



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 346

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

December, 2009



NOTICE OF ELECTIONS



In accordance with Article 5 of the National Constitution and Article 4 of Branch 1477 By-Laws, official notice is hereby given that **nominations of delegates to the 2010 National Convention in Anaheim, California** was taken at the regular order of business at the **November 12, 2009 Regular Branch Meeting.**

NOMINATIONS FOR DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Thom Hart | 11. Jim Bumbul | 21. Tom Phillips | 31. O.D. Elliott |
| 2. Zulma Ortiz | 12. Harry Strzyzynski | 22. Susan Chavez | 32. Elis Pujols |
| 3. Tom White | 13. Randy Holman | 23. Cindy Pollock | 33. Fred Assidy |
| 4. Greg Welsh | 14. Patricia Meeks | 24. Brenda Mavertic | 34. Elizabeth Arnold |
| 5. Sue Dombrowski | 15. Chris Hubble | 25. Lori Bell | 35. Sheldon Jones |
| 6. Willie Cochran | 16. Gene Carroll | 26. Tracee Lawson | 36. Rudy Betancourt |
| 7. Barb Brooks | 17. Leo Murray | 27. Bob Brown | 37. Larry Gaskin |
| 8. Rick Renshaw | 18. Robert Meeks | 28. Justin Wilt | 38. Chuck Cavicchio |
| 9. Ralph Brown | 19. Lewis Cason | 29. Don Lyerly | 39. Glenn Fagan |
| 10. Ozzy Antonetty | 20. Ken Grasso | 30. Brian Andrews | 40. John Bourlon |

The **election** of the nominated delegates will take place on **December 10, 2009 at the Letter Carrier's Hall 5369 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park, Florida by secret ballot.** NOTE: Article 4, Section 3.(F) of the By-Laws provide that the President & Executive Vice President, by virtue of their office, shall be paid delegates.

**VOTING POLLS WILL BE OPEN
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009
FROM 4:00 TO 7:00 P.M.**

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Letter Carrier Hall Branch
1477, N.A.L.C. (727) 531-1477**



**Les Stroup
President**

MDA BOWLATHON

Hundreds of letter carriers, their families and friends took part in the first ever national NALC "Deliver the Cure" bowlathon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association the weekend of November 1. Locally, Branch 1477 gathered at the Liberty Lanes in Largo for a tailgate party and an afternoon of fun and bowling. Thanks

to the efforts of Cindy Pollock and Bob Smolka, we were able to raise over a thousand dollars for MDA.

"On behalf of MDA, thank you so much for your support," said National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams, a retired national executive vice president. "Whether you actually bowled with us, or supported us with a donation—we really appreciated your participation. It was a great day nationwide for MDA and we could not have done it without you."

FERS SICK LEAVE CREDIT

Letter carriers under FERS are now allowed to credit unused sick leave toward retirement. The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision to allow all federal workers under FERS who retire between now and 2013 to get half credit for their surplus sick leave. FERS employees who want full credit for unused sick leave must hold off on retiring until at least 2014. Federal workers under CSRS already receive full credit toward retirement for unused sick leave.

FOUR WEEK PENALTY OVERTIME EXCLUSION

Under terms of Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the NALC-USPS National Agreement, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable will begin December 5, 2009 (Pay Period 26-09 – Week 1) and end January 1, 2010 (Pay Period 01-10 Week 2).

Accolades to employees at all Post Offices. Hopefully, release of the report will stop/slow-up the hiring of more contract workers to replace current government employees! At your meetings, please mention this good news to all; it will especially be welcomed by postal employees and retirees who have taken "lumps" in past years.

- 96 percent for Single-Piece First-Class Mail overnight delivery for the fourth consecutive quarter.

- 95 percent for two-day delivery, up 1 percentage point over last quarter.
- 94 percent for three-to-five-day delivery, up 1 percentage point over last quarter.

It's that time of year again: FEHBP Open Season is under way—your chance to select the health and flexible spending account coverage that's right for you. The NALC's Health Benefit Plan has added new benefits for 2010, and Director of Health Benefits Timothy C. O'Malley challenges all members make an informed decision by comparing the NALC HBP with other federal plans via OPM's Insurance Programs. All active and retired letter carriers who are not currently enrolled in the NALC Health Benefit Plan can do so beginning November 9, the first day of the annual "Open Season" period when federal and postal employees and retirees can join or switch their health coverage plans under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program. The 'Open Season' will continue through December 14.



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Joe Henschen
Executive Vice
President
Twitter@JaHe1

With the holidays upon us, I want to dedicate my part of the Twig to what I see as a huge problem for all of us. **STRESS!** I see it daily at my desk and hear it in the voices of the brothers and sisters I talk to throughout the month. Work related stress compounds stress at home and for many it is unavoidable. The following information and related topics can be found at www.EAP4YOU.com

Whether we're late for work, stuck in the wrong line at the supermarket, pushing to meet a deadline, or realizing we can't ignore that growing pile of bills any longer, we're all well acquainted with stress. It's a normal part of life that we can't escape.

Sometimes we encounter a greater degree of stress, when we have to cope with emotionally fraught events like divorce, the loss of a job or the death of someone dear to us. And although we may not realize it, stress accompanies even the happiest occasions in life, like getting married or having a baby.

We experience stress as physical and emotional tension, and each of us experiences stress differently. Too much tension can be unhealthy, resulting in everything from occasional tension headaches to high blood pressure and heart disease. These symptoms are the body's way of letting us know that something needs to change. If stress seems to be causing such problems for you, it's a good idea to learn how to reduce these symptoms before they get worse.

Of course, it's impossible to eliminate stress from our lives completely. But we can find better ways to deal with it. These techniques can help minimize stress and make it more manageable:

- Planning for major changes
- Eliminating wasted time
- Setting attainable short- and long-term goals
- Allowing yourself time to adapt to change
- Making good nutrition and regular exercise part of your daily routine

Of course, planning can't always work. But when something stressful occurs that you couldn't possibly anticipate, it's a good idea to have some sort of release strategy that you know works for you. Some people take a long walk; others say a mantra (a syllable or phrase that people repeat over and over as a means to relax). A hot bath

soothes a lot of people; for some, working out at the gym does the trick. Find something that works for you and use it when you need to. Most people find that the more they use their release strategy, the more effective a release it becomes.

And keep in mind that a release strategy should promote health – and be acceptable to others who may be around. For example, while you may find strumming a guitar to be relaxing, it's probably not a good idea to relieve your stress by blaring an electric guitar in an apartment complex at 3 a.m.

Key Tip 1 Stress has been called America's biggest health problem, and the numbers back it up. For example, somewhere between 75 percent and 90 percent of the visits people make to their primary care physicians are for stress-related problems. And a similar number of adults have reported experiencing "high levels of stress."

Key Tip 2 Stress can cause an astonishing variety of problems. Although you may believe, as most of us do, that you can handle your stress, the consequences of poorly managed stress can be quite serious, resulting in:

- Higher blood pressure and heart disease
- Insomnia and fatigue
- Headache and indigestion
- Backaches, muscle tension and leg cramps
- Decreased functioning of your immune system

Key Tip 3 Most people acknowledge that stress can cause physical problems, although they may not realize how severe such problems can become. But stress can also have emotional and behavioral consequences, such as:

- Depression
- Anger and irritability
- Anxiety and worry
- Feelings of helplessness
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Relationship problems
- Eating disorders

Specifics You can make a difference for yourself. With some thought and planning, you can reduce the physical and emotional effects of stress in your life.

Physically, you can begin with a simple step like giving your uncomfortable clothes or shoes to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

your life. Whether it's shooting some hoops, swimming at the local fitness center or taking a brisk walk, you can work out the consequences of stress and improve your fitness at the same time. Be sure to consult with a physician before starting any exercise program, especially if you are older than 35.

Exercise goes hand-in-hand with nutrition. So consider working to improve your diet by lowering the fat content in your food and increasing your intake of fruit, vegetables and grains.

Make physical contact with the people you care about. Hugs, pats on the shoulder, massages – all of these can help relieve stress and simultaneously shore up a strong relationship.

Exercise, good diet, personal contact – these are the positive ways to handle your stress. They're much more efficient than alcohol or drugs. Don't try to mask your stress – work it out!

Mentally, you can start by thinking about ways to avoid stressful situations. Hate getting stuck in lines? Then pick odd hours for banking at your ATM or doing your grocery shopping. Think through how to do complicated tasks before you start – and if you need help, don't be afraid to ask. Furthermore, when you get that help, be generous and admiring in your gratitude. If you can appreciate what others do for you, they'll notice and reciprocate. And there's nothing like a compliment from a peer or close friend to counter your stress du jour.

A good habit to get into is writing everything down. Things happen so fast, and become so complicated so rapidly, that keeping a written record is about the only way to keep on top of all you have to do – unless you're one of few people in the world with a photographic memory.

Get involved – educate yourself! Many of us hated school when we **had** to go. But many of us surprise ourselves by how much we enjoy going back to take classes in subjects that really interest us. Continuing your education keeps you stimulated, broadens your horizons and, according to some recent surveys, keeps your mind sharp.

But perhaps the best habit of all is to develop and maintain your sense of humor. Things go wrong, stuff happens. If you can find a way to laugh at it, you vaporize your stress before it even has time to gather strength. Once you've got your mental and physical practices in play, **planning** can form the third leg of your stress-reduction triangle. There's the kind of planning that sim-

Once you've got your mental and physical practices in play, **planning** can form the third leg of your stress-reduction triangle. There's the kind of planning that simplifies your daily life, like getting your car serviced **before** it breaks down, or making duplicates of your important keys just in case you lose them. It's also a good idea to bring reading material, a portable CD player or work material to any situation, such as a doctor's appointment, where you may be kept waiting.

But beyond the everyday, start thinking about short- and long-term goals. You can set them and start trying to realize them. If you make them realistic, you should be able to accomplish what you intend to. And when you do reach a goal, **reward yourself**. Go to a movie. Get away for a weekend. Take your beloved or best friend to your favorite restaurant. – End

I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season.



Larry Gaskin
First Vice
President

I know in some offices, the work conditions have a lot to be desired. With the Christmas Holidays approaching rapidly, it's probably going to get worse before it gets better. Fortunately, you don't have to face these struggles alone. Keep in mind EAP is there for you 24/7. It's free, it's confidential and all your immediate family members are eligible. We all need help from time to time, don't hesitate to take advantage of their services.

In Seminole, we celebrated the return of our Station Manager, Freda Infinger. She was greatly missed. Her parking space was decorated, lots of food was brought in and we're all glad to have her back.

We had a good response for the MDA Bowl-a-thon. Cindy did an excellent job organizing the event and over \$1000 was raised. All participants had a great time, regardless of their scores.

The MIARAP reviews are in full swing and any adjustments will begin in January. This is not a bad thing. The door swings both ways. Some new routes may be created as a result of adjusting the current ones. The most important thing for the carriers to do is make proper clock rings. This is a continuing process that is necessary to keep the USPS from crumbling. We'll do our share and we will hold management accountable for their share.

Last but certainly not least, on December 10, 2009, before the General Meeting, we will be voting for delegates to

the 2010 NALC National Convention. This is your time to step forward and vote for the best qualified person to represent you and the branch at the convention. It's your money and your vote that can make a difference. THIS IS NOT A PERSONALITY CONTEST. Our strong Union is the result of solidarity. Do not deny yourself the right to voice your opinion by voting.

Stay Safe



Harry Strzyzynski
Secretary

BRANCH 1477, N.A.L.C.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 12, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Les Stroup.

Invocation by Greg Welsh.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Les

Stroup.

Motion to accept minutes by, Thom Hart, seconded Elizabeth Arnold.

Reading of Official Correspondence by Harold Strzyzynski: 3

NEW MEMBERS: None.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

TREASURER: - Tom Phillips — Motion to accept by Elis Pujols, Seconded by Ozzie Antonetty.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES: Thom Hart – No New Retirees. Women have the highest death rate from heart attacks.

HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECTOR: Ken Grasso – A DVD was shown on the new Health Benefit Plan.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Ralph Brown - The Trustees played an active role in the transfer of funds to the new bank, books audited all in order.

EDITOR: John Bourlon – Did not have a Union when I started. No Bargaining. Asking members to send Marlene Markey get well cards.

MBA DIRECTOR/DRT Representative: Greg Welsh – Greg has worked over 2 years as Step B Rep. Greg discussed Article 16 – Discussions.

POLITICAL DISTRICT 10 LIAISON: Gene Carroll –

HEALTH CARE REFORM:

Nov 7, 2009 around 11pm HR 3962 was passed in the house by a vote of 220 to 215. 39

Democrats voted against the bill. This bill did include a public option. Call your Senator and Congressman and let them know to pass HR 3962.

TSP FUND:

4 years ago they had \$173 billion dollars with 3.5 million participants. Today the fund exceeds \$234.4 billion with 4.2 million participants.

FERS SICK LEAVE CREDIT:

Obama signed the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act on Oct 28, 2009.

NO COLA FOR RETIREES:

For the first time in 35 years there will be no annual cost-of-living increase in Social Security.

POSTAL SERVICE BUYOUT:

Postal Service originally expected 30,000 to take the buy-out but only about 18,000 did.

Employees will receive the incentive in two payments:

\$10,000 by Dec 31 and \$5,000

beginning Oct 1, 2010.

SENATE RACE:

The National and Florida State Associations of Letter Carriers and the AFL-CIO for the 2010 U.S. Senate election in Florida endorsed U.S. Representatives Kendrick Meeks.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/POLITICAL DISTRICT 16 LIAISON: Lori Bell — Excused.

STATE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Leo Murray: talked to Bill Foster new Mayor of St. Pete, Bill Foster stated he was looking forward to helping the Letter Carriers in their Food Drive. S. Cornell won his election Leo in on a telephonic hookup with AFL/CIO and Matty Rose. AFL/CIO has endorsed A. Sink, K. Meeks for office.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Larry Gaskin – Stress on the job EAP is a good program. The people who work there can and do help. Everyone Larry sends there comes back with good results. Thanks to Cindy Pollock for help in the bowling for MDA

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Henschen –
Sad Report:

Willie Cochran, St. Pete – Midtown – Sister passed away
Brian Andrews, Bradenton Beach – Mother passed away
Sam Gizzi, Crossroads – Mother passed away
Barb Brooks – Punta Gorda – Father passed away
John Sounia, Central – Father passed away
Mike Morcillo, Retiree Gateway – Mother passed away
Susan Chavez, Englewood – Husband Roger underwent surgery

Joe Rudolph, Open Air - Father serious fall broke hip
Milo Hatch, Central – Brother in auto accident
Tara Underwood – Midtown daughter ill
Cindy Pollock, Crossroads – Sister had surgery
John Sprinkle, Gulfwinds – Underwent surgery
Mo Collins – Gulfwinds – Vehicle accident
Mary Dahlstrom, Retiree – Husband passed away

Glad Report:

Meena Dipsingh-Tameshwar, St. Petersburg Birth of

Granddaughter Vinita Ariana 7 pounds 13 oz.
Elis Pujols brother Brian promoted to E-9

Station/Branch Consolidation:

Bradenton Beach, Central Station, Euclid are all under consideration for consolidation under the USPS plan. The USPS has placed notifications in each of the PO Box holders notifying them of the possibility of closure. They have also placed survey cards in the lobby of these stations requesting feed back. Please take a minute and oppose the consolidation of these stations as a Postal Customer by completing one or more of these forms.

The NALC opposes station consolidation as a means of cost cutting. The reason for the opposition is the reorganization of the USPS in recent legislation has not yet been given a chance to succeed. Once the economy turns around the Postal Service is poised to take advantage of the "Last Mile" of delivery network we have. Limiting the access to Postal Goods and Services by closing these offices is as short sighted as removing the blue collection boxes for street corners throughout our area. Less access to mailing services equals less mail.

Oppose this by completing the forms and mail before November 16.

FSALC Conference call first Wednesday of each month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations of Delegates to the National Convention. (Listed on the front page of this newspaper)

GOOD OF THE SERVICE: by President Les Stroup

- MBA Bowling Liberty Lanes raised over \$1,000 for MDA.
- FERS Employees Sick Leave – FERS Employees can now receive 50% Credit of their Sick Leave in 2013, in 2014 full credit just like CSRS Retirees.
- Penalty Exclusion on overtime starts 12/15/09 until 1/1/10.
- V.A. is giving out Flu Shots.
- Ken Grasso spoke in the Health Plan all members receiving their health plan in the mail.
- Glenn Fagan spoke on the Golf Tournament raised close to \$5,000.
- Joyce Keller spoke on Marlene Markey. Please keep Marlene in our prayers, she is fighting Leukemia and a bad heart to send her a card, send to M. Markey 726 – 75th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:

50/50 - \$55.00 won by Dale Marks
Lotto/Power Ball – Ozzy Antonetty
Drawing for Rain Gear: Don Cheeters, Fred Smith,

Mike Cohn, Autum Izor. There were no winners.
Linda Deppert won a postal floppy hat for turning in the Postal Service VOE Survey unopened.

Auxiliary Raffle:

Rick Renshaw won the Turkey
Pam Poineau won twice
Dale Marks
Justin Wilts won twice
Bob Brown
Larry Gaskin
Gene Carroll



**Ken Grasso
Health Benefit
Representative**

We are now in the middle of the Health Benefits Open Season which runs from Nov 9 through Dec 14. All letter carriers whether there on the plan or not should have gotten a NALC Health Benefit Plan brochure by now in the mail so you can look and compare our plan and rates with your existing plan. I challenge each and everyone of you to look and really do a comparison of the benefits and the premiums that you will be paying next year.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan will be 60 years old in 2010 and better than ever with increased benefits and enhanced changes. Out of 1330 members of Branch 1477 only 373 have our Health Plan and 210 of those are retirees. That means only 163 active carriers participate in it. That number should be way higher than that. In my opinion every letter carrier should have the NALC Plan but don't for various reasons. There was a mass exit of members in 2001 when we had a rate increase but now's the time for you brothers and sisters to come back and support your Union by being a Health Plan Member. You trust your Union Officials with contract negotiations so why not trust them for your Health Insurance and make our Union stronger and Health Plan better. We had over 26,000 join last open season and I would like to see that number doubled this Open Season. Some say their doctors are specialists and not on the plan well when was the last time you really checked the PPO Provider List.. I have heard that and checked to find that those doctors they name indeed are on our plan so that excuse really isn't valid for some. There are over 1,200,000 providers in the Cigna PPO Network. The stronger our plan gets the better benefits we can negotiate for and be able to offer better premium rates. The last two weeks I have been visiting some of the stations making myself available to meet answer any questions that you might have and leaving some brochures in the break rooms. Those of you who depend

on a spouse's insurance plan to cover the family, what if they were laid off or the business closed then who would have to foot the medical costs? These times are perilous especially when it comes to Health Care so you need to be prepared for anything. The NALC Plan again was the top FEHBP in 2009 of all Federal Health Plans according to OPM in a survey of several area and resulting in 89% overall member satisfaction rating . I hope that each one of you have taken the time to do your research. Go to OPM's site www.opm.gov/insure and you can compare up to 4 plans at a time. A great place to see how the plans compare. You have until Dec 14 to decide during Open Season so please make it one that's right for you.



Thom Hart
Director of
Retirees

YOU NEED TO KNOW

As a member of the NALC you should be aware of a benefit that exists for your beneficiary.

The benefit is a \$5,000 Accidental Death Policy that is underwritten by our own Mutual Benefit Association Insurance Program.

This is paid for by the NALC for any member in good standing – Active or Retired with out any additional cost out of pocket to you.

You should make note of this policy existence and include a letter or note regarding it with where ever you keep all of your other valuable papers, wills and insurance policy(s).

Once again this is an asset that your Union has provided you with for your loyalty.

This benefit is payable if you are on or off the clock.

Now to change “gears” for a second I want to address a serious crime that is becoming more prevalent everyday. That is the selling of one's social security number. (SS#) Yes – there rings of gangs that are paying individuals \$100 to \$500 cash American for their SS#.

Then they use a doctor's name to bill for fraudulent treatment. One such person in Miami has been indicated for bilking Medicare out of an alleged \$5.2 million in 2007.

This is a Federal Crime and the person or persons “selling” their SS# are as guilty as those filing false claims.

the USPS is used to file the claims – thus extra charges are brought against the violators.

This type of crime might seem “victimless” to some people however the end result is that it raises the cost of all insurance not just Medicare.

If you know of some one involved in this type of crime you could earn a \$1,000 reward.

Be ever vigilant.

**All Craft Retiree Breakfast:
 Bernie Ososky**

Largo's **All Craft Retirees Breakfast** was held on November the 4th @ Denny's on Missouri. At-

tendance was more normal this month with fourteen retirees in attendance and they were: **Kathy McGuiness, Betty Williams, Rose Williams** (Our only clerk representative), **Joan Carlton, Neal Williamson, Rudy Lang** (Rudeeeeeee!), **Dorian Sobat, Jim Leonhardt** (Of course Lemonhead), **Dana Bigley, Keith Northup** (Former branch officer), **OD Elliott** (Former President), **Thom Hart** (Branch officer), **Joseph Blanchette** (Former Largo Supervisor all the way from North Carolina), and yours truly **Bernie**.

Some of the top stories that were discussed were National Health Plan and its impact on retirees. Current health plans are going to increase their monthly premiums so get ready for that. No COLA this time around due to the fact that the country is in a stink! No early outs for carriers but maybe for the clerks whose craft has been impacted due to automation. **OD Elliott** mentioned that he read in a national newspaper that the postal service will probably push for a five day delivery starting in 2011. We'll see! **Joe Blanchette** made his annual trip down to Florida and came by to join us for breakfast. Birthdays for the month of November were: **Bernie Ososky, Kathy McGuiness** and **Betty Williams**. **Dorian Sobat** has been retired the longest 1992, and **Keith Northup** the shortest 2007.

Other news to report is the health and welfare of some of our retirees. **Brad Wells** is battling cancer and his wife tells me he is going through some rough times as you can imagine. **Carl Bakelman** fractured his foot and is dealing with a cast. **Vickie Vigue** was in the hospital for a week but is now doing fine. **Rick Martin** has been diagnosed with large cell lymphoma which was caught early and highly treatable. Finally, **Ron Eichelman**, has had shoulder surgery and is recovering nicely. Please keep all of these retirees in your thoughts and prayers.

So that's a rap from this reporter. Now, one last reminder that's important to mark down on your calendar and that's the Christmas Breakfast coming December the 2nd, 9 a.m., Denny's. If you haven't been able to make any of the breakfast's this year, this is the one you need to be at. Door prizes and surprises will be given away and I expect a large turn-out. Denny's is ready for us so I hope that you ALL can make it. Spouses, significant others and friends are all welcomed. Please remind everyone about this. I am counting on YOU! Be Safe & Enjoy the Hell out of

Life!!' Bernie

**Original LargoRetiree Breakfast:
Keith Northup**

The (Original) Largo Retiree Breakfast

was held on October 1, 2009 at the Boris Family

Restaurant located on Ulmerton Road at 09:00 hours. The following Retired Letter Carriers were present and or accounted for: Thom Hart, Bill Guenther, Gene Wain-scott, Bill Koutney, John Hammock, Dorian Sobat, Ed Joyner, Dana Bigley, John Silvia, and Keith Northup.

The amount of Postal Experience setting around the tables was 245 years. Many interesting stories were shared; the general consensus is that none want to go back to the Post Office to work now. The stories from current carriers are too wild for them to believe.

Director of Retirees Thorn Hart again reminded all present that there would be no cost of living adjustment for either Social security or Postal Retirements. Repeat from last month. I wonder if the cost of food and everything else will remain the same. We know Medicare Part B is scheduled to go up to a little over \$104. per person in 2010.

Brother Bob Miller was visited by some carriers retired and active on Sunday November 1 and he was in good spirits and seemed to be doing pretty good for the shape he is in. He asked about other carriers and the Largo Original Retired Letter Carriers Breakfast. We told all wished him well and do miss seeing him there each month.

There are no birthdays this month but we missed one last month, Ed Joyner turned 61 (?) questionable, according to some present. In the month of December, John Silvia will be almost old enough to collect Social Security in some countries. The question is does he collect in the United States or England now?

The **Largo Original Retired Letter Carriers** would like to wish everyone a healthful Thanksgiving, a Merry

Christmas and a Happy New Year to all letter carriers and their families. We could say Merry Christmas when we started at the Post Office

We hope to see all of you back safe in 2010 for more excitement. We enjoy the stories told by the active carriers now. It reinforces why we are not working at the Postal Service and glad we took our pennies and got out.

The next scheduled breakfast of the **Largo Original Retired Letter Carriers** will be held on December 3, 2009 at 09:00 hours at Boris Family Restaurant on Ulmerton Road. We welcome all fellow Largo Letter Carriers (Retired or active) to join us for hearty discussions.

Hope to see you there.

**FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH BUNCH
PINELLAS PARK**

The following happy Retired Carriers attended this months Breakfast:

Nils Holmquist, Johnny Wagner, Bob Trimble, Bill Butler, Max Wannike, Willie Santiago, Denny Elliott, Lester Ray, Brian Britt, Jim Long, Roy Van Derveer, "The Original" bob Meeks, Rollin Dunbar, Thom Hart, Max Wannike, Keith Anderson, Joe Henschen, and the "New and improved" Bob Meeks.

The next Breakfast will be on December 1, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., DeMills Family Restaurant on Park Blvd.

St. Pete Retirees Breakfast

The following happy Retirees attended this months meeting

Bob Trimble, O.D. Elliott, Dale L. Pope, Ellen Kirschner, Richard Compher, Gil Migliano, Don Goble, Don Kosior, John Tschupp, Jim Wamboldt, and Edwin Schenk.

The St. Pete Retirees met on the 18th of November.

How bout joining us in December – we meet on the 3rd Wednesday.

See You Then.



**TRUSTEE:
Ralph Brown**

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

As we bring 2009 to a close and look towards 2010, I decided to forgo the usual and give you a little something to think about. This holiday season is in full swing and for most of us it is a time for family gatherings, reunions, parties and the like. Contrastly, the holiday season is depressing for those who are without, lonely, or in need. As we

celebrate, let's not forget those who may be away from their families or have no families at all. As we celebrate, let's not forget those who are less fortunate. As we celebrate, let's not forget those who are overseas fighting for the freedom that we sometime take for granite. As we celebrate, let's not forget the reason and the meaning of the SEASON!!! Make sure to reach out to those who are close to you and in need. Some of the greatest gifts ever given were the ones that did not cost a thing. A minor hand can make a major difference. Some of us have lost loved ones in 2009. Keep their memories alive by continuing to blaze the trail that they have established. We often get caught-up in our daily endeavors forgetting to tell those closest to us how much we love and appreciate them. You can NEVER say "I LOVE YOU" too much. Try it. It should not take a calendar to remind us to recognize those who play a significant part in our daily lives. I would like to wish all my brothers, sisters and their families a most joyous and **Happy Holiday Season** and **Best Wishes for a prosperous 2010.**



**Not-so-Meek(s)
Trustee
Shop Stewards**

Union: Something that is made one, something formed by a combination or a coalition of part or members, a confederation of independent individuals.

She said: I keep remembering a question posed by radio personality Fez Watley in the 90's. "Did you ever notice? Did you ever wonder

why?" He of course was referring to the mindless acts of people in general. I find it fitting for the mind-less acts in the Post Office.

Does Management actually believe that by combining the tubs of mail, Carriers will believe there is less and case faster? Does Management actually believe that by doubling numbers to reduce cases from three sides to two, that Carriers will turn less and case faster?

Management really believe that by means of intimidation and bullying, Carriers will go the extra mile for them? The sad answer to these questions and many others is, **OBVIOUSLY!** I pondered the question, why. As best I could figure, most Supervisors and Managers do anything they are told, right or wrong, as not to be sent back to the craft they couldn't hack before running to Management positions. Therefore, we are forced to take orders from (just my opinion) the incapable or just plain lazy ex-carriers and clerks. That explains a lot. Next time you are being hounded by your Supervisor or Manager, don't get angry. Simply look at them and realize, there doing the only job they can manage, **NOT MUCH!**

He said: I wanted to share some excerpts out of a couple letters I recently read written to Postmaster General Jack Potter from the Postmasters Unions. I think a tear came to my eye. Regarding the \$15,000 retirement incentive for Clerks and Mail Handlers, "Failure to provide Postmasters with a meaningful retirement incentive will further degrade Postmaster morale, and will confirm an incalculable level of disrespect." "Currently, postal operations are compromised by grave staffing inadequacies." "Letter Carrier scarcity that results in Postmasters performing after-hour functions." "Managers cannot safeguard quality customer service, while also filling processing, window and Carrier vacancies. Among the situations that confront my members are: too many Postmasters work ten and twelve hour work days, six and seven days a week; and an increasing number are forced to violate Fair Labor Standards Act. Consequently, the clerk/mail handler retirement incentives, as rolled-out, will intensify staffing problems-not increase operational efficiencies." In sum, simple fairness requires that Postmasters be extended a financial retirement incentive, and the clerks and mail handler incentive may degrade Postal Service, rather than improve it." Also regarding, "concerns on the deteriorating work climate of our members are experiencing in the field." "Postmasters, Managers and Supervisors are under tremendous pressure, with more requirements, reports, and unrealistic expectations." "We are concerned these conditions, if not reviewed at our level, could result in serious consequences."

I wonder who would suffer these consequences. Letter Carriers of course! In their own word they are unable to provide the expected expectations, but still shove them down our throats that we must! If you feel that you or you hear someone else being harassed or intimidated, write down what happened. Then request to see a steward! There is zero tolerance for this! We must stand together and look out for each other. There is no reason someone should fear coming to work! There is no reason

some should be afraid to take their lunch or afternoon breaks! Give a fair estimate and if more time is needed let your supervisor know as soon as you know. Don't let yourself be harassed, but do remain calm and explain the reason for the needed time. Ask for instruction; follow the instructions, unless you deem them unsafe. Again, if you feel you have been harassed or intimidated and maybe the contract has been violated, ask to see your Steward!

I have been getting reports that there has been chupacabra sightings, once again Beware, they are out there!

We said: The Meeks family would like to wish a happy and safe holiday season to all of our brothers and sisters!

Remember Branch 1477 is the best Damn Branch in the country, and also special Thanks to the Men and women who served this great country.

**CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON
DISTRICT 10
Gene Carroll**

On October 7, 2009 the House passed a bill which would allow government

workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System—including letter carriers—to apply their unused sick leave toward retirement.

On the afternoon of October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision to allow all federal workers under FERS who retire between now and 2013 to get half credit for their surplus sick leave and full credit would take effect in 2014.

October 13, 2009 Health Care Bill passed through the Senate Finance Committee by a vote of 14-9. Senator Snowe (the only Republican) and all Committee Democrats voted for the bill. Around 11pm on November 7, 2009 HR 3962 was passed in the House by a vote of 220-215. 39 Democrats voted against the Bill. This Bill did include a public option. Call your Senator and Congressman and let them know to pass HR 3962.

Performance in the Thrift Savings Plan continues to rebound from last years lows. Four years ago they had \$173 billion and 3.5 million participants. Today balances in the Federal retirement fund exceeded \$234.4 billion with 4.2 million participants, a lever not seen since May of 08. Fueling the growth is high rates of returns for TSP's underlying stock funds. Returns in the S Fund, which tracks small and medium sized U.S. companies, approached 29 percent for the nine months ending in September. The I Fund, tried to international stocks, was up more than 27 percent so far this year. The C Fund, which tracks large U.S. companies, was up more than 19 percent since January. There are some changes coming to the TSP, it will have a new Roth Option. Here's a rundown on what is known about the changes coming to the TSP:

- The first change that will go into effect will probably be immediate government matching contributions (of up to 5 percent). Currently, that have to wait at least six months before they can get the match.
- Also coming soon will be automatic enrollment of new hires into the TSP. Unless they opt out (or increase or decrease their allocations,) 3 percent of their salary will go into their TSP account which will initially be invested in the g-fund.



**Glenn Fagan
Trustee
Shop Steward**

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Well first I would start with and thank all who volunteered for the Fall Golf Tournament for MDA and Bowling tournament. Both were successful even with the poor economy. It was a great time for all even with the wind blowing through the course. Everyone who participated in playing was very please how Branch 1477 ran the tournament. So a big headsup for everyone, and see you all next year. There is still money coming in.

Secondly I hear a lot of concern about the pressure on the work room floor. Remember you have a contract to follow, you need to follow these regulations just as much as Management does or does not. Because you are the one who is going to be called on the carpet. When you need help, put in for Auxiliary Assistance no matter who says you don't need it. Make a paper trail to protect your self, call in if you need help, don't wait where you are not going to be back before the 5:00 window. I see so many of us put unwarranted stress on one's self because of managers being intimidating over there stupid DOIS, which is inaccurate and they know it. Plus the lying about leaving the office time and return time, and by the way did anyone notice the mail volume. So just remember you have a contract stick to it, follow it, and you will be better off and keep management off you back. Also remember you a shop steward to represent you and the contract. Be vigilant about your contract and rights, you should be working in safe and healthy environment. Be Safe.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, and be safe traveling if you are.

- A change that will permit survivors of feds or retirees to keep their money in the TSP. Currently they have to move those funds outside the TSP to funds that charge much higher fees and don't offer the safety of the treasury-backed G-fund.
- Coming up, the TSP will give investors the option of investing some of their TSP account into mutual funds outside of the TSP.

The Postal Service originally expected 30,000 to take the buyout which the USPS projected it could save up to \$500 million next year. Now about 18,000 U.S. Postal Service employees are expected to take the \$15,000 buyout to leave their jobs this year. Employees who take the buyout will receive the incentive in two payments: \$10,000 by Dec 31 and \$5,000 beginning Oct 1, 2010.

For the first time in 35 years there will be no annual cost-of-living increase in Social Security and government retirees pay. This includes Social Security benefits, military and federal civilian retired pay and veterans disability, survivor and pension payments. The White House announced a plan that would put a small payment - a \$250 check - into the hands of 1 million military and federal civilian retirees, 2 million veterans or survivors of veterans, 49 million Social Security beneficiaries, and 5 million people receiving Supplemental Security Income. The \$250 payment looks small, but White House Officials said it equals a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment for the typical Social Security recipient.

The National and Florida State Associations of Letter Carriers and the AFL-CIO for the 2010 U.S. Senate election in Florida endorsed U.S. Representative Kendrick Meeks.

REMEMBER WHO INVENTED THE WEEKEND

Before unions, there was no such thing as a “long weekend.”

In fact, there was no such thing as a weekend. You got Sunday off, if you were lucky.

Every other day, ten or twelve hours a day, including Saturdays, you worked, without a break, for as little as the boss felt like paying.

So say thanks to unions for fifty-two weekends. And the eight hour day. And time-and one-half for overtime. Genuine job security. Retirement pensions. Not to mention medical benefits, unemployment insurance, maternity leave, health and safety, the minimum wage, and paid vacations.

Which means they were won by our parents and grandparents. Unions men and union women who knew it meant to fight for what they believed in.

Fight they did. Sometimes they died.

This country doesn't put up statues to such gritty, loving, hard working people. Even though their monuments are all around us.

And all too often, their story is left out of the school books our own children read.

So, this weekend, take a special moment to remember those who worked to build America.

And to build the America Dream.

Today, unions are still fighting to keep that dream alive. And defend what was won for all of us by sweat and blood and hope.

Because that's what the labor movement is all about.

Making the kind of history that changes the world for the better.

The good kind of history.

The useful kind of history.

The kind of history you can be proud of.



Greetings my brothers and sisters! Before I begin, I want to first thank every brother and sister who has served this

country on this recent Veteran's Day and pray blessings to you and your families. My dad (Elis Sr. and uncle (Jose Morales) both got purple hearts in Vietnam. My brother Brian, a Marine with 22 years of service, has just been notified of promotion to Master Gunnery Sergeant after returning from his fifth tour to the Iraq-Kuwait theatre. Yours truly was even an officer candidate for the Navy before my unfortunate calamity in July of 1983 kept me from serving. I understand what service, loyalty and honor are due to these three fine gentlemen as well as every brother and sister who has worn the military uniform of the United States of America. Thank you for your service, sacrifice and the freedoms we have today.

“The best time to stop an argument is before it starts.”

It is my belief that we must rectify this situation with these pre-funding payments to the retirement plan before we begin negotiating our next contract, as to do otherwise would be detrimental towards these negotiations. We must convince Congress to do an intergovernmental transfer of the surplus monies from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund to resolve these issues. Why the heck are the U.S. Treasury still holding these monies that could easily rectify a lot of

our problems? Maybe we should get somebody to investigate this injustice further. How about enticing "60 minutes" since Andy Rooney seems to be a supporter of us "good guys"? It is time to be more aggressive but with due respect to the processes that make our political system the best in the world. I have some ideas but I can surely use some input from everyone. Maybe we'll draft some legislation ourselves. All I know that the worst thing we can do is nothing. That word, "Nothing", is not an option!

AUXILIARY 181
Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson

Food! Food! Delicious food! The time of year we love our veggies. And everything else, too. Pies and casseroles take

over the table. Yep, it's holiday time, with all the traditional fare. Whatever our foremothers served is proudly reproduced again. And good ol' American vittles enhance the Thanksgiving feast. Once, I had the opportunity to showcase recipes for a holiday issue of a local magazine, so I asked local celebrities (such as the mayor's wife, The St. Petersburg Times food critic, a travel writer, a caterer to Kenny Rogers and Duncan Hines relative (!), and chefs, and gourmets that I knew of for a favorite traditional family recipe. I've tried most of them and a few have become my family's tradition, too. I've made this cornbread for a few Auxiliary dinners, was asked for the recipe, so here goes. It's the best cornbread I've ever eaten, and is so easy to make.

JOHN'S FAVORITE CORNBREAD

- 2 Packages Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Cup Sour Cream
- 1 16 ounce can creamed corn

Mix all ingredients together and pour into a 9 x 13 inch baking dish that has one stick of butter melted in it. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. A loaf pan can be used, too.

Margaret Perkins hosted the November 10th meeting in her lovely home. Both she and Joyce Keller cooked for the Union meeting and baked for the raffle in November. Clarence won the cat-in-the-bag prize. Plans were made to give Thanksgiving gift baskets, with generous donations from Letter Carriers and Auxiliary members, to three families in need. We are so appreciative for this support. Margaret will be celebrating Thanksgiving in Indiana with family, Sue and Denny Elliott will visit North Carolina, and Clarence and Joyce are going way up north to camp in Brooksville, enjoy a blue grass festival, and

spend the holiday with daughter Dawn in her home nearby.

Our next meeting is December 8th, at 3:00 p.m. at Joyce and Clarence Keller's home. Bring any gifts, nonperishable food, and donations to this meeting where we will divide it amongst three Letter Carrier families. Joyce and Dottie will bake goodies for the raffle. The Auxiliary will provide fried chicken for the Union's potluck covered dish meeting. The January 12th meeting will be hosted by Joyce in her home. \$25.00 dues for 2010 are due then. Bring your 2010 calendars to plan the year's events, sign up to host a meeting or two, and bake goodies for our raffles.


Our Auxiliary will celebrate Christmas at Joyce and Clarence Keller's always wonderfully decorated home on December 14th at 6:00 p.m. Check with Joyce on what dish to bring, and we're exchanging \$10 gifts. Ladies bring one for a woman, gentlemen for a man. I'm looking forward to hearing of more family traditions such as the 14th Annual Dick O'Donnell Holiday Trek honoring Pat's late husband, our friend, and past Union officer. I have mixed feelings about asking Gerry Bourlon to tell me more of her family's holiday disasters. Luckily, she's a trooper and sees the humor in them, and she tells a great story.

Marlene Markey will be undergoing chemotherapy every three weeks for the next six months. Please keep her and Gene in your prayers.

Thanks to all the Letter Carriers and Auxiliary members for their generous donations in helping three families this Thanksgiving. And thank you to Margaret Perkins and Joyce Keller for all they do.

Happy January birthdays to Keith Northup 3rd, and Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson 26th. Happy January anniversaries to Sally and Paul Madden 7th and Gerry and John Bourlon 13th.

Happy holidays to one and all!



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BREAKFAST ALERT FEBRUARY 14, 2010

The Branch is sponsoring a Breakfast for all members. The Auxiliary, and all family members are cordially invited. Please post this notice on your calendar and tie a string around your finger. We will offer a full Breakfast. Arrangements are currently being made to accommodate those who work south of the Skyway Bridge.

To enable us to better plan for the quantity of food to be purchased, we ask you to advise us on your intent to attend. February 14th is VALENTINES Day. **THE BREAKFAST IS FREE.**

Please contact the Union Office to advise us on the number of people in your family that will attend. (727) 531-1477, fax (727) 531-1478.

The Place: The Union Hall - 5369 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park

The Date: 2/14/10

The Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Please help our 3 Letter Carrier Families in their time of need.

We are preparing holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas With children's gifts, non perishables, and donations.

If you can help, please call any Auxiliary member.

If you know anyone in need, let us know, too.

Thank You!
Auxiliary 181

Vote for Glenn Fagan

I have again been nominated as a Delegate to the 2010 NALC National Convention. I have for many years have served the Branch as the Steward in the Crossroads Stations Zones 9 and 10-South. I currently also serve as a Branch Trustee and faithfully attend to the needs of the members of this Branch. Whether you plan on voting at the polls on December 10, 2009 or by Absentee Ballot, I ask you consider allowing me to continue representing you as a Delegate on the Convention Floor,

Thank You, Fraternaly
Glenn Fagan

Shop Stewards Meeting for November:

Chris Hubble, Suzette Dombrowski, Tom Phillips, Jim Bumbul, Andre McCalla, Glenn Fagan, Justin Wilt, Willie Cochran, Zulma Ortiz, Rudy Betancourt, Elizabeth Arnold, Richard Ramos, Brenda Mavretic, Denise Duffy, Randy Jackson, Larry Gaskin, Susan Vandervliet, Randy Holman, Bonnie Baldwin, Ozzy Antonetty, and Gene Carroll

Our South Members that attended the November Meeting:

Bill Bonass, Jamie White, Lori Bell, Bill Murray, and Don Lyerly

**ELECT
O.D. "DENNY" ELLIOTT
FOR DELEGATE TO 2010 NALC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

I AM SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT FOR DELEGATE TO THE 2010 NALC CONVENTION. I HAVE SERVED THE MEMBERS OF BR1477 AND THE NALC CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1974, AS STEWARD, SECRETARY, VICE PRESIDENT, EXEC.VICE PRESIDENT AND, FROM JANUARY 1997 THROUGH JANUARY 2008, AS YOUR PRESIDENT. I STILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AND REPRESENT THE MEMBERS OF BR1477 AS SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS. I ALSO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS AS A VOLUNTEER AT BRANCH FUNCTIONS AND PROJECTS AND AT ANY OTHER TIME WHEN CALLED UPON BY THE BRANCH OFFICERS. SINCE 1975, I HAVE SERVED AS A DELEGATE OF BR1477 AT ALL STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS. AT MOST CONVENTIONS, ISSUES COME BEFORE THE CONVENTION BODIES THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF LETTER CARRIERS. I HAVE OFTEN TAKEN THE CONVENTION FLOOR TO SPEAK FOR OR AGAINST AN ISSUE, ALWAYS SPEAKING FOR WHAT I FELT TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF LETTER CARRIERS AND THE MEMBERS OF BR1477. THE 2010 CONVENTION WILL BE A CRITICAL CONVENTION FOR ALL LETTER CARRIERS. ISSUES WILL BE ACTED UPON WHICH WILL SET THE POLICY FOR THE UNION'S POSITIONS AT THE BARGAINING TABLE FOR THE NEXT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU ELECT DELEGATES WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO TAKE THE FLOOR TO SPEAK ON ISSUES THAT CAN AND WILL AFFECT YOUR FUTURE. NOT ONLY SHOULD YOUR ELECTED DELEGATES BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON YOUR BEHALF ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR, BUT THEY SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO LOBBY THE DELEGATES OF OTHER BRANCHES TO TAKE UP OUR POSITIONS. IF ELECTED, I WILL CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT ON YOUR BEHALF AND FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF LETTER CARRIERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.


O.D.ELLIOTT

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VOTE FOR ME!!!

Once again, I have been nominated as a delegate to the NALC National Convention. The 2010 Convention will be held in Anaheim, California. I ask for your vote on December 10th. Thanks for your support.

Ralph Brown

VOTE FOR ME.

Many thanks for being elected as a delegate to the 2010 NALC National Convention in Anaheim, CA Monday August 9th through Saturday August 14th. I have been blessed with many opportunities to serve our union in my short two and a half years and I am thankful to represent every brother and sister, whether we have met or not. From Labor 2008 to our recent State Convention in Naples, rest assured I have spoken up and had not my but our voices heard on the issues that matter. It is my hope that you will continue to support us by selecting me to go as a paid delegate to Anaheim. To some, this may come across as a bold and brash statement; but I came to this union not be served but to serve all my brothers and sisters in these tumultuous times. I am aware that not everyone of us may have the same ideologies, but in defending the things that effect not just us but our families now and in the future, we must be resolute! It doesn't matter if you a retiree, ready to retire or a transitional employee, **these next two years will be the most significant in our NALC future!** Please allow me to be our voice in these transitional times. I hope you understand my heart in this and pray that you will select me to go as a paid delegate when our next meeting comes up in December. If you can't make it, make sure you request your absentee ballot and have your voice heard by allowing me to represent you. Thank you for your time and I pray a wonderfully blessed Thanksgiving and holiday season to you and your families! May God bless the NALC and the U.S.A.!

Elis Pujols

**E-Mail: branch1477@tampabay.rr.com
Webb: branch1477nalc.org
(727) 531-1477**

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I have been a Carrier in St. Petersburg for 11 years and a Shop Steward since January 2007. Recently I have been designated to handle Grievances at the Formal A Step which is an honor and a challenge. I have attended the 2007 and 2009 State Conventions at my own expense and a number of State and District Training Seminars. I am always eager to learn more about the National Agreement and the opportunity to represent Letter Carriers in our Branch.

At the November Branch Meeting I was nominated as a delegate to the 2010 National Convention. I would appreciate your support in being elected to this important position. I will be here to assist you for many years to come.


Please vote for Zulma Ortiz, Shop Steward 33714. AKA Zoom Zoom or Miss Z

VOTE FOR THOM HART

I have been nominated as a delegate to the 2010 National NALC Convention.

I would appreciate your vote Please do exercise your right to vote on December 10, 2009 or by absentee ballot as outlined in the November Twig on the front page.

Thank You!!!



**Important
Deadline:**
*Please submit
all items for
Next Months
Twig of the
Branch
Newsletter
Articles*

No later than December 14th!



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December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pinellas Park Breakfast	2 All Craft Breakfast	3 Executive Board Meeting Largo Breakfast	4	5
6	7	8 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	9	10 General Membership Meeting	11	12
13	14 Auxiliary Christmas Party	15	16 St. Pete Breakfast	17 Shop Stewards Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23	24		26
27	28	29	30	31		