



# 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 399

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

November, 2010

## 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 the nominations of Officers for the 2011 – 2013 term and Delegates to the 2011 FSALC State Convention to be held here in St. Petersburg will be taken at the regular order of business at the **November 11, 2010 Regular Branch meeting**. The offices are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Director of Health Benefits</b>
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Director of MBA</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Director of Retirees</b>	<b>Trustees (3)</b>

In accordance with the will of the 1988 N.A.L.C. National Convention, all members being nominated must signify they have not served in or applied for a supervisory position for the past twenty-four (24) months.

**The election of the nominated officers and delegates will take place at the Regular Branch 1477 meeting on December 9, 2010, at the Letter Carriers Hall - 5369 Park Boulevard**

## NOTICE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

In accordance with Article 4, Section E of the Branch 1477 By-Laws, any member may, upon written request, vote by absentee ballot. **Absentee ballots must be requested no later than two (2) weeks prior to the election. No verbal requests will be granted.** All requests for an absentee ballot should be sent to the: **Attention of Election Committee Chairman, Branch 1477, NALC, 5369 Park Boulevard, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781.** **The absentee ballot must be complete and mailed so that it will be received no later than 1:00 P.M. December 9, 2010.** **Any absentee ballot received after this date and time will be invalid.**

Any member wanting to vote by absentee ballot must make a written request clearly printing their name, home address, and signing such request. **The request for absentee ballot must be received no later than November 25, 2010.**

**ALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY REQUESTED AND MAILED OR HANDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BRANCH.**



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**Les Stroup  
 President**

Nearly every day, stewards find themselves involved in interactions with their fellow carriers on the workroom floor. Much of this time is spent filing grievances or otherwise

enforcing the national agreement. However, in many cases, stewards' interactions with co-workers relate to problems or stresses that the employee is experiencing. These problems may be work related or they may involve personal or family issues. As a result of their position, stewards are often viewed as leaders in the workplace. It is therefore natural for many employees to seek out a steward with whom they can discuss their personal or emotional problems. A steward can also end up dealing with an employee's personal issues once they start to affect his or her work. For example, an employee's difficulty in handling grief following the death of a parent may result in attendance issues and attendance related discipline. It is practically inevitable that stewards filing grievances on such disciplines will find themselves discussing, with the employee, the personal problems that triggered the attendance discipline.

One place that employees can turn to for help in coping with life's problems is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This is a benefit that is available to Postal Service employees, although some of them may not even be aware of it. In those cases, the steward can help the employee by providing basic information and also by directing him or her to EAP.

**Help Develop their Picture!**

Children get a picture of themselves through the messages they hear. No one has a greater impact on those messages than you as a parent. Log on to [www.EAP4YOU.com](http://www.EAP4YOU.com) to access this month's campaign on *Positive Parenting* in the *Spotlight* section. You can find out more about positive parenting skills and how children's exposure to constructive feedback helps them develop a healthier outlook. And, you can check out the parenting and self-esteem assessment tools as well as find tips on keeping positive communications in focus.

**Eliminate the Negatives**

Try eliminating "don't" when giving your children direction. You will be a more positive parent as a result and your child is more likely to listen. Here are some ideas:

- "Don't talk back." becomes "Speak in a respectful tone, please."
- "Don't eat that snack before dinner." Becomes "Save your appetite for tonight's dinner."
- "Don't pick on your brother." becomes "Show me how nicely you can play with your brother."
- "Don't leave that mess there." becomes "Pick up your toys before going out to play, please."
- "Don't yell." becomes "Lower your voice, please."

**Podcast: "Forget the Negatives: Raising Positive Kids"**

Tune in to our podcast for practical ideas on framing the feedback you give your kids in a positive light. This podcast is available on the website under *Tools, On Demand Learning, Webinar Recordings and Podcasts*.

**Log on to check it out all the resources available to you and your family**

Log on to [www.EAP4YOU.com](http://www.EAP4YOU.com) to access *Positive Parenting* and other helpful resources in the *Spotlight* section. And share this information with your family! Remember, if your kids get the right picture of themselves through helpful communications, they will have the confidence and self-esteem to shine throughout their lives.

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**Joe Henschen  
 Executive Vice  
 President  
 Twitter@JaHel**

Currently the NALC web page includes some great information that needs to be understood by all members.

The United States Postal Service filed for an emergency postage increase in July, citing extraordinary or exceptional circumstances for the deficits running by the Postal Service. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) is responsible for approving such requests.

The PRC did not dispute that the severity of the recession constituted "extraordinary or exceptional" circumstances, but it concluded that the Postal Service had failed to demonstrate that its recent financial losses were "due to" the Great Recession. Rather, the Commission argued—as the NALC has for the past two years—that recent large financial losses are the direct result of the congressional mandate to massively pre-fund retiree health benefits.

"Congress and the Obama administration should sit up and listen to what the PRC is saying," National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric V. Rolando said. "The time for delay is over. We must adopt Congressman

Stephen Lynch's bill [H.R. 5746] and repeal the pre-funding provisions of the law as soon as possible."

The Lynch bill would allow the USPS to pre-fund its future retiree health benefit costs with the massive postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement System, calculated by independent experts for both the PRC and the USPS Office of Inspector General.

However, the Commission determined that the Service would have had serious money problems even if the recession had never happened, thanks to what it called the "overly ambitious requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund its future retiree health benefit premiums" mandated by the PAEA.

The Commission recognized that the USPS had slashed expenses by \$6 billion last year, and that Postal Service cost-cutting has stayed ahead of mail volume declines over the last 12 months.

"The Postal Service is making up lost ground, reducing hours far in excess of the declines," the report said. "This offers a positive outlook for the future." The Commission also sounded another upbeat note—that as the effects of the recession are fading, mail volume appears to be rebounding.

The PRC has "lobed one back over the net" to the USPS and Congress to act.

This is a critical time for the USPS and the efforts of the NALC to correct among other things the problems with prefunding of health benefits, the failure to do so would lead to more talk of 5-Day Delivery.

For years discussion has made its way to this publication and at meetings of the Branch about COLCPE. Debate all you want about why *not* to give. "I am pro-life" or "I don't like that the money goes to one party or the other". But every active member of Branch 1477 should be committed to the "Gimme 5" level of contribution to COLCPE. I include a challenge to "active members" because the percentages of retirees donating all ready far exceed working members.

Read again the first few paragraphs of this article. Forget partisanship. This is about protecting our jobs by ensuring Congress understands our position. The PRC denied a request for a stamp increase because it determined that "the Service would have had serious money problems even if the recession had never happened." It is up to us to make sure Congress listens to us and honestly it takes money, - COLCPE money to make sure that happens.

Get on board today, the road map is easy. Grab your Employee ID number (on you paystub) and your 4-digit USPS Personal Identification Number (pin) and call or stop by the hall. In 4 or 5 minutes you would have committed to protecting you future.

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Election time is upon us once again. It's the time of the year when we have many decisions to make that can directly affect our futures. By the time you read this, the State and Federal elections will be over. We have to live with the results for a few years so I hope we elected well.

**Larry Gaskin**  
**First Vice President**

Now, we have more choices to make. At the November General Meeting, we will be nominating Delegates for the 2011 NALC State Convention, it will be in St. Petersburg. Our branch will need a lot of help from our members to make this a successful Convention. If you would like to volunteer some time and get a firsthand look at the Convention process, call the Union office.

We will also be nominating Officers for the Executive Board. The members elected will be representing our branch, and your interest, for the next 3 years. As in all elections, you want to vote for the people that can get the job done and protect your contractual rights. This is not a personality contest, just elect the best person for the job. **VOTING IS A RIGHT OF MEMBERSHIP, NEVER GIVE UP THAT RIGHT.**

News from the Seminole Office; another new OIC. This ones from Clearwater. Time will tell if that's a good thing or a bad thing. We have survived them all, so this will be no different.

**STAY SAFE**

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**BRANCH 1477, N.A.L.C.**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**October 14, 2010**

**Harry Strzyzynski**  
**Secretary**

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

Invocation by Greg Welsh.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Les Stroup.

Prior to the start of our normal business, Representative Bill Heller, District 52 Janis Long District 51, and R. Kriseman District 53 spoke. Sherry Yogavane and Cindy Pollock spoke about

Bowlathon passed out fliers from MDA.  
Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Twig for September 9, 2010 by, Gene Carroll, seconded by Bob Brown.

Reading of Official Correspondence by Harold Strzyzynski: One.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Doris Goodman.

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** - **Tom Phillips** — Excused – Les gave Report. Motion to accept by Harry Strzyzynski, Seconded by O.D. Elliott.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES:** **Thom Hart** – 2 new Retirees, Paul Ksyniak Central Station and Terri Roberts Northside Station. 2 members have passed in the last month. Keith Northup will have another operation.

**HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECTOR:** **Ken Grasso** – Excused. Les gave report on new rates for Health Plan High Family \$157.57 Retirees \$327.32.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** **Ralph Brown** - Books audited all in order.

**MBA DIRECTOR/DRT Representative:** **Greg Welsh** – Thanks for sending me to Pensacola. There will be MDA Insurance Plans to sell by January 1, 2011.

**POLITICAL DISTRICT 10 LIAISON:** **Gene Carroll** – COLCPE is the NALC's Political Action Fund that helps elect friends of Letter Carriers. The law prevents using any Union dues for political agenda. Its only \$5.00 dollars a month and only 7 minutes of work pays for it. It will help to protect your health benefits and retirement. We are in the fight of our life, for our jobs, and the benefits that we enjoy that can be gone with a stroke of a pen. Vote for labor friendly candidates.

Early voting starts on October 18 thru the 31<sup>st</sup>. You can vote early M-F 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Noon. There are three locations you can go to vote early:

13001 Starkey Road, Largo, FL 33773

315 Court Street, Room 117, Clearwater, FL 33756

501 First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

I would like to thank the following for helping man the phone banks for the last three weeks: Don Southern, Thom Hart, Tom Phillips, Zulma Ortiz, Larry Gaskin, O.D. Elliott, Leo Murray, Ralph Brown, Elis Pujols, Les Stroup, Claudia Harvey, Marty Kennedy, Joe Henschen and myself Gene Carroll.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** **Leo Murray** - Still have time to vote by mail. Vote yes on Amendment 5-6 vote yes.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:** **Joe Henschen** –  
**Sad Report:**

Dorothy Merrill – Seminole – Fell and broke her elbow.  
Denise Brungart – Seminole – Fell and Broke her elbow (same route).

Steve Masse' – Pinellas Park – Brother passed away.

Ramon "Ray" Lopez – Central Station – Father passed away.

Tom White – Gulfwinds – Sister-n-Law passed away.

Trisha Meeks – Gulfwinds – Aunt passed away.

Nicole Olmstead – Crossroads – Surgery.

Martha Fry – Ellenton – Daughter hospitalized.

Julie Nelson – Crossroads – Father passed away.

Mark Corder – Open Air - Surgery

Megan Gower – Open Air – Surgery

Clarence Keller – Retiree St. Pete – Ankle surgery

Phil Hampshire – Hospitalized

Dave Lorch – Largo – Surgery

### **Glad Report:**

Ray Handville of Largo, New Granddaughter, Ema Jean.

Virginia Hopkins Retiree from Largo, 8<sup>th</sup> grandchild on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Vote on By-Law Change, John Bourlon spoke in favor of it. By-Law Passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Bowlathon 11/7/10 for MDA.

Finance Committee report for paid Delegates to State Convention.

### **GOOD OF THE SERVICE: by President Les Stroup**

- Air Conditioning Unit needed to be fixed lowest bid \$2,500. - Bob Draga. Motion to accept Ann Przetocki, Seconded O.D. Elliott.
- Harry & Gene Carroll will seal the roof on 10/17/10 will need help.
- Calendars to be printed for \$171.00.
- CFC Campaign: MDA #150536 for FERG #10268.
- SunTrust Bank added charges because of 2 new accounts we have transferred (1) account to Home Bank 2<sup>nd</sup> account will be incorporated into building fund.
- The Delegates all attended classes Good Training.
- Voice recognition cases are being tested by the Postal Service.

### **WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:**

50/50 - \$43.00 won by Dave Walker

Lotto/Power Ball – Ed Richards

Auxiliary Raffle: Dave Walker, Zulma Ortiz (won three times), Cathy Marsh, V. Smolinski, Claudia Harvey, Larry Gaskin (won twice), Ann Przetocki, Trisha Meeks Elizabeth Arnold.

Motion to adjourn

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GOBBLE, GOBBLE.....  
No!! I am not speaking gobbly gook in the least.

Rather, it is a reference to this being November.

**Thom Hart**  
**Director of Retirees**  
As we all know that besides Thanksgiving November is election month. I do hope that each of you exercised your right to vote for your choice this year.

However – our Branch Nominates Candidates for office as well as Delegates to the Convention in 2011 at our November meeting all told there will be fourteen (14) Officers positions due for Election in December plus up to thirty (30) Delegates.

So if you desire to have your name on the ballot you must be present at the November meeting or submit a letter to the Secretary that you want your name placed in Nomination.

See...it is that simple.

You can run yourself or nominate any member in good standing as a candidate for any office or delegate or both.

I ask you to stop for a few minutes to think who would be the best person to represent you and our Branch in the coming term. This is NOT a popularity contest or some “me, me, me” wannabe rather it must be a person who will and can honestly fight for our – yours and mine – rights, needs and future.

I do like to believe that one (1) of you reading this will strongly consider either running yourself or supporting a viable person for each office.

We are entering a most difficult period where our wages, health insurance, and retirement are in danger – all things we have fought for over the past 100 plus years and WON!!

Now is not the time for give backs or sacrifices ANY of our earned rights. The ball is now in your playing field. I want to wish each of you and your families – Happy Thanksgiving!

Gooble-Gobble.

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## FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH BUNCH PINELLAS PARK

The following happy Retired Carriers attended this months Breakfast:

**Bob Trimble, Bill Butler, Jim Long, Roy Vanderveer, Johnny Wagner, Brian Britt, Denny Elliott, Lester Ray, “The Original” Bob Meeks, Willie Santiago, Thom Hart “Col” Ron Haglund, Lynn Phillips, Johnny Bourlon, “Not the Original” Bob Meeks (winner of the Breakfast) and Nils Holmquist.**

*The Pinellas Park “Old Timers” will see you next month November 2, 2010 at the **PARKSIDE CAFÉ 8180 – 49<sup>th</sup> STREET** (corner of 49<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> avenue) in Pinellas Park. See Ya. 9:00 sharp, at our new digs.*

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**The “Original” Largo Retiree Breakfast  
Thom Hart for  
Keith Northup**

Well our attendance was down this month. (Maybe they ALL went to the Rays game?)

However our fellowship was still as vibrant as ever.

Cant’ wait for Keith to return so he can resume writing these articles (The breakfast “treats” are missed too!)

John Hammock was our Branch “Free” breakfast winner this month. At least all but .76 of it was free.

The picture of our group was somehow “lost” on the way to the hall and can’t be found soooo no “scary faces” for Halloween Sorry.

Please join us at our November 4<sup>th</sup> get together.

NAME	YEAR RETIRED	YEARS WORKED
Thom Hart	2000	30
Dana Bigley	2005	25
Dorian Sobat	1992	20
John Bourlon	1997	28
Bill Guenther	1985	25
Bill Koutney	1985	22
Bruce Davis	1982	21
John Hammock	1985	36
Gene Wainscott	1995	22
Richard Rink	1992	26

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**All Craft Retiree Breakfast:  
Bernie Ososky**

Largo's All Craft Retirees Breakfast was held on October the 6th @ Denny's on Missouri. Attendance is beginning to pick up (it's the season), with fifteen retirees, one guest and one wannabe retiree. They were: **Dorian Sobat, Kathy Warner, Jim Leonhardt, Dana Bigley, John Blackard, Wayne (curley man) Moore, Mary Bintliff, Kathy McGuinness, Neal Williamson, Thom Hart, Mikeeeee Pizzorusso, O.D. Elliott, Tom Latto, John W. Bourlon**, along with his great-grandson **Logan, Larry Gaskin** (the wannabe retiree), and yours truly, **Bernie**.

No representation from the clerk or mailhandler crafts were in attendance.

Summer homes and vacations are definitely over now as our retirees have returned for the so-called Florida winter months. Three of our retirees e-mailed me and asked to be excused from breakfast: two for doctor appointments (they better bring written notes), and one because of being out of the country, like **Lynette Blair**, who is still in the Philippines. Gee...I don't know why she couldn't make it!! **Larry Gaskin** joined us as the wannabe retiree. He said this was his trial run to see what to do when he does finally retire he passed!! **Bourlon's** great-grandson was the hit of the breakfast by eating everything on the table, to include the jelly and jam spreads.

Some other news discussed was the COLA. For the second year in a row, COLA will not happen according to Washington. They said the CPI index doesn't warrant any raise, which also affects social security recipients. It's a good damn thing we have a good retirement plan where we don't have to decide whether to buy food, pay bills, get medicine or just do without. The economy is still in the toilet and, as usual, the working class are the very last to see any relief. Also, gas prices are creeping up, gold and silver bullion are at all-time modern highs which are indicators that this country is still suffering. Time to vote out those crappy old timer politicians. **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd!!!!**

On the health front, it was brought to my attention that long time retiree **Ray Reed** had passed away several months ago. **Keith Northup** is home from the hospital, but still undergoing skin grafts on his hand. On another sad note, **Bob Naja's** wife, **Liz**, is hospitalized in Indiana with lung cancer. She will be undergoing several tuff months of radiation. Please keep these retirees in your thoughts and prayers. **O.D. Elliott** won the free breakfast, which is given away every month, compliments of our

local union. Birthdays for the month of October were: **Bill Nilsson, Lynette Blair, Don Brierly, Ed Joyner, Kathy Warner, OD Elliott** and **Sandy Carter**. The retiree in attendance who has been retired the longest was **Wayne Moore** (1992) and the shortest was **Tom Latto** (2009).

In closing, our next All Craft Retirees Breakfast will be on November the 3rd, @ Denny's on Missouri, 9 a.m. sharp! See Ya There and Enjoy The Hell Out Of Life...Bernie.



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**TRUSTEE:  
Ralph Brown**

**FSALC 2010 FALL TRAINING**

I want to thank Branch 1477 for allowing me to attend the F.S.A.L.C Fall Training and Legislative Session in Pensacola Beach last month. I would like to give a shout out to former Branch President and State Secretary **O.D. Elliott** who so graciously volunteered to drive his personal vehicle and transport **Greg Welsh, Don Lyerly** and myself to the training session. The trip was a long one to say the least. Nine plus hours on a two-lane highway was very, very interesting. For some unknown reason, I felt like I needed to be an extra set of eyes for on-coming traffic. **Greg** sat in the co-pilots seat and his responsibilities were to keep the radio tuned and make sure that **Don** and I could feel the air-flow in the back seat. He was not able to accomplish either! However, he did notice every unique detail about things we passed along the way....and didn't hesitate to distract **O.D.** by pointing them out. I digress.

The Training Session was hosted by NALC Branch 321 of Pensacola, Florida and President **Pam Walker**. No

state training would be complete without National Business Agent Judy Willoughby and FSALC President Matty Rose. All other State Officers were also in attendance. The timing of this year's seminar was critical as it pertained to job security, statewide elections and the future of the Postal Service. Speaking of the future of the Postal Service – are you a contributor to COLCPE? If you are then I thank you but if not then I ask why??? COLCPE contributions are used to support candidates, regardless of party affiliation, who themselves support the legislative priorities of Letter Carriers. COLCPE money also help finance “Get out to vote” and other political activities. Contributions are entirely voluntary and absolutely **NO** union dues money goes to support political candidates. Have you seen the “**GIMME 5 for COLCPE**” T-Shirts being worn by other brothers and sisters? This simply means that those individuals are automatically contributing \$5 dollars per pay period by EFT or one of their three payroll allotments. **PLEASE GET ON BOARD – THIS IS OUR JOB SECURITY PEOPLE!!!** I digress. The training and legislative session opened on Friday afternoon with the State Officers giving their reports. Matty Rose and Judy Willoughby spoke on current issues affecting the NALC and the Postal Service. Saturday was reserved for all of the training and legislative sessions. A sampling of the courses taught were: Stewards, National Reassessment Program (NRP), Withholding, Route Inspection/Adjustment Process and Zero Tolerance. The courses were informative and the instructors were well versed on the subject matter. The session was brought to a close on Sunday morning with a strong message from AFL-CIO President Mike Williams who challenged us as a union to be active and to do whatever it takes to continue to “Make it Happen”.

P.S. Are we taking I-10 home or what???  
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**S.O.S.  
 Speaking on Safety:  
 Suzette Dombrowski  
 Shop Steward**

The items listed below, are available everyday while at work. If you use them, they are our tools to help keep us safe.

1. Notice 76: Vehicle Inspection.
2. PS Form 4565: Vehicle Repair Tag.
3. Dogs Cards: List address and information about the dog as a reminder to you about the possible danger.
4. Hazards Cards: Describe the hazards at a particular address.
5. PS Form 4956 Your Mail Box Needs Attention (this form is just not for mailboxes, could be used to get most hazards corrected by the customer).
6. PS Form 1767: Safety hazard, reported by you and

- Management has to respond to you on the same day.
7. Red Tag: Defective equipment that needs repair.
8. Safety Bulletin Boards: listing JSA's (Job Safety Analysis-description of each task we perform)
9. Safety tour talks
10. Minutes from the S/H committee meeting
11. Red Poles: to indicate the location of Fire Extinguishers.
12. Fire evacuation maps: locations of exit door.
13. Emergency Lighting: Floors are taped off to guide you to an exit door.
14. Shelter IN Place: Stay inside Emergency Room from the bad weather out side (hurricanes, tornadoes).

The Post Office gives us regulations to follow whether it is a State Law or the Suncoast District Safety Rules, remember they are there to keep us safe.

Quote of the moth: *Not only is safety MY responsibility, it is MY right.*  
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**Not-so-Meek(s)  
 Trustee  
 Shop Stewards**

**He Said:**

October has come and gone. How many of us were told late last year or early this year by Management that this would be when no Saturday delivery would take place? It was a done deal! Blah, blah, blah... the same old B.S. comes out of their mouths. You can't and don't believe the garbage they speak so surely of.

I'm not going to say that it's not still a possibility; it could happen in the future. That is why we need to stay updated and educated so we can help protect our jobs.

Hopefully this election — which we delivered an astounding amount of political mail — will put in place the right candidates to get this country moving in the right directions by creating jobs (not cutting jobs), and get this economy moving again.

WOW! I wonder what this month would have been like if we were not delivering on Saturday. I'd still be on the street right now!

Our country has just gone through an election cycle to select our representatives. Your Union will be nominating candidates in November and electing our representatives that will lead our Union over the next three years. We have been moving into a new era and are preparing to negotiate a new National Contract. It is very important that if you care where our future leads us, you need to

vote. If you cannot make it to the hall to vote, you can **request an absentee ballot**. Ask your steward for a form to request an absentee ballot or contact the hall (in writing).

Vote! Vote! Vote!

**She Said:**

I have received calls about issues going on in some of our stations. I felt it was a good idea to address them in the *Twig*, so bare with me if they don't pertain to you.

You give an estimate on your work load, not on DOIS numbers. If you ask for overtime or Auxiliary Assistance (PS Form 3996) and are met with confrontation, get a copy of the PS Form 3996. This is your proof you made Management aware of the time you need. Call in by 3:00 pm and remind the Supervisor of the time, if it will put you past 5:00. At that point, you covered your responsibility. Don't run or work unsafe to make their numbers. Do not return to the office, run in to clock on to office time, then unload your vehicle. Unloading your vehicle and clearing your raw mail is a street function. Once you clock over, your time in being monitor on how long you're in the office (pm duties). Next thing you know, you're hounded about extending office hours. Every minute you spend on any function is counted as part of your evaluated time.

If you are instructed to deliver all mail and be back by 5:00, and this is not possible, fill out your Form 3996 and get a copy. Call by 3:00 pm and write a statement on all conversation relating to this absurd demand. Ask to see your Steward and file a grievance.

One last thing, we were questioned on our expanded street time. That's a joke! The routes were created with no mail volume. As all carriers can attest to, the mail has definitely picked up. You would think that would explain the time different. You would think.

See ya at the hall!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, from the *Meeks, Bob, Trish and Madison*

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**Congressional Liaison**

**District 10 Gene Carroll**

On September 21, 2010 Representative Darrell Issa (R) claimed in the edition of the Washington Times that the USPS was seeking a 'taxpayer bailout' and proposes that Congress get involved in collective bargaining to force concessions from postal labor unions. *NALC*

Delaware Senator Tom Carper (D) introduced legislation **S.3831** on September 23<sup>rd</sup> designed to address the U.S.P.S. more than \$50 billion overpayment into the CSRS over the last 40 years, as well as the aggressive schedule for pre-funding the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) mandated by the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA). Unfortunately the legislation also included a number of provisions that the NALC cannot support including elimination of Saturday delivery and directions to arbitrators to consider certain management objections when rendering their decisions. *Ed O'Keefe*

H.R. 5746 was introduced by Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA) at the end of July. The key difference between this bill and Carpers Senate legislation is that H.R. 5746 limits its scope to fixing the OPM overcharge and directing that the USPS CSRS surplus be transferred to the PSRHBF.

USPS is asking for wage and benefit concessions for employees who enjoy better benefits than other public-sector workers. But the steady downturn has already caused many mail service workers to either retire early or have their jobs phased out through attrition. *Federal Times*

We have planned or issued four OIG reports presenting overfunding issues associated with pension and retiree health care funds. If our proposals to recover the overfunded amounts were placed in effect, the Postal Service could potentially recover \$142.4 billion. In addition, the Postal Service:

- Would no longer be required to prefund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (retiree health fund) an average of \$5.6 billion per year.
- Could prefund pensions and retirees' health benefits at benchmarked levels.
- Could pay existing retirees' health insurance premiums from the retiree health fund.
- Could extinguish its debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury).

The proposals could also provide significant levels of

cash for operations, subject to any legislative restrictions placed on those funds. Finally, providing these funds would allow the Postal Service to continue optimizing its infrastructure at a more reasonable pace and minimize the impact on current employees. While these proposals might be more than the "limited measure of relief" envisioned by the Senate and House conference reports, they are critical to addressing the Postal Service's financial needs. Also, implementing these proposals could end the unjust practice of using Postal Service funds provided by postage ratepayers to fund benefits for non-postal government employees.

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The first Marlene Markey Friendship Tea was a lovely event, attended by all three of Marlene's daughters. Joyce Keller spoke about why we wanted to honor Marlene, and there was hardly a dry eye in the room. I hope Marlene was watching from above to see how much she is loved and missed. Pat O'Donnell and Sue Elliott (English by birth) planned a fun way to distribute teacups to everyone, and we learned a little about English cities and counties. Thirty-two ladies enjoyed scrumptious delicate sandwiches, delectable desserts, fruit, various teas, and prizes. Setting up for the Tea the Friday before was a lot of fun, too. Joyce, Margaret Perkins, and I brought our freshly washed and ironed linens, table runners, decorations, silverware, and Joyce's huge collection of teacups and teapots from around the world. Since Clarence had ankle surgery, he got out of lifting and carrying all the boxes, but Joyce put her high school buddies (and house-guests), Bonnie and Daryl Nash, from Meza, Arizona to work helping out. We enjoyed the company of Cindy Pollack, our only Letter Carrier in attendance. We'll do it again next year and hope even more ladies attend.

Our October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in Pat O'Donnell's lovely home in Clearwater. Alice Wannike gave an inspirational message, and Joyce won the cat-in-the-bag prize. Plans for our holiday party were made for Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in the Keller's home. Again, we are talking about finding needy families for whom we can give a little help. After the meeting, over 140 treat bags were filled by members in a fast-paced, efficient assembly line. Henry Ford could only wish for such professionalism. The bags were given to Diana Keller for her math students at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg. Diana provides healthy snacks, out of her own pocket, for those kids who don't get breakfast, so we decided to help out once in a while. We feel like the Great Pumpkin for doing something nice, and they really appreciate it. Who knows, maybe we can be the Easter Bunny or Santa some other

**AUXILIARY 181**  
**Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson**

time?

\*\*\*\*\*

Know any needy families?  
Please let any Union officer or Auxiliary member know.  
We try to help them during Thanksgiving  
And the Winter Holidays.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sally Madden will again try to host an Auxiliary meeting in her home on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Since the Rays are out of the playoffs (boo hoo!), I expect she'll actually attend.

(Remember how busy she was last month with her daughter's "illness" (Carlos Peña)?)

Dottie and Joyce will bake for the November 11<sup>th</sup> Union meeting raffle, and Joyce and Margaret will cook for the Union members.

We hope Keith Northup is doing much better. Joyce is receiving treatment for her injured back, while Clarence has begun walking again and will start radiation iodine treatment for his thyroid in October. We hope the best for you all.

Thanks to Pat O'Donnell, Joyce Keller, Margaret Perkins, Sue Elliott, Alice Wannike, Sally Madden, Sandy Hart, and Shirley Moran for preparing such a lovely tea party. Thanks to Joyce and Margaret for baking and cooking, and Pat for hostessing and baking in October.

Happy November birthday to Sue Elliott (the 14<sup>th</sup>) and Happy Anniversary to Kathy and Keith Northup on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello Brothers & Sisters:



**Glenn Fagan**  
**Trustee**  
**Shop Steward**

Well the year is coming to an end, and the weather is changing. Pretty soon it will be Christmas Season. But what I'd like to share with you is that Branch 1477 Elections are coming up soon. Its not an easy job, but the privileges to serve this great Branch is rewarding due to the people you serve, (meaning you the Carriers) I've met a lot of you though various ways and it's been a great experience. Doing Formal A's and Route Adjustments are some of my duties as being a Trustee. Also being involved with the

MDA Golf Tournament, Cycle Run, and Bowling Tour-

nament. Let's not forget all of the Officers who have served this great Branch 1477, past and present. This branch is one of the most respected Branch in the NALC, we are looked upon as a very organized office and hard working Officers, with great success.

Remember that there is a lot of responsibilities at the office of Trustee you don't see, but there is progress being done with saving money and trying to make Branch 1477 even a better place to appreciate.

Be safe and God Bless this Great Union.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers & Sisters:



I would like to signify my truthfully gratefulness for being chosen by Branch 1477 to attend the Pensacola Training Seminar. Withholding, National Reassessment Program, Route Inspection Adjustment Process Legislative etc. So much information acquired that I am surely guaranteed our Letter Carrier force is "Made In America"

**Zulma Ortiz**  
**Shop Steward**  
**Central Station**

I got an introduction of the coming soon Flat Sortation System (FSS). Once the Machine is on line the City Letter Carrier will receive a large percent of their flats in Walk Sequence. If you don't get it, minimal office time.

The following is information to assist members in preparation for its effect on both.

*Top 10 Ways to have more territory added to your route.*

- Don't take your lunch break – Work for FREE
- Skip your break
- Work off the clock
- Clock in off the street before you unload your vehicle – If you can't figure this one out, ask someone
- Run like a madman on Saturdays so you can start your weekend early
- Don't walk up to some one's door and attempted a certified letter (Too much work!)
- Keep the vehicle running!
- Don't put your seat belt on (Don't need it)
- Keep casing mail while you are having a safety talk (it doesn't apply to you anyway)
- Keep Running! You can save the Postal Service all by yourself

On 10/10/10 I attended the Fun Rude around the Bay. Even though I didn't have a bike, my four wheel car got me there. The band was great, the food, and watching the games Rays & Buccaneers, and the bikers who's rally supported us with the Muscular Dystrophy Donations.

And supported us with the Muscular Dystrophy Donations.

Yes, report from old Central Station to Main Office, arriving at the Main Office some of us Carriers observed a bird flying inside the building by our cases and I said we left the bats in Central to come to the birds in the Main Office, when a Carrier said a bird is trapped here and another said NO! Don't trust that bird he is on the Clock.

Don't forget this election is crucial to our jobs, family, and future. Think about all these things when voting November 2 and for those of you who don't vote by mail think of the revenue for our jobs. Voting by mail, no waiting time in lines. Suggestions: Amendment #1 Opposed #2 Support, #4 Opposed, #5 Support, #6 Support and #8 Opposed.

**Shop Stewards Meeting for August:**

Elis Pujols, Suzette Dombrowski, Claudia Harvary, Rich Ramos, Glenn Fagan, Justn Wilt, Ralph Brown, Willie Cochran, R.J. Nelson, Zulma Ortiz, Rudy Betancourt, Ray Handville, Denise Duffy, Randy Jackson, Ken Bushery, Bob Meeks, Randy Holman, Brian Andrews, Bert Lewis, Oswald Antonetty, Liz Arnold, Tom Phillips, Tricia Meeks.

**Our South Members that attended the September Meeting:**

Chuck Cavicchio, Gene Carroll, Jamie White, Bill Murray, Mike Conrad, Pat Seul, Mike Novak, John Sweeney, Barb Brooks, Lori Bell, Susan Chavez.



MDA Fun Run \$1700 Dollars



**Ken Grasso**  
**Health Benefit**  
**Representative**

Benefit	You Pay	
	PPO	Non-PPO
<b>Preventive Care</b>		
Annual Routine Physical Exam, age 3 or older	Nothing	30% after \$300 deductible
Adult Routine Immunizations & Tests	Nothing	30% after \$300 deductible
Well Child Care (up to age 2)	Nothing	Any amount over Plan allowance
Routine Immunizations (up to age 21)	Nothing	Any amount over Plan allowance
<b>Inpatient Hospital Care (precertification required)</b>		
Maternity	Nothing	30% after \$350 per admission copay
Medical/Surgery		
Room, Board & Other Services & Supplies	\$200 copayment per admission	30% after \$350 per admission copay
Mental Health/Substance Abuse		
Room, Board & Other Services & Supplies	\$200 copayment per admission	30% after \$350 per admission copay
<b>Outpatient Hospital</b>		
Medical/Surgical	15% after \$300 deductible	35% after \$300 deductible
Emergency Medical	15% after \$300 deductible	15% after \$300 deductible
<b>Chiropractic Care</b>		
Initial office visit	\$20 copayment per visit	30% after \$300 deductible
Initial set of spinal x-rays	15% after \$300 deductible	30% after \$300 deductible
Spinal manipulations (12 per calendar year)	15% after \$300 deductible	30% after \$300 deductible
<b>Physician Care</b>		
Office visits	\$20 copayment per visit	30% after \$300 deductible
X-rays, other diagnostic services	15% after \$300 deductible	30% after \$300 deductible
Laboratory Services		
LabCorp or Quest diagnostics	Nothing	
Other lab facility	15% after \$300 deductible	30% after \$300 deductible
Maternity care (complete)	Nothing	30% after \$300 deductible
Accidental Injury	Nothing within 72 hours	Any amount over the Plan Allowance within 72 hours
Surgery	15%	30% after \$300 deductible
Mental Health and Substance Abuse		
Office visit	\$20 copayment per visit	30% after \$300 deductible
Other diagnostic services	15% after \$300 deductible	30% after \$300 deductible
<b>Dental</b>		
Accidental dental injury (to a sound natural tooth)	15% within 72 hours	30% within 72 hours after \$300 deductible

**For more information please contact Ken Grasso.**



Branch 1477, N.A.L.C.  
 5369 Park Boulevard North  
 Pinellas Park, FL 33781-3421

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# November 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pinellas Park Breakfast	<b>3</b> Largo All Craft Breakfast	<b>4</b> Executive Board Largo Breakfast	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Auxiliary 2:00 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> General Membership <b>Nominations</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Pete Retiree Breakfast	<b>18</b> Shop Stewards <b>SOUTH MEETING</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				