlene Markey**
P.S. I didn't marry a Letter Carrier just to join the Aux-

iliary it was a perk!

ALL CRAFT RETIREES BREAKFAST

By, Bernie Ososky

Largo's All Craft Retirees Breakfast for the month of February was another well attended gathering with fifteen smiling, relaxed, and hungry folks. Conversations were abound with everybody trying to catch up on what everybody was doing since the old PO! Those in attendance who participated in those conversations were: **Rev. Victor Ball**, my buddy **Pat Grant**, Executive Vice President **Les Stroup**, **Bob Tillman**, **Brad Wells** (Mr. N.C.), **Jan Blue** (Blue Girl), **Ivan Davidson**, **Don Pellgrino** (Mr. Las Vegas), **Rudy Lang**, **Bette Williams**, **Mike Pizzorusso** (Mikeeeeeee), **Neal Williamson**, and our newest member, who has been retired for (20 years), **Mr. Ed Joyner** and of course me. Our monthly gatherings are held the first Wednesday of every month and we encourage everyone to come and join us, active or not, for a guaranteed good time, great food and plenty of memories. So, come on down to Denny's on Missouri on March the 1st at 9 a.m. COME ON NOW! NO EXCUSES, IT ONLY LAST FOR 1 HOUR! See Ya Then!!!

THE FIRST TUESDAY OF MONTH BUNCH:

By, Jim Long

The Retirees of Pinellas Park get together the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the **DeMills Family Restaurant** at 6501 Park Blvd. we had a great time the following attended: **Nils Holmquist**, **Bill Butler**, **Bob Trimble**, **Willie Santiago**, **Johnny Wagner**, **Max Wannike**, **Joe Tessa**, **Hack Haschalk**, **Tony Klepac**, **Rollin Dunbar**, **Wayne Lura**, **Lester Ray**, **Lynn Phillips**, **Col. Ron Hagland**, **Bob Meeks**, **Robin Hood**, **Mike Coughlin**, **Phil Gazi**, **Harold Jividen** and **O.D. Elliott**.

The next Breakfast will be March 7, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

THE "SKI" REPORT

By Brother Steve "Ski" Wojchowski

Brothers and Sisters:

Please allow me to clarify something that I wrote last month in regard to overtime. In no way do I condemn working more than the normal work week. Obviously, if there is imperative work that must be done, then someone has to do it. However, I strongly feel that the workers who are in most need of overtime and desire

overtime should work it to their hearts content and the Sisters and Brothers who do not want it or may suffer some personal hardship or inconvenience from it should not have to accept forced labor.

The irony that I apparently failed to make clear was that we fought side by side with each other for the right to a forty hour week, **if we so choose**, and should not be fighting and arguing against each other in regard to overtime.

That is why we have a system in place with overtime lists and tracking charts being monitored by supervisors and shop stewards. Please, if you feel that the overtime in your unit has been unfairly apportioned, bring it to the attention of your shop steward and have him or her investigate the situation. Chances are the fellow worker you have bad feelings toward has only been following the schedule or the supervisor's orders. You have rights and there are proper ways to attain them. Let's not fight among ourselves.

Hoping everyone had a great Presidents' Day off I realize that we primarily think of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on that special day but I have always tried to stop and reflect on them plus some of our other Presidents, particularly the ones who have stood up for the blue collar workers of America. Here are some of my favorite quotes:

Abraham Lincoln: "All that harms labor is treason to America. If any man tells you he loves America, yet he hates labor, he is a liar. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do would be to join a union."

Harry S. Truman: "The right to join a union of one's choice is unquestioned today, and is sanctioned and protected by law."

Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of the right to join the union of their choice."

John F. Kennedy: "The American labor movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America."

Jimmy Carter: "It's almost impossible to separate the trade union movement of the world with freedom."

God bless them all and pray that another good friend comes along soon.

Keep your head on straight and maintain a steady pace.

Scholarship Application

fill out and return application

"Mary Lou Jackman-William Corbeau Scholarship Fund"

Name of Student _____ **Female** _____ **Male** _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Contact phone number _____

NALC Branch # _____ **Member's name** _____

This is to certify that the above named member of the FSALC is a member in good standing.

Signature Br. President or Secretary _____ **date** _____

Return all applications to:

Jesse A. Costin, FSALC Director of Education
232 Glen Eagle Circle
Naples, Florida 34104

The following requirements must be adhered to in order to qualify for the scholarship.

- 1. Student must have graduated from an accredited high school or have a GED.**
- 2. Student must be a dependent of a member, or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.**
- 3. The applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university, and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded.**
- 4. Applications must be returned and received on or before July 31, 2006.**

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. Do not send transcripts or grade records until notified. There will be four scholarships awarded - two for a female, and two for a male - each in the amount of \$2000. The drawing will be held during the National Convention in Las Vegas.

E-Mail: branch1477@verizon.net
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(727) 531-1477

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Tom Phillips	Alternate	Zone 3	579-1981
Greg Chewning	Steward	Zone 4	864-6817
Jerry Vann	Alternate	Zone 4	584-0081
Ralph Brown	Steward	Zone 5/15	866-8366
Willie Cochran	Alternate	Zone 12	865-1760
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Tanya Gillespie	Alternate	Zone 6	343-7146
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Patricia Meeks	Alternate	Zone 7	521-9772
Greg Welsh	Steward	Zone 8	596-6239
Randy Keys	Alternate	Zone 8	399-2052
Robert Brown	Steward	Zone 9	517-3635
Glenn Fagan	Steward	Zone 10N	741-2006
Ed Weaver	Steward	Zone 10S	735-0130
Alan Hutchinson	Alternate	Zone 10S	347-0971
A.J. Pollard	Steward	Zone 11	667-4254
Steve Warshawer	Steward	Zone 13	726-1053
Ken Grasso	Steward	Zone 14	397-9737
Rudy Betancourt	Steward	Zone 16	813-231-6874

Dunedin

Doug Eggers	Steward	736-7475
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Indian Rocks Beach

Brenda Mavretic	Steward	641-8467
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Largo/Seminole

Keith Northup	Steward	Unit 70/73/71/78	397-1108
Larry Gaskin	Steward	Unit 74/72	544-7651
Keith Northup	Chief	Unit 76/77	397-1108
Dana Bigley	Alternate	Unit 76/77	

Pinellas Park

Fred Assidy	Steward	Unit 81	585-0115
Ed Bartholomew	Alternate	Unit 81	384-1152
Rick Hadden	Steward	Unit 82	344-4567
Bob Meeks	Alternate	Unit 82	521-9772

South Cities

Miguel Sanchez	Steward	Bradenton Bch	941-773-5884
Bonnie Baldwin	Steward	Ellenton	941-722-0632
Eric Bonds	Steward	Palmetto	941-722-0739
Tony Maxey	Alternate	Palmetto	813-988-6179
Lori Bell	Steward	P.G. 80/83	941-815-6042
Barbara Brooks	Alternate	P.G. 80/83	941-624-0043
Jamie White	Steward	P.G. 50	941-764-6238
Robin Gillett	Alternate	P.G. 50	941-613-6885
Bob Truenski	Steward	Annex	941-426-6571
Pam Poineau	Steward	Englewood	941-661-6071
Maurine Bibens	Alternate	Englewood	941-475-2905

Legislative Liaison	Leo Murray	527-0366
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BRANCH MEETING NOTICES

The **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will be held on **Thursday, March 9, 2006** at the Letter Carriers Hall, 5369 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park, Florida at **7:00P.M.**

The **BRANCH 1477 SOUTH MEETING** will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2006** at **2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. at 7:00 P.M.**

The **SHOP STEWARDS MEETING** will be held on **Thursday, March 16, 2006** at the Letter Carriers Hall at **7:00 P.M.**

AH, YES

If you find a mistake, please consider that it was place din this publication for for a purpose.....


We publish something for everyone, and some people are determined to find one!

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS, AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF BRANCH 1477.

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