

# 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 622

VOICE OF BRANCH 1477

OCTOBER, 2021



## NOTICE



### OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES NOMINATIONS

In accordance with Article 5 of the National Constitution and Article 4 of the Branch 1477 Bylaws, official notice is hereby given that the **Nomination for Delegates to the 2022 National Convention to be held in Chicago, IL will be taken during the regular order of business at the November Regular Branch Meeting at the Hall and on the Electronic Membership Meeting via Zoom. The link for this meeting will be posted on the branch website at: [Branch1477nalc.org](http://Branch1477nalc.org)**. In accordance with Article 5 of the National Constitution and Article 4 of Branch 1477 Bylaws, official notice is hereby given.

Candidates must accept the nomination at the time made or, if absent he/she must signify, in writing, his/her desire to be placed in nomination. **Said letter, must be received in the Branch Business Office prior to the time of the nominations on November 11, 2021\***. (see page 2 of this newsletter or obtain form from the office) **\* Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the General Branch Meeting may be moved.**  
**Please watch [Branch 1477nalc.org](http://Branch1477nalc.org) for updates.**

### ELECTIONS

In accordance with Branch By-Laws amended February 26, 2016, the election of officers and delegates shall be held by Mail Balloting in accordance with the NALC Constitution and NALC Regulations governing Branch Election Procedures. The Election Date (by which all ballot must be received will be the Regular Branch Meeting date on **December 9, 2021**. Ballots will be mailed to the home address of eligible members no later than **November 19, 2021**. Ballots must be mailed back to the Election Committee, PO Box 737, Pinellas Park Florida, 33780 and be received by **11 AM on December 9, 2021**. The Election Committee will collect the ballots, bring them to the hall and begin the tally at that time.

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING AT THE HALL AND VIA ZOOM: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021**

Branch 1477,  
Ken Grasso, Financial/Recording Secretary  
5369 Park Blvd  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

*Please place my name in nomination for delegate to the 2022 National Convention to be held in Chicago, Illinois, August 8 through 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>*

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*Print name as it would appear on  
the ballot.*

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*Signature/Date*

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**<sup>1</sup>This must be received in the Branch Business Office prior to the time of the nominations on November 10, 2021.**

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By President Joe Henschen*

*Twitter @JaHe1*

## ***Sanctity of the Mail***

I've often addressed issues of retention and training in prior Twig of the Branch Newsletters. These two items are of great concern for me and the root cause for the number of members taking their name off overtime desired lists which results in mandating. Better staffed offices will cure a lot of things that you deal with daily.

Occasionally however, I'm asked to handle a different side of the training/retention issue. Providing additional training days or following up with recent onboarded employee is a good start but when it does not happen for whatever reason, it's not a good excuse for poor judgement.

The following two paragraphs are reprinted from the Letter Carrier Resource Guide.

The Postal Service requires its employees to adhere to very high standards

of integrity and fidelity. These standards are set forth in the Code of Ethical Conduct, which you can obtain from your supervisor. Foremost among these standards is the requirement that employees preserve the sanctity of the mail. Mail is private property entrusted to the letter carrier for safe passage and delivery to its intended recipient. Any compromise of the mails or other violations of these standards may lead to discipline or removal from the Postal Service. In addition, there are Federal Statutes pertaining to willful and knowing delay, obstruction, or theft of any mail. When you were hired you signed PS Form 8139, Your Role in Protecting the Security of the United States Mail. This form is your pledge to uphold public trust and protect the security of the mail. This document, along with many others, is retained in your official personnel file for your entire career. Be mindful of this pledge when performing your letter carrier duties.

New letter carriers often work under great time pressures because of unfamiliarity with some work assignments. As a result, some are tempted to seek shortcuts that are not proper. Do not fall into this trap — you must take extreme care not to be involved in any action or practice involving the mistreatment of the mail. Carelessness can get you into serious trouble. If you need extra time to complete a work assignment, inform your supervisor by submitting PS Form 3996, Carrier-Auxiliary Control and ask for appropriate instructions.

I can recall my first days as a City Carrier and hearing the term "Sanctity of the mail" for the first time, it scared the heck out of me. Over the years, I've read hundreds of Step B decisions and Arbitration cases in which the employee was charged with discarding or delaying the mail without authority. I've even advocated cases that address these issues. It is not easy to defend to an arbitrator or the carriers on the workroom floor the circumstances when it comes to discarding or delaying mail. It's much easier to explain why mail wasn't delivered than why it was discarded. There is not an explanation possible.

It starts in the morning, inform your supervisor as soon as you become aware that you cannot case all your mail and make your leaving time or deliver all mail assigned to you on any given day and return on time. You should get clear instructions; "do what you have to do to get back on time" is not a proper instruction. Don't let the supervisor's expectations change your opinion. Complete a Auxiliary Control Form - PS Form 3996. If your request for assistance or overtime is denied that's ok, don't get upset, but always get a completed copy of your request.

While delivering mail, if nothing changes since you made your estimate, send a text on your scanner to your

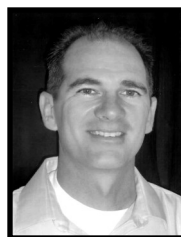
Supervisor that you are still, as projected, behind. If you get instructions, follow them if you can. If those instructions are to not deliver a circular for example, upon return to the office an Undelivered Mail Report (PS Form 1571) should be completed. In the remarks section, the reason for non-delivery “per managements instructions” should be annotated. Again, ask for a completed copy.

Carriers do not delay mail out for delivery, that’s the boss’ call.

Your office has a process in place for the review of mail that cannot be delivered as addressed or forwarded to the intended recipient. This can only be done in the office. Just because you realize some mail does eventually get recycled or thrown away, the office procedures for review and destruction of mail must be adhered to. Those rules never included tossing something into a dumpster while on the street. That can end a career very quickly.

Please remember that we deliver mail to our patrons. We see them most days, and develop a great deal of knowledge about their families by simply delivering the mail. In many cases we even develop friendships. However, we work for the customer that puts the stamp on the letter. It’s that person or business that pays the bills. No matter the class of the mail piece you must respect its Sanctity.

I’ve said it a number of times: our job is very straight forward, we do only 3 or 4 things as carriers. We deliver the mail. Sometimes it’s necessary to hold it for our customer or forward it to a different address but we deliver it. Yes, sometimes that includes getting signatures and scanning barcodes, but we deliver it. If we cannot deliver it depending on the class of mail, we return it to the sender and explain we could not deliver the mail piece. Get that right and the rest is easy.



## Hubble’s Troubles

By Executive Vice President,  
Chris Hubble

### Waiver of claims....

Have you received a letter from the USPS Disbursing Office Accounting Service Center for an amount due? Should you file a request for a waiver, and should you also file a grievance? Absolutely you should file a grievance because your waiver request could be denied by the Accounting Service Center (ASC).

**Article 28 Employer Claims** JCAM Page 28-1 provides:

**Employer Claims.** *An employer claim is a demand made by management that a letter carrier pay for certain types of losses or damage to the mail or to other postal property. This paragraph requires the employer to inform an employee in writing in advance of the reasons for any money demand. (Emphasis added)*

*In addition to the employee protections in Article 28, ELM Section 437 sets forth procedures under which an employee may request a waiver of an employer claim. See the discussion of waiver provisions at the end of this article.*

The ASC may determine that you did not meet the criteria set forth in Part 437.6 of the *Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM)*.

Part 437 of the ELM allows an employee or former employee to request a waiver of certain types of mistakes that involve pay (among other items), including: salary, wages, and compensation for services, including premium pay, holiday pay, and payment for leave. The ASC waives a claim if an overpayment resulted from an administration error of the Postal Service. (Emphasis added)

Part 437.2 of the *ELM* defines pay as:

- a. *Pay*—salary, wages, or compensation for services including all forms of premium pay, holiday pay, or shift differentials; payment for leave, whether accumulated, accrued, or advanced; and severance pay. Pay does not

**We are back to having in-person  
Branch Membership Meetings at the Hall.  
Please plan to wear a mask.  
We can have up to 20 people and be able to  
safely social distance. Meetings will continue  
to be held via Zoom.**

**As of now, food may be provided depending  
on the number of attendees.**

include rental allowances or payment for travel, transportation, or relocation expenses.

Waiver action may not be taken after the expiration of three years immediately following the date on which the erroneous payment of pay was discovered.

Procedures for the submission of a request for a waiver of a claim can be found in 437.32 PS Form 3074:

The applicant requests a waiver of a claim, or a refund of money paid as a result of a claim by submitting PS Form 3074, Request for Waiver of Claim for Erroneous Payment of Pay, in triplicate to the installation head. The completed PS Form 3074 must contain:

- a. Information sufficient to identify the claim for which the waiver is sought, including the amount of the claim, the period during which the erroneous payment occurred, and the nature of the erroneous payment.
- b. A copy of the invoice and/or demand letter sent by the Postal Service, if available, or a statement setting forth the date the erroneous payment was discovered.
- c. A statement of the circumstances that the applicant feels would justify a waiver of the claim by the Postal Service.
- d. The dates and amount of any payments made by the employee in response to the claim.

The installation head investigates the claim and writes a report of the investigation on the reverse side of the PS Form 3074. There are specific elements that the installation head's written report should include. They can be found in *ELM 437.4, Review by Installation Head*. The installation head forwards the PS Form 3074 to the servicing Human Resources official, who:

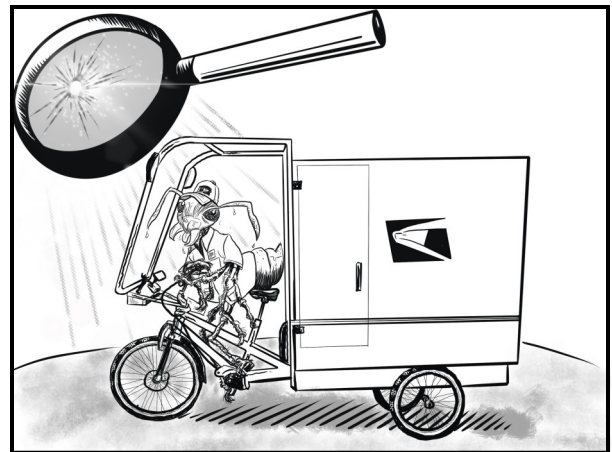
- a) reviews the file for accuracy and completeness,
- b) completes Part III of PS Form 3074,
- c) adds any pertinent comments to the file, and
- d) forwards the entire file to the payroll processing branch of the Eagan ASC for its determination of whether or not to waive the claim.

Of all the Article 28 grievances I have filed, predictably, one of the above steps have not been completed. Whether you review a traditional paystub or the electronic version through ePayroll, it is important for letter carriers to always keep track of their work hours and review their payroll records to

make sure that your paycheck has been calculated correctly. If you discover a discrepancy in your payroll, you should speak to your shop steward or branch officer as soon as possible so they can investigate the situation.



Scan for more info  
on Contract talk



Cartoonist Caleb Sevcik, Carrier Midtown

### ***eBike testing update at the Historic Open Air Post Office....***

In this month's Postal Record, Christopher Jackson, Director of City Delivery spoke about the long history of using bicycles for city delivery. The USPS hopes to use the eBikes to improve street efficiency, reduce fuel usage and reduce the cost of delivery operations. With that said, an inspection team has been completing route count and inspections on the two routes selected for the test. The team inspected both routes with the use of the eBikes and bicycles respectively. With the use of the eBikes, the 3999s reveal added load/unload time, travel to and from the routes and relay time has increased the route's street allied time significantly.

The relay time with the use of the eBike increased from 37 minutes with a traditional bicycle to over an hour with the use of the eBike. The travel within added an additional 15 minutes. The underlining justifications for the increase in allied time is that the eBike is essentially a rolling relay. At each park point, the carrier must first find a safe parking

location for the eBike. In addition, there are several procedures the carrier must do to set the brake and lock the eBike. The carrier then must unlock the door(s) to retrieve the mail for the delivery of mail and repeat these steps many times throughout the day.

Furthermore, the carrier must deliver the parcels associated with their routes while using the eBike. The traditional bike routes were not evaluated with the delivery of parcels and only require three to four relays. The travel to and from as well as the travel within are considerably less with the traditional bikes as they can use sidewalks traveling in the opposite way as traffic.

While there are still matters to consider in the testing of the eBike, I believe the hopes of the USPS to reduce the cost of delivery with the use of the eBikes in lieu of the traditional bicycle routes are not quite panning out.

nursing care, lab and diagnostic tests, vaccinations and outpatient hospital procedures. It also includes such medical equipment as crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and prosthetic devices.

Part C plans are offered by Medicare approved private insurance companies. These are known as Medicare Advantage Plans.

Part D plans by Medicare approved private insurance companies provide prescription coverage.

There are no premiums for Part A, since Letter Carriers have already paid for Part A coverage through the 1.45% payroll tax paid during their working years.

Premiums for Part B, at present, are \$148.50 per month.

Most Letter Carriers maintain their Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) upon retirement. For those who maintain their FEHB coverage, there is generally no need for Parts C and D, since their FEHB already provides the supplemental insurance for which Parts C and D are intended.

Many carriers, upon reaching age 65, ask if they should elect Part B of Medicare. It's a question only they can decide. You weigh the cost of premiums (\$148.50/month) versus the value of the coverage. The value of the coverage is generally measured by at least two factors: the cost of your FEHB coverage co-pays and deductibles, and the **PROBABILTY** that you will need extensive medical care in your remaining lifetime. With Parts A and B, and by maintaining your FEHB coverage into retirement, generally, for medically necessary services, the cost to the retiree is zero.



## Retiree Update

*By Director of Retiree Affairs,  
O.D. Elliott*

### MEDICARE

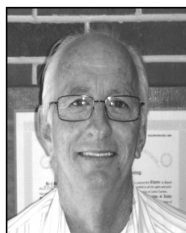
Medicare is a national social insurance program that provides certain medical insurance for Americans aged 65 and older who have worked and paid into the system. As a Letter Carrier, while working, you were paying into Medicare through a payroll tax of 1.45% of your basic salary.

As a Retired or still working Letter Carrier, upon reaching the age of 65, you become eligible for Medicare.

Medicare has four parts: A- hospital insurance, B- medical insurance, C- a public supplement option and D- prescription drug insurance.

Part A covers inpatient hospital stays (generally up to 90 days), including semiprivate room, food and tests. Under certain situations, it also covers brief rehab or convalescence in a skilled nursing facility. It also covers Hospice care for terminally ill persons with less than six months to live.

Part B medical coverage includes physician and



## Legislative Update

*By Gene Carroll, CDL District 15*

In a party-line vote of 220-212, the House passed the budget resolution yesterday. The ten-year \$3.5 trillion plan includes non-traditional infrastructure, such as funding for improved family services, eldercare, healthcare, education, combating climate change, and more. The plan will mostly be funded by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthiest

Americans – raising taxes on people who make More than \$400,000 a year.

The framework, which passed in the Senate on August 11, reinforces crucial portions of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda, a three-part plan to rebuild America's economy through legislation that is currently being considered in Congress to invest in roads, bridges, rail and other traditional transportation modes. "The House of Representatives is taking a significant step toward making a historic investment that is going to transform America – cut taxes for working families, and position the American economy for long term growth," said President Biden. After successful passage of the budget resolution in the Senate, today's House vote cleared the path for Democratic lawmakers to use a process known as "budget reconciliation," which only requires 51 votes in the Senate as opposed to the 60 vote threshold required in regular order, which has prevented hundreds of bills from being considered by the upper chamber. Using the budget reconciliation process, designated House and Senate committees now have until the September 15 deadline to craft their respective tax and spending legislation. This process begins with each Committee outlining its spending and reduction priorities within the agreed upon framework. Once the Committees complete their work, a single bill will be considered by both chambers and sent to the President's desk.

With regards to the Postal Service, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) and House Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR) will work together to identify roughly \$37 billion in new spending. Some portion of this spending is expected to include funding to fully electrify the federal vehicle fleet, including the Postal Service's fleet. It is also expected to be used for federal building rehabilitation projects, cybersecurity infrastructure, border management investments, and other federal investments related to clean energy procurement.

Prior to House passage, and in an effort to appease moderate Democratic lawmakers who are concerned about the fate of the infrastructure bill currently being considered in both chambers, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) released a statement committing to a vote on the infrastructure bill by September 27. Leadership is aiming to also vote on the budget reconciliation package around the same time. NALC will continue to monitor these bills as they move through Congress. The House Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR) held a

markup to consider their committee's allocations for the recently passed Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 (S. Con. Res. 14). The committee voted to approve and transmit their recommendations to the House Committee on the Budget. COR's total allocation was \$7.5 billion to implement President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda, which prioritizes electrifying the federal government's fleet, including the Postal Service. Initially, COR planned to provide \$2.4 billion for postal vehicles and related charging infrastructure. Due to successful lobbying efforts by NALC on the critical need for an upgraded Postal Service fleet, the total funding increased to \$7 billion after an amendment introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) was passed.

Of the \$7 billion, \$3 billion will cover the cost of electric vehicles and \$4 billion will be used for charging infrastructure. This is \$4.6 billion more than the \$2.4 billion that was included for the Postal Service in the original bill. During the hearing, lawmakers reported that the \$7 billion figure will also be mirrored by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC), which is good news for overall prospects of securing this important funding to upgrade desperately needed vehicles for letter carriers. "The benefits of these electric vehicles go well beyond the protection of our climate and human health," said Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in her opening statement. "Electric vehicles have been shown to cost an average of 20 to 25 percent less over the life of a vehicle as a result of reduced fuel and maintenance costs." Several Democratic representatives spoke in support of the amendment to increase funding for the Postal Service vehicle fleet and charging stations.

"The electrification of our Postal Service fleet will reduce carbon pollution to the great benefit of the health, safety, and sustainability of our communities," said Rep. Lynch. The COR allocations also include funding to fully electrify the General Services Administration (GSA) vehicle fleet, and funding for the National Archives to hasten the processing of veterans' record requests. Additionally, it provides funds to implement President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, an effort to ensure that at least 40% of the benefits of climate and infrastructure investments go to underserved communities. The Government Accountability Office and inspectors general will also receive funding to provide oversight and accountability.

The COR's allocations will be included with the

larger budget resolution reconciliation package, which Democratic lawmakers are actively crafting. Democrats are aiming to finalize the budget resolution reconciliation package, which will only require 51 votes in the Senate as opposed to the 60 vote threshold required in regular order, and hold a vote on it before the end of the month. NALC will continue to monitor the budget resolution as it moves through Congress.

NALC

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## Minutes of September 9, 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 in the Twig by O.D. Elliott, seconded by Anthony Roger. Motion passes.

**Reading of Official Correspondence:** by Ken Grasso: One

**Branch by the Numbers:** As of pay period 17 the Dues Roster has 765 Active Members with 733 paying dues. We have 32 members with no deductions, 5 are on Military Leave. 4 paying direct, 4 other OWCP accepted claims were sent letters, with 20 on LWOP. Retirees 543 (85 Gold Cards). 1300 Total Members

### **Application of New Members:**

Adam Obando, Randy Young, Christopher Tench, Rory Flaherty, Erin Glisson, Janel Redmond, Adrian Arnold, Jose Shevlin, Juliana Angel, James Race, David Sime, Ryan Mallon, Devin Price, Nicola

Lawton, Ben Toussaint, Victor Harris, Lisa Camp, Anthony Frederick, Christopher Hearle, Chad Cicanese, Crystal Thompson, Jonathan Swinney, Kelly McNamee, Brittani Pryor.

President Henschen presented a 50 Year Gold Card and Pin to Secretary Ken Grasso.

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

**Treasurer:** Chuck Cavicchio—Read the ending balances of all accounts. Motion to accept by Chris Hubble, seconded by Tom Szmania. Motion passes.

**Director of Retiree Affairs:** O.D. Elliott—Have met about 5 carriers thinking about retirement. Retiree COLA for next year to be between 5% and 6.1%.

**Director of Insurance:** Tom Phillips—MBA offers retirement savings to members. 6,200 carriers nationwide have signed up. Open Season coming up soon for Health Insurance. Nov 8 through Dec 1.

**Political District 13 Liaison:** Tom Phillips—New House Bill HR 4268 for temporary employees to be able to participate in catch up contributions.

**Trustee Report:** Brian Andrews—Meeting this weekend to do audits through August.

**Sergeant at Arms:** Clay Hansen—No Report.

**Editor/Webmaster:** Judy Dorris—Articles for the Twig are due tomorrow.

**Vice President Report:** Zulma Betancourt—No Report.

**Executive Vice President:** Chris Hubble—Wavier of Claim is in Article 28, in which an employee receives a letter of demand, which is an invoice saying the employee owes money back. The employee can file a grievance on this.

eBikes are adding a lot of allied time to routes from the load features of travel to and travel from.

### **Welfare Reports:**

#### **Sad:**

- Ken Grasso, Retiree Branch Secretary—Hospitalized and Wife also Hospitalized.
- Joe Bailey, Punta Gorda—Father passed away.



- TC's Grandson and Donny DeMilta, Steward Seminole—Nephew had accident at school and broke both bones in his leg.
- Greg Ritchey, St. Pete Beach—Hospitalized
- Dennis Llano, Retiree Madeira Beach—Passed away.
- Anthony Fredricks, St. Pete Main—Father passed away.

### **Glad:**

John Milford, Largo—Retired

### **Presidents Report:**

COVID-19 Florida 2 Numbers:

2437 Total Cases  
 2300 Confirmed Cases  
 137 Current Unconfirmed/Under Investigation  
 2079 Confirmed Positives have RTW  
 221 Active Cases.  
 2291 Total Employees on Survey  
 2238 Employees returned to work  
 53 Employees still on quarantine  
 20 Required quarantine  
 33 Self quarantine

The 4<sup>th</sup> regular COLA under the 2019-2023 National Agreement was included in workhours 8/28/21 and is .93 for a Step O Letter Carrier. The proportionate application will be added in Steps A-N.

Region 9 Rap Session the Branch Executive Board has discussed sending 6 attendees for this. This is a Virtual Event and takes place October 1 and 2. We will attend this at the Union Hall.

Retention: A joint pilot program between NALC and USPS was started to improve the experience of newly hired letter carriers and to encourage them to stick with the job. Various topics have been identified. Management and the Union will jointly meet 3 days a week at different stations.

Mandatory Vaccinations for Federal Workers was announced by the President as to ramp up pressure on the unvaccinated. Not sure if Postal Workers are included in this directive.

On Sept 3 the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a markup to consider their committees allocations for the recently passed Concurrent Resolution. The Committee's total allocation was \$7.5 Billion which prioritizes electrifying the Federal Government's fleet including the Postal Service.

JCAM is out electronically and the Branch has purchased 50 in printed form for the Stewards and Officers.

There is a revised policy on face masks at Postal Service facilities.

A family member of Tonya Lee got with the Union and Postal Service to donate some supplies to every Post Office affected by Hurricane Ida. Postal Service will transport these supplies.

Old Business: AC up and running great and on September 16 we will have the trees trimmed on our property.

Sandra Pagan MDA Coordinator had some raffles during the State Convention of assorted baskets of different wines and craft beers. Over \$1,000 was raised for MDA.

Committee of Presidents being held in St. Petersburg for the first time and Presidents from all over the United States will be attending here at the St. Pete Hilton.

MDA Raffle will take place also so anyone wanting to donate some Wine or have some businesses willing to donate, get with Sandra Pagan. She would like any donations by Oct 8<sup>th</sup> in order to sort and put in baskets.

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## ***MDA Fundraiser***

As you may know the Branch has a registered 501c3 non-profit charitable organization registered with the State of Florida as the Sunshine City Carriers Charities Inc. (SCCC Inc.) Its mission statement includes: "...providing opportunities for Branch 1477 members to raise money in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association." The NALC as the first corporate sponsor has supported the MDA for over 71 years.

2020 was not a good year for our fundraising efforts with so many events cancelled and virtual meetings, our local efforts waned.

In August at the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers State Convention with donations from local businesses and Carrier donations, SCCC Inc. President Sandra Pagan kicked off the 2021 MDA campaign with a fundraiser that netted over \$1000.00 for MDA with a raffle for Convention Delegates.



## Auxiliary 181 News

By Dottie Tutt-Hutchinson

After a long, hot summer and self-quarantining with caution for the new variants of the Covid virus, we finally got to see each other on September 12th. Conveniently, Joyce Keller scheduled our monthly meeting along with the popular ice cream social. That's one way to ensure our presence! We planned 2 more holiday baskets to be raffled at the December 9th Union meeting. Because it was such a success last year, with the help of the Shop Stewards, Union officers, USPS managers, and our donations, it was an easy call to do it again. The proceeds will go to Carriers having financial setbacks.

Joyce hosted the last meeting, I'll host October 6th, and Sandy Hart will host November 3rd. We'll meet at noon bringing our lunches to Joyce's home. Remember to bring your donations to fill the holiday baskets; the last chance is the December 1st meeting. Our Christmas party is December 12th, 4:00, at Joyce's home.

We send sincere condolences to Zulma and Rudy Betancourt for the loss of her mother who had been ill for sometime.

Belated birthday wishes for Alice Wannike (August 11) and Susan Chavez (September 29). Happy birthday to Denny Elliott (October 21).

## Steward Meeting Attendees

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

### September 17th:

Tom Phillips, Shiela Bradley, Cheryl Anderson, Ben Hamilton, Anthony Roger, A.J. Pollard, Eric Short, Anne Winkelbauer, Chris Kotonski, Patrick Jacques, Tonya Lee, Tiffany Naughton, Scott Holderbaum, Christina Johnson, Ken Domingo, Harry Nieves, Joel Baez. Sheldon Jones, Jim Grazioso.

## Raffle Prizes were a big hit with the FSALC Convention Delegates. Raising over \$1000.00

On October 23-25, Branch 1477 is hosting the NALC Committee of Presidents meeting in St. Petersburg. The SCCC Inc. is looking again for donations to raffle at the COP. If you've got a bottle of wine on your rack that you'd like to give up helping to support the MDA Summer Camp program. Please contact the hall for a pick-up or a time to drop it by the hall. (A little dust on the bottle is ok)

Thanks,  
Joe

# BRANCH 1477 PHONE DIRECTORY

**UNION HALL:** (727) 531-1477

**UNION FAX:** (727) 531-1478

**EMAIL:** [branch1477@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:branch1477@tampabay.rr.com)

**WEBSITE:** [branch1477nalc.org](http://branch1477nalc.org)

## OFFICERS OF BRANCH 1477

### **PRESIDENT**

*Joe Henschen. . . . . (727) 608-6772*

### **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

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

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

*Zulma Betancourt . . . . . (813) 597-8363*

### **RECORDING/FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

*Ken Grasso. . . . . (727) 744-2578*

### **TREASURER**

*Chuck Cavicchio. . . . . (727) 798-8506*

### **EDITOR**

*Judy Dorris. . . . . (727) 403-2173*

### **DIRECTOR OF RETIREE AFFAIRS**

*O.D. Elliott. . . . . (727) 608-6027*

### **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) 807-5669*

*Joel Baez. . . . . (787) 629-3596*

## STEWARDS OF BRANCH 1477

### **St. Petersburg:**

|                         |                   |                |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Crossroads 9</b>     | Ken Domingos      | (716) 598-1205 |
| <b>Crossroads 10</b>    | Ben Hamilton      | (727) 735-5125 |
| <b>Euclid</b>           | (Branch Hall)     | (727) 531-1477 |
| <b>Gateway</b>          | Tom Phillips      | (727) 458-4127 |
| <b>Gulfwinds 7</b>      | Christina Johnson | (727) 564-0620 |
| <b>Gulfwinds 15</b>     | " "               | (727) 564-0620 |
| <b>Gulfwinds 11</b>     | Joel Baez         | (813) 817-5957 |
| <b>Alt 7,11,15</b>      | Zulma Betancourt  | (813) 597-8363 |
| <b>Madeira Beach</b>    | Patrick Jacques   | (727) 218-2721 |
| <b>Midtown 5</b>        | Shiela Bradley    | (813) 335-7783 |
| <b>Midtown 12</b>       | Harry Nieves      | (787) 564-4993 |
| <b>Northside 2</b>      | Tiffany Naughton  | (727) 642-5466 |
| <b>Northside 16</b>     | Tonya Lee         | (813) 270-2918 |
| <b>Open Air</b>         | Chris Hubble      | (727) 641-8396 |
| <b>St. Pete Beach</b>   | Cheryl Anderson   | (727) 531-1477 |
| <b>St. Pete Main 13</b> | Anthony Roger     | (813) 574-9971 |
| <b>Alt</b>              | Scott Holderbaum  | (813) 777-7626 |
| <b>St. Pete Main 14</b> | Alan Pollard      | (727) 667-4254 |
| <b>Alt</b>              | Dee Grant         | (727) 225-9272 |

|                            |                  |                |
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| <b>Bradenton Bch</b>       | Brian Andrews    | (941) 807-5669 |
| <b>Dunedin</b>             | Chuck Cavicchio  | (727) 798-8506 |
| <b>Alt</b>                 | Scott Held       | (727) 418-5742 |
| <b>Ellenton</b>            | Bert Lewis       | (941) 266-2109 |
| <b>Englewood</b>           | Josh LaGrew      | (763) 232-8954 |
| <b>Alt</b>                 | Kris Beal        | (813) 500-0841 |
| <b>Indian Rocks Bch</b>    | Denise Clark     | (407) 474-9038 |
| <b>Largo 70/71</b>         | Jennifer Cohill  | (727) 742-6161 |
| <b>Largo 73/78</b>         | Eric Short       | (727) 251-9846 |
| <b>Palmetto</b>            | Sheldon Jones    | (941) 580-1058 |
| <b>Pinellas Park 81/82</b> | Alicia Gary      | (973) 981-2174 |
| <b>Punta Gorda</b>         | Chris Kotonski   | (330) 212-1777 |
| <b>PC Annex</b>            | (Branch Hall)    | (727) 531-1477 |
| <b>Seminole 72/74</b>      | Anne Winkelbauer | (708) 692-6540 |
| <b>Seminole 76/77</b>      | Donny DeMilta    | (727) 430-4413 |

|                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Auxiliary 181</b> |                     |                       |
| <b>President</b>     | <b>Joyce Keller</b> | <b>(727) 541-2194</b> |

### **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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|                        |                           |           | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>Executive Board                     | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b>               | <b>4</b>                  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>General Membership<br>(at the Hall) | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b>              | <b>11</b><br>Columbus Day | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Steward's Meeting<br>(at the Hall) | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> |
| <b>17</b>              | <b>18</b>                 | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                       | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b> |
| <b>24</b><br><b>31</b> | <b>25</b>                 | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                       | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b> |