



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 550

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

APRIL 2015

President's Report

The April Twig of the Branch, as you will see is going to feel a bit different than past editions. This past month has been a month filled with milestones. Inside you will see contributions from some of the officers that attended the Sunday March 8th, March for Justice re-enacting the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. The NALC had asked the Branches to participate. The Board agreed to pay mileage and room charges with some per-diem to board members to attend the event. Inside you can find pictures along with their reports on the experience.

Just a week later the Branch held a dedication ceremony renaming the Branch Clubhouse the:

"John W Bournon Union Hall"

It was a great event and one that the members should be proud of. NALC National President, Fred Rolando, included in his remarks that "There is a lot going on this year: negotiations, legislation, the White House, educating a new Congress, a Board of Governors, a new PMG, and a lot of mail then one day I get a letter that tells me Branch 1477 is naming their Union Hall after John Bournon and that is about the coolest thing. I am so honored to be here John." In attendance was Judy Willoughby National Secretary Treasurer and former Branch 1477 member. Our Region

9 Business Agent and longtime friend Kenneth Gibbs Jr. and a great number of FSALC State Presidents.



Left to Right: President Joe Henschen, President Emeritus OD Elliott, President Les Stroup, Center: President Emeritus John W Bournon

A great deal of thanks needs to go to my wife Karen (and not because I have to) for her hours of preparation on the food. Also Brothers Hubble and Heller for their contributions to the evenings fare.

While organizing the event, many Brothers and Sisters expressed their regrets on not being able to attend. We saved a portion of the newsletter to include these written thoughts and thanks received at the Hall.

- Joe Henschen

Heart Felt Thank You!!!!!!

President Henschen, Branch 1477, and Dear Brothers & Sisters:

It is with great pride that I have this opportunity to Thank You, the officers, and membership for honoring me by naming the Branch Union Hall in my Honor. I will

not be easy to find words suitable for me to express my feelings, it has indeed been my pleasurer to serve this great Union, and to provide training to those I represented through the years. I always took pride in my work and did my very best in looking for an answer to resolve issues, to give guidance to my subordinates. It was always on my mind that once I left the Branch though retirement that I had worked diligently to insure that would be

NEXT BRANCH MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015 AT THE LETTER CARRIER HALL

suitable people to follow the trend. I find that Mr. O.D. Elliott, his knowledge was great, his loyalty unquestionable., two more great individuals have followed and served well to continue the process I begun that was Les

Stroup and now you Joe Henschen. I am taking this moment to say Thank You and Love you guys.—John W. Bourlon

John Wayne Bourlon

One of the most influential men that I have had the opportunity to meet is John W. Bourlon. Early in my Union service, he taught me the duties and responsibilities of being a good Union Steward. Over the last several years, he taught me the service and commitment required of a Union Officer. Additionally, Mr. Bourlon taught me to love this Union and to show its members that they are well represented. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve under the leadership and guidance of this great man. He has always been that champion in my corner by constantly giving me well-timed advice and encouraging me to constantly reach higher. He forever reminds me that I will someday preside over West Coast Florida Letter Carriers Branch 1477.

We have all heard stories of the respect that John commanded and was given when he visited stations to con-



Ralph Brown, Executive Vice President

duct Union business. Respectfully, I choose to not go into any detail but trust me when I say that many supervisors and managers days were ruined when Mr. Bourlon paid them a visit. This was all a few years before my time, but I would give anything to have seen John beat their “you know what” into submission.

There is no great man without a great woman. John would not have been able to accomplish all that he has without the support, dedication and love of Gerry Bourlon. Being the spouse of someone who bleeds “Union Blue” is not an easy task. I just want to personally thank you Gerry for all of your support. Through this, John was able to give this great Branch his absolute best. W.C.F.L.C Branch 1477 is known nationally and it is because of the hard work and dedication of one Johnny Wayne Bourlon.

Largo Retiree Breakfast

On March 4th @ Denny's on Missouri: In attendance were: Tom Youngedyke, Gene Wainscott, John Sylvia and his wife Mary Ann, OD Elliott, Bob Naja, Ed Joyner, Wayne Moore, Loren and Barbara Buckley, Bill Nilsson, Joe Henschen, Zulma Betancourt and yours truly, Bernie.



Bernie Ososky

I am dedicating this article to John W. Bourlon with the naming of our local NALC union hall after him. The following is an excerpt of my speech: I have known John for over 40 years and 20 of them, I'm proud to say, were serving in various positions under his command. What I have learned during my tenure was that John was a natural born leader. He was both feared and respected by management. His knowledge of the contract and people skills were second to none. When he walked into a room things started to happen. He had that swagger and everybody knew it! Confidence and expertise were what he was all about and when he spoke “everybody listened.” He was the “E F Hutton” of the NALC. Results in handling grievances, arbitrations, negotiations, mergers and just putting out the fires, were, let's

say, remarkable! He took no crap but rather gave a lot of postmasters and front line supervisors reasons to start taking TUMS! If you were fortunate to see him in action during his 24 years of dedicated service as president of Branch 1477, you witnessed history. There will never be another John W. Bourlon because they threw away the mold. The naming

of our local union hall after John W. Bourlon is overwhelmingly deserving, long overdue and comes only with the highest respect from his peers, his many accomplishments and dedication. This is The Best Damn Branch in the NALC because John made it so! WHAT A GREAT PERSON!!!!!! Thank you.....Mr. Bourlon!

No sad report. Birthdays: Mike Pizzorusso, Don Pellegrino, Pat Grant, Janice Kohl, Wayne Moore, Victor Ball. Free Breakfast – Ed Joyner. Oldest retiree – Ed Joyner ('84); youngest – Tom Youngedyke ('14). Next Breakfast 4-1-15 (APRIL FOOL'S DAY)! Remember, Get Out There & Enjoy The Hell Out Of Your Life!

Second Vice President

First and foremost, I would like to thank our President Joe Henschen for appointing me as Second Vice President. I have served the Branch as the Treasurer for eleven years. Time sure goes by fast! Congratulations to Ralph Brown, Chris Hubble and Chuck Cavicchio, for their new positions.

It is an honor, and privilege to serve the Carriers of this great Union.

The John W Bourlon dedication was a real fun time. All that attended enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship. Many stories were shared. The most important part that impressed me was how much Mr. Bourlon inspired others to be active Union representatives. Through his leadership

Tom Phillips

William Ashley
989 Ashport Rd.
Jackson TN 38305

Joseph A. Henschen President
Branch 1477, NALC, AFL/CIO

Dear President Henschen,

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your letter announcing the Saturday March 14 Ceremony honoring President Emeritus John W. Bourlon by naming your facility the John W. Bourlon Union Hall. Although I was unable to attend this ceremony, I can think of no one that I have known in my career as a Letter Carrier that is more deserving of this honor.

As a relatively new Letter Carrier in Ellenton FL, I found myself in a Post Office with no union affiliation, and even less respect from the management in the Ellenton Post Office. In those days, Letter Carriers were working off the clock, being disciplined and terminated without Union representation and no grievance procedure that we knew how to implement.

At some point, someone had to stand up and do something, and I decided to try to correct the problems in the Ellenton Post Office. Unfortunately, this made matters worse for me. I immediately began getting discipline in the form of LOW's, and severe harassment from the Supervisor. I realized I had little time before I would be terminated like others before me.

A NALC Steward in the Palmetto Post Office, Jerry Sinkler, had just merged the Palmetto Post Office with Branch 1477. I called Jerry Sinkler to discuss my situation, and he advised me to call John W. Bourlon at NALC Branch 1477. I had never heard of John, but I called John immediately.

After I explained my dilemma to John, he began laughing. In the emotional state I was in, I was a bit angry that John was laughing at me. When I asked John why he found my situation so funny, he stated, and I will NEVER forget this: "What is so funny, is you have them over a barrel, and you don't know it.....and what is even funnier is that you have them over a barrel and THEY don't know it". He immediately advised me to file charges at the Labor Board, which I did, and the charges were upheld after an investigation by US Department of Labor. We were then afforded Union representation and the Labor officials asked me who I wanted to represent me. I of course asked for John Bourlon. The rest is history. I, with the guidance of John Bourlon, successfully merged the Ellenton Post Office with Branch 1477. After all these events, I wanted to thank John for all he did for the Letter Carriers of the Ellenton Post Office. His reply would change how I looked at Letter Carriers from then on. John said "Don't thank me! When you see a Letter Carrier in trouble, go and help him like I did to you. That will be my thanks!" I never forgot those words. I

Minutes of March 12, 2015 Membership Meeting

BRANCH 1477, N.A.L.C.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Joe Henschen. Invocation by O.D. Elliott. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Joe Henschen.

Reading of Previous Minutes by Harry Strzyzynski. Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Twig of the Branch by Mary Ann Gavin, Seconded Clarisse High.

Reading of Official Correspondence by Harold Strzyzynski: None

NEW MEMBERS: 13 New Hires: Tiffany Archie (Main), Kerry Morris (Northside), Arnad Mujkanovic (Northside), Maria Del Carmen Leyva Aloise (Crossroads), Bonita Maynard (Midtown), Veronica Smith (Largo), Jackeline Olan (Gulfwinds), Jorge Alvarez (Englewood), Arielle Zoda (Gulfwinds), John Kieck (Englewood), David A LaMont (Crossroads), Joseph Tribou (Main), Mark Barnes (Pinellas Park) Motion to accept by Pat Kelly, Seconded by Liz Dombrowski.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

TREASURER: - Tom Phillips: Financial Report was accepted by Ken Grasso, Seconded by Chuck Cavicchio.

DIRECTOR OF RETIREES: O.D. Elliott – 2 New Retirees. Tom Kaszuba, Mary Owens. O.D. went to Tallahassee and spoke to Senators about changing absentee ballots to vote by mail.

HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECTOR: Ken Grasso – Paid out 26 Eye Glass claims totaling \$1,500. Health Benefit Seminar coming up in Las Vegas.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Willie Cochran – Books were audited and all were in order.

DIRECTOR OF LIFE INSURANCE: Zulma Betancourt – No Report.

POLITICAL DISTRICT 10 LIAISON: Gene Carroll – Golf Tournament change not at Chi Chi Rodriguez, it's now being held at the Tides. Need volunteers for Grand Prix in 2½ weeks.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Ralph Brown – Postmaster stood on the floor and said O.T. will dry up, you have an 8 hour guarantee if you have a bid assignment or are a regular.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Tricia Meeks – resigned as Executive Vice President. I thank the membership for all their support, Bob and I have made a personal commitment that won't allow me to give you the time I feel the position requires.

Welfare Reports: Sad: Vernon Tomey IRB Mother III.



Harry Strzyzynski,
Secretary

Chris DeQuesada Gateway

Nick Rynberg Gateway

Ed Born Retiree St. Pete Passed Away

Gene Lambert, Passed Away

Glad: Yancy Madeira CCA St. Pete baby boy Logan Stagmeir CCA Northside baby boy Luca

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Hubble – Spoke on upcoming Mail Count and Route Inspections. Answered questions from the floor.

EDITOR: Don Lyerly – No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Zulma Betancourt spoke on Selma Alabama trip brought back

many pictures all on our website.

NEW BUSINESS:

GOOD OF THE SERVICE: By President Joe Henschen

Ralph Brown moves up to Executive Vice President, Chris Hubble moves to 1st V.P. and Tom Phillips moves to 2nd V.P. Chuck Cavicchio will replace Tom as Treasurer..

March Executive Board approved the expenditure of funds to send representatives to Selma Alabama for the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday " the walk from Selma to Montgomery. Brother Henschen opened the floor to Zulma Betancourt , Rich Ramos and Willie Cochran for comments on their experience.

April 18 thru the 20th, 2015 COP in Honolulu, Hi. Executive Board voted to send him. Motion O.D. Elliott, Seconded Joe Rudolph, no opposition

Last Sunday clean up thanks to everyone for coming.

Branch sent 12 people to District II meeting and classes.

Food Drive Cards have been funded locally should be ready for distribution in early May.

APWU sent Joe an email on the Post Office Installations of Web Cams.

Arb Scheduled, it was pre-arbed by Joe protecting a "not relied upon for discipline" language in the SSI program.

Sat Dedication – Joe expects upwards of 150 people attending.

Hor devours and guest speakers, volunteers will help with food. Joyce Keller spoke on helping needy family's.

WINNERS OF DRAWINGS:

50/50 - \$57.00 won by Mary Ann Gavin

Lotto/Power Ball – won Russell Hertlein 2– 25 gift certificates donated by Joyce Keller Arsllyn Uniform, won by Out of Town Guest of Brenda Mavretic, and Willie Cochran. Auxiliary Raffle: 19 people won prizes.

Motion to adjourn.

Continued from Page 3.

tried every day thereafter to help Letter Carriers to repay John for all he had done for me. I was a shop steward and legislative Liaison until my retirement.

As a retired Letter Carrier, I look back on those times, and had I not met John Bourlon, I would have no career to be proud of, and I would not have a retirement to enjoy. Meeting John Bourlon was by far the best thing that ever happened to me in my Postal career.

Sincerely, William Ashley

Retired City Letter Carrier NALC Branch 27 MemphisTN

COLCPE Contributor

The 23rd annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive is on Saturday, May 9, 2015.



Meeting and Breakfast Attendees

Pinellas Park First Tuesday of the Month Bunch

Bill Butler (breakfast winner), Ron Hearon, Bob Shokey, Bob Meeks, Johnny Wagner, Roy Vanderveer, Denny Elliott, Zulma Betancourt, Joe Henschen, "Col" Ron Haglund, Lester Ray.

The next breakfast will be on April 7th at 9:00 Park Side Café, 49th Street in Pinellas Park



Roger Murdaris, Gil Migliano, Don Kosior, Clarence Keller, Ed Richards, Ken Grasso, Rick Renshaw, Jim Wamboldt

Steward's Training (March)

Suzette Dombrowski, Clarisse High, Ben Hamilton, Greg Welsh, Glenn Fagan, Pat Kelly, Matt Fernandez, Bill Heller, Sandra Pagan, Russell Hertlein, Zulma Betancourt, Alicia Gary, Fred Assidy, Judy Dorris, Ken Bushery,

Brian Andrews

St. Pete Breakfast (March 18)

O.D. Elliott, Dawn Rogers, Bob Gay, Mike Morcillo, Al Henderson, Hank Goettelman, Ron Cherry, Don Goble,

South Branch Meeting

Sam Haddad, Don Lyerly, Lori Bell, Chris Larson, and Susan Chavez

Selma

To honor the bravery and sacrifices of the men and women that took the first walk exactly fifty years ago was inspirational and highly emotional.

On March 7, 1965 when the peaceful protest march began about 600 people were standing shoulder to shoulder from all walks of life and different parts of the country. They had only one thing in mind, equal rights for everyone. The rights of so many people had been denied based on the color of their skin with no thought of their constitutional rights that were made by our founding fore fathers. They had the right to pursue life, liberty and to be happy. Something that was definitely not being taken into account that sad cold March day.

The day we arrived the air was filled with such hope, excitement and electricity as the tales of heartache and pain of the courageous people at Selma told their stories to a handful of ordinary Americans, not thinking about the fact of events that helped to shape and change the course of history. These people gave their heart felt testimonies of family members being beaten, gassed and dragged along the ground all the while trying to maintain a peaceful protest.

With the media sea of people with cameras and flashes going off, it was very hard to imagine that only fifty years ago on this very day what was seen and felt during the events on the bridge that day as the people began to make their way across would make history. They had no idea that what was waiting for them on the other side of that bridge would forge their destiny in blood.

Just before crossing the bridge that day emotions were running high, tears were falling with sighs of expectation amongst the people as we looked at one another in disbelief that we were the ones now making this journey to commemorate the day known as "Bloody Sunday." The only difference this time for us there was no one on the other side of the bridge waiting to tear gas us, send dogs to attack us, beat us with batons or to threaten our lives.

We couldn't even begin to imagine the fear that those brave people felt at each step they took to stand up for everything they believed in including the death of Jimmie



Above: Richard Ramos Zulma Betancourt and Willie Cochran , at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma Alabama.
Article by Zulma Benatcourt and Richard Ramos

Lee Jackson, who was gunned down February 18th, 1965. We can say to secure things we take for granted even today like the right to vote, basic civil rights and workers rights to fight for fairness and equality the brave men and women that day made a stand and chose to say NO. No more injustice, no more intolerance, no more lack of respect, no more hate, no more innocent people being sacrificed, no more looking at the color of our skin but look beyond that to who we are as human beings and give us the same unalienable rights that everyone else has.

As they marched one people with one voice and one heart, it dawned on us that

we now have the chance to make our own history. With each step we have the chance to make a change and teach the younger generations about the sacrifices that have and are still being made for them. Zulma stated that, "We are our own enemies," as the great Dr. Martin Luther King once said believing with the power to vote we could somehow transform our land into a place where as he once said, "we are judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin."

As three letter carriers walking there with all kinds of people representing all nations we were in awe at the kindness and generosity of so many people like Renee, a rural carrier we met there who was willing to be our friend and tour guide on this journey we will never forget. Willie Cochran stated, "In his 11 years of service in the military that nothing can compare to the magnification of emotions he was overcome with on that bridge." He also stated, "that the importance of programs like Gimme Five otherwise known as COLCPE to help get the votes out there, support political candidates and to lobby for the rights and benefits of the postal workers and their future in the post office are very important in continuing the legacy of postal workers everywhere."

While we were there we also had the opportunity to visit Montgomery Alabama to see the legacy of people, and historical landmarks such as the Rosa L. Parks Library and Museum and Children's Wing, that helped to blaze a trail to open up doors for future endeavors.

By the time we had finished our walk and looked behind us we realized just how important this day was. Over-tired from travels and completely exhausted we did not

know that two days had passed and it was time to go home. Return to our families and loved ones knowing what we know and with a new forged bond that no one can break. We are now part of history along with our current President Barak Obama, his wife and first lady Michelle Obama, Representative John Lewis of Georgia, former president George W. Bush along with other dignitaries and activists that came to place their mark in history too.

In conclusion I would like to say that I never thought it possible to be in an environment of people that could

change the way I think about life, family and history. I am overwhelmed with emotions as I write this and can't even explain the depth of what happened to me on that bridge. I do know that I will never be the same again. Every step toward justice requires sacrifice of some kind. Tireless exertions, suffering, passion and dedication to achieve a common goal, freedom!

We would like to give a special thank you to President Joe Henschen, the executive board members, Postmaster Stephanie Hartman, all of the managerial and supervisory staff for allowing us the opportunity to go to Selma

The Voting Rights Act at 50

The National Association of Letter Carriers recently participated in the 50th anniversary of the **March for Justice** in Selma, Alabama. N.A.L.C. President Fred Rolando asked that all Branches send a representative as a show of solidarity. I was accompanied by fellow carriers Rich Ramos and Zulma Betancourt. The march took place on Sunday, March 8th and it was in memory of "Bloody Sunday" where State Troopers in Selma violently assaulted 600 unarmed men, women and children as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Their mission was to draw national attention to their fight for participation in the political process. Unfortunately, they were met with ruthless violence by the State Troopers. The recently released movie SELMA depicts what happened during that time and also shows how the right to vote was being challenged. The fight continues today but somewhat in a different manner. The jail system is being used to deny individuals their right to vote. Florida is one of several states that do not reinstate a person's right to vote even after they have served all of the requirements of the legal system. The process requires that one go before an appeal board consisting of the Governor, State Attorney and three civilians

and the case is decided by a majority rule. Even within our democratic society, the fight still continues.



My personal fight began on the highway from a little city called St. Petersburg to the beautiful city of Selma. I was fortunate to have traveled the world while serving in the United States Army for 11 years and honestly I thought that I had seen it all. The experience of Selma was unlike anything that I had ever seen. The march was so peaceful and although there was a large police presence, there were no

harassing moments or arrest. Surprisingly, both the police and the marchers were engaged in picture-taking and conversations.

My name is Willie L. Cochran and I take away from this experience the importance of having respect for others, respecting the opinions of others and respecting myself most of all. In closing, politics play a major role in most fights and now I truly understand why the GIMME 5 Campaign is so important. As the fight continues ask yourself this question, which side will you be on 50 years from



Auxiliary 181 News

Sue and Denny Elliott met at a 4th of July party while he was in the Air Force, stationed in England. Sue wasn't quite sure what the celebration was about, but good-naturedly enjoyed the company; especially Denny's. They spoke to each other, dated, Sue brought him home to meet her family, they married 9 months later, and the rest is history. Such a lovely romantic story... On April 3rd they celebrate their 45th anniversary. Congratulations to them both. Oh, and mother is always right—Sue's mom really liked Denny and encouraged her to 'keep this one'. Also, we wish very wonderful celebrations to Joyce Keller and Sandy Hart who share the same birthday on April 4th and Zulma Betancourt whose birthday is on the 29th.

What more can she do? Zulma Betancourt, Director of the Union's Mutual Benefits Association, past Trustee, past Shop Steward, Letter Carrier, and MDA fundraiser is now our newest Auxiliary member; you know, spouses of Letter Carriers can join. I hope Branch 1477 knows what a gem they have in her; she's caring, motivated, and industrious in whatever duties she takes on or is asked to do. Just recently she drove to Selma, Alabama with trustees Willie Cochran and Rich Ramos to march over the historic bridge with thousands of others to pay their respect to those who had to fight to gain their right to vote 50 years ago. She felt it was something important to do. I get the feeling that's a guiding principle of hers. Zulma was born in Puerto Rico, came to New York at 6 months old, didn't learn English until school, joined Girl Scouts, elected to student council, played a lot of sports, and graduated high school with a full academic scholarship to college. I'd say she was determined to succeed at anything and everything she tried. In college she studied drafting, CPA, business, and medical billing. After college, she took a chance by moving her two young boys here to be near her sister and away from the Connecticut cold. She joined the USPS and the Union 17 years ago, met fellow

Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson

Carrier Rudy, and dated him for 8 years before marrying him. Her boys grew up and became managers in banking, and then she felt she had time to give to others. When Presidents Les Stroup and Joe Henschen asked her to help out, she did in a big way. She admits that "management messing with me" spurred her on to be a shop steward. Besides making an excellent flan, she enjoys drawing and gardening in her spare time. Auxiliary 181 welcomes Zulma with open arms!

We last met March 4th in Pat O'Donnell's lovely home in Dunedin. We planned the St. Patrick's Day dinner for March 22nd at 3:30 at the Union Hall, with members signing up to bring food, and everyone promising to donate Bingo prizes. We talked about our fundraising at the Union's convention this summer, our budget, Mother and Father's Day June 7th dinner at Meek's Comfort Café at 3:30, our girl's luncheon at Freda's Café on July 1st at 11:00, and the Ice Cream Social August 30th. Clarence Keller won the cat-in-the-bag gift. Our next meeting is April 1st, 2:00, hosted by Sally Madden. Thanks to Pat, Joyce Keller, and me for baking for our raffle and Joyce for cooking for the Union. Sally and Sue will bake for the April 9th Union meeting.

We congratulate and thank John Bourlon, one of our members, for his many years of presiding and serving Branch 1477. As a small token of thanks, the Letter Carrier's office and building was named for him during a special ceremony attended by Fred Rolando, our National President, and other Union officers on March 15th.

We hope Pat O'Donnell keeps up her strength and stays well, John Bourlon heals quickly with his broken collar bone, and please say a quick prayer for me getting knee replacement surgery.

Auxiliary 181 Phonebook:

President	Joyce Keller	727 541-2194	Sunshine Lady Sue Elliott	727 526-6358
Secretary	Sandy Hart	727 397-7587	Chaplain Alice Wannike	727 851-2569
Treasurer	Sally Madden	727 391-8055	News Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson	727 347-0371

A Tribute to "John W."

This month's article is dedicated to my friend, colleague, and mentor, JOHN W. BOURLON, for whom we dedicated our Union Hall on March 14, 2015.

John W. Bourlon entered the Postal Service in 1968, and soon after entering, he became angered at the mistreatment of Letter Carriers by Postal Management. He became proactive in the Union and began serving the members of Branch 1477, first as a Steward, then Chief Steward, and then as President from January 1975 until his retirement in December of 1996.

During his Presidency, he set Branch 1477 on the path to becoming, for the first time, a strong Union, in every sense of the word, forging the merger of the ten cities which currently comprise Branch 1477. John provided outstanding leadership and training to all Stewards and Officers of the Branch. He zealously enforced the contracts, both Local and National, standing up to Postal Management and doing everything in his power to protect the rights, entitlements, and dignities of all members of Br 1477.

John's foresight in forging the present merged Branch 1477 was key to providing the Branch with the necessary resources to have full-time officers who could be "on call 24/7" to address problems and represent Carriers without first getting permission from Postal Supervisors/Managers. Those resources also provided the means to provide the continuing education and training of the Stewards and Officers, which, in turn, has contributed to Branch 1477 becoming highly successful in representing the members in grievances at all levels (initiation through arbitration), in EEO cases, and in Workers' Compensation



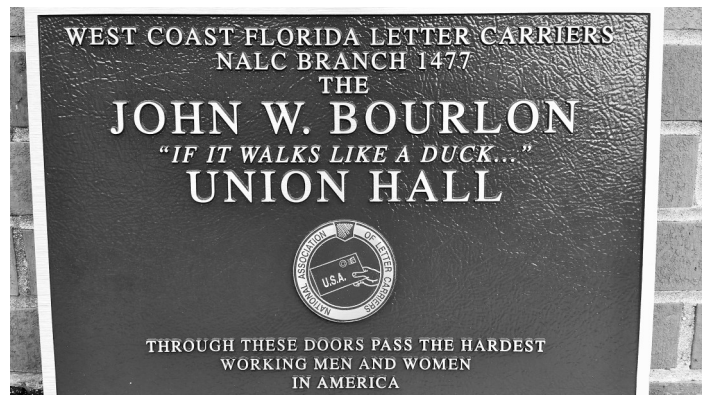
O.D. Elliott, Director of

claims (OWCP).

John Bourlon was most responsible for the purchase of land and building our former Union Hall at 12550 66th St. N., Largo. That Union Hall served the members well from its completion in 1976 through 2001 when it became the centerpiece of a negotiated deal which brought us the present Union Hall, mortgage free.

During his 21 years as President, John worked tirelessly on behalf of the Letter Carriers of Branch 1477, often working 10-12 hour days and weekends. He left nothing to chance and nothing undone. John had a passion for standing up to Postal Management in defense of Letter Carriers' rights and doing everything in his power to protect Carriers from mistreatment by Supervisors/Managers. He provided constant vigilance of enforcement of the Contracts. John made Branch 1477 a strong UNION, one respected by Postal Management and one the members could count on to look out for their interests.

During his years serving both the Branch and the Florida State Association, John became known for some of his homespun sayings. Chief among them was, "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, by Gawd, it must be a duck". To paraphrase John's homily, "IF HE WALKS AS A UNION MAN, TALKS AS A UNION MAN, AND ACTS AS A UNION MAN, THEN BY GAWD, HE MUST BE A UNION MAN." JOHN W. BOURLON IS ONE HELL OF A FINE UNION MAN and I'm indebted to him as my longtime colleague, mentor and good friend.



UNIFORMS (IN GOOD CONDITION) NEEDED

Please drop off at the hall or call 727-531-1477

Camera Roll



I have known John for over 40 years and 20 of those years, I am proud to say, were serving in various positions under his command. What I have learned during my tenure was that John was a natural born leader. He was both feared and respected by Management. His knowledge of the contract and people skills were second to none. When he walked into a room things started to shake, rattle and roll. He had that swagger and everybody knew it! Confidence and expertise were what he was all about. When he spoke – “everybody listened”. He was the “E.F. Hutton” of the NALC! Results in handling grievances, arbitrations, negotiations, mergers and just putting out the fires, were, let’s say, remarkable! He took no crap but rather gave a lot of Postmasters and front line Supervisors reason to start taking TUMS!

Some of you here in this room were fortunate to see him in action during his 24 years of dedicated service as President of Branch 1477. For those of you who were not around then to see The Man in Action, well, let me tell you, it was historical. There will never be another John W. Bourlon because the old was either thrown away or broken and quite frankly, I don’t think that Management could have handled a clone of John, ever!

In closing, there was just one tiny chink in John’s armor that many people, including Management, didn’t know about which I am going to reveal to you now in one word. **PEACH!** What, you ask! Yes, peaches and the fuzz that is on them will absolutely terrify and almost bring him to his knees. It was his phobia, kryptonite, Achilles heel if you will. This little known secret weapon was used by his staff, jokingly from time to time, by placing the peaches in strategic places like his briefcase or in his desk drawer. If only candid camera was around when he discovered them or second thought maybe not due to all the expletives that followed. WOW!

The naming of this Union Hall after John W. Bourlon is overwhelming deserving and comes only with the highest respect from his peers, his accomplishments and dedication. This is The Best Damn Branch in the NALC because John made it so! WHAT A GREAT PERSON!!!!!!

-Bernie Ososky

You deserve a standing ovation. Congratulations

John, Sorry Marilyn and I couldn’t make it to the dedication. Congratulations I know the hard work and dedication you have put into the Branch over the decades, and it is an honor well deserved to have the hall named after you.

-Jim Good

Brother John

Glad to hear you are receiving an award from the association, and I could say that no one could be more deserving of this one more than you.

I am so sorry that I am unable to attend the meeting on March 14th as I am already committed on that date. The very best to you, and look forward to seeing you at our next breakfast on March 4th.

-Ed Joyner

If I may be allowed the honor of reminiscing a few moments about an individual who has been a positive influence in my life and in many, many others, I'd like to share some memories about John Bourlon.

I was hired as a Letter Carrier in St. Petersburg, Florida on August 8, 1970. My employment was the result of my father, Jim McSmith, also a Letter Carrier in St. Petersburg at Euclid Station, informing me of a periodic exam given by the USPS to create a hiring list. I was one of eight individuals hired as Carriers and we attended an orientation at the Main Office presented by Charles "Charlie" Campbell and were introduced to then postmaster, Harry Scott. Also in attendance were twelve new hires who would become Postal Clerks. Several of those individuals had hoped to become Carriers, and I had indicated prior to my being hired that I would prefer to be a Clerk so that I could work nights and continue my college education during the day. Let me just say at this point that in retrospect, I was one of the lucky ones, not just because I came to realize that the Carrier Craft afforded the premier jobs, but that as it turned out, I was soon to be mentored, buoyed up, and protected from nefarious Postal Management, by an Oklahoma plow boy and Army veteran by the name of Johnny W. Bourlon.

Upon being hired, I was soon approached by then NALC Branch 1477 President, Cal Shepherd, regarding joining the Union. I solicited the advice of my dad, who was a member, and he encouraged me to join, indicating that the Union fought for Carrier's employment rights, pay raises, pretty much everything positive in the workplace. By the way, 1970 was the year of initial dramatic Postal Reform, when the USPO became the USPS, and life took an immediate upswing for Letter Carriers. John Bourlon replaced Cal Shepherd as Union President not long after I began my thirty-two plus year postal career. President John Bourlon was a go getter, an outside-of-the-box thinker, aggressive but not adversarial unless Management's behavior required it, and hungry for positive change for Letter Carriers. His guidance led to full time executive positions for Branch 1477 officers, a state of the art Union Hall, fair and beneficial local agreements, and put Branch 1477 on the National NALC map.

Through the years, John morphed through different styles of dress, varied hair styles, and into a bona fide courtroom defender of harried and accused brothers and sisters. He developed a reputation as being a hardnosed fighter for both the principles he believed in, and the fellow workers that he worked so diligently to assist. He earned respect, both from his peers and those who were his adversaries. John was always available to me, as he was to all his charges, in time of need, or just to answer a question. Even after retirement John has continued to be a presence in Branch 1477 affaires, assisting, supporting, and caring. And now, as President Emeritus, he is receiving perhaps his most deserved honorarium, the Branch 1477 Hall dedicated to his legacy with a plaque on the front wall announcing his reward for "a job well done". Thanks, John, for your perseverance, your dedication and your allegiance to your Branch 1477 brothers and sister. You've been a champion for many lives.

-Steve McSmith, Retired

Hey Bourlon – Congratulations

So proud & Happy for You.... & so well deserving, too! You were a huge factor in the success & organization of PG/PC & much needed direction of our offices. You not only took us under your wing & uncomplicated so many dilemmas... but were a "Father & Friend" to many!! I thank you so much for that, your strength & drive is the foundation that we now have.

-Sharon Winesett (the other bitch)

George B. and Annie R. Elliott, Branch 1477 Scholarship Program

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. At time of application applicant must be the son, daughter, or dependent of an active, retired, or deceased regular member of Branch 1477 as defined in Branch 1477's by-laws.
2. Applicants who have one parent in management and one parent a Branch 1477 member are eligible, provided all other eligibility requirements are satisfied.
3. When making application, applicant must be a high school senior or working toward an undergraduate degree in a, community college, university, or vocational/technical institute.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or SAT and/or ACT scores reflecting the national average. GPA or SAT and/or Act scores must accompany application.
2. Application must be signed by the President or Secretary of Branch 1477 to verify parent's Branch 1477 membership.

REGULATIONS

1. Scholarship will be paid to the student and/or the college after acceptance to the college.
2. Scholarship may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.
3. Scholarship is non-renewable. Past recipients are ineligible to apply for future scholarships. Scholarship applications are valid for current year only.
4. Winners will be selected by a random drawing at the June branch meeting.
5. Two scholarships in the amount of \$750. each will be awarded.
6. Applications must be postmarked by May 31st.

George B. and Annie R. Elliott, Branch 1477 Scholarship Application

(Must be postmarked by May 31st)

Branch 1477 Scholarship Committee 5369 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Please print clearly.

Please accept my application for a Branch 1477 Scholarship. I am a senior in high school, or working toward an undergraduate degree in a , community college, university, or vocational/technical institute.

Branch 1477 Member _____ Active Retired Deceased
(name)

Relation to Branch 1477 Member Son Daughter Dependent

Applicant's name _____

Applicant's home address _____

City, State Zip _____

Bernard “Bernie” Baxley Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. At time of application applicant must be the son, daughter, or dependent of an active, retired, or deceased regular member of Branch 1477 as defined in Branch 1477's by-laws.
2. Applicants who have one parent in management and one parent a Branch 1477 member are eligible, provided all other eligibility requirements are satisfied.
3. When making application, applicant must be a high school senior or working toward an undergraduate degree in a, community college, university, or vocational/technical institute.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or SAT and/or ACT scores reflecting the national average. GPA or SAT and/or Act scores must accompany application.
2. Application must be signed by the President or Secretary of Branch 1477 to verify parent's Branch 1477 membership.

REGULATIONS

1. Scholarship will be paid to the student and/or the college after acceptance to the college.
2. Scholarship may be used for any accredited trade school, vocational/technical institute, community college, or university.
3. Scholarship is non-renewable. Past recipients are ineligible to apply for future scholarships. Scholarship applications are valid for current year only.
4. Winners will be selected by a random drawing at the June branch meeting.
5. **One scholarship will be awarded for \$500.00.**
6. Applications must be postmarked by May 31st.

Bernard “Bernie” Baxley Scholarship

(Must be postmarked by May 31st)

Branch 1477 Scholarship Committee 5369 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Please print clearly.

Please accept my application for a Branch 1477 Scholarship. I am a senior in high school, or working toward an undergraduate degree in a , community college, university, or vocational/technical institute.

Branch 1477 Member _____ Active Retired Deceased
(name)

Relation to Branch 1477 Member Son Daughter Dependent

Applicant's name _____

Applicant's home address _____

City, State Zip _____

BRANCH 1477 PHONE DIRECTORY

UNION HALL: 727-531-1477

EMAIL: branch1477@tampabay.rr.com

UNION FAX: 727-531-1478

WEBSITE: branch1477nalc.org

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St. Pete Zone 10	Pat Kelly	203-228-0941
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Alt	Zulma Betancourt	813-597-8363
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Largo/Seminole (76/77)	Ken Bushery	727-267-3966
Palmetto	Bruce Berkey	941-722-3249
Pinellas Park (81)	Fred Assidy	727-656-9653
Pinellas Park (82)	Alicia Gary	973-981-2174
Punta Gorda (50)	Don Lyerly	941-286-5056
Punta Gorda (80/83)	Chris Larson	941-815-0384
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APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2. Executive Board meeting
- 5. Easter Sunday
- 7. WCFFL, CLC AFL/CIO meeting
- 9. General Membership meeting
- 16. Stewards Training
- 23. South Meeting

2015 APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		