

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 649

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By President Joe Henschen

Twitter @ JaHe1

USPS's Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP) and Management's Responsibilities

In 2022, the USPS issued instructions to management which details their ongoing responsibilities relating to their Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP). This program requires training for all employees and supervisors every year by April 1st. It focuses on education as a means to prevent or mitigate heat illness. The Program also contains ongoing responsibilities for your supervisors and your managers up to the level of the Area Vice President. These responsibilities are well-detailed.

For Supervisors

The United States Postal Service (Postal Service) implemented the Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP) to protect employees from heat related

illnesses and to educate them on how to stay safe during hot weather. Included in the HIPP Safety Talk ("HIPP Safety Talk" or "Safety Talk") is the HIPP document and the Safety Talk that is to be given to all employees. Once the Talk is given, management must certify the Safety Talk verifying that the following tasks have been completed:

1. The HIPP is posted in the facility in a conspicuous location.
2. The Heat Illness poster is posted in the facility in a conspicuous location.
3. The HIPP Safety Talk has been given to all employees.
4. Employees have been provided with Heat Illness Prevention badge cards.
5. Heat Illness Prevention stickers have been placed in all owned and leased Postal Service vehicles. You should not certify this Safety Talk unless and until each of the five tasks identified above has been completed.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING AT THE HALL AND VIA ZOOM: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

This written program documents the procedure Management must take to comply with the required elements of the Postal Service's Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP). This document will be reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness and compliance. Copies of this document are available to employees upon request.

The HIPP is triggered during the period of April 1st through October 31st and at any other time when weather reports issued by the National Weather Service (NWS)¹ for a particular work location indicate that the outdoor heat index temperatures are expected to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the course of a workday or work shift.

The installation head at all local Postal Service owned or operated facilities will be responsible for the implementation of this HIPP for their employees, provided the facility meets the heat exposure criteria outlined above.

The Postal Service's Chief Human Resources Officer, or his or her designee, will oversee the HIPP from a universal perspective. Each Area/Regional Vice President will designate an Area/Regional coordinator who will be responsible for ensuring the implementation and management of the HIPP in his or her Area/Region as well as certifying compliance with the HIPP for his or her Area/Region. The Area/Regional coordinator will be trained in the risks, physiological responses to, and controls for heat index temperatures exceeding 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and will have the following knowledge and skills:

- An understanding of the signs and symptoms of heat-related disorders, predisposing conditions, likely causes, prevention, and first aid, in order to provide guidance and training to Area/Regional employees.
- An understanding of the causes of heat stress.
- An understanding of the general controls for heat stress that include training, work practices, and surveillance.
- The ability to audit compliance with the HIPP.

Training

The Postal Service will require annual completion of a HERO training course on heat stress by all employees in every facility, regardless of exposure assessment findings. This course will discuss the effects of heat on the body, outline the risk factors for heat-related illness, and describe the associated treatments for each. This training will also explain several control measure techniques and safe work practices that can be used to prevent heat-related illness, as outlined in this document. It is the

responsibility of each installation head to ensure that employees complete the HERO course.

Employees must complete this training prior to April 1st each year. **Employees who are absent when the training is provided are required to be provided with the training prior to returning to street duties¹**, during the period April 1 through October 31st.

Mobile Delivery Device Messaging

From April 1st through October 31st, Mobile Delivery Device (MDD) messaging will be disseminated from the National level addressing issues related to heat exposure and the prevention of heat-related illness, with a focus on matters such as proper attire, sufficient hydration, effects of personal medical conditions or medications, how to recognize signs and symptoms of heat-related illness, other weather-related concerns, and guidance on how to respond in an emergency. Each week, the supervisor will give a safety talk addressing issues related to heat exposure and prevention of heat-related illness. These talks will be documented in HERO with certification of completion for all employees.

Carriers

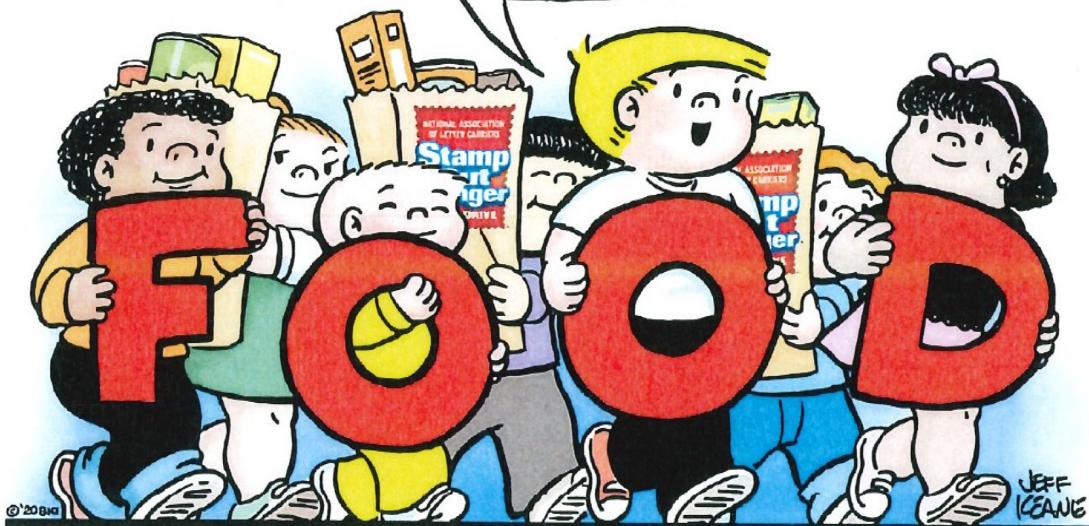
All members should carefully review all training recorded in the HERO platform in LiteBlue. In 2023 several Branch 1477, Installations certified the HIPP/HERO training was completed falsely. In some cases, the format was not followed and printed information was placed on case ledges with no explanation. The program is designed to be interactive as to ensure the Carrier can ask questions to better understand the information. In some units all Carriers were blanketly certified as having the training. The dates of the training were conducted while the Carrier was on Leave or non-scheduled.

The National Parties have agreed that heat related issues are a serious safety concern. The Florida 2 District Step B Team has issued instructional Cease and Desist orders to those installations that falsified training records. Cutting corners in training, especially heat safety is no way to make the numbers. This program may save lives and, as importantly, *may cost lives if not done properly*.

Finally, report any heat related illness and Supervisor instructions given to you when reporting the illness to your Steward.

¹ *Returning employees will be provided the time necessary for them to complete the HERO training course, prior to returning to their street duties.*

THIS SPELLS
HELP FOR LOTS OF
FAMILIES THIS
YEAR!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE 2ND SATURDAY IN MAY

National Partners



INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLY FOR SURVIVOR BENEFITS.

To assist members and their families following the death of an active letter carrier the NALC Retirement Department has provided the guidelines in this reprinted from the NALC "When an Active Letter Carrier Dies..." brochure.

NALC members can help ease the burden of their survivors by completing the personal information section.

The steps to be taken when an active Letter Carrier dies are as follows:

Notify the employee's immediate supervisor, postmaster, and Human Resources Shared Service Center – (HRSSC) at 877-477-3273. It is not necessary to have a death certificate to do so.

HRSSC will advise of any benefits payable, and of the right to apply for them. They will provide and render assistance in completing the Application for Death Benefits under the employee's retirement system, Claim for Death Benefits-Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, (also known as FEGLI); and Claim for Unpaid Compensation.

Notify the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at 877- 968-3778.

Notify the Letter Carrier's NALC branch.

If the employee was a veteran, notify the Veterans' Administration at 800-827-1000.

Call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

Notify banks and other financial institutions. Notify insurance companies (life, health, home, automobile, etc.).

If the employee had a policy with NALC's Mutual Benefit Association, call 202-638-4318 or write to MBA, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

If the employee had health insurance through the NALC Health Benefit Plan, call 888-636-6252. If the employee had health insurance through another FEHB plan, call the phone number on the back of the insurance card. Health benefit coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children continues

automatically if the employee had family coverage at the time of death and if a monthly survivor annuity is payable.

Obtain a sufficient number of death certificates for your needs.

National Association of Letter Carriers Retirement Department Toll-free 800-424-5186 Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10-12:00 and 2-4:00, Eastern Standard Time.

The NALC Retirement Department can also be reached Monday – Friday from 9-4:30 at 202-393-4695.

ABOUT THE LETTER CARRIER:

Full name:

Date of birth: _____

Employee I.D. number: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Retirement System: CSRS _____ FERS _____

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, amount:

\$ _____

If yes, beneficiary:

Branch of military service and time period, if applicable:

Policy number if you have a NALC MBA policy:

Location of Will: _____

Spouse/survivor's name and address:

Children's names and birthdates:



Hubble's Troubles

By Executive Vice President,
Chris Hubble

No one else knows your route like you do!

We as Carriers help maintain address quality by observing address changes on our routes, noting them in our **Edit Books**, and submitting them to update the Address Management System (AMS). It is the primary tool used to report new growth, additions, deletions, and changes, including line of travel changes.

The address database is used to create every address product and service that the Postal Service offers to mailers. It is also the source of all of the address information used by our internal processes and equipment. The information in the *Edit Book* reaches far beyond the delivery unit. It has a direct impact on the quality of mail that is received each day from virtually every mail stream.

Most importantly, it's our job. If we don't do our job to provide a quality product, at a reasonable rate, our customers will turn to those competitors who will. For every mail piece a mailer doesn't send, we lose the postage for that piece of mail plus every subsequent piece of mail that would have been generated by a response from the recipient.

Each individual Carrier is responsible for keeping his or her *Edit Book* accurate. The Carrier is the individual most familiar with a route and aware of changes as they occur. Handbook M-41 section 253.1 states in part:

.... Since the Edit Book is an important document used by Delivery Service, it is absolutely essential that the Carrier keep it accurate and up to date.

If the supervisor is not allowing you time to review or make changes in your *Edit Book*, ask to see your steward!

Up to date and accurate address information translates into service performance, cost-effective operations, and customer satisfaction. As a gateway to customers, we know when new housing or apartment developments open. We know too when a new business opens. Major mailers must have this information in order to build business. They want to

reach every possible delivery, and they want to do it accurately.

The Postal Service uses AMS data to deliver mail to every address in the country or more than 127 million delivery points. Accurate address information helps to process mail through automation to reduce delivery costs associated with manual mail handling. Furthermore, business mailers purchase address information for delivery of mail pieces to targeted customers. Correct addressing is critical to reducing the costs associated with handling returned mail for the Postal Service and its customers.

The Postal Service loses millions of dollars last processing undeliverable-as-addressed mail, and correct address data could reduce these costs.

As the Postal Service moves forward with increases in parcels, the integrity of the address database is critical. It is our job to observe and be aware of all changes on our route and to record additions, deletions, and changes in the *Edit Book* as they occur.

Edit books are also important with the new route adjustment process. The Digital Street Review (DSR) uses parameters which include residential curb line, business, and central delivery. The **DSR** recognizes this via the Carrier's *Edit book*. The **DSR** will flag in event if it exceeds the associated time (32 seconds per delivery) for the delivery as listed in the *Edit book*. The DSR will not flag a stop at an active delivery. (Emphasis added) Therefore, it is essential to maintain your *Edit book* and update.... returning seasonal deliveries, new construction, and growth to list a few.



Englewood, Florida

On March 2, 2024, our friend, our coworker, our Brother Matt Dietzler while delivering mail, heard a patron calling out for help. Matt found the woman who had fallen and was injured.

It is not clear how long she was on the ground before Matt came along. Matt helped her get up and called for the paramedics. Once the medics arrived, Matt continued on his route until his duties were done.

Later that evening, Matt, and a coworker, went for a motorcycle ride. At about dusk Matt was hit by a vehicle driving the wrong way, with no headlights on, and took him from us and more importantly his family and young daughter Anastasia who was his whole world. He will be missed and remembered by all that met him.

*Matt Dietzler
7/3/1990 - 3/2/2024
(Englewood)*

*Jon Robinson
Steward, Englewood, FL*

******* We were notified after the meeting that Secretary Ken Grasso had a sudden illness and was unable to have the Minutes ready for this edition of the Twig.**

They will be posted on the Branch's website.

Ken is feeling better and on the mend.



**St. Petersburg
Gulfwinds Station.**

Recently, Zone 15 Carrier Dorthea Daniels was recognized by her patrons.

Teresa Rorer, Resident Contributor to the 33715 Tiera Verde community neighborhood association magazine captioned:

"We want to express our deepest gratitude to one of our local postwomen, Miss Dee. Rain or shine, she delivers mail with a smile, connecting our community one parcel at a time".

Nice Job, Miss Dee

******Sad Report******

- Melisa Grant, Carrier Midtown—Grandson had a Bone Marrow Transplant.
- Martha Fry, Carrier Ellenton—Boyfriend passed away.
- Mike Hancock, Carrier Gulfwinds—Mother passed away.
- Gene Carroll, Retiree St. Pete—Had surgery.
- Matt Deitzler, Carrier Englewood—Was killed by a wrong way driver.
- Bill Napoli, Retiree St. Pete—Passed away.
- Ken Domingos, Carrier Crossroads—Wife had surgery.
- John Dickinson, Carrier Pinellas Park—Hit by a car on his way to work.

Steward Meeting Attendees

Meeting was held at the Hall and on Zoom and led by President Joe Henschen.

March 21st:

Heather Manley, Donny DeMulta, Wyatt Stribling, Eric Short, Scott Archbold, Olbin Flores-Elvir, A.J. Pollard, Scott Held, Patrick Jaques, Mike Oster, Erica Baker, Patrice Cannonier, Javier Urrutia, Anthony Roger, Jim Grazioso, Jillian Iuliucci, Jody Dodd, Heather Vincent-Gates, David Mills, Clayton Sorvala

South Meeting

February 21st:

Joe Henschen, Chris Hubble, Erica Baker, Chris Kotonski, Dennis Leach, Sam Haddad, Rui Almeida

March 20th:

Joe Henschen, Chris Hubble, Dennis Leach, Sam Haddad, Mark Hall, Jacob Brache, Rui Almeida, Dean Kauffman, Chris Kotonski, Erica Baker, Colton Smith

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Brian Andrews. (941) 807-5669

Patrick Jacques. (727) 218-2721

STEWARDS OF BRANCH 1477

St. Petersburg:

Crossroads 9	Jody Dodd	(727) 768-2562
Crossroads 10	Heather Vincent-Gates	(727) 460-8852
Alt 9 & 10	Ken Domingos	(716) 598-1205
Euclid	Wyatt Stribling	(727) 480-6121
Alt	Patrick Green	(813) 671-4770
Gateway	Jillian Iuliucci	(727) 458-1623
Gulfwinds 7,15	Olbin Flores-Elvir	(913) 671-0397
Gulfwinds 11	Mike Hancock	(954) 955-0350
Madeira Beach	Patrick Jacques	(727) 218-2721
Midtown 5	Javier Urrutia	(813) 484-2499
Midtown 12	Patrice Cannonier	(786) 200-0957
Alt	Gary Johnson	(316) 209-3764
Northside 2	Tiffany Naughton	(727) 642-5466
Alt	Suzette Brown	(727) 580-1084
Northside 16	David Mills	(727) 677-8992
Alt	Javier Urrutia	(813) 484-2499
Open Air	Scott Archbold	(727) 422-4766
Alt	Dan O'Dell	(941) 315-0699
St. Pete Beach	Cheryl Anderson	(727) 531-1477
Alt	Laurann Rose	(727) 525-6920
St. Pete Main 13	Anthony Roger	(813) 574-9971
St. Pete Main 14	Alan Pollard	(727) 667-4254
Alt	Dee Grant	(727) 225-9272

Bradenton Bch	Brian Andrews	(941) 807-5669
Dunedin	Scott Held	(727) 418-5742
Alt	Chuck Cavicchio	(727) 798-8506
Ellenton	Jocelyn Pagan	(646) 417-0392
Englewood	Jon Robinson	(740) 919-7687
Indian Rocks Bch	Tim Cox	(727) 481-5348
Largo 70/71/73/78	Joe Henschen	(727) 531-1477
Palmetto	Sheldon Jones	(941) 580-1058
Pinellas Park 81/82	Heather Manley	(727) 244-0665
Punta Gorda	Dennis Leach	(941) 276-0806
PC Annex	Erica Baker	(941) 661-5196
Seminole 72/74	Eric Short	(727) 251-9846
Alt	Donny DeMilta	(727) 430-4413
Seminole 76/77	Donny DeMilta	(727) 430-4413
Alt	Eric Short	(727) 251-9846

Congressional Liasons:

District 13: Tom Phillips (727) 458-4127

District 15: Gene Carroll (727) 742-1640

The Twig of the Branch is published monthly by Branch 1477 West Coast Florida Letter Carriers. Articles and opinions printed herein are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of Branch 1477 or the NALC. We invite all members to contribute material for possible publications. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject such material for reasons of good taste, legality, space, or the good of the Branch. Articles should be of general interest, be 350 words or less and be submitted by email to the branch by the 10th of the month.



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ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PERMIT 5489

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pinellas Park Retiree Breakfast	2 St. Pete Retiree Breakfast	3 Largo Retiree Breakfast	4 Executive Board	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 General Membership Meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17 South Branch Meeting	18 Steward's Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				