# 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 615** 

### **VOICE OF BRANCH 1477**

**MARCH, 2021** 

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By President Joe Henschen Twitter @ JaHe1

There are again efforts by the Postal Service in various parts of the country to convince customers to agree to change their mode of mail delivery to cluster box or centralized delivery. Both postal customers and Letter arriers have rights when these efforts take place.

Let's be honest, some Carriers look at a change in delivery as making the job easier. It will not! It is only advantageous to the Agency not the Carrier or your patron.

When the customer's delivery point is separated from the residence it makes the Carrier's duties much more difficult when mode of delivery changes are made from curbside or door delivery to NDCBU type central delivery. The M-41 part 32 of the City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities requires that Parcels and Special Service items for example be delivered/or attempted at the residence.

"If a parcel does not fit completely within the mail receptacle or parcel locker (when available), determine if someone is available at the address by ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door. If no one is available to receive the parcel ...." Review the M-41 requirements when an employee is/is not authorized to leave a parcel. 322.311

In a nutshell, deliver to the NDCBU, attempt large and special items to the door, (along with the mail) if no one is at home, take it back to the NDCBU

and redeposit it in the receptacle.

Yes, the regular on the route may be able to save steps by knowing the customer's routine (are they home) but that relationship may take years to cultivate and doing it from a central delivery point is nearly impossible.

Below is an explanation of employee rights and we have created a fact sheet outlining customers' rights when USPS solicits to change the mode of mail delivery. Employee rights Section 667.12 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) provides the following regarding employees engaging in campaigns for or against changes in mail service: 667.12. Engaging in Campaigns for Changes in Mail Service: Employees in active status must not engage in campaigns for or against changes in mail service.

If Letter Carriers have questions about what they should or should not participate in, a local Branch Officer should be contacted for guidance. Retired Letter Carriers may be fully involved in campaigns against changes in mode of mail delivery. In other words, if you are asked questions regarding a campaign to change mode of delivery on your route, they may be referred to the Union Hall. I will outline their rights. This involves educating them on how any solicited change may affect each customer.

USPS has solicited customers to change from receiving mail to their home or business door to a centralized location where a number of deliveries are made into a cluster box. The cluster box could be placed anywhere, from a sidewalk to a location at the end of the street. In such cases, customers have to go to the cluster box to retrieve their mail. The Postal Service refers to this as "conversion of mode of delivery." It is important that postal customers understand their rights and the rules and regulations that govern such changes. The regulations and restrictions discussed below are contained in an internal Postal Service manual called the Postal Operations Manual (POM). Specifically, they are found in Section 631.7.

In new developments, delivery must be established for more than one year before the USPS solicits to convert the mode of mail delivery.

Customer signatures must be obtained prior to any conversion of the mode of mail delivery. Where residences and lots are owned, property owners must agree to the conversion in writing and those

who do not agree must be allowed to retain their current mode of delivery. In communities controlled by an owners' association, it (the association) controls the mode of delivery. In rental areas, such as apartment complexes or mobile home parks, the owner or manager controls the mode of delivery.

Owners who do not agree in writing must be allowed to retain their current mode of delivery.

When a residence is sold, the existing mode of delivery cannot be changed prior to the new resident moving in These regulations make it very clear that property owners are in control of where they receive their mail. If property owners wish to retain their existing mode of mail delivery, they have the right to do so. When a residence is sold, the mode of delivery cannot be changed arbitrarily prior to the new resident moving in.

The existing mode of delivery must be retained absent an agreement otherwise. If an owners' association or property management company represents the property or the community, it may request a change in the mode of delivery on behalf of the community or property.

In single-family housing areas (including manufactured housing and mobile homes) where the residences and lots are owned, each owner must agree to the conversion in writing. Owners who do not agree must be allowed to retain their current mode of delivery. When a residence is sold, the mode of delivery cannot be changed arbitrarily prior to the new resident moving in. The existing mode of delivery must be retained absent an agreement otherwise. If an owners' association represents the community, it can direct the mode of delivery for the community. In rental areas, such as apartment complexes and mobile home parks, the owner or manager can approve the conversion.<sup>1</sup>

When the Postal Service abandons their own rules for the sake of "efficiency", larger routes, longer days, more workhour workload confrontations on the workroom floor, and unsafe working conditions are the result.

Be the eyes, contact a Branch Officer if this is happening in your delivery unit.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NALC Postal Record June 2019



### **Hubble's Troubles**

By Executive Vice President, Chris Hubble

"Inveniam viam aut faciam" ... I will either find a way or make one.

Recently there has been several 271g's (Request for Special Route Inspection) filed in the St Petersburg installation and within our merged cities. Furthermore, the Step B Dispute Resolution Team has sustained the grievances and given instructions to abide to the requests. With that said, the Suncoast District has made the argument that "the USPS can't in anyway conduct inspections in accordance with regards to Section 2 of the M-39 while under COVID restrictions". They also considered language from the Handbook M-39 which states that an inspection may be canceled when unrealistic mail volume, either abnormal or subnormal, could prohibit a fair evaluation of the route. District wide, parcel volumes are close to December parcel volumes and have been since April because individual's shopping habits have changed in response to COVID.

Consider this, C-12098 National Arbitrator Mittenthal July 10, 1992, H7N-iT-C 39547 "Hempstead" Award said "For a route adjustment to be warranted, it must be triggered by some present condition." The current situation of the USPS is that parcel volumes are up 33.1 percent to the same period last year (SPLY). Route adjustments are not a permanent change, rather they are subject to periodic review. Handbook M-39 § 211.1 211.1 reads in part: In order to achieve and maintain an appropriate daily workload for delivery units and routes, management will make at least annual route and unit reviews consisting of an analysis of items listed in section 214, and workhours, volumes, and possible deliveries.

This section explains that management will make at least an annual review of routes, and that review must consist of an analysis of, among other things, volumes. Therefore, the argument of volume increases is disingenuous. Similarly, Section 271.g of Handbook M-39 allows for a regular carrier to submit a request for a special route inspection and be granted said inspection, based solely on six (6) weeks of data. Likewise, management is presented with the right to make minor adjustments throughout the year, based on the current situations. If volumes

or conditions change, Handbook M-39 provides the methods and procedures to adjust and right size routes.

Regarding Districts denial of the Requests for Special Route Inspections, that "the USPS can't in anyway conduct inspections", consider this: Headquarters has drafted and introduced a Standard Work Instruction (SWI) for maintaining social distancing while conducting a PS Form 1838C (mail count). The purpose was to limit the exposure of COVID-19 for Letter Carriers & Examiners. With that said, the parties have recognized that the current route evaluation process can be improved to better respond to the current and future business environment.

To that end, both the USPS and the NALC have mutually agreed to conduct an Alternate Joint Route Adjustment Process on at least five occasions beginning in 2003 and most recently in 2015 with the use of Carrier Optimal Routing (COR) to generate route adjustments. Moreover, the NALC and the USPS recognize the importance of maintaining routes in proper adjustment throughout the year. In 2008, mail volume plummeted, in part because of the national recession, but also due to the effect that the Internet had on communication and trade normally handled by the mail system—which caused a drain on postal revenue. In 2015, agreements with Amazon and other businesses, saw USPS delivery of parcels increased over 30 percent. In 2019 Amazon began delivering some of their own packages. In all those circumstances, the USPS responded by conducting Route Count Inspections and/or a mutually agreed to Alternate Route Adjustment Process.

That brings us to date of the current environment with COVID-19. The effects in our current environment have lasted almost year now and shows no changes in the future in which we conduct business. Data for this period supports the increase in parcel volumes and City Carrier hours. For these reasons 271g's and/or Minor Inspections are warranted. If you feel your route is overburdened, request to see your steward to request a special route inspection!



## "Mary Lou Jackman - William Corbeau" 2021 Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Scholarship Application

Al Friedman, President

### \*\*PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS APPLICATION, AND PRINT LEGIBLY\*\*

	Female se separate/ad	(You must check only ONE choice. If more that ditional forms)	an one child is elig	ible
Address	s:			
<b>~:4</b> .,				
JILY		State	eZıp	
NALC B	ranch Name/N	lumber:State		
NALC B Branch	ranch Name/N Contact Phon	lumber:		

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) Applicant 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 15, 2021**. Entries received with a postmark after July 15, 2021 will not be open or returned.

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 2021 FSALC Convention August 12 - 14, 2021, in Orlando, Florida.

RETURN ALL APPLICATIONS TO:
FSALC Director of Education, John W. Mitchell
C/O Branch 1779 NALC
2434 Golfview Street
Lakeland, Fl. 33801

# 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, provide 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.

#### REOUIREMENTS

- 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 <u>Please print clearly.</u>

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 addr	ess		
City, State Zip			
A 11 (2 1			
Applicant's phone nun	nber	<del></del>	
This is to certify that the above named Branch			ding in Branch 1477.
	1477 parent is a me	mber in good stand	ding in Branch 1477.
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This is to certify that the above named Branch I (signature of Branch I certify that the foregoing inform	1477 parent is a me Date h 1477 President or nation is correct to t	mber in good stand Secretary) he best of my know	wledge
This is to certify that the above named Branch I (signature of Branch)	1477 parent is a me Date h 1477 President or nation is correct to t	mber in good stand Secretary) he best of my know	wledge
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### Vice President

By Zulma Betancourt

### **Undelivered Mail Report**

Letter Carriers who are instructed by management to curtail mail in the a.m. office time or p.m. street time, need to be aware to immediately fill out a **PS1571** form. The **PS1571** is the form that Letter Carriers use to record undelivered/curtailed mail and it is imperative they fill it out to cover themselves from any mail that might be "misplaced or lost" during their tour.

"One common issue is that the Letter Carrier is being instructed to return to the office, regardless of whether they are finished with their delivery duties." If a supervisor instructs a Carrier to return to the office if or not the mail was delivered, it is important to stay calm, and whatever you do, do not argue with your supervisor. <sup>1</sup>

"Sections 131.44, 131.45, and 131.46 of the M-41 Handbook describes that you are to report on form PS1571 all mail that is undelivered," this includes any mail distributed to the route but could not be cased and brought out to the Carrier for delivery. The only way to curtail or eliminate any scheduled delivery is by recording all the facts and it must be authorized by management.

Remember to add any mail which could not be delivered, that had to be returned to the Post Office, and follow <u>ALL</u> the necessary procedures set up to help identify errors and corrective actions for any mail returned, and for any reasons that may have hindered the delivery of the mail such as the mail being out of sequence, dog interference, no access to mailroom area etc.....<sup>2</sup>

"The main reason many Carriers are apprehensive about filling out a **PS1571** is due to the severe disciplinary action they are afraid will ensue when they return with undelivered mail." Make sure to always inform management and get approval. If the **PS1571** form is filled in correctly, and given to the supervisor, nothing else should be needed, or said to the letter carrier. If a letter carrier is reprimanded by a supervisor for bringing back mail, they can contact their Steward or Union Hall for further assistance.<sup>3</sup>



### **Director of Insurance**

By Tom Phillips

Several years ago, the NALC MBA insurance plans were unavailable to Florida carriers due to legislation prohibiting them. This allowed other insurance companies to sell their polices. One such policy was a hospitalization secondary plan to cover expenses the health insurance did not cover or other out of pocket expenses. I recently received a call from a carrier that was going into the hospital for surgery and was unsure how long they would be there. The carrier had a policy for ten years and was still paying for but had lost the contact information and did not know how to contact them. I phoned a friend who I knew had the same insurance to get the contact information. A lot of carriers bought these policies. These outside companies are no longer allowed to come into a station to sell these polices.

Florida lifted its ban, a couple of years ago, you now have access to NALC MBA plans and are available for you to purchase at a much lower cost which is administered by the Union so there is no profit for the purchase of these policies to go into some salesman's pocket or corporate manager to go on expensive vacations with your money.

**Myra Warren** the former NALC Director of Life Insurance wrote an article about Hospital Plus in the October 2018 Postal Record. This is a small portion of what she wrote and will provide some insight.

The Hospital Plus policy to NALC members (career carriers, retired carriers and city carrier assistants). Hospital Plus provides cash when you need it most when your confined to a hospital with up to \$100 per day. Daily cash benefits begin from the first day of your hospital stay up to one full year, and not subject to federal income tax. Hospital Plus is not health insurance it is a hospital confinement policy. The benefits of Hospital Plus minimize the impact of non-medical expenses on a family's budget and help close the gap between health insurance coverage and the cost of a hospital stay. Hospital Plus premiums start as low as just 1.60 biweekly (one member, age 18 to 24, \$30 per day benefit). These premiums have not changed from the time this article was written in 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Postal Record Intentional delaying of mail, (May 2018),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> NALC Letter Carrier Resource Guide, (2011),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> City Delivery Carriers Duties and Responsibilities, (2019)

Premiums may be paid through a convenient payroll deduction or paid by check monthly or annually. Members who want to pay their premiums monthly or annually can call the MBA office for help in calculating their premium amounts. Members are covered from the first premium payment. To receive benefits, members must complete and sign a one-page claim form, attach a copy of the hospital's itemized bill to it, and mail both to the MBA. Benefits will be paid based on a 24 hour stay, up to 365 days or as much as \$36,500, if a \$100-per-day benefit is chosen.

### How to apply

If you would like more information and would like to apply for a Hospital Plus policy, please visit the website at nalc.org/mba. Once there, tab down to "MBA Brochures, Applications and Forms," Which will allow you to see all the plans and rates offered by the MBA. Back tab and scroll down to "Applications for U.S Letter Carriers Mutual Benefit Association Policies," and then click on the specific state in which you reside, or click on the "All other States" tab. From there, click on "Hospital Plus" to pull up the specific application. Complete and sign the application and send it to the MBA office.

Once you receive your policy, you will have a full 30 days to examine it before deciding whether to keep it or not. There is no risk. For more information, call the MBA toll-free at 800-424-5184, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8a.m to 3:30 p.m.; or call 202-638-4318 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

### **Legislative Update**

By Tom Phillips, LCCL, District 13

These are the current NALC Priority Congressional Bills and Resolutions. Everyone should call their Congressman and ask them to co-sponsor the Bills and Resolutions. Without these Bills and Resolutions, it could affect your job. Those Carriers that are under the CSRS should specially call and ask there congressman to support this Bill. It's a Battle the NALC has been fighting for years to get as a Bill.

 H. RES 114- Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery.

SIX-DAY DELIVERY INTRODUCED 2-11-21 REP
GERALD E. CONNOLLY D-VA
CO-SPONSORS
1 DEM
1 REP
2

2. H.R. 695- To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

USPS FAIRNESS ACT-Repel the pre-funding mandate. INTRODUCED 2-2-21 REP PETER DeFazio D-OR, CO-SPONSORS

204 DEMS 33 REP 237

3. S. 145- To amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

USPS FAIRNESS ACT- Repel the pre-funding mandate. INTRODUCED 2-1-21 SEN STEVE DAINES R-MT CO-SPONSORS

4 DEMS 2 REP **6** 

4. H. RES 47- Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remain an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization. INTRODUCED 1-13-21 REP STEPHEN LYNCH D-MA.

CO-SPONSORS 89 DEMS 8 REP 97

 H. RES 109- Expressing the sense of the house of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

C0-SPONSORS 27 DEMS 10 REP **37** INTRODUCED 2-5-21 REP STEPHINE N. MURPHY D-FI

6. H.R. 82- SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT CO-SPONSORS 37 DEM 21 REP **58** INTRODUCED 1-4-21 REP RODNEY DAVIS R-IL NALC



Sergeant at Arms

By Clay Hansen

Hello again brothers and sisters! This past year I became a City Carrier Academy Instructor and I am looking for input from any carrier, new or veteran. It's easy to teach from personal experience but with that being said I am certain there are specific things

that Carriers wish were discussed more in depth during the academy. If you're a newly hired CCA and have experienced something that wasn't covered or explained clearly, or if you're an OJT and notice anything new hires struggle with, please reach out to me. I wish nothing but success for all new hires so I want to ensure they receive the tools necessary to succeed after the academy.

Claybranch1477@gmail.com



Retiree Update

By Director of Retiree Affairs,

O.D. Elliott

I recently had a widowed retiree, planning to remarry, ask about adding the new spouse as a surviving annuitant, should he predecease her. In order to change the annuity to provide a survivor benefit, the retiree needs to write to: U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Operations Center, Boyers, Pennsylvania 16017. This has to be done within 2 years of the marriage. The retiree should give his/her full name, CSA number, Social Security number, date of birth as well as full name, d.o.b. and Social Security number of the new spouse. A copy of the marriage certificate should be included.

By adding a new spouse as a survivor annuitant, the retiree's annuity would be reduced as follows: For FERS retiree, the defined portion of his/her annuity would be reduced by 10%, 5% for a partial survivor annuity). This reduction only applies to the defined benefit, not the OPM Supplement or Social Security. For CSRS retirees, the reduction would be 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  % for the first \$3600 and 10% of the amount over \$3600.

Should the retiree also wish to change the beneficiaries of any Federal Employee Life Insurance, he may have, he needs to request SF2823 and SF3102 from OPM.

The retiree may also request OPM to change his/ her health benefit plan enrollment to provide for family coverage. The health benefit enrollment change must be submitted 31 days before to 60 days after the change in family status if the change occurs outside the FEHB open season. Should you fail to meet this 91-day period, the change can be made during open season.

Finally, the retiree may wish to change his /her federal income tax withholdings by simply calling OPM to provide the amount of tax you want withheld.

### Minutes of February 11, 2021 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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by President Joe Henschen.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion to accept last month's minutes as printed on the Branch Web Page, by Shiela Bradley, seconded by Anne Winkelbauer.

**Reading of Official Correspondence:** by Ken Grasso: None

**New Members:** Tim Normington, Anthony Cook, Art Veloudos, Michelle Daniel, Kerry Thompson, Jordan Conover, Henry Martinez-Padilla, Kim Pleasant, Erin Dennis, Cindy Colbath.

**Branch by the Numbers:** Members 753 with 727 paying dues. We have 26 members with no deductions, with 5 recently separated, 4 are on Military, 4 paying direct with 12 on LWOP. We have 32 members that do not appear on the dues roster, some signed up as far back as August. We are working to correct this (146 Gold Cards). 1387 Total Members.

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

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**Treasurer:** Chuck Cavicchio—President Henschen read the account balances this month. Motion to send to Trustees by Jim Bumbul, seconded by Josh LaGrew. Motion passes.

**Director of Retiree Affairs:** This is Black History month; change in TSP age requirement to withdraw is now 72.

**Director of Insurance:** Tom Phillips—Talked about Hospital Plus Plan and how it works. Publix now beginning to do Covid 19 Vaccinations.

**Political District 13 Liaison:** Tom Phillips—No Report.

**Trustee Report:** Brian Andrews—Audits were done.

Sergeant at Arms: Clay Hansen—-No Report.

**Editor/Webmaster:** Judy Dorris—Link to Retirement Seminar is on on Web Page.

**Vice President Report:** Zulma Betancourt—Fill out 1571s if you bring back mail or curtail.

**Executive Vice President:** Chris Hubble—Discussed some issues with 271g forms.

### Welfare Reports:

#### Sad:

- Ken Grasso, Branch Secretary—Underwent Cataract Surgery on both eyes.
- Jim Grazioso, Carrier Largo—Father passed away.
- Ralph Brown, Carrier St. Petersburg—Came down with an illness.
- Steve McSmith, Retiree St. Petersburg—Mother passed away.
- Harry Strzyzynski, Retiree St. Petersburg— Underwent surgery.
- Sheryl Suntheimer, Carrier Port Charlotte—Has serious illness.
- Mark Tolley, Carrier St. Pete Beach—Father passed away.

#### Glad:

- Zulma Betancourt, Branch Vice President, Carrier Gulfwinds—Son got married.
- Jean-Nai Hayes, Carrier Pinellas Park—Had a baby girl.
- Today is TC's birthday.

### **Presidents Report:**

President Henschen read a list of the Stewards that were elected or appointed for 2021 and their Alternate Stewards.

President Henschen then administered the Installation Oath to those in attendance.

There will be a number of Stewards and Alternates who will be at the Hall Feb 18<sup>th</sup> for training from 12-

On Sunday January 17, 2021 we had a virtual meeting for retirees. Some were not able to get the link so we have put it on the Web Page: Branch1477nalc.org. Contact O.D.Elliot for any assistance when it comes time to plan for retirement.

Any ads from Federal Employees Services are not endorsed by the NALC.

2021 FSALC Training/Convention dates are August 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Deadline for Registration of Delegates is June 8 2021.

Covid 19 numbers: 1400 Confirmed Cases (+ 221)

3 Current Unconfirmed/Under Investigation

898 Confirmed Positives have returned to work (+317)

1 Death (A Sister in another craft who was high risk and also pregnant).

2124 Total Employees on Survey.

1,780 Employees returned to work.

344 Employees still on quarantine 149 required quarantine, 195 Self quarantine.

Since 1/14/2021 the Branch has added positive tests at: Midtown, Dunedin, Ellenton, Madeira Beach, and Pinellas Park from December.

Covid 19 related Memorandums were extended to March 26, 2021.

New Decision Tree for employees who have been quarantined because of close contact with someone out of work who has tested positive.

There is a Postal Service COVID Facility/ Employee Compliance Certification released recently. This is to be done weekly and includes 5 questions that might require action by the Facility Manager.

Ratification original deadline was Feb 16<sup>th</sup> but after having issues receiving ballots deadline was extended to March 1.

St. Petersburg Gran Prix is on April 23-25. Lundy's Catering has asked if we want to participate in this event again. There are new protocols in place now so anyone interested in opening up some dialogue please contact Sandra Pagan. You can leave a message at the hall and she will return your call.

Several presentations on the following link about TSPhttps://www.tsp.gov/agency-service-reps/training/

Free college for Union Members and their families through Unionplus.org. Earn your degree free online.

Spring 3 Semester starts March 29 with Eastern Gateway Community College which is a fully accredited nonprofit public institution that is part of the University System of Ohio.

### ARSLAN UNIFORMS:

Serving Englewood, Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte Rochelle McDevitt (239) 691-4474





### Auxiliary 181 News By Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson

We're looking forward to our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and bingo game on Sunday, March 21st at 4:00 at Joyce Keller's home. We'll meet Wednesday, March 3rd at noon to plan it during our membership meeting, hosted by me. Remember to bring your lunch and I'll provide drinks and dessert. Also, if you haven't paid dues to Sally Madden yet, they are \$25.

We've decided to hold our meetings every other month as we have curtailed so much of what we've done in the past, pre-pandemic days. We'll still try to have socials and to raffle baskets of goodies to raise money for our less fortunate Union members during Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other winter holidays.

Our next meetings are March 3, May 5, September 1, and November 3.

Happy birthday to Lorie Davenport on March 15th.

### **Steward Meeting Attendees**

Meetings are held at the Hall and on Zoom, led by Joe Henschen and Chris Hubble

### January 21st:

Tiffany Naughton, Tom Phillips, Shiela Bradley, Cheryl Anderson, Ben Hamilton, Anthony Roger, A.J. Pollard, Eric Short, Anne Winkelbauer, Donny DeMilta, Bert Lewis, Chris Kotonski, Sam Haddad.

### **BRANCH 1477 PHONE DIRECTORY**

UNION HALL: (727) 531-1477 EMAIL: branch1477@tampabay.rr.com

UNION FAX: (727) 531-1478 WEBSITE: branch1477nalc.org

### **OFFICERS OF BRANCH 1477**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Joe Henschen(727) 608-6772
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Chris Hubble(727) 641-8396
VICE PRESIDENT  Zulma Betancourt (813) 597-8363
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TREASURER Chuck Cavicchio (727) 798-8506
<b>EDITOR</b> Judy Dorris
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# March, 2021

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