

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 609

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

AUGUST, 2020

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT *By President Joe Henschen* *Twitter @JaHe1*

It is not easy to watch the news these days. Between the pandemic and the civil unrest, it is not that easy to weigh the two for importance.

Over the 4th of July weekend I tried to disconnect from the news, but I live in an area that is close to St. Petersburg's prime protest locations. As I watched a parade of protesters roll down my street, a memory came to me that as I get older seldom does.

When I was 8 years old, I lived in a small white house in Indianapolis, Indiana. The neighborhood was filled with other 8-12-year-old kids. Of course, things were different then and doors were always open and unlocked. We were pretty much free to run anywhere within the 4 or 5 blocks around our houses.

One day, as I recall it was late in the year and a little colder. I struck out to look for my friends and the neighborhood was pretty quiet. No one out. As I looked around, I ran into a neighbor, Mrs. Miller. The house the Millers lived in was on the same block I lived but I hadn't seen them out before. They may have been new to the neighborhood. I asked her if she had any kids, she smiled and she said "oh yes my son is in the garage, go on back and knock he is playing with cars". I headed back and knuckled up on the door. Sure enough, Danny opened the door. Danny was 18 years old and the car he was playing with was an old Chevy.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

I hung out with him and talked for a while he tinkered on that old car. I was used to that because tinkering on cars happened a lot in our neighborhood. It was pretty cool knowing him and the other guys I normally hung out with could not figure out why he would say hi to me when we ran into each other after that.

A couple of months later, Danny left the neighborhood and on January 10, 1967 he began a tour in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division.

In late June that same year, I rode my bike around the corner and my parents were sitting on the front steps. Many of the other parents and kids were also on their porches. In front of the Miller's was a dark green sedan. No one left their porch and conversations at least on our porch were restrained.

The Miller's car turned onto Harlan Street and would have passed right in front of our house. They stopped and paused a few houses from their home. It was as if the wind even stopped at that moment. When they slowly continued home, everyone stood up and walked to the sidewalks. The Millers parked in front of their house and two uniformed men stepped from the car and spoke to them in their yard, Mrs. Miller's knees buckled, her husband helped her up and they all went inside.

The Millers did not stay in the neighborhood long. I guess they needed new surroundings.

There is a reason why its ok to protest. So many others like George Daniel Miller made that possible.

Whenever I go the Washington D.C, I visit Danny on Panel 22E – Line 15, of the Vietnam Memorial. His Tour began on January 10, 1967 and he is listed as a casualty on June 19, 1967. It is always holidays like the 4th that I think of the Millers.

For all of you who have served and all of you that have lost someone serving, thank you for your service.



Hubble's Troubles

By Executive Vice President,
Chris Hubble

Standard Work Instruction for Maintaining Social Distancing While Conducting a PS Form 3999...

To limit the exposure of COVID-19 for Letter Carriers & Examiners, the Examiners will remain at least 6 ft. away from the Carrier at all times in the office to include:

- Clock ring activities
- DPS / FSS retrieval
- Vehicle load & unload
- Retrieving and returning empty equipment

In addition, Examiners and Carriers will wear face coverings in accordance with local ordinances and when social distancing cannot be maintained.

While on the street, Examiners will remain at least 6 ft. away from the Carrier at all times to include:

- Mail delivery
- Relay / Reloading
- Accountable delivery
- Package delivery
- MSP / CPMS scan & collection
- Lunch / breaks

Observations, notes and DCD entries can be made from a 6 ft. distance. If a vehicle is needed, the Examiner must utilize a separate vehicle. The Examiner and Carrier are prohibited from being in the same vehicle, in addition to:

- Wear seatbelts at all times
- While vehicle is in motion, examiners must operate vehicle safely, professionally, and without distraction
- Do not attempt to utilize the DCD or take notes while driving

COVID 19 Employee Resources

Temporary Workplace Changes Due to Covid-19 when necessary to send a carrier to another office to work...

The Postal Service has entered into a

Attention:

Due to Covid-19, we are not accepting any Carrier uniforms at this time.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NALC regarding temporary workplace changes due to Covid-19. The MOU states in part that “to the extent possible all City Letter Carriers will work in their employing facility for the duration of this agreement.” This language includes **CCAs**.

Where it is necessary to send a Carrier to another office to work, the following precautions should be followed:

1. The supervisor/manager and steward in the losing office will jointly determine which carrier will go to the gaining office;
2. If there is concern from either the loaned carrier or those in the gaining office about the loaned carrier entering the facility, the mail will be placed on the dock or somewhere outside where it can be loaded without entering the building; and
3. If the loaned carrier does not bring a vehicle from the losing office, the gaining office will have appropriate cleaning supplies for the carrier to sanitize the vehicle which will be used.

City Carrier Assistant Maximum Daily Work Hours...

The Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM), incorporated into our National Agreement via Article 19, specifically addresses the maximum daily hours which CCAs can be required to work.

This is further clarified and agreed to in question number 21 of the national parties' *Joint Questions and Answers 2011 USPS/NALC National Agreement*, dated March 16, 2016, which reads:

21. Is there a limit on the number of hours CCAs may be scheduled on a workday?

Yes, CCAs are covered by Section 432.32 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, which states: Except as designated in labor agreements for bargaining unit employees or in emergency situations as determined by the PMG (or designee), employees may not be required to work more than 12 hours in 1 service day. In addition, the total hours of daily service, including scheduled work hours, overtime, and mealtime, may not be extended over a period longer than 12 consecutive hours.

There are no exceptions negotiated into our National Agreement allowing the Postal Service to work CCA employees beyond the daily work hour limits stated above. This means that CCAs cannot be required, or allowed (volunteer), to work longer than a period which extends past 12 consecutive hours including lunch and breaks. For example, if a CCA reports to work at 6AM, then he or she must end their tour by 6PM. If this is being violated in your office, promptly inform your shop steward.

Letter Carrier Resource Guide

Welfare Reports

SAD:

- **Joe Clark, Carrier Crossroads—Had Surgery.**
- **Les and Pat Stroup, Former Branch President—Have had a tough quarantine. Both are only able to go out for doctor appts. Les had a stroke earlier in the year. They are pretty isolated with not be able to get visits from Grandkids. If you are an active facebook user, please look him up and friend him (2016 profile changed due to being hacked.)**
- **David Timcik, Carrier Dunedin—Passed away.**
- **Butch Lambert, Retiree Largo—Passed away.**

GLAD:

- **Richard Thomas, Carrier St. Pete Main—Birth of a son, Luke Aaron Thomas, 6lbs-6oz, 19 inches, born 7/7/2020.**
- **Sandra Pagan, Carrier St. Pete Main—Birth of her 3rd Granddaughter Evangeline Iris Garcia, 6lbs-4oz, 19 inches, born 6/30/2020.**



Vice President

Article by Zulma Betancourt

Saluting Our NALC Veterans Group

As we've celebrated both Memorial Day and our Independence Day, we always salute and pay tribute to our fallen soldiers as well as our veterans – many of which are employed by the Postal Service!

The NALC Veterans Group was founded in 2015 to make sure that Veterans working for the Postal Service know their rights and any benefits that are being offered to them. The NALC Veterans Group is specifically designed for the military veteran members and providing them access to information and tools specific to veteran rights and benefits within the US Postal Service.¹



As of 2015, Postal Service employee veterans make up 18% of the postal work force². Many Veterans do not know or are not aware of their rights regarding Military leave for Federal employees, specifically, if a Veteran should be deployed, what happens to their job? What about health care benefits designed specifically for their needs, including life insurance coverage during their military service? They also receive credit for military service—buying back military time or Credit for Military Service.³

To become a member of the Veterans group to find out more about all the benefits available to you and your family, go online to NALC.org and download the application card which can then be mailed in. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your local Union Hall.

The number of veterans hired by the Postal Service continues to increase annually with many organizations actively recruiting veterans. The NALC Veterans Group is here to help!

1. NALC (2020), Member Benefits NALC Veterans, <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/nalc-veterans>,
2. 21st Century Postal Worker (2017), USPS named top employer for veterans,
3. APWU (2020), Veterans Issues, SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND OUR VETERANS, <https://apwu.org/veterans-issues>

LETTER CARRIERS' DONOR DRIVE

National Partners

Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community.

1. Go to nalc.org/food
2. Select your state
3. Choose a food bank in your area
4. Make a contribution

It's that easy. All collections stay in the local community.

#NALC #stampouthunger #donordrive #lettercarriers #heroesdelivering



Retiree Update

By Director of Retiree Affairs,
O.D. Elliott

Recently, while assisting a carrier with his retirement package, he asked about remaining in the Union when he retired. I then gave him the information outlined on the next page which is a reprint of my June 2017 article.

CONSIDERING RETIREMENT

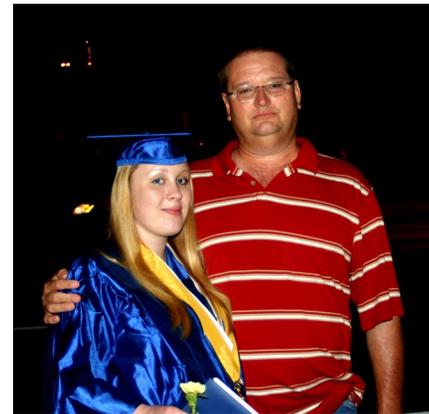
When considering retirement, I urge you to continue your NALC membership. To do so, you only need to complete a PS Form 1189. The dues for retirees are a great deal less than the dues for active members (EXAMPLE: The dues for retirees of our Branch, Branch 1477, are only \$1.91 per month or \$22.92 yearly). Retired members of the NALC are unique compared to retired members of other labor unions. Most labor unions don't allow their retirees to serve as officers or delegates to their conventions or to participate in the operation of their locals. On the other hand, NALC retirees have all the rights of active members, with the only exceptions being they cannot vote on ratification of National Agreements or Local Memorandums or proposed work stoppages. They can run for and serve as delegates to State and National Conventions. They can serve as Branch, State, and/or National Officers and they can participate and have a voice in the operation of their Branch.

Additionally, all members (active and retired) of Br1477 are entitled to reimbursement each year of (up to \$60 for self and \$50 for spouse) for out-of-pocket expenses for eye examinations or purchase of eyeglasses. Also, Branch 1477 is available to assist retired members concerning possible changes to their retirement due to personal changes in their lives, i.e. divorce, death of a spouse, remarriage, etc. We also provide assistance to your survivors in the event of your passing.

Thank you for selecting me as a winner for the Bernard Baxley Scholarship!

My area of study: Double Major in Political Science and Economics with a certificate in International Relations.

Involvement: Media Coordinator for the University of Florida Running Club, member of the Plant Based Nutrition Club, currently working on research regarding the relationship between Religion and Politics in the U.S. and Student Assistant in the Political Science Department.



Jessica Baxley
(Daughter of Bernie Baxley, Pinellas Park)

Bernard Baxley Scholarship winners:



Eve Vanagas
(Daughter of Lina Lekaviciute, Seminole)

It was a pleasure to hear from you and I am so honored and thankful that I am being offered this scholarship. I truly thank you. I am finishing my senior year at St. Petersburg College this Fall and expect to graduate in Summer 2021. My major is Educational Studies and Community Leadership with a minor in Interdisciplinary Studies. I am a member of the Honor Society and have been on the President's list the last three semesters.

My career goals are to open a youth center for at-risk youth, or run a youth program that specializes in helping teen parents, advocacy for youth exposed to domestic violence and youth with physical and behavioral disabilities.

Overall, I want to help the community and be a positive support system for those less privileged and who have a lower success rate. I want to return the positivity that was once given to me during my times of struggle.

Again, I thank you for awarding me and giving me the pleasure of accepting a scholarship in my Father's name. (ironically it was delivered on Father's Day)

Bernard Baxley Scholarship winner
and
George B. and Annie R. Elliott Scholarship winner:



Dakota DeMilta
(Daughter of Donny DeMilta, Seminole)
and
Great Granddaughter of John Bourlon

I would like to say thank you so much to Branch 1477 for this opportunity and awarding me with the Bernard Baxley Scholarship, and the George B. and Annie R. Elliott Scholarship. I greatly appreciate it! I graduated from Palm Harbor University High School and was very involved in my community. I volunteered at the Largo Community Center, Carwise Middle School, Highland Lakes Elementary School, and even for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in Seminole a couple of times while working a part time job at Glory Days. I also was very involved with my church and went on multiple Mission's Trips. These experiences helped lead me to the realization that I was made to be a teacher.

In the fall I will be attending University of North Florida in Jacksonville and majoring in Special Education. I chose this major because I have always been drawn to Special Needs Students. Being able to interact and educate them seems like a fun and exciting career path! This major will allow me to teach students from grades K-12, so it lets me have a wide range of opportunities.

Meeting Attendees

The following Officers attended the Executive Board Meeting led by President Joe Henschen on July 2nd:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris Hubble | Clay Hansen |
| Zulma Betancourt | Willie Cochran |
| Ken Grasso | Brian Andrews |
| Judy Dorris | Tom Phillips |
| O.D. Elliott | |

Steward's Meeting

The Steward's Training Meetings are being held via Zoom. The following stewards attended the July 16th meeting led by President Henschen:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Hubble | Alicia Gary |
| Chris Kotonski | Tonya Lee |
| Sam Haddad | Zulma Betancourt |
| Tom Phillips | Jim Grazioso |
| Harry Nieves | Willie Cochran |
| Patrick Jacques | Shiela Bradley |
| Donny DeMilta | Brian Andrews |
| Eric Short | Bert Lewis |
| Josh LaGrew | Cheryl Anderson |
| Wanda Clark | Judy Dorris |
| Ken Grasso | Tiffany Naughton |

Stewards: If your name isn't listed, please set up your Zoom profile so we know who is logged into the meetings.

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Judy Dorris. (727) 403-2173

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DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE

Tom Phillips. (727) 458-4127

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Clay Hansen. (727) 744-2456

TRUSTEES:

Willie Cochran. (727) 687-4163

Brian Andrews. (941) 748-5594

Joel Baez. (787) 629-3596

STEWARDS OF BRANCH 1477

St. Petersburg:

Crossroads 9	Ken Domingos	(716) 598-1205
Crossroads 10	Ben Hamilton	(727) 735-5125
Euclid	Wanda Clark	(727) 408-0600
Gateway	Tom Phillips	(727) 458-4127
Gulfwinds 7	Zulma Betancourt	(813) 597-8363
Gulfwinds 15	“ “ “ “ “	“ “ “
Gulfwinds 11	Joel Baez	(787) 629-3596
Madeira Beach	Patrick Jacques	(727) 218-2721
Alt	Greg Welsh	(727) 804-4726
Midtown 5	Shiela Bradley	(813) 335-7783
Midtown 12	Harry Nieves	(787) 564-4993
Alt	Willie Cochran	(727) 687-4163
Northside 2	Tiffany Naughton	(954) 448-3720
Northside 16	Tonya Lee	(813) 270-2918
Open Air	Tony Mells	(727) 385-8579
St. Pete Beach	Cheryl Anderson	(727) 531-1477
St. Pete Main 13	Anthony Roger	(813) 574-9971
Alt	Johnnie Booker	(941) 580-1714
St. Pete Main 14	Alan Pollard	(727) 667-4254
Alt	Dee Grant	(727) 225-9272

Bradenton Bch	Brian Andrews	(941) 748-5594
Dunedin	Chuck Cavicchio	(727) 798-8506
Ellenton	Bert Lewis	(941) 266-2109
Englewood	Josh LaGrew	(763) 232-8954
Alt	Kris Beal	(813) 500-0841
Indian Rocks Bch	Denise Clark	(407) 474-9038
Largo 70/71	Jim Grazioso	(727) 410-6492
Largo 73/78	Eric Short	(727) 251-9846
Palmetto	Sheldon Jones	(941) 580-1058
Pinellas Park 81/82	Alicia Gary	(973) 981-2174
Punta Gorda	Chris Kotonski	(330) 212-1777
(PC Annex)	Sam Haddad	(941) 219-9306
Seminole 72/74	Anne Winkelbauer	(708) 692-6540
Seminole 76/77	Donny DeMilta	(727) 430-4413

Auxiliary 181		
President	Joyce Keller	(727) 541-2194

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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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August, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4 (TBA)	5 (TBA)	6 Executive Board	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 General Membership (TBA)	14	15
16	17	18	19 (TBA)	20 Steward's Meeting (TBA)	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27 South Branch Meeting (TBA)	28	29