



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 513

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

February, 2011



Les Stroup
President

Stewards' right to information – Part 1

A basic right, and one of the most useful tools for shop stewards, is the right to obtain information from management. Without access to relevant information, the NALC would be unable fulfill its responsibilities to negotiate and enforce the National Agreement.

Duty to provide information

Generally, the duty to provide information arises from a verbal or written request made by the union for specific information. While verbal requests are valid and must be honored, written requests preserve the record and are more easily enforced. There is usually not a duty to supply information absent a request unless providing certain information to the NALC is required by negotiated agreements.

The National Labor Relations Act (29 USC §158.a.5) requires the employer to “bargain collectively with the representatives of his employees.” Failure of the employer to provide requested information to the union is considered an “unfair labor practice.”

The National Agreement also requires management to provide information. Article 17.3 states:

The steward, chief steward or other Union representative properly certified in accordance with Section 2 above may request and shall obtain access through the appropriate supervisor to review the documents, files and other records necessary for processing a grievance or deter-

mining if a grievance exists and shall have the right to interview the aggrieved employee(s), supervisors and witnesses during working hours. Such requests shall not be un-reasonably denied.

Article 31.3 of the National Agreement states:

The Employer will make available for inspection, by the Union all relevant information necessary for collective bargaining or the enforcement, administration or interpretation of this Agreement, including information necessary to determine whether to file or to continue the processing of grievance under this Agreement.

When to request

Shop stewards may and should request information to monitor management's compliance with the contract. Information may also be requested to investigate whether a grievance exists and to prepare for a grievance meeting. Often, requested information will help stewards to decide whether to drop or proceed with a grievance. Information may also be requested to support bargaining during local negotiations.

Stewards can request a broad range of information including any relevant documents, data, facts, and knowledge that might be useful in itself or that might lead to the identification of other useful information. Information requests must be made in good faith and they must relate to contract bargaining or enforcement. The union must be prepared to explain how the requested information is relevant. To obtain information the union should only need to give a reasonable description of what it needs and make a

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Letter Carrier Hall
(727) 531-1477**

reasonable claim that the information is needed to enforce or administer the contract, The JCAM states that the union must have a reason for seeking the information it cannot conduct a “fishing expedition” into Postal Service records.

There should also be a presumption of relevance on management’s part with regard to information requests. In a national arbitration case, Arbitrator Snow wrote:

A duty to disclose relevant information in the bargaining context has its roots in Section 8 (d) of the National Labor Relations Act. . . A key test of disclosure is that the information meet the requirement of relevance. . . There is a presumption of relevancy if the requested information pertains directly to a subject about which there is a mandatory obligation to bargain. . . Although the requirement of discovery has been narrowed by the rule of relevancy, the NLRB and courts have defined “relevancy” broadly. The requested information should be disclosed “unless it plainly appears irrelevant” The parties have added to statutory requirements to share information by including a contractual provision covering the duty to do so ... [quoting articles 31.3 and 17.3]. . . The parties have implicitly adopted a broad definition of “relevancy” as it has emerged in modern discovery rules. [H7N-5C-G 12397 (C-10986)]

What can be requested

Shop stewards are entitled to examine a wide variety of records to investigate a grievance or prepare for bargaining. Examples include:

- accident reports
- Photographs
- attendance records
- payroll records
- documents in an employee’s personnel file
- bidding records
- disciplinary records
- route inspection records
- reports and studies
- seniority lists
- overtime desired list
- work assignment list
- handbooks and manuals
- interview notes
- leave requests
- wage and salary records
- OSHA logs
- Training manuals
- time cards
- clock rings reports

videotapes
work rules
Inspection Service Investigative Memoranda (IM’s)
OIG Report of Investigation (ROI)

May 12, 2012



Joe Henschen
Executive Vice
President

Twitter@JaHe1

NALC branches throughout the country have their sights set this year on another successful Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive effort on Saturday, May 12—the country’s largest single-day drive to help needy families fight hunger in America.

The need for food assistance has never been greater. According to the Agriculture Department, in 2009 the number of Americans living in so-called “food insecure” homes topped 50 million. Of those, 17.2 million are children.

Hundreds of NALC branches already are registered to participate in the 2012 drive. Any branch that has not yet registered should do so as soon as possible.

“Millions of Americans depend on the food we collect to help carry them through the summer months,” NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said. “I urge every NALC branch and member — active and retired — to begin immediately to work with local officials in preparing for the food drive.”

The drive has become so successful over the years in more than 10,000 cities and towns that it is now part of the fabric of fighting hunger in America. Food banks literally circle the second Saturday in May on their calendars, knowing that carriers will again fill their shelves — shelves that, by then, will be depleted of holiday-time donations.

Many large branches boost collections by delivering customers donated plastic and paper bags.

NALC Community Services Coordinator Linda Giordano is again directing this year’s drive.

The national drive, which began with a pilot program in 1991, is patterned on a successful local drive by Phoenix Branch 576. It is held each year on the second Saturday in May—which this year falls on May 12.

The Branches efforts have already begun. Back again at

the helm of St. Petersburg's drive efforts is Pam Wildly after taking a year off she is ready to roll with new ideas on how to do an old routine. With the impending retirement of Larry Gaskin (like a rat on a sinking ship) Ray Handville has stepped forward to coordinate the efforts in Largo and Seminole although I am sure on Drive Day Larry will be around to help. Bob Meeks has been a huge help in Pinellas Park for many years has stepped in to fill a void as that cities point person.

Throughout the Branch the remaining efforts will be organized by the names and faces that we have seen for the past several years Brenda Mavretic - Indian Rocks Beach, Chuck Cavicchio - Dunedin, Ozzy Antoinette - Palmetto, Brian Andrews - Bradenton Beach, Bert Lewis – Ellenton, Susan Chavez and Nancy Kimbell will lead the efforts in Englewood. Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte will again be headed up by Sharon Winesett, Don Lyerly and Lori Bell.

Please give them all your support in making this year's drive the most successful yet.

Publix once again has joined us in printing the Food Drive Bags and along with the Food Drive Post Cards will be distributed throughout the State about 2 weeks out for distribution.

November 4, 1912

On this date the seal of the National Association of Letter Carriers of the United States of America was affixed to an Official Charter for Branch 1477. The document for the first of ten Branches comprised as the West Coast Florida Letter Carriers was issued and is displayed proudly in the lobby of the Branch Business Office along with the other entire merged city Charters. November 4th, 2012 the Branch will celebrate 100 years of service to its members. This is a milestone that few branches in the State of Florida have achieved. In fact the Florida State Association as OD Elliot has pointed out was not formed until a year later in 1913. The Executive Board is making a general call for fresh ideas in planning. Anyone with input and ideas on how to honor this date are asked to contact the office immediately.

Nalc.org – Latest News



Don Lyerly
1st Vice President

Are you a FERS employee? Do you plan on retiring at some point in your life? It is never too early to make sure you are on the right track!

Remember, FERS is a three tiered system. The first part is your basic benefit. At your retirement, you can expect to receive around 1% of your pay for each year of service. For example, a carrier with 30 years can expect to receive 30% of his monthly salary. For this benefit, we pay 0.8% of our base pay. Not quite enough to live on? Let's look at the next part of FERS.

The second component of FERS is Social Security. I know what you're thinking, especially if you are younger. You are thinking that Social Security probably won't even be around when you retire. Well, in actuality, chances are very good that it will be around, but there is no way to be positive of that or if the benefits will remain the same. My advice? Plan on retiring without it, and count any Social Security money you get as icing on the cake.

The third part of FERS, and the only part you really have any control over, is the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The TSP is the government equivalent of a 401k plan. If you do absolutely nothing, the Postal Service will contribute 1% of your base pay to your TSP each pay period. **This is not nearly enough** YOU need to increase your contributions to the TSP, and as a reward, the Postal Service will match your contributions dollar for dollar, up to the 5% contribution level. So, if you contribute 5% of your base pay to your TSP plan, the Postal Service will also contribute 5%. In other words, FREE MONEY! Who doesn't like free money?

Is 5% enough to ensure a comfortable retirement? Probably not. I personally have always recommended that employees contribute at least 10%, or more if you can. For 2012, the annual contribution limit is \$17,000 per year (\$22,500 for those ages 50+). You probably can't do quite that amount, but every dollar you do put away will multiply and be waiting for you upon retirement. You are responsible for your own retirement; no one is going to twist your arm to make you do the right thing for yourself. Think about it.



Ralph Brown
2nd Vice President

Distracted Driving

I was present at a stand-up talk recently and I feel compelled to share the statistical information with the membership because the issue is serious, on going and can potentially impact each one of us on a daily basis. A landmark research report was released recently indicating that driver distraction is the leading factor in most motor vehicle crashes. The report cited that almost 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near crashes involve some form of driver inattention within seconds before the event. Drivers who text while doing so are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash or near miss event.

Distracted driving behavior is not limited to texting, but also reading or entering data into a hand held device. Behaviors such as eating, drinking and the operating of any electronic device are distractions capable of leading to a serious accident. We conduct these activities out of habit and the practice is extremely dangerous. Reaccess your driving behavior and pledge to stay focused only on the steering wheel and the road ahead.

BRANCH 1477, N.A.L.C.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 12, 2012

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

Invocation by O.D. Elliott

Pledge of Allegiance led by Les Stroup.

Les introduced new Officers and presented Larry a plaque thanking him for his service as an Officer to Branch 1477

Reading of Previous Minutes by Harry Strzyzynski. Motion to accept minutes a printed in the Twig of the Branch by Joe Rudolph, Seconded Jim Bumbul.

Reading of Official Correspondence by Harold Strzyzynski: Les Stroup read letters from NALC President Fred Rolando and Tom Phillips.

NEW MEMBERS: Jessica Carroll. Motion to accept

Thom Hart. Motion passes.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

TREASURER: - **Tom Phillips** — Motion to accept by Gene Carroll, Seconded by John Bourlon.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES: **Thom Hart** – 3 New Retirees, Sharon Brewster from Dunedin, and Russal Adolph, Frank Pattie from Largo/Seminole.

Larry Gaskin – Retiring – Dave Dalrymple received his 50 Gold Card and membership pin.

HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECTOR: **Ken Grasso** – 13 applications for reimbursement, 2 were disapproved.

TRUSTEE REPORT: **Glenn Fagan** – **Zulma Ortiz, Chris Hubble** – New Trustee Chris Hubble. Zulma Ortiz reported problems with signatures and checks not cleared. Questioned Finance Committed National Convention Report. – books audited.

MBA DIRECTOR/DRT Representative: **Chuck Cavicchio** – Still waiting for Tallahassee to make decision on Insurance. NALC Annuity Plan is good deal paying 4 ½ percent.

POLITICAL DISTRICT 10 LIAISON: Gene Carroll

– December 19, 2011 USPS is granted a 8 month reprieve till August on its \$5.5 billion payment into the pre-fund Retiree Health Benefits account.

Payroll tax cut has been extended for two months.

President Rolando asked everyone to collect signatures in support of protecting the futures of the USPS back in October of 2011. We have now collected over 1 MILLION signatures that have been sent on to their respective Congressmen.

On Friday December 23, 2011 the Greater Washington Board of Trade sent off about 178 pounds of coal broken up into 535 pieces and sent a piece to each member of Congress. Each piece was shipped through the U.S. Postal Service along with a note letting every elected official what the business organization thought about how they performed their job during the year. The only person who didn't get a lump of coal was Arizona Representative Gabrielle Gifford's who has been in recovery after being shot in the head in January.

Les read National Convention General Resolution, Motion by O.D. Elliott, Second by Elis Pujols, passed unanimously.

STATE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Leo Murray – Leo resigned effective 12/31/11 as State Legislative Liaison. Les presented Leo with a plaque thanking him for his service to Branch 1477.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Ralph Brown – Thanks to Les and Joe for the appointment, will do my very best.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Don Lyerly – Do Not forget to put money into Thrift Saving Plans Post office has to match it up to 5 percent.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Henschen –

Sad Report:

Guilda Durant Crossroads Uncle passed away.
Dale Marck Crossroads Ill, and Mother very ill.
Cindy Pollock Crossroads injured her back.
Bill Napoli Retiree Gulfwinds mother passed away.
Jim Long Retiree Pinellas Park Sister passed away.
Dana Bigley Retiree Seminole Stage 4 Cancer.
Jessica Carroll – Crossroads Stress Fracture foot.
Mike Morcello – Retiree Gateway Station – Rotor Cuff surgery.
Gilbert Raisner Retiree passed away.
Don Lyerly – Punta Gorda – Grandmother passed away.
Melanie Fick – Seminole, Brother in Law passed away.

Glad Report:

Helen Mitchell Midtown New Granddaughter Sophia
Cheryl Anderson Steward Northside son graduated with a degree in Micro Biology from USF.
Dennis Futch – Returning from Iraq on 1/28/12.

14% includes long term sick leave in most of our offices. It does not and has never meant to include Compensation Cases and certainly not NRP cases where Management has sent a Carrier home NWA (no work available) under the NRP Process.

Stewards signup sheet will be out by the 21st of January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposed By-Law was read, will be voted on next meeting and published in the Twig.

GOOD OF THE SERVICE: by President Les Stroup

- National Convention – Recommendation for the Executive Board Read. No Motion. Recommendation

for the Membership to secure best air fare for delegates. Motion by O.D. Elliott, Seconded by Bill Heller, Motion passed.

- Contract talks extended until 1/20/12.
- 1 Million signatures have been turned in.
- Payroll tax cut extended.
- Joyce Keller Ladies Auxiliary spoke on spending over \$1,000.00 dollars on helping needy families. Special Thanks to Auxiliary for all the good work.

WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:

50/50 - \$53.00 Cathy Marsh
Lotto/Power Ball – Bert Lewis

2 – 25 gift certificates donated by Joyce Keller Arsylin Uniform, Red Lobster won by Zulma Ortiz and Chili’s won by Bob Forrest.

Auxiliary Raffle: Larry Gaskin, Cathy Marsh (2), Les Stroup, Ken Grasso, Brenda Mavretic, Steve Schiano.

Motion to adjourn



John Bourlon
Editor

The Twig of the Branch is published monthly by Branch 1477, NALC.

It is a means of distributing educational material to the membership.

Also, it is intended to promote goodwill and to create a feeling of brotherhood and means to institute change in the USPS so that we may better serve the Public and instill pride in our profession.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Staff or the Officers of the Branch, but solely of and policies of the Editor.

The elected Officer of the Branch is the Editor and the Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject an article for the good of the Branch. The deadline for publication is the third Thursday of each month unless notified differently. All submitted material will become property of Branch 1477.

In the hope that material contained herein may be of

benefit to the goals of the National Association of Letter Carriers.



**Thom Hart
Director of
Retirees**

YOUR CHOICE

When you begin thinking of retiring (at last) please move on to the planning stage.

Before you take any action you should know that your income from your Postal Career will be approximately 50% less.

It is important that you have saved at least five (5) months of salary in cash before you retire know that it could take six (6) to eight (8) months until you get 100% of your actual retirement monies.

The NALC Retirement offers the following guide lines for the best time for you to retire:

<u>CSR</u>		<u>FERS</u>
2 June	←2012→	30 June
30 June		29-30 Dec.
3 Nov		
1 Dec		
29-30 Dec		
	←2013→	
1 June		29 June
9 June		30 Nov
2 Nov		29 Dec
30 Nov		
29 Dec		

Please call me Thom Hart @ (727) 397-7587 if you have ANY questions or if I may be of assistance.

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

The following happy Retired Carriers attended this months Breakfast:

Bob Trimble, Lester Ray, Ron Hearon, Thom Hart, Bill Butler, Johnny Wagner, Col Ron Haglund, Denny Elliott, Roy Vanderveer, The Original Bob Meeks,

Brian Britt and Rollin Dunbar.

Breakfast Winner was Roy Vanderveer.

*The Pinellas Park "Old Timers" will see you next month **February 7, 2012 at the PARKSIDE CAFÉ 8180 - 49th STREET (corner of 49th and 82nd avenue)***

**All Craft Retiree Breakfast:
Bernie Ososky**

Largo's All Craft Retirees Breakfast was held on January the 4th @ Denny's on Missouri. Attendance for the first one of the year was off to a slow start with only nine present and they were: Les Stroup (Mr. Presidente), Keith Northup, OD Elliott, Rufus King, Lowell Elliott, Dave Bennett, Thom Hart, Cherie Mayer (wanna-be & should-be retiree), and yours truly Bernie.

As mentioned, attendance was one of our lowest and was expected. I call it the holiday hangover and it was cold that day for Florida standards. Those who did show up shared many stories of the old days. Names from the past were brought up that even I forgot about. Lowell Elliott ('92) mentioned when he was using a cushman scooter to deliver mail. Rufus King ('84) was the oldest retiree there at a young eighty-nine. Dave Bennett ('02) showed up for the first time and he too shared stories from the days gone by. Dave told us he works part time in Dollywood so if you go look him up! Les said that early out, or cash incentive to leave, probably won't happen. Likewise, a 5-day mail delivery doesn't seem likely either. If I only had a crystal ball! Health benefit premium dropped a little and with the COLA, retirees on average get an additional \$85.00 more a month. A picture surfaced of Sandiford, Collins & Mr. Jubb taken probably in the early eighties. Talk about a blast from the past! The only two missing were Grant & Hayden. Steve Bartello stopped by to say hi to everyone.

On Health & Welfare, I'm sorry to report the passing away of Loren Buckley's mom on 1/1/12. Alex Toth had a stroke recently while in Rome, GA. Dana Bigley is still undergoing medical tests. Please keep those people and all retirees in your prayers for speedy recoveries and negative tests.

Birthdays for January were: Rudy Lang, Lynda Bryant, Keith Northup and Lowell Elliott. The retiree out the longest was Rufus King ('84) and the shortest Keith Northup ('07). The monthly free union breakfast was won

by Thom Hart. Recent retiree was Frank Pattie and short timer Larry Gaskin won't be far behind.

So, that's a rap from where I sit. Our next breakfast will be on February the 1st, Wednesday @ Denny's on Missouri. It's coming quick this time so mark it down. Hope to see more retirees attend! Remember, Get Out There & Enjoy The Hell Out Of Life' Bernie

**St. Pete Retiree Breakfast
Thom Hart**

The St. Pete Retiree Breakfast was held on January 18, 2012.

Wow! It is a new year and we sure had a BIG group this month.

Almost to a retiree each quiz me about where a monthly article was on our groups breakfast – I did try to explain the “print process”.

Nice to have C.C. Wilson join us while he was in town.

We shared so many memories that I believe everyone got their story told.

Congrats to Bob Kaufman for winning the Branch 1477 “free Breakfast”.

In attendance were: **Ed Richards** 2000/15 years, **Clarence Keller** 1997/40 years, **Don Kosior** 2002/32 years, **Gil Migliano** 1980/35 years, **Dale Pope** 1992/26 years, **Bob Kaufman** 1986/31 years, **Richard Compher** 31 years, **C.C. Wilson** 1995/20 years, **O.D. Elliott** 2008/35 years, **Harold Strzyzynski** 2002/ few to many, **Gene Carroll** 2003/15 years, **Marjorie Schenk**, **Robert Trimble** 1985/26 years, **Ron Cherry** 2001/35½ years, **Don Goble** 1992/32 years, **Ed Schenk** 1989/27 years, and **Thom Hart** 2000/30 years.

The next breakfast will be held on February, 15, 2012 @ 9:00 Denny's 34th Street North.



Congressional Liaison District 10 Gene Carroll

Washington Post Congress grants USPS 8-month reprieve on Pre-funding payment on Dec 19, 2011. The funding bill passed by Congress over the weekend grants the USPS an eight-month reprieve, giving the Postal Service until August to make a \$5.5 billion payment to prefund retiree health benefits. The bill also mandates continuation of six-day delivery.

On Friday December 23, 2011 the Greater Washington Board of Trade sent off about 178 pounds of coal broken up into 535 pieces – one for each member of Congress. Each piece was shipped through the U.S. Postal Service along with a note letting every elected official what the

**The “Original” Largo Retiree Breakfast
Keith Northup**

The **(Original) Largo Retiree Breakfast** was held on January 5, 2012 at tile ACROPOL FAMILY RESTUR-ANT, LOCATED AT 1170 STARKEY ROAD, LARGO, FL. 33771 at 09:00 hours. The following Retired Letter Carriers were accounted and or present we think; Wayne Moore, Dorian Sobat, Ed Joyner, John Blackard, John Silvia, Lowell Elliott, John Hammock, Thom Hart, and Keith Northup.

The gang of nine represents a total number of 214 years drawing Postal Retirement checks. Well our big raises came through but somehow the raise was gone before it got to us. It must be lost in the mail somewhere.

Director of Retirees Thom Hart came with his goodies from the Branch. The free breakfast was won by Brother John Hammock.

Lowell Elliott and Keith Northup have turned another year younger this month. Lowell looks good and relaxed, something gained after leaving the Post Office. He does play cards for enjoyment.

We are off to a good start in 2012, let's keep it up. We do not have to have an excuse to get together and enjoy each other and war stories.

We are looking at moving but need help finding a restaurant that will meet our needs to please all retirees.

The next breakfast gathering of the Largo Original Retired Letter Carriers will be held on February 2, 2012 at 09:00 hours at the Acropol Family Restaurant. All Letter Carriers are welcome to attend. We enjoy learning what is going on in the Post Office with all the changes being put into effect.

business organization thought about how they performed their job this year. The only person who didn't get a lump of coal was Arizona Representative Gabrielle Gifford's, who has been in recovery this year after being shot in the head in January.

Washington Examiner

Since October 16, 2011 when our NALC President asked all members to collect signatures in support of protecting the future of the United States Postal Service we have now collected more than 1 MILLION signatures. The message is clear: America supports first-rate mail delivery service, six days a week, and our customers will do everything they can to protect it.

NALC

Payroll tax cut were extended for two months. Letter carriers and millions of other working Americans wont have to worry about an increase in their taxes for a couple of months thanks to House Republicans finally agreeing to a bipartisan extension worked out in the Senate. The agreement pays for a two-month continuation of the payroll tax cut by increasing fees charged by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration. It leaves federal pay and benefits largely unscathed. NALC will continual to try to dissuade members of Congress from paying for a year-long tax break by reducing the pay and benefits of letter carriers and other federal workers.

NALC

AUXILIARY 181
Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson

"No snow!" exclaimed Alice Wannike when we questioned her about her winter vacation with her daughter's family up north in Wisconsin in December. We were dismayed, too. We had dreamt of a glorious winter wonderland, drinking hot chocolate, warming before a huge fire, vicariously living our childhood memories through Alice's experience. "No snow?" we all wailed. "Just a few flakes that never hit the ground" moaned Alice. But, we were consoled when talk turned to New Year's Eve. At our age we have mellowed a lot; no more big parties, just good food, home, a friend or two, a little bubbly, and watching the ball drop, if we stay up that late. It was interesting to hear of the various New Year meals, all signaling good luck for the coming year. Sandy and Thom had Hoppli' John and cornbread; Joyce and Clarence ate ham, black-eyed peas, greens, and cabbage, and onion soup; and Sally and Paul dined on pork and sauerkraut. We hope everyone has a great 2012; stay healthy, be

happy, see a big upturn in the economy, and get our elected officials to do the right things.

Mary Richards, in her exquisitely decorated home, hosted our January 4th meeting. We had a great meeting deciding what social events we want to have, what goodies to make for the Marlene Markey Friendship Tea, and how much appreciated our needy families were when they received the Letter Carriers' and our gifts. We gave five families gift cards for groceries and department stores, totaling over \$1,000. Again, Joyce made blankets for each child. It seems the little we do means so much to the families who are going through rough health and monetary patches. We hope the best for them.

Ladies: Carriers and spouses,
Please join us for lunch,
the Marlene Markey Friendship Tea,
On Sunday, February 12, 2012
At 1:00p.m.
In the Union Hall,
5369 Park Boulevard North
Pinellas Park, Florida
RSVP: Joyce Keller 541-2194

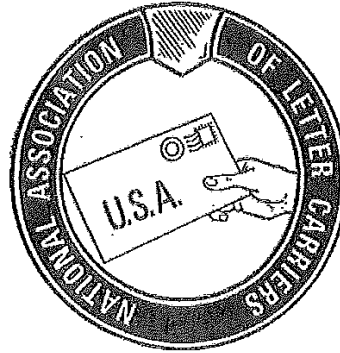
Our thanks go to Joyce and Margaret Perkins for cooking for the Union meeting, and Sally Madden for baking for the raffle. Sandy Hart won the cat-in-the-bag prize. Our next meeting will be on February 1st hosted by Sally Madden, in her home at 2:00. Remember: dues of \$25 are due. We want to wish a quick recovery for Alice's granddaughter. Happy February birthday to T. C. Bourlon



Ken Grasso
HBR Director

This months article will be short but hopefully informative to you. As of now there is still no word concerning the last Open Season of the Health Benefit Plan's enrollment. I guess its taking longer this time to tabulate the results. I want to let the members of our Health Plan that on the NALC Health Benefit Plan website (www.nalc.org/hbp) there is a free Health Risk Assessment (HRA) that's available to members on the Personal Health Record tab on the websites homepage. The Health Risk Assessment is an online tool that analyzes your health related responses and gives you a personalized plan to achieve your specific health goals. Your Health Risk Assessment profile provides you information to put you on a path to good physical and mental health. You need to create a user id and password to start. The assessment takes approximately 30 minutes to complete but is very informative with the results. Your personal health information is stored on a secure database. Once you complete the

Health Risk Assessment in 2012, the Health Plan will waive the \$20 copayment (when the Plan is the primary payor) for the next in-network medical office visit or consultation incurred in the same calendar year that the assessment is completed. The Health Plan will waive two \$20 office copayments annually (when the plan is the primary payor) for a Self and Family enrollment when at least two family members complete a Health Risk Assessment. A easy way to save \$20 or \$40 dollars and also get an assessment of your overall health.



2012
Branch 1477
MDA
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday April 22nd, 2012

Time: Shotgun Start 8AM

Format: Scramble

Place:



Bay Palms Golf Course
1805 Golf Course Avenue
MacDill AFB, Tampa, Fl 33621

Entry: \$70/\$280 per Player/Team

Dinner: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans
Corn on Cob, Ice Tea

FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY'S



Pat Anderson	Willie Griffin	Marquita Owens
Keith Anderson	John Hammock	Ann Przetocki
Don Babcock	Jim Hollingsworth	Jeff Small
Marty Baxley	Neil Hunt	Joe Tessa
TC Bourlon	Nancy Kimball	Wanda Clark
Alisha Black	Mark Litton	Rich Ramos
Rose Borchardt	Gerry Maraventano	
Harvetta Watson	Gene Markey	

Shop Stewards Meeting for January:

Joe Rudolph, Suzette Brown, Claudia Harvey, Andre McCalla, Rich Ramos, Bob Brown, Glenn Fagan, Willie Cochran, Zulma Ortiz, Cheryl Anderson, Brenda Mavretic, Ray Handville, Brian Andrews, Don Lyerly, Tom Phillips, Dave Walker, Bill Heller

Our South Members that attended the January Meeting will be in the next Twig:



President Stroup presenting Retiring 1st V.P. Larry Gaskin with A Plaque thanking him for his years of service.



President Stroup presenting Leo Murray with a Plaque thanking him for his service as the State Legislative Liaison.



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

AS IT NOW READS:

ARTICLE 7 SECTION 2.

The regular dues shall be twenty five dollars and thirty eight cents (\$25.38) 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.

PROPOSED TO READ:

The regular dues shall be twenty seven dollars and fifty two cents (\$27.52) biweekly beginning March 2012. 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.

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Claudia Harvey	Steward	Zone 4	459-0260
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Greg Anneken Alternate 733-3722

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Brenda Mavretic Steward 641-8467

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Susan Vandervliet	Alternate	Unit 76/77	418-1999
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Pinellas Park

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Susan Chavez	Steward	Englewood	941-697-2423

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Vice President:	Margaret Perkins	544-3615
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Treasurer:	Sally Madden	391-8055
Chaplain:	Alice Wannike	546-3348
Sushine/Mistress-at-Arms	Sue Elliott	526-6358
Trustee:	Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson	347-0371
Trustee:	Shirley Moran	584-4307

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February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 1st.	1 Largo All Craft Breakfast	2 Executive Board Largo Breakfast	3	4
5	6	7 Pinellas Park Breakfast	8	9 General Membership	10	11
12 Auxiliary Tea	13	14	15 St. Pete Breakfast	16 Shop Steward Meetings	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23 Down South Meeting	24	25
26	27	28	29			