

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 639

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

May, 2023

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By President Joe Henschen

Twitter @ JaHe1

Back to the Basics

The phrase "back to the basics" means **to return to a simpler way of doing something or thinking about something**. It can also mean abandoning complication and sophistication to concentrate on the most essential aspects of something.

Over the years, the Postal Service has developed various tools to estimate the daily workload of letter carriers. Misuse of these tools by front line supervisors has been the subject of multiple grievances that have risen to the national level. It is important for you and your Shop Steward to understand time-projection tools and how these tools are intended to be used on the workroom floor.

A Carrier's daily reporting requirements are outlined in Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services, and Handbook M-41, City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities. Any printout from the supervisor's

computer is a projection tool. It is a management tool for estimating a Carrier's daily workload. Through multiple agreements, grievance resolves and arbitration decisions, it is resolved that the workhour/workload projections will not constitute the sole basis for corrective action.

This projection does not change the principle that, the Contract and Memo's assert, "No Carrier shall be disciplined for failure to meet standards, except in cases of unsatisfactory effort which must be based on documented, unacceptable conduct that led to the Carrier's failure to meet office standards."

NEXT BRANCH MEETING AT THE HALL AND VIA ZOOM: THURSDAY, May 11, 2023

Same goes for the street, Arbitration Decisions support the position that a “breadcrumb” dropped by the scanner does not necessarily prove unacceptable conduct.

It's also agreed, “there is no set pace at which a Carrier must walk and no street standard for walking.”

Daily projections cannot be the only thing relied upon to issue discipline or dictate a Carrier's leaving time, return time, or daily workload.

All the information shared or not shared with you in the morning's “go around” does not change the Letter Carrier's reporting requirements outlined in the handbooks nor does it change the supervisor's scheduling responsibilities. It is a starting point. Your responsibilities require your basic understanding of your assignment.

It is your responsibility to verbally inform management when you are of the opinion that you will be unable to case all mail distributed to the route, perform other required duties, and leave on schedule or when you will be unable to complete delivery of all mail.

Inform management of this well in advance of the scheduled leaving time and not later than immediately following the final receipt of mail. Management will instruct you what to do.

Complete applicable items on Form 3996, Carrier Auxiliary Control, submit it to the supervisor when you estimate that the daily workload cannot be completed in the allotted time. The supervisor at that time has the responsibility to approve or disapprove overtime, authorize or deny auxiliary assistance, or instruct the Carrier to curtail mail for the following day's delivery.

If leaving mail behind is the instruction, report that mail on PS Form 1571, all mail undelivered including all mail distributed to the route but not cased and taken out for delivery. Estimate the number of pieces of mail.

Do not curtail or eliminate any scheduled delivery or collection trip unless authorized by a manager, in which case you must record all facts on Form 1571.

Before you leave the office, on Form 1571 enter the mail curtailed; **when you return**, add any mail which was not delivered, and which was returned to the office. Follow any special local procedures set

up to identify errors and corrective actions for mail returned because it was out of sequence.

To simplify, Carriers know the routes. You are required to: report to your supervisor as soon as you are aware you cannot case, pull down your route and make your leaving time or deliver all the mail, packages and special service items and make your return time. Complete PS Form 3996 recording your overtime needs. If instructed to curtail mail, complete a 1571 Undelivered mail report.

Ask for copies of the completed forms daily.

Do not get caught up in the undertime debate. If you are told how much time you have today, follow the reporting requirements above.

How it Should be Done

The NALC has set up a process for reporting when a Carrier is intimidated and/or threatened while on the street.

Last week's Branch report included actions taken by the St. Petersburg, Gulfwinds Manager when a Carrier was verbally threatened by an individual while delivering. When reported to the manager the mail was cut-off to the immediate area. Postal Inspectors were contacted. As the investigation went on, doorbell camera footage captured the entire confrontation. For several weeks the mail continued to be on hold for collection by the patrons at the station. Late last week, after seeing the camera footage and an offer to help if needed, Manager Guetzloff, an Inspector and I had a meeting with the Gulfport Police Chief. We were given advice on how to best protect the Carrier. The Chief offered to have a patrol in the area daily as the mail was resumed while a protection order is applied for and served.

Over the past several years, similar threats have been made and discussed with little or no action taken by a USPS Manager on duty at the time. We should all appreciate the quick action taken in this case and hope other supervisors and managers recognize how it should be done. Thanks Debbie.

Grand Prix Recap

This year's Grand Prix Fundraiser was the single biggest fundraiser event organized in the Branch since our 501c3 Non-Profit was registered with the State of Florida. The 3-Day fundraiser donated to MDA 10% of the Cash Sales of \$22,937.00, Credit

Card Sales \$27,297.00, and an additional Credit Card Tips \$2,857.02 (\$215.04 CC processing fee) Cash Tips \$1,005.00 Total \$8342.70. Last year's event raised \$4,500.00. Thanks to all that participated.



Attention Branch 1477 Veterans!

Please complete the information below and return it to the Union Hall at 5369 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, FL 33781, call (727) 531-1477, email at branch1477@tampaabay.rr.com, or give it to your Shop Steward

Name:

Branch of Service:

evaluations (PS Form 3999).

In addition to the above, Observation of Driving Practices (PS Form 4584), and Observation of Work Practices (PS Form 4588), such as loading are on the rise as well as scrutinizing requests for a PS Form 3996 (Help Slip).

Be that as they may, management still must adhere to the TIREAP memo as well as handbooks and manuals. I'll briefly discuss some areas you should be made aware of, first the mail count.

Handbook M-39 explains:

141.2 Special Office Mail Counts

When management desires to determine the efficiency of a carrier in the office, a count of mail may be made. **The carrier must be given one day's advance notification of this special count.** Use PS Form 1838-C to record count and time items concerned. **The carrier must be advised of the result of the office mail count.**

221.13 General Rules for Making Count

221.131 When management performs the mail count **the carrier serving the route, upon request, may verify the mail count.**

221.133 There should be no changes in normal distribution procedures or clerical schedules during the period of mail counts.

221.136 All mail distributed to the carriers up to the normal established cutoff time will be delivered.

The second piece of information used during the inspection process is the PS Form 3999, Inspection of Letter Carrier Route.

Handbook M-39 states:

232 Conduct of Route Examiner

232.1 The route examiner must:

- Not set the pace for the carrier** but should maintain a position to observe all delivery points and conditions.
- Not suggest or forbid any rest or comfort stops** but should make proper notations of them.



Hubble's Troubles

By Executive Vice President,
Chris Hubble

PS Form 1838-C & PS Form 3999 Process....

It appears the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process (TIAREAP) is going too well and in an attempt to slow it down, management is reverting to office counts (PS Form 1838C) as well as street

This process is applied to all PS Forms 3999 performed after the signing of the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process MOU. In both selected and non-selected zones, all **PS Forms 3999** conducted during the life of the TIREAP Memo, **will be reviewed with the regular carrier.**

Within three business days (whenever possible) of performing a PS Form 3999, management will explain the examiner's comments and the reasons for any time recorded as nonrecurring street time, as well as any editing of the original PS Form 3999, to the carrier.

The carrier will have the opportunity to write his/her comments on an attachment to the original unedited copy of the PS Form 3999. The carrier will be provided with a copy of the unedited PS Form 3999 one day prior to discussing it with management.

You may hear during your discussion with your supervisor about load times, unload times, relay time, and even comfort stops. Unlike casing mail, in which there is a standard of 18 letters a minute and/or 8 flats a minute as well as 1 minute for every 70 pieces you pull down. There are no standard street times. I'll repeat that one more time..." **there are no standard street times!**" I'm just saying.

As for the observations, employees are to be given copies of the results. Because the primary purpose of conducting work observations, is to improve work practices.

Lastly, the PS Form 3996 (Help Slip) ...Handbook M-39 provides that:

122.33 The employee, upon request, will be provided a PS Form 3996, Carrier - Auxiliary Control, after the supervisor has been verbally informed as to the reason for the request. **The employee shall not be denied the form, and, upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided the employee.**

In addition, if you are instructed to curtail mail, you should be provided a PS Form 1571. Management should indicate the action thereon. Upon request, a duplicate of the completed form will be provided.

If you have any questions and/or concerns to the above, reach out to your steward or give us a call... at the hall.

In closing, this Memorial Day, let us remember all the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Retiree Update

By Director of Retiree Affairs,
O.D. Elliott

On Sunday, April 2, 2023 a Retirement Seminar was held at Branch 1477's Union Hall. The Seminar was conducted by Gerald Lonergan, Region 9, Retirement Specialist. There were 48 carriers in attendance. Most were from Branch 1477. As always Gerald "Jerry" did an excellent presentation. Many of the carriers attending are just generally thinking about retirement, but some are ready to retire ASAP. For any of our members planning to retire soon, once you have contacted HRS and received your estimated annuity and retirement package, if you would like assistance in going over the many forms before completing them, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will make myself available to meet with and assist you.

For over a year now, we have begun, once again holding Retiree Breakfasts in Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg and Largo. The dates and locations are as follows: Pinellas Park at the Parkside Café located at 8180 – 49th St., Pinellas Park, 33781 on the 1st Monday of the month; St. Petersburg at Denny's located at 4999 – 34th St. N., St. Petersburg, 33714 on the 1st Tuesday of the month; Largo at Denny's located at 940 Missouri Ave, Largo, 33770 on the 1st Wednesday of the month. These breakfasts are open to all carriers whether retired or still active. The breakfasts begin at 9 am. You're welcome to bring a spouse or friend. We also welcome other retired Postal Workers to join us. In recent months, we have begun to slowly increase those attending. If you're not doing anything on the 1st Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the month, we'd love to have you join us.

The George B. and Annie R. Elliott Scholarship application printed in last month's Twig stated in error that the names would be drawn during the May 11th, 2023 General Membership Meeting.

The names will be drawn during the June 8th, 2023 General Membership meeting.



**“Mary Lou Jackman - William Corbeau”
2023 Florida State Association of
Letter Carriers Scholarship Application**



Al Friedman, President

*****PLEASE DO NOT CUT OR REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS APPLICATION, AND PRINT LEGIBLY*****

Name of Student: _____

Male

Female

(You must select only ONE box. If more than one child is eligible, please use a separate/additional forms.)

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NALC Branch Name and/or Number: _____

Branch Contact Phone Number: _____

NALC Branch Member's Name: _____

Applicant/Member Phone number: _____

By signing below, I certify the above named member of the FSALC is in good standing.

Signature of Local Branch President or Secretary

Date

(DO NOT CUT THE APPLICATION, MAIL ENTIRE FORM. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

******* TO QUALIFY, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET: *******

- 1) The student must have graduated from an accredited High School or have a GED.
- 2) The Student must be a dependent of a member or the spouse of a deceased member of the FSALC who has not remarried.
- 3) Applicants must enroll as a full-time student in an accredited college or university and submit proof of enrollment to receive the funds if awarded. Winners will be notified by mail. **DO NOT SUBMIT PROOF OF ENROLLMENT AT THIS TIME.**
- 4) **Applications must be postmarked on or by July 1, 2023.** Entries received with a postmark after July 1, 2023 will not be open or returned. Only one application per applicant will be accepted.

This scholarship award is based on a random drawing, not on academic records or qualifications. There will be a total of four (4) scholarships awarded - two for female applicants and two for male applicants - each in the amount of \$2000.00. **This drawing will be held during the FSALC 77th Biennial Convention, August 24 - 26, 2023 in Naples, FL.** Winners will be notified via mail.



FSALC USE ONLY

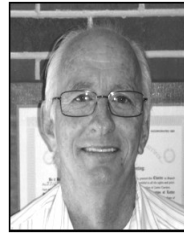
**RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS TO:
John W. Mitchell
FSALC Director of Education,
1440 7th Street Southeast
Winter Haven, FL 33880**





Editor's Corner

*By Editor/Webmaster,
Judy Dorris*



Legislative Update

By Gene Carroll, CDL District 15

New City Carrier Assistant Members and transferees

The Branch would like to welcome our new members who came on board from 1/31/2023 through the present.

Names are in alphabetical order by Office Installation but not Relative Standing, as follows:

Ellenton

LaJawn Gladney
Elizabeth Jones
Wes Mitchell

Largo

Mary Bulakites
Karen Peck

Palmetto

Matt Borchovsky
Victoria Lovino

Pinellas Park

Jose Vanga

Punta Gorda

Stephanie Duval
Caycen Joslin
Derrick Lamb

St. Petersburg

Brandon Adams
Davie Anderson
Joshua Beardsley
Terry Blease
Ray Brigante
LaSean Brown
Nicholas DiFrancesco
Dontrell Dunn
Andrew Dutt
Jacqvan Fuller
Greyson Gomez-Lankford
Michelle Kelley
Robert Smith
Hector Tavaréz
Brian Tessorà (REA) Regular Carrier
Chrystal Venuti
Don Woosley

Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) reintroduced the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597) in the Senate on March 1. The bill, which is identical to legislation introduced in the House (H.R. 82) in January by Reps. Garret Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The GPO and WEP are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of federal annuitants, including former Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) letter carriers. WEP reduces earned Social Security benefits for CSRS employees and for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees, who also receive a public pension from another job not covered by Social Security. In addition, WEP affects employees who move from a job in which they earn Social Security to a job where they do not earn the Social Security benefit.

GPO affects CSRS employees and spousal benefits of people who work as federal, state or local government employees if the job is not covered by Social Security. GPO currently reduces by two-thirds the benefit received by surviving spouses who also collect a government pension. Currently, the legislation has 31 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. Despite consistent bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, the legislation has been difficult to advance due to the price tag. NALC is committed to working on both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate to gain support for the Social Security Fairness Act so letter carriers can receive the full benefits they earned.

Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) reintroduced the Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act (H.R. 856/S. 274). The bill would provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for federal employees, including Postal Service employees. Employees could use this paid leave for personal illness, caring for a family member, or time off work needed for a family member leaving or returning from active military duty. Currently, federal employees are entitled to 12 weeks of leave under the Family and Medical Leave

Act (FMLA) for such reasons, but it is not guaranteed paid leave.

Sen. Schatz and former Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced the same bill in the 117th Congress, but the legislation did not reach the floor of either chamber. Currently, the legislation has 10 cosponsors in the Senate, nine Democrats and one Independent, and 27 cosponsors in the House, 26 Democrats and one Republican.

NALC

Minutes of April 13, 2023 Membership Meeting



**Recording/Financial
Secretary**
Ken Grasso

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Joe Henschen.

Invocation by O. D. Elliott.

Good of the Service: President Henschen presented a 50-year Gold Card and pin to Retiree John Watters. He also read a presentation from NALC National President Brian Renfro.

Retiree Joe Brickman also received his 50-year Gold Card and pin earlier at the hall before the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Joe Henschen.

Minutes of previous meeting: Motion to accept the March Minutes as printed in the Twig by Terry Johnson, seconded by Greg Welsh. Motion passes.

Application of New Members: by Ken Grasso - New members will be posted in the Branch Newsletter.

Branch by the Numbers: As of PP 7 the Dues Roster has 822 Active Members with 791 paying dues. 9 paying Direct Dues We have 18 members on OWCP, 3 are on Military Duty, 10 Members on

LWOP for Medical or Discipline Reasons. Retirees 560 (88 Gold Cards). 1382 Total Members.

I would like to welcome Kelly Bins of Absolute Quality Interpreting Services.

Treasurer: Chuck Cavicchio—Read March ending balances. Motion to accept the Report of the Treasurer by O.D. Elliott seconded by Terry Johnson. Motion passes. February ending balances were read. Motion to accept the Report of the Treasurer O.D. Elliott seconded by Gary Johnson Motion passes.

Director of Retiree Affairs: O. D. Elliott—On Sunday April 2 PM, we had a Retirement Seminar at the Hall with about 52 people attending.

Director of Insurance: Tom Phillips-MBA products require you to be a NALC member. Postal website has been down so you can't make changes to your allotments.

Trustee Report: Brian Andrew—Will meet on Sunday.

Vice President Report: Greg Welsh – CCA retention is not very good. We need to step up and do what we can do to help them out.

Executive Vice President: Chris Hubble-It seems the TIAREAP is doing to well since all the Postmasters have been sent to Atlanta for training to learn how to do 3999's and 1838 C's. Also, street observation's and loading observations taking place.

Welfare Reports:

Sad:

- Ken Grasso, Branch Recording/Financial Secretary—Wife Pauline was hospitalized.
- Al Henderson, Retiree St. Pete—Wife passed away.
- Sally Madden, Wife of Deceased Retired Officer Paul Madden—Passed away.
- Peggy Brown, Wife of Deceased Retired Officer Harry Strzyzynski—Passed away.
- Jocelyn Bouche, Carrier Indian Rocks Beach—Son needs a kidney transplant.
- Kenny Seabol, Carrier Dunedin—Got bitten by a dog.
- Mike Venuti, Carrier St. Pete—Got bit 3 times by a dog.

Glad:

- Rudy and Zulma Betancourt, Carriers St. Pete—

Welcome a new Granddaughter.

- Amanda Justice, Carrier Dunedin—Had a baby.
- A.J. Pollard, Carrier St. Pete Main—Going to flag a race in Bristol, Tennessee.
- Chuck Cavicchio, Treasurer, Carrier Dunedin—Daughter Kayla is receiving her Master's degree in nursing at the end of the month.

Promotions to FTR:

Marissa Baker, Alec Pent, Neil Fincher, Matt Lacey, Cory Johnson, Matt Tunley, Orli Puerta De Silva, Jeff Jackson, Marcus Henry, Brittany Mosley, Gerardo Hernandez Cruz

Presidents Report:

This month and next month in the Twig will be Scholarship applications. President Henschen has named Shiela Bradley and Tom Phillips to co-chair this with the drawings done at the June General Membership Meeting.

Letter Carrier Crime Report

Recently had a carrier that was threaten by someone and a Manager got involved and contacted the police. Police have offered to have a patrol car in the area daily as the mail was resumed while a protection order is applied for and served.

Please report all Carrier confrontations to the Hall immediately.

We are aware that local Postmasters have been instructed to have USPS Labor Specialists to meet on specific grievances at Formal A. If that happens, we are instructed to contact Region 9 NBA office. Investigative interviews, Informal and Formal Step A meetings should never be done telephonically.

2023 Training and Events:

St. Petersburg Grand Prix Results are in: Cash Sales were \$22,937, Credit Card Sales \$27,297, Credit Card Tips were \$2857, Cash tips \$1,005. We received 10% of the sales and 100% of the tips. This resulted in our total for MDA of \$8,342.70.

Sunday April 2, 2023 we had a Retirement Seminar from 10:00-2:00 conducted by the State Association at the Branch Hall.

Regional Training in Orlando Florida May 4-7, 2023; the Executive Board has recommended

sending 5 Junior Stewards to this along with 3 Officers. Costs are about \$467.22 per attendee for a total of \$3270.54. Motion mad to accept the recommendation by A.J. Pollard, seconded by Tom Phillips. Motion passes.

Food Drive May 13, 2023; we have posters here at the hall for you to take to the stations. We have a limited supply of bags this year.

FSALC Convention/Training, Naples, Florida August 24-26, 2023; We are sending 18 Delegates to the Convention which starts August 24, 2023, at 1:00 pm and ends at Noon August 25, 2023. NBA Contractual training starts at 1:00 pm August 25 and ends August 26 at 5:00 pm. We are sending 5 members for the additional training.

NALC Region 9 Rap Session October 5-7, 2023 Orlando FL; Attending will be President Henschen, Executive Vice President Chris Hubble, Vice President Greg Welsh and Treasurer Chuck Cavicchio.

NALC Health Benefit Plan Seminar Oct 15-18, 2023; This year's Seminar will be held at the Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV. The Executive Board recommends sending Director of Insurance Tom Phillips. Motion by Greg Welsh and seconded by Eric Short. Motion passes.

We have been able to get another bid to replace the roof. We have a bid from Mitchell Roofing Company. They came out and did a core sample of the existing roof. They came in with a bid of \$23,680.00 which will have 2 coats of commercial silicone roof coating with a 10-year MFG and Contractor Guarantee. The Executive Board recommended we accept this bid. Motion by O.D. Elliott, seconded by Terry Johnson, and then discussion followed among those present. Call for the Question was called. Motion passes. Another motion was introduced by A.J. Pollard and seconded by Greg Welsh to accept the recommendation of the Board. Motion passes.

All the light bulbs in the building have been replaced with LED lighting.

We will be doing our own lawn maintenance after purchasing some Ryobi products.

**Door Prize Drawing:
Lotto-Ticket Winner
Scott Archbold**

Postal Service Health Benefits¹

(PSHB) USPS ANNUITANTS The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (PSRA) was signed into law in April 2022. Since then, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in conjunction with the Postal Service, has been working to implement a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program, as required under the new law. PSHB is a new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and will be administered by OPM. Coverage under the PSHB Program will be effective January 1, 2025. Below is a list of facts regarding the PSHB Program for current annuitants:

1. You are required to select a health insurance plan in the PSHB Program during the 2024 open season period, from November 11, 2024 – December 9, 2024.
2. PSHB plan options and premium information will be available in October 2024.
3. OPM will launch a new enrollment platform for health insurance. Information on how to make elections using the new system will be available prior to the 2024 open season.
4. If you are an annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and not currently participating in Medicare Part B, you ARE NOT required to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue your health insurance coverage in the new PSHB Program. Participation in Medicare Part B is voluntary; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce your overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide greater value.
 - a) Your covered spouse and eligible family members will also not be required to enroll in Medicare Part B even if they are age 65 or older; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide greater value.
 - b) Note: If you are an annuitant as of January 1, 2025, and are already enrolled in Medicare Part B, you ARE required to remain enrolled in Medicare Part B to continue coverage under PSHB.

5. If you are an annuitant entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65) prior to January 1, 2024, and have not enrolled in Medicare Part B, you and your

covered, eligible family members may be able to participate in the special enrollment period (SEP) for Medicare Part B that starts on April 1, 2024. Those who enroll during the SEP will not need to pay the late enrollment penalty. Eligibility letters will be sent to annuitants and eligible family members in early 2024.

6. If you retire between October 31, 2024, and December 31, 2024, and are entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65), you will have the option to enroll in Medicare Part B during a specific eight-month special enrollment period immediately following your retirement date. If you wish to enroll, you MUST contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to initiate enrollment if you are over the age of 65.
7. As a general rule, spousal and family member PSHB coverage is based on the primary subscriber's eligibility. If the primary subscriber is not required to join Medicare Part B, neither will dependent family members. Likewise, if you qualify for the SEP, so will your covered family members. APRIL 2023.

USPS EMPLOYEES The Postal Service has been working to implement a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program, as required under the new law. PSHB is a new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and will be administered by OPM. Coverage under the PSHB Program will be effective January 1, 2025. Below is a list of facts regarding the PSHB Program for active employees:

1. You are required to select a health insurance plan in the PSHB Program during the 2024 open season period, from November 11, 2024 – December 9, 2024.
2. PSHB plan options and premium information will be available in October 2024.
3. OPM will launch a new enrollment platform for health insurance. Information on how to make elections using the new system will be available prior to the 2024 open season.
4. If you are an active employee age 64 or older as of January 1, 2025, you ARE NOT required to enroll in Medicare Part B to continue your PSHB health insurance coverage once you retire. However, upon your retirement and entitlement to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65), you will have the option to

¹USPS Fact Sheet NALC.org

enroll in Medicare Part B during a special enrollment period.

- If you are the primary subscriber, your covered family members will not be required to enroll in Medicare Part B to stay on your PSHB plan; however, enrollment in Medicare Part B may reduce your overall costs for health care-related expenses and may provide better value for you and your family.

5. If you are an active employee under the age of 64 as of January 1, 2025, to continue your PSHB health insurance coverage in retirement, you WILL BE required to enroll in Medicare Part B after you retire and become entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65).

- If you are the primary PSHB enrollee, your covered family members will also be required to enroll in Medicare Part B when you retire, upon their entitlement to Medicare Part A, if they wish to remain covered by your PSHB insurance.
- If you retire on or after January 1, 2025, and you are under 64, you WILL BE required to enroll in Medicare Part B when you become entitled to Medicare Part A (typically at age 65) to remain enrolled in a PSHB plan. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will mail you a notice when you are eligible to enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period. Your initial enrollment period starts three months prior to your 65th birthday and ends three months after your 65th birthday. If you are the primary PSHB subscriber, your covered family members will also be required to enroll in Medicare Part B upon their entitlement to Medicare Part A, if they wish to remain covered by your PSHB insurance.

6. There are exceptions to the requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B as an annuitant. These exceptions will also apply to your covered family members. Annuitants may be responsible for providing proof of eligibility for the applicable exception(s) to the designated agency. These exceptions are:

- You are residing outside of the United States and its territories. You are required to follow the policy and procedure set forth by the Postal Service to be eligible for this exception; or
- You are enrolled in health care benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- You are eligible for health services provided by

Indian Health Services.

7. As a general rule, spousal and family member PSHB coverage is based on the primary enrollee's eligibility. If the primary subscriber is required to enroll in Medicare Part B, dependent family members will also be required to enroll when they are eligible.

We are no longer
accepting
ANY uniforms
at this time
at the Union Hall

Burgandy Chair
with Large Ottoman
\$75
9' wide x 8' high wooden
bi-fold door with lock
and key
Best Offer
(727) 434-0197

South Meeting

April 19th:

Chris Hubble, Erica Baker, Chris Kotonski, Rui Almeida, Dennis Leach, Ingrid Heise, Kris Beal, Lisa Barth, Dean Kauffman, Noah Johnson, Caleb McMahan, Jacob Brache, Paul Keese, Caycen Joslin

BRANCH 1477 PHONE DIRECTORY

UNION HALL: (727) 531-1477

UNION FAX: (727) 531-1478

EMAIL: branch1477@tampabay.rr.com

WEBSITE: branch1477nalc.org

OFFICERS OF BRANCH 1477

PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Hubble..... (727) 641-8396

VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Welsh.....(727) 804-4726

RECORDING/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| | 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 | 12 | 13 Food Drive |
| 14 Mother's Day | 15 | 16 | 17 South Branch Meeting | 18 Steward's Meeting | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Memorial Day | 30 | 31 | | | |