***Committee of Presidents Meeting***

*St. Petersburg, Florida*

*October 24-25, 2021*

*Thank you for visiting the Home Page of the Westcoast Florida Letter Carriers NALC Branch 1477. We are the Host Branch of the upcoming Committee of Presidents Meeting in October of 2021.*

*While you visit Florida there are some things you should be prepared for.*

*Florida recommends but has not required face coverings for the general public. Several cities and large counties, including Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Hillsborough (which includes Tampa), had mask requirements, but Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order May 3rd, that barred local governments and school systems from imposing COVID-19 restrictions, including mask rules.*

*In Pinellas County and St. Petersburg there are no state or local requirements, businesses and other private entities have*[*set their own mask policies*](https://www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/info-2020/retailers-require-face-masks-coronavirus.html)*. These businesses have clearly posted their individual policies near their entries.*

*If you are coming from: Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, be prepared for a little bit of a culture shock. I urge you to continue your state’s habits while visiting.*

*As a resident of downtown St. Petersburg, I’ll let you know we like to respect each other’s space - that of our neighbors and especially the hospitality workers that serve us. You’ll notice those in the hospitality industry will be masked and patrons vaccinated or not, will be masked when not seated and ordering. The City of St. Petersburg has expanded dining for these businesses outside blocking street parking for the additional outdoor dining space.*

*Please, protect yourself at all times; you will find sanitizing options provided in all businesses.*

***Covid - 19 Meeting Protocol***

*The Hilton Bayfront requires masks while in the common areas of the hotel and leaves the polices for the group to establish their own rules while in the meeting rooms. In recent meetings with our Committee of Presidents Chairs’, the following guidelines will be implemented while in the general sessions. We ask you respect the following rule:*

* *Masks will be required at all times inside of the meetings.*
* *In the Branch Sales common area hotel rules apply masks are required.*
* *Microphones will be spaced so the mask may be removed while speaking.*
* *After each speaker, the microphone will be sanitized by a host branch volunteer.*
* *Seating will be spaced as to maintain a recommended distance and we will ask no chairs or seating be rearranged.*
* *Sanitizing lotions, wipes and masks will be available for use.*
* *We are in discussion with the Hilton Bayfront Staff to arrange for additional space in an adjacent room for observers and participants that need concessions to the above mask guidelines.*

*If anyone has additional recommendations please do not hesitate to reach out, please email:* [*Branch1477NALC@gmail.com*](mailto:Branch1477NALC@gmail.com) *or call (727) 531-1477*

*Thanks for doing your research on attending the COP, St. Petersburg, Florida*

*Sincerely,*

*Joe*

*Joseph Henschen,*

*President,*

*NALC Branch 1477*

*5369 Park Blvd.*

*Pinellas Park, Florida 33781*