



# 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 349

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

March, 2010



**Les Stroup**  
President

**Thank you President Emeritus Johnny W. Bourlon and Past President O. D. Elliott for installing the Shop Stewards for their term of office (2010).**

I also want to take this time to thank all our Shop Stewards, past and present. They are the backbone of our Union. They made this the best damn Branch in the NALC.

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

**Elis Pujols – Open Air Zone 1**  
**Jeff Dusseault – Northside Zone 16**  
**Claudia Harvey – Euclid Zone 4**  
**Ray McCarson – Midtown Zone 12**  
**Richard Ramos – Gulfwinds Zone 7**  
**R.J. Nelson – Central Zone 13**  
**Bert Lewis – Ellenton**  
**Don Lyerly – Punta Gorda 80/83**  
**Lori McClelland – Port Charlotte**

Special THANKS go out to **Chris Hubble, Tom Phillips, Jim Bumbul, Tricia Meeks, Dave Walker, Rudy Betancourt, Fred Assidy, Bonnie Baldwin, Barb**

**Brooks, and John Sweeney** for their hard work and dedication to the Branch. Even though they will not be Shop Stewards, they will help to point out contract violations to the new Shop Stewards.

### *Memorandum From the Desk of President Fredric V. Rolando*

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that a bowler from your branch is the high score or handicapped high score winner for your branch size category in the 1st Annual MDA Bowl-a-Thon.

Please provide the attached check, along with my congratulations to the recipient. I also want to thank you and the members who worked to make the event such a great success. Thanks to your efforts the NALC raised over \$300,000 on November 1, 2009.

Your continued support and assistance is most appreciated as the NALC increases our efforts to deliver the cure for MDA!

Congratulations Robert Smolka (Crossroads 10S).

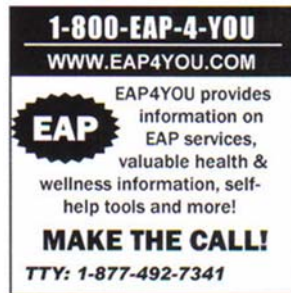
### **Obama budget backs six-day delivery:**

President Obama's fiscal 2011 budget proposal requires the continuation of six-day delivery by the Postal Service. The administration also promises to work with postal unions and other stakeholders to keep the Postal Service strong for years to come. In setting the amount for "revenue forgone" to cover the costs of free and reduced rate mail, the spending plan says payments will be made

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Letter Carrier Hall Branch 1477,  
N.A.L.C. (727) 531-1477**

“provided that 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level....” Looking to the future, the proposal, submitted to Congress on February 1, states, “The Administration will work with the Postal Service, its employee unions, the Congress, and other stakeholders to make sure the Postal Service (remains) a pillar of the American economy and a vital public resource through the current crisis and over the long haul.” Language in a separate section, however, proposes changes in the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) that could be problematic. The NALC is investigating those proposals and will act to protect letter carriers’ interests.

NALC.org



**IN SOLIDARITY**

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**Joe Henschen**  
Executive Vice  
President  
Twitter@JaHe1

**OFFICE AND CASE  
CONSOLIDATION**

What began as a list of nearly 700 Postal facilities potentially targeted for closure including thirty Suncoast District locations and six Branch 1477 offices were originally on that list. Although it has not been “officially” announced only the Pass A Grille and Central Station remain as targets.

This is disheartening to the Carriers at Central Station. Carriers Luz Pagan and Zulma Ortiz canvassed the neighborhood getting petitions signed that were sent to the districts Congressional Representatives and Florida’s Governor urging consideration to the neighbors and box holders in the Central Station’s community and oh canvass they did, hundreds of petitions and personal letters were mailed to DC and Tallahassee. That’s the thing with being an activist you have to scream at the top of your lungs every time someone is harmed but it does not always work out. These two sisters stood up for the entire community, Good Job to them both!

Plans to move the Carriers from St. Petersburg’s Central Station into the Plant are continuing without final confirmation. Mail processing machines are being moved to accommodate the projected space needed for the Carrier Cases. The plans include sectioning off the west end of the plant floor with a wall that includes sound deadening materials. Some of the unanswered questions deal with parking and the lots traffic flow. This is a particularly sensitive matter due to safety concerns with the Tractor Trailers moving on and off the dock throughout the day. Access to the Carrier Vehicle has been considered but the necessity to load at a dock area or the use of a ramp similar to the Euclid loading area has not been finalized. The availability of locker space has not yet been answered. The existing plant locker room adjacent to the swing room is not large enough to accommodate the number of Carriers planned for the new space. One suggestion was to position the lockers on the workroom floor but discussion is ongoing.

The “new” space designated being created has enough room for at least one other delivery unit and some thought has evidentially been given to which delivery unit that will be.

What is for sure we are seeing the consolidation of Carrier Cases as a way to reduce the foot print of the existing space needed for each route. Unfortunately the process is not been instituted in a very Carrier friendly method. In many offices a four or five row case – 2 case configuration mandates have been implemented. Almost to a unit the input of the Carrier has been either ignored or not even asked for. During MIARAP route adjustments most of the routes in the Branch Cities illustrated such a minimum amount of case-able mail the consolidation of cases was not a huge factor for most carriers. Of course that is if the volume remained at October levels. As the USPS projects continual declines in volume that may be the future, but for now the problems with too many double numbers and reduced height between rows are causing problems throughout the Branch.

Who determines the case configuration? There are several documents that dictate how and when configuration changes are made. In 1992 several memorandums were agreed upon that answered questions relative to the implementation of Delivery Point Sequenced Mail. These memorandums outlined required the parties at the local level to agree on issues like casing methods and configurations. On August 18, 2008 a Joint Task Force Report was agreed to by the National Parties. This report was to establish the work methods for the Flat Sequencing Environment. The report states: that City Carrier Case con-

figuration will be consistent with requirements in Methods Handbooks M-39 and M-41. In each of these handbooks the use of 4, 5 or 6 rows for City Carriers is discussed. The criterion considers numbers of deliveries and cased volume when determining the case configuration. It also states: *Management will determine the number of shelves and separations to be used for each route.* **The Suncoast District is not currently on the schedule for FSS machines.** The memorandum includes: City carriers working in the FSS environment will be consulted before case configuration changes are implemented. Management has the job of determining the case configuration within the language of their handbooks. They have an obligation to consult with you what is best for you **prior to making the change.** If you are not consulted, talk to your steward. If you are given chances for input give the input. What will surely happen those of you that case at a rate that is faster than 18/8 standards may not be able to maintain the same speed with a new configuration. Do your best every day. When you have to case with 2 hands do so, when it is time to make your estimate reflect on the change in casing and ask for what you need on a 3996 and get a copy.

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**Harry Strzyzynski**  
Secretary

**BRANCH 1477, N.A.L.C.  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING  
February 11, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.  
by Les Stroup.  
Invocation by John Bourlon.  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Les  
Stroup.

Motion to accept minutes as printed in Twig motion to accept Elis Pujols, Seconded Joe Rudolph.

Reading of Official Correspondence by Harold Strzyzynski: 1

**NEW MEMBERS:** Rosa Encarnacion (Euclid Station), Josh Kohlberger (Central Station), Edwin Brantley (Central Station), **Christian Pate** (Northside), Frank Webb (Gateway Station), Motion to accept Bob Meeks, Seconded Les Jackson.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** - **Tom Phillips** — Motion to accept by O.D. Elliott, Seconded by Elizabeth Arnold.

**DIRECTOR OF RETIREES:** **Thom Hart is excused** – New Retirees Martin Schneider - Palmetto – Largo, Richard Byrd – Gulfwinds.

**HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECTOR:** **Ken Grasso** – 41 new sign ups, 6,400 new members, 21 applications for reimbursement totaling \$1,005.00.

**TRUSTEE REPORT: Ralph Brown** – Books audited for December 2009 and January 2010, all accounts good.

**MBA DIRECTOR/DRT Representative: Greg Welsh** – Excused.

**POLITICAL DISTRICT 10 LIAISON: Gene Carroll** – Thanks to the relentless lobbying by the NALC the 40% excise tax for the so called Cadillac Plan has been pushed back to at least 2014. The tax would have applied to family plans costing more than \$13,000 per year and self only plans costing more than \$6,000 per year. The tax thresholds were increased to \$23,000 for family plans and to \$8,500 for the self only plans.

You can now “roll” money into your thrift Savings Plan from either a 401k or an IRA.

Those of you who have retired and not yet eligible for Social Security might have seen your Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 to \$110.50 this year. Current law protects most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike when there is no Social Security Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million retirees from the Part B premium increase. The Senate needs to approve this legislation, what’s why everyone needs to contact their Senator and voice their opinion.

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

**STATE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Leo Murray: J. Cruz** did win the primary Leo sat on the committee Leo wants a phone blitz – Permanent abs ballot vote by mail permanent

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Larry Gaskin** – If scheduled on n/s day Article 8 guarantee applies. When injured at work, file a OWCP claim, its for your protection.

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

- Tom White – Gulfwinds - Ill
- Sandy Carter – Retiree Largo – Mother passed away
- Devonne Grant – Central Station – Uncle passed away
- Cindy Pollack – Crossroads Surgery
- Nicole Olmstead – Crossroads - Surgery
- Randy Holman – Pinellas Park – Brother-N-Law passed away
- Terry Helton – Crossroads – Mother passed away
- Pat Gidron – Port Charlotte – Father passed away
- Keith Northup – Retiree Largo – Underwent surgery
- Mickey Mikulis – Northside – Mother ill
- Joe Gagliardo – Madeira Beach – Hand surgery
- Diane Flanagan – Madeira Beach – Food surgery
- Dawn Rogers – Madeira Beach – Emergency Surgery
- Marlene Markey – Retired Branch Secretary and Auxiliary 181 member gravely ill.
- Joe Mattie Retiree was to receive his 60, 55, and 50 year Gold Card passed away.
- Carolyn Colizzi – Seminole – Shoulder surgery

Bob Quagliotti Seminole – III

**Glad News:**

Sara Witson-Bond – Palmetto – was credited with saving a customers life.

**Office consolidation:** Central and Pass-a-Grille still on the list.

NALC, APWU, Mail Handlers, and Management have met regarding the reorganization of the plant to accommodate the movement of Zones 13 & 14 into the plant. A floor plan has been drafted and a major move of the Processing Machinery is beginning. The total move includes paying rent to the Central Station for 2 years. Some debate about using it to store maintenance equipment is ongoing.

The Safety Committees are or should be asked in the near future to help identify door slots and boxes that require the Letter Carrier to bend down to deliver. There is an approved height for receptacles and those deliveries that are not in an approved range will be moved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Motion removed from table.

Seal Parking Lot – Motion by H. Strzyzynski, Second Tom Phillips.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Reading of Proposed By-Law change.

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

- Les spoke on Branch Certificate of Deposits (4)
- Installation of new Shop Stewards by President Emeritus John Bourlon and Past President O.D. Elliott.
- Safety Teams – Give high praise to Dale Marks Ergonomic Team Leader.
- Les & Joe presented Dave Meier of Pinellas Park 55 year pin; Johnny Bourlon received his 40 year pin.
- Memo from President Fred Rolando Rolando congratulations to Bob Smolka, Handicapped High Score Winner—Bowl-A-Thaon. \$150.00 check.
- Glenn Fagan - Golf Tournament, at Chi-Chi Rodriguez on 5/23/10, Romano’s Macaroni Grill will be catering. \$60.00 per person, need door prizes
- Les is sending Lori Bell, Susan Chavez, Glenn Fagan, Tricia Meeks and Tom Phillips to FSALC Training March 12 – 14, 2010.
- John Bourlon reminded everyone about the Valentine Day Breakfast.
- President Obama Budget backs 6 day delivery.

**WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:**

50/50 - \$50.00 won by Joe Rudolph

Lotto/Power Ball – won by Gary Scsavanicki

Christie Carr Arsylin Uniform won by Gift Applebee’s won by Tricia Meeks and Kathy Marsh.

Auxiliary Raffle:

Gary Scavanicki won three times

Dave Walker won twice

Paul Madden

Tom White won twice

Kathy Marsh

Mike Goldstein

Motion to adjourn

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**The Right Answer is ...NO!**



**Thom Hart  
Director of  
Retirees**

The phone rang and when he answered it a voice asked “Is this Bob Couchpotato? He said yes it is. The voice offered him a special package of internet services. To this he responded the way most of us do when we are eager to get back to “Jeopardy” “send me the info by mail and I’ll read it over”.

The very next month his wife, Jane, noticed a charge of \$33.95 on their phone bill for attaboy internet services which they had not ordered. The Couchpotatoes, of Hubba Hubba, AL, were just one (1) of over 400,000 people who have been bilked out of over \$75 million.

It was learned that the now defunct company had set out to purposely “trick” customers into paying monthly fees without their knowledge.

How you ask? Through “creative editing” of their initial phone call. When they asked if he was Bob Couchpotato and he said, “yes” they used an editing of this to “show” that he had said “yes” to sign up for their service.

Next they expertly disguised their contract service agreement as a piece of bulk business mail. (you guessed it – the Couchpotatoes threw it way without opening or reading it.

Sorry to report that by discarding those packets they became a victim who never saw that they were enrolled (as required by law) and they had 15 day to cancel their service to prevent monthly charges.

So what lessons to learn:

1. Watch what you say to any phone solicitor or telemarketer. Never say “yes” if they ask are you so and so just say who is calling or better yet, just hang-up is the safest policy.

2. It is important they you open and read all mail to then know what or why it was sent to you. Note: Some credit card companies are raising interest rates on their card via bulk mail.
3. Always fully examine your phone bill for any and all third party charges. Note: One of our NALC members was charged a \$7.00 late fee for submitting a payment that was .01 short!

Whether it is your phone or your computer, protect yourself.

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**St. Pete Retirees Breakfast**

The following happy Retirees attended this months meeting

**O.D. Elliott, Gil Migliano, John Tschupp, Jim Wamboldt, Don Kosior, Harold Compher, Dale Pope, Bob Kaufman, Bob Trimble, Ellen Kirschner, Ron Cherry, Ed Richards, Terry Johnson, and Thom Hart.**

The St. Pete Retirees met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

How bout joining us in February – we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at the Denny’s on US 19 North and 51st.

See You Then.

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**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, Denny Elliott, Brian Britt, Roy Van Derveer, “The Original” Bob Meeks, Lynn Phillips, Tony Klepac, and Willie Santiago.**

The next Breakfast will be on March 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., DeMills Family Restaurant on Park Blvd.

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**Keith Northup  
The Original  
Retiree Breakfast**

The **(Original) Largo Retiree Breakfast** was held on February 4, 2010 at Boris Family Restaurant on Ulmerton Road at 09:00 hours. The following Retired Letter Carriers were present and or accounted for. **Dana Bigley, Bruce Davis, Rufus King, John Silvia, Sam Miller, Bill Guenther, Ed Joyner, Gene Wainscott, (William) Bill**

**Koutney, Wayne Moore, John Blackard, John Hammock, Richard Rink, Dorian Sobat, and Keith Northup.**

The total number of Postal experience was 327 this month. Fifteen former Letter Carriers braved the weather to enjoy the company of fellow carriers. Believe me there was a lot of bull going around the tables.

Director of Retirees **Thom Hart** was not present due to getting a rotor roter job on his pumping machine. We have not seen the paperwork from his doctor so we placed him in AWOL status at this meeting. I have talked to him and he is doing better and hopes to join us next month.

Brother **Bob Miller** is still at Wright’s Nursing Home at the corner of 113<sup>th</sup> Street and 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He is holding his own at this time.

A Happy Birthday to Brother **John Hammock** this month, he claims to be 65 but the birth date and his thinking do not match for some reason. I guess we have to believe what we believe to get by now. He is sporting a new ride made in some country by some auto dealer.

I am sorry to say that I have to go in and have part of my lung taken out due to the “C” word. I will try to make the meeting next month if possible. I really miss seeing the Carriers when I have to miss a meeting. God speed and bless you all.

The next get together of the **Largo Original Retired Letter Carriers** will be held on March 4, 2010 at 09:00 hours. We hope to see you if you are a Letter Carrier, active or retired. We enjoy learning what is going on now in the Post Office.

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**All Craft Retiree Breakfast:  
Bernie Ososky**

Largo’s **All Craft Retirees Breakfast** was held on February the 3<sup>rd</sup> @ Denny’s on Missouri. This was the second of the year with only ten retirees present and they were: **O.D. Elliott** (past President of our local), **Kathy Warner, Mary Bintliff, Don Sine** (representing the clerk craft), **Bill Nilsson, Neal Williamson, Kathy McGuinness, Paul Ippoloto** representing the janitorial engineers crew), and **yours truly.**

This months gathering was one of our smallest but still lively. Many of our retirees were doing retirement stuff, whatever that is, and had been officially excused. Lucky for them because an investigative interview was in order

followed by either an official discussion or suspension Yah! Remember those days? Anyway, here is what was talked about. **Karen Douglas** (clerk) just recently retired and apparently is having no trouble getting used to the retirement mode. **Chuck Dooty** (carrier) had a smooth transition into retirement this past month. I decided to call **Bill Loomis** (carrier), who retired moons ago. The phone was passed around so he could talk with some of his friends. Bill resides in North Carolina and is doing just fine! **Wayne Crement** was spotted by **Kathy McGuinness** and she said he still looks the same but a lot more relaxed DUH...who isn't after getting out alive from that place where we all draw our retirement! No birthdays this month to report. The retiree who has been retired the longest was **Don Sine**, for the second month in a row (1989), and the shortest was Kathy Warner (2006).

On the health and welfare news: **Thom Hart** is recovering from an apparent heart attack, **Keith Northup** was undergoing some medical tests, **Brad Wells** is doing as well as he can and even got to go out and play some golf in between his treatments, and finally **Harry Davis** was reported to have a hernia operation. Please keep those retirees in your prayers for continued speedy recoveries.

Well, that's about all from where I sit so now for that monthly reminder. Our next retirees breakfast will be on March the **3rd @ Denny's on Missouri @ 9 a.m.** Hopefully, we can attract more than ten retirees for this breakfast and dethrone **Don Sine** from being the longest retiree. The weather should be nicer in March so I am inviting all those new retirees to come and join us for some laughter, reminiscing and some good food! Be **Safe & Enjoy the Hell out of Life!!**, Bernie

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

**Hello Brothers & Sisters:**

I apologize for not writing a newsletter in the last Twig. First I would like to thank everyone for the votes on the National Convention. Congrats to Zulma, she will represent our Branch very well.

Our Golf Tournament is this Spring, May 23, 2010. The tournament has been moved to the Spring so we can possibly get more sponsors and players, and door prizes. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NALC and MDA Championship will be held at Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Course in Countryside, Pinellas County. They offered the course to use so we can get a course a little closer to everyone. Dinner will be served by our

Title Sponsor (Romano's Macaroni Grill Catering) and Tee Time will be at 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Format Shamble.

So if everyone could try and get gift certificates or prizes from your customers it would be gratefully appreciated. I know the economy is not in good shape but I know there are people out there that will donate.

Now for the Postal Service and the outstanding Management that leads us. Remember to all of us Management is not your Best Friend, so beware that you should be doing your route by the contract and that goes for Safety Regulations also. Management will build a case against you and do their best to fire any Letter Carrier. They continuously break the contract and push people beyond their limits. Do not do this and put yourself in harms way. Management will never admit to wrongdoing.

Even Management made the foolish move in taking all the vehicle that are not used daily and take them away, so if someone has a breakdown or mail volume is heavy on some days there are no vehicles to use. We work for a bunch of mental giants. Why couldn't they think of at least leaving 2 extra vehicles for emergencies?

So enough about Management. I hope we can get a big turn out at our Golf Tournament. Be safe. Your family needs you.

See you at the Hall.

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**Congressional Liaison District 10 Gene Carroll**

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LIAISON FL 10 REPORT**

On Jan 12, 2009 16 Unions signed a letter amidst increasingly tense negotiations between House and Senate leaders over how to structure the pay-for provision in the final health care bill. While the excise tax is slated to be imposed on the so-called high cost plans, it will be passed on to the enrollees. Blue Cross Blue Shield plans cover approximately 48% of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program enrollees, or nearly 3.8 million Americans. (Huffington Post)

On Thursday Jan 14, 2009 the White House reached a tentative agreement with labor leaders to tax high-cost health insurance policies. Originally family plans costing more than \$13,000 per year (and self-only plans costing more than \$6,500) would have had the 40% excise tax levied against them. (White House)

Thanks to the relentless lobbying by the NALC and other unions, the tax thresholds were increased to \$23,000 for family plans and to \$8,500 for the self-only plans. The thresholds will be adjusted upwards to account for age difference and to account for any surge in health care inflation between now and 2013. The deal secured an exemption for collectively bargained health plans through 2017, an exemption that may or may not cover bargaining unit postal employees with FEHBP plans. (NALC Bulletin)

When the stock market took a nose-dive in late 2008 many TSP investors pulled money out of the C, S and I funds and parked them in the G Fund. Because of the losses the G Fund now is worth \$118.5 billion, the C Fund had \$66.8 billion and the SA Fund \$18.3 billion. The international stock index I fund was valued at \$23.5 billion while the F Fund was worth \$118.7 billion at the end of 2009. (Federal News Radio)

You can now “roll” money into your Thrift Savings Plan from other 401k plans or IRAs. There’s a new form on our Web site -- TSP-60 -- and it makes clear that even if you are receiving monthly payments, you can still transfer funds into the TSP from [other] IRA’s and 401(k)’s that you may have. Trabucco said there are two ways to make the move: a direct transfer or a rollover. The direct transfer involves contacting the current entity that controls your 401(k) or IRA and have them move money into the TSP. A rollover involves taking money out of your former 401(k) or IRA your-self and moving it into the TSP. The entity will, however, withhold taxes during this process. Trabucco said the TSP-60 form recommends making a direct transfer, though participants can move their money any way they wish. (Federal News Radio)

In a **special report**, the USPS Office of Inspector General strengthens the case NALC has made over the past three years that the Office of Personnel Management badly miscalculated the postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund. The OIG’s investigative research unit report shows USPS was overcharged an astounding **\$75 billion** for pension liabilities that should have been paid for by the U.S. Treasury, since they relate to service performed before USPS was created in 1971. This means the onerous prefunding schedule included in the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act is grossly inflated, since OPM shortchanged the Postal Service Retiree Health Fund in 2007, when the agency transferred the surplus into the fund. (NALC)

Federal, state and local government retirees who are not yet eligible for Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 to \$110.50 in 2010.

Current law protects most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike when there is no Social Security cost of living adjustment. On September 24, the House passed H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million retirees from the Part B premium increase. The Senate needs to approve this legislation, that’s why everyone needs to contact their Senator and voice their opinion. (NARF)

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

*Marlene Markey*  
*August 4, 1938-February 11, 2010*

Every once in a while, if you’re lucky, you get to meet and know someone like Marlene Markey. Kind, generous, gracious, positive, encouraging, self-effacing, and giving are words about her that immediately come to mind. She always treated people kindly, especially if she knew they were hurting. She was generous to a fault; she and Gene opened their home to family and friends in need, and even took in their granddaughter as a young child, bringing her up as if she was their own daughter. Last year they welcomed their great granddaughter and her father into their home, too. Marlene gave of herself by supporting our auxiliary, Letter Carriers Union, and through Beta Sigma Phi sorority, along with other organizations. She rarely said no to any request for help. She showed her love of God through Tres Dias, mentoring young women during retreats. She lived for her family and friends and was always there for them.

Marlene certainly had no ego problem; I remember poking fun at her ability to withstand the temptation of a bag of chocolates in her care. After I wrote about it (for this column) I worried that she might take offense. I called Joyce Keller to see if she thought I should erase it, but Joyce said Marlene wouldn’t be offended. A few minutes later, Marlene called laughing. She wanted to ease my conscience and assure me that she didn’t mind at all, but was flattered I had thought of her. She took teasing well, and usually laughed the most.

Although Marlene has served in every board position in our Auxiliary, her sorority, and some national offices, she never called attention to herself. She was happy to serve behind the scenes as well as running the show. Whatever was needed was what she gave. And usually more.

When the Union Board decided only one secretary was needed, Marlene, who had seniority, generously gave up her position for another. She felt that it was only right, not to disrupt a single working mother's career and family.

Marlene died on February 11, 2010 surrounded by family and friends, with her husband of 51 years, Gene, and close friend Joyce holding her hands. Her sorority and Auxiliary held a reception after the funeral on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Union hall. We will greatly miss Marlene Markey. She was our sister and loyal friend. Gene, we are so sorry for your loss.

Gene Markey was presented his 50 year Union pin at the Union breakfast on February 14<sup>th</sup>. How amazing to have served the Union for 50 years! Thank you, Gene and congratulations.

The Auxiliary last met on February 7, 2010 in hostess Margaret Perkins' lovely home. John Bourlon asked for help with the Branch's breakfast on Valentine's Day. Clarence and Joyce Keller, Alice Wannike, Margaret Perkins, and John Bourlon went two days before the event to set up and decorate, the day before to prepare fruits and vegetables, and served during the meal. We chose materials for blankets to donate to the National Auxiliary, and will knot them next month at Pat O'Donnell's home when she hosts our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meet at Joyce's home at 2:00 to carpool there. Each member is asked to bring gifts for dirty Bingo on our St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Union Hall on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 3:00. Pat O'Donnell won the cat-in-the- bag prize.

Thank you to Marlene Murray, wife of Leo, for generously sending numerous trays of delicious foods from Macaroni Grill after Marlene Markey's funeral.

Thanks to Margaret Perkins for hosting, Sally Madden and Joyce for baking, and Joyce and Margaret for cooking for the Auxiliary and the Union.

Thanks to John Bourlon and Joe Henschen for organizing the Union breakfast.

Thanks to Pat O'Donnell for donating material to make blankets.

A belated, but sincere happy birthday to Gene Markey for his **75<sup>th</sup>** birthday on February 6<sup>th</sup>!

Happy March Anniversary to Joyce and Clarence Keller on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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### Shop Stewards Meeting for January:

Ray Handville, Randy Jackson, Ken Bushery, Bob Meeks, Randy Holman, Brian Andrews, Bert Lewis, Bonnie Baldwin, Susan Chavez, Dave Walker, Cathy Marsh, Elis Pujols, Claudia Harvey, Tracee Lawson, Andre McCalla, Rich Ramos, Glenn Fagan, Ralph Brown, Willie Cochran, R.J. Nelson, Zulma Ortiz, Jeff Dusseault, Chuck Cavicchio, Brenda Mavretic, and Tony Mells.

### Our South Members that attended the January Meeting will be in the February issue:

Zulma Ortiz, Glenn Fagan, Edward Sax, John Sweeney, Pat Seul, Don Lyerly, Jim Savasuk, Mike Novak, Barb Brooks, Bill Murray, Lori Bell and Susan Chavez.



ELAINE DEFELIX  
Retired Letter Carrier  
Member NALC Br. 1477

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CHRISTY CARR  
Sales Representative

5560 KELLY DR. NORTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33703

727-522-7648  
727-692-8573

**"Mary Lou Jackman-William Corbeau" Scholarship Application**  
**(Please do not reduce the size of this application)**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_  
(print legibly)

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

NALC Branch # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name (must be printed legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(Must be signed by Branch President or Secretary)*

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Branch President or secretary

Return all applications to:  
**Jesse A. Costin, FSALC Director of Education**  
**232 Glen Eagle Circle**  
**Naples, Florida 34104**

**The following requirements must be adhered to in order to qualify.**

1. Student must have graduated from an accredited high school or have a GED.
2. Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
3. Applicant must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university, and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. (DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF NOW)
4. Applications must be postmarked on or before July 16, 2010.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be four scholarships awarded - two for a female, and two for a male - each in the amount of \$2000. The drawing will be held during the NALC National Convention August 9 -13, 2010.

**Please do not reduce the size of this application.**

## **Proposed By-Law Change**

### **Article 7, Section 2 as it now reads:**

The regular dues shall be twenty one dollars and thirty two cents (\$21.32) biweekly beginning January, 2004. Each time the COLA increases effective under the provisions of the Contract, the regular dues of active members will be increased by 1/12 of 1% of the COLA increase beginning with the increase of March, 1988.

The regular Branch dues will be increased in the same amount as levied by the National per capita tax known as the "National Minimum Branch dues" as required in the National Constitution. The regular dues will be increased annually in the like amount of increase as levied by the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers in Convention at the 59th Biennial Convention held in June, 1987. Any member failing to pay any fine assessment or monthly dues within thirty (30) days after notification of same shall become due, shall forfeit his membership as prescribed in ARTICLE 7, Section 4 of the National Constitution, for subordinate Branches.

One dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per month per member will be expressly used for the Building Fund. The Treasurer of the Branch will reimburse the Building Fund each month.

### **Change to read:**

The regular dues shall be twenty five dollars and seventy seven cents (**\$25.77**) biweekly beginning January, **2010**. Each time the COLA increases effective under the provisions of the Contract, the regular dues of active members will be increased by 1/12 of 1% of the COLA increase beginning with the increase of March, 1988.

The regular Branch dues will be increased in .the same amount as levied by the National per capita tax known as the "National Minimum Branch dues" as required in the National Constitution. The regular dues will be increased annually in the like amount of increase as levied by the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers in Convention at the 59th Biennial Convention held in June, 1987. Any member failing to pay any fine assessment or monthly dues within thirty (30) days after notification of same shall become due, shall forfeit his membership as prescribed in ARTICLE 7, Section 4 of the National Constitution, for subordinate Branches.

**One dollar (\$1.00)** per month per member will be expressly used for the Building Fund. The Treasurer of the Branch will reimburse the Building Fund each month.

**Fifty cents per member per month will be expressly used to maintain an Automobile Fund for the sole purpose of expenses relating to the purchase of replacement Branch Automobiles. The Treasurer of the Branch will reimburse the Automobile Fund each month.**

**E-Mail: [branch1477@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:branch1477@tampabay.rr.com)**

**Webb: [branch1477nalc.org](http://branch1477nalc.org)**

**(727) 531-1477**

### **OFFICERS OF BRANCH 1477**

President	Les Stroup	608-6678
Exec Vice Pres:	Joe Henschen	608-6772
First Vice Pres:	Larry Gaskin	544-7651
Sec. Vice Pres:	Lori Bell	941-815-6042
Secretary:	Harry Strzyzynski	563-0453
Treasurer:	Tom Phillips	579-1981
Editor:	John Bourlon	593-5508
Dir. Of Retirees:	Thom Hart	397-7587
Dir. Of MBA:	Greg Welsh	596-6239
Health Benefits Rep:	Ken Grasso	397-9737
Sgt-at-Arms:	Rick Renshaw	384-6077
Trustee:	Ralph Brown	557-8225
Trustee:	Trish Meeks	560-8405
Trustee:	Glenn Fagan	741-2006

### **BRANCH 1477 SHOP STEWARDS**

#### **St. Petersburg**

Elis Pujols	Steward	Zone 1	813-239-3150
Tony Mells	Alternate	Zone 1	864-9697
Suzette Dombrowski	Steward	Zone 2	726-5167
Elizabeth Arnold	Alternate	Zone 2	726-5167
John Wenk	Steward	Zone 3	522-5213
Claudia Harvey	Steward	Zone 4	459-0260
Jim Bumbul	Alternate	Zone 4	460-3581
Tracee Lawson	Steward	Zone 5	813-933-5459
Willie Cochran	Steward	Zone 12	954-5240
Ray McC Carson	Steward	Zone 15	813-685-6384
Andre McCalla	Steward	Zone 6	543-1848
Rich Ramos	Steward	Zone 7	744-3369
Tricia Meeks	Alternate	Zone 7	560-8405
Bob Brown	Steward	Zone 8	365-6717
Glenn Fagan	Steward	Zone 9	741-2006
Justin Wilt	Alternate	Zone 9	729-0890
Justin Wilt	Steward	Zone 10N/S	729-0890
Glenn Fagan	Alternate	Zone 10N/S	741-2006
Ralph Brown	Steward	Zone 11	557-8225
R.J. Nelson	Steward	Zone 13	204-9999
Gary Scsavnicki	Alternate	Zone 13	244-6802
Zulma Ortiz	Steward	Zone 14	Unlisted
Jeff Dusseault	Steward	Zone 16	813-920-8272
Rudy Betancourt	Alternate	Zone 16	Unlisted

#### **Dunedin**

Chuck Cavicchio	Steward	798-8506
Chris Hubner	Alternate	848-8828

#### **Indian Rocks Beach**

Brenda Mavretic	Steward	641-8467
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### **Largo/Seminole**

Ray Handville	Steward	Largo Main	804-6500
Denise Duffy	Steward	Unit 73/78	345-8086
Ken Bushery	Steward	Unit 76/77	734-612-3355
Susan Vandervliet	Alternate	Unit 76/77	418-1999
Randy Jackson	Steward	Unit 74/72	595-1467
Frank Pattie	Alternate	Unit 74/72	397-3952

### **Pinellas Park**

Bob Meeks	Steward	Unit 81	585-8523
Fred Assidy	Atlernate	Unit 81	585-0115
Randy Holman	Steward	Unit 82	323-4322
Fred Assidy	Alternate	Unit 82	585-0115

### **South Cities**

Brian Andrews	Steward	Bradenton Bch	941-748-5594
Bert Lewis	Steward	Ellenton	941-266-2109
Bonnie Baldwin	Alternate	Ellenton	941-722-0632
Oswald Antonetty	Steward	Palmetto	941-776-8726
Sheldon Jones	Alternate	Palmetto	941-580-1058
Don Lyerly	Steward	P.G. 80/83	941-662-6995
Barbara Brooks	Alternate	P.G. 80/83	941-624-0043
Jamie White	Steward	P.G. 50	941-286-6689
Lori McClelland	Steward	Annex	941-628-4812
John Sweeney	Steward	Annex	941-268-5063
Susan Chavez	Steward	Englewood	941-697-2423


**Congressional Liaison District 16:** Lori Bell 941-815-6042

**Congressional Liaison District 10:** Gene Carroll 742-1640

**Florida State Liaison:** Leo Murray 527-0366

### **OFFICERS OF AUXILIARY 181**

President:	Joyce Keller	541-2194
Vice President:	Margaret Perkins	544-3615
Secretary:	Marlene Markey	526-6707
Treasurer:	Sally Madden	391-8055
Chaplain:	Alice Wannike	546-3348
Sushine/Mistress-at-Arms	Sue Elliott	526-6358
3 - Year Trustee:	Gerry Bourlon	593-5508
1 - Year Trustee:	Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson	347-0371
1 - Year Trustee:	Shirley Moran	584-4307



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

***No later than the 18th!***



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
 PERMIT 5489

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# March 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 Meeting Largo Breakfast	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> General Membership Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Shop Stewards Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> South Branch Meeting 6:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			