



# Treasure Coast Letter Carrier NALC Branch 1690

Representing and Serving Letter Carriers in:

Belle Glade \* Clewiston \* Ft Pierce \* Jensen Beach \* Jupiter \* Tequesta \* Okeechobee \* Pahoke  
Palm Beach \* Port St Lucie \* Sebastian \* Stuart \* Vero Beach \* West Palm Beach



May—June, 2021

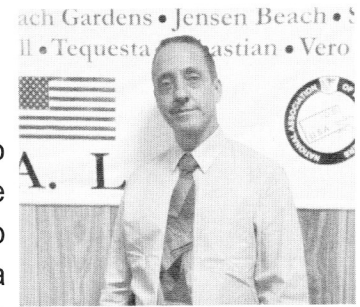
## Safety Sucks!!!

Why does management care if we work safe? All they do is bully carriers into working faster! What happens if you can not make their imaginary numbers? We all know the answer to that one, they issue discipline! Now what do I do? Today I have so much mail that the only thing I can do to go faster, is to not wear my seatbelt. That will save me 2 seconds per stop multiplied by 800 stops equals 1600 seconds divided by 1 min gives me an extra 26.66 minutes I can save per day!!!! Now, if I don't close my door every time I move my vehicle, that would save me another 2 seconds per stop!!! Now I am cooking, I just saved myself another 26.66 minutes per day for a total of 53.32 minutes I can save myself everyday for not wearing my seatbelt or closing my door!!! Now they will stop bullying me, right? Well, no, now they will give you more work because you managed to make their imaginary numbers look correct. Crap! Now what do I do? My kids need to be picked up by 5pm today and they gave me an extra hour!

Just then, I decided to leave my vehicle running while I ran up to the door to deliver a package. The vehicle took off without me in it and ran over little Tommy Kerwin playing with his ball. This incident will be with me the rest of my life on how I was in too much of a hurry to worry about my safety and that of those on my route.

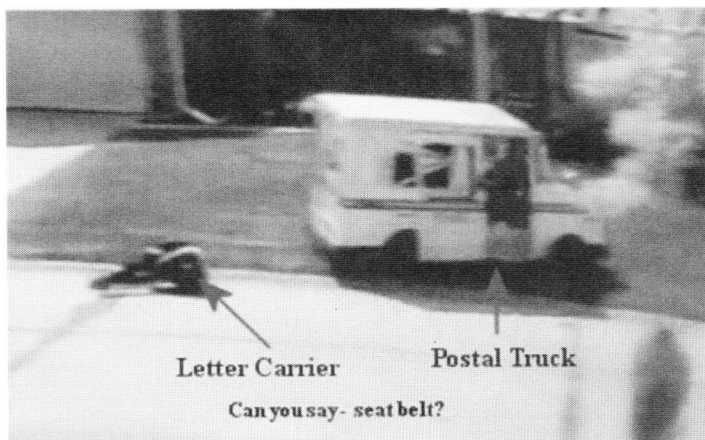
Don't think this can happen you? Since I have been elected President, three emergency placements and removals have been issued for driving with the door open, not wearing seatbelt and leaving the vehicle running while not in it. When I see this happening, I immediately stop and talk to carriers, even my own carrier at my house. Never again do I want to have to listen to a carrier calling me up crying because they killed someone with their vehicle. (This has happened) It is exceedingly difficult to know that you cannot bring someone back. That child will never again be in their parents' arms at night.

So yes, safety sucks because I want all of you to return home at night. My passion for safety is extraordinarily strong and we all need to do what we are paid to do. Wear your seatbelt, close your door, and turn the engine off every time you get out of it without fail. In the end, your route will be cut because it is too long and you will return home safely to your loved ones.



President

Jeffrey Wagner



Letter Carrier

Postal Truck

Can you say - seatbelt?

# Attention NALC Branch 1690 Members:

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Following  
Changes have been implemented.**

Until further notice...

**All members wishing to come to the Hall must make an appointment.**

**This is for the protection of the office staff and the membership.  
We thank you for your understanding.**

## **Meetings:**

### **Rap Session**

Until further notice:

There will be one Rap  
Session via Zoom Meeting  
on the second Wednesday of  
each month at 7:30pm.  
Please be sure to contact the  
hall with your email address  
and ask to be added to the  
invite list.

### **Branch Meeting**

Until further notice:

Please note the change in  
time and location.

The Branch Meeting will be  
held the third Wednesday of  
each month at the  
Jupiter Old Town Hall  
Located at  
1000 Town Hall Avenue,  
Jupiter at 7:15pm.

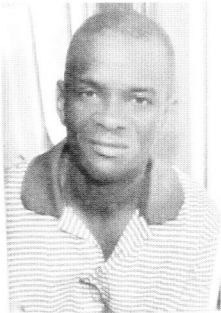
**Social distancing will be maintained and masks will be required to enter the building.**

**\* North Retiree Breakfast is now being held the second Tuesday of  
the month again at: Denny's Restaurant, 100 Kings Hwy. Fort Pierce  
at 8:00 AM**

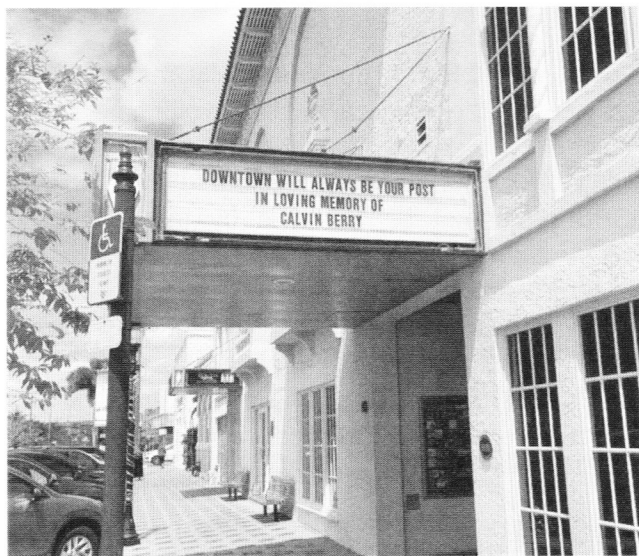
**\*South Retiree Breakfast is still cancelled until further notice.**

**Patty Badini**  
**Vice President**

**Remembering Brother Calvin Berry**



On Friday March 2, City Letter Carriers of the Stuart Main Post Office participated in a ceremonial mail truck procession through the streets of Downtown Stuart in honor of Brother Calvin Berry. Although I did not know Calvin very well, it is evident that those who did know him cared for him deeply. His friends, family and customers on his route came out to attend this loving tribute which invoked emotion from all who attended. Calvin Berry will be missed but never forgotten.



**The Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention and Training Seminar**



The Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace is the location for this summer's Florida State Association of Letter Carriers Convention and Training Seminar. As I write this article the event is still expected to take place August 12 – 14, 2021, however cancellation or postponement still is possible due to COVID 19.

I wanted to take a moment to remind Branch 1690's Delegates of the requirements to qualify for funds. The elected delegates must attend no less than five regular Branch meetings from the time of election until the time of the convention. They are also required to attend any delegate meetings unless excused by the President. If you have any questions regarding the State Convention, please call the hall.

Some delegates have elected to reserve a private room and bring a guest to family night. Half of the room costs as well as the Family night guest ticket are the responsibility of the Delegate. All monies due to the branch for delegates portion of the room must be paid to the branch as soon as possible. Please make all checks or money orders paid to NALC Branch 1690.

We cannot accept a cash payment.



**Financial/Recording Secretary**

**Gennaro "Jerry" Mascolo**



**New Contract requires that CCA's be converted to career status after 24 months of service.**

CCA's that have reached 24 months of service will be converted to career status on May 8, 2021. This is a notice to those CCA's that qualify and will be converted to career status, that there are a number of choices/elections that you will only have 60 days in which to decide.

You will want to select your choice of employer sponsored Health insurance from the *FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM*. Will you choose self only, self plus one, or family? There will be a great number of, and varieties of different health plans to choose from. It is your decision regarding this choice. I have been a member of OUR UNION-OWNED NON-PROFIT health benefit plan, the **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN**, for many years going back as long as I can remember. It is a great plan and it's OUR Health Plan! I highly recommend it! There's even supplemental Dental & Vision insurance available! If you have any questions on the NALC Health Benefit Plan, you can contact *Branch 1690 Health Benefit Representative Nancy Zlomaniac*. You can make your selection online at **liteblue**.

You may also want to take advantage of the *FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE* benefit. I don't know anyone that has not enrolled in some form of life insurance. I highly recommend it! Once again this can be done online at **liteblue**.

You may even be interested in signing up for additional life insurance products that are offered by OUR UNION-OWNED & NON-PROFIT **NALC MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION**.

Another benefit to which, newly converted career, Letter Carriers are entitled is the Federal Employee version of the traditional 401K. It's called the **THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN or TSP**. Signing up for this is a no-brainer! You get 1% of your (base) pay placed into your TSP account for free, just for signing up! Then for each additional 1% that you have deducted from your pay to go into your account, USPS matches dollar for dollar up to 3%. For your fourth and fifth % saved in TSP, it's matched 50% by USPS. So, for having 5% of your (base) pay deducted from your pay to be saved in your TSP account, you get matched another 5% by USPS for free!!! You can even contribute more than 5% up to 15% of your pay without further matching. **IMPORTANT REMINDER**; the deductions are made before your pay is even taxed! You won't even miss it! This also can be done online at **liteblue**.

Another matter that Veterans may want to consider is "buying back" your military time by "placing deposit with OPM". This essentially means that if you had military service prior to your time at the Postal Service you can "buy it back", by paying a fee (with interest) via payroll deduction, to lengthen your USPS retirement service time by the amount of military time "bought back". I strongly suggest that newly converted career Letter Carriers (with prior military service) look into weighing the cost versus the amount of military time converted to USPS time. This can also be done online at **liteblue**. For questions you may contact our *Branch 1690 Director of Retirees, Nancy Zlomaniac*.

Gennaro "Jerry" Mascolo  
Recording/Financial Secretary



**\$50.00 Bounty**

**Paid to any Member**

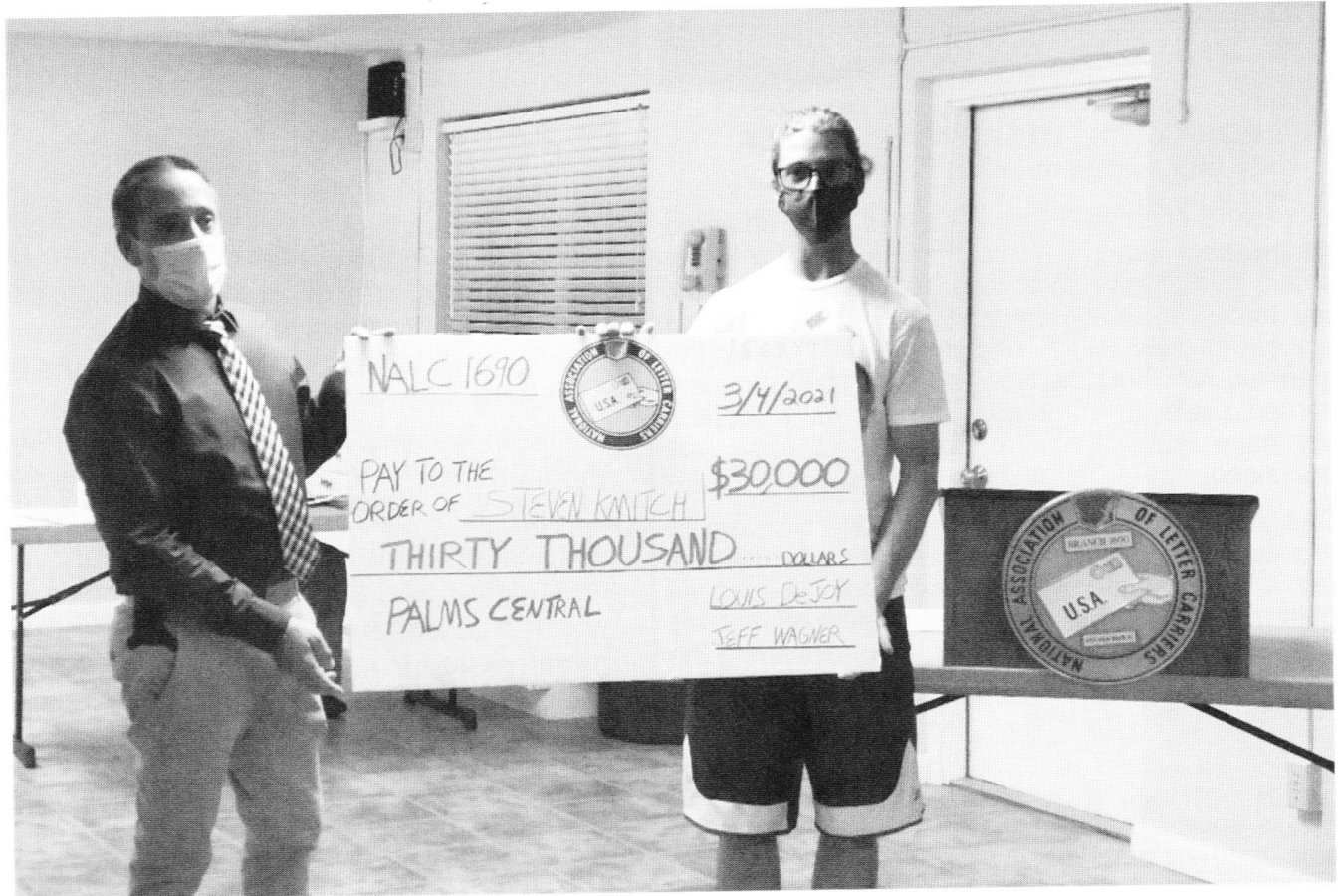
**that convinces a Non UNION MEMBER to JOIN the NALC Branch 1690.**

**Member must sign a Form 1187 for the Bounty to be paid.**

**Make the Call!**

USPS Employee Assistance Program  
**1-800-327-4968**  
(1-800-EAP-4-YOU) TTY: 1-877-492-7341  
[www.EAP4YOU.com](http://www.EAP4YOU.com)





## Recent Branch Settlements

1. \$45,000 Pre-Arb settlement for non-compliance of grievance settlements from 2017. Distributed to carriers who were harmed.
2. \$30,000 non-compliance settlement at Formal A for not posting route 511 in Palms Central. Carrier Steven Kmitch was the recipient.
3. Many Article 8 violations in West Palm with thousands collected.
4. Step B decision returning removed carrier back to work with full back pay for leaving vehicle running.
5. Formal A settlement returning removed carrier back to work for not wearing seatbelt and driving with door open.
6. Step B decision for management violating Article 14 for not allowing sick carrier to go home.

We have had many other settlements but these are just some highlights.

**Get on zoom meeting for rap session or join us at monthly meeting in Jupiter to learn more and be more informed.**

**Health Benefits**  
**Nancy Zlomaniac**



**Treasurer**  
**Starr Hunter**

**PROBATION: DISAPPEARING CCA**

The population of the Letter Carriers has changed over the past years. More than half of the Letter Carriers today have less than 10 years of service. They hear the senior carriers talk of the good old days before DPS, FFS and scanners. Now the expansion of the endless duties have become common place in a normal carriers daily routine. They have adapted to the changes as each one came along.

CCAs are entering the workforce totally unaware of the pressures and certain vulnerabilities to injuries. They are trying to rush to make the Supervisor's requirements from a computer-generated delivery estimate. In an effort, to do their job of delivering the mail, the parcels and scanning or responding to a message on the scanner, the CCA might trip and twist their ankle. CCA returns to the truck and keeps going.

There is an unfortunate belief in the Post Office that states that new employees will get fired if they report an injury. This is a dangerous myth that has led some employees to endure injuries that can cause serious disabilities to themselves.

In 2012 OSHA addressed this issue on how employers manage injuries for employees. Section 11(c) of the OSH Act prohibits an employer from discriminating against an employee because the employee reports an injury or illness. This memorandum states simply, if employees do not feel free to report injuries or illnesses, the employer's entire workforce is put at risk. Reporting a work-related injury or illness is an employee's right and retaliating against a worker for reporting an injury or illness is illegal discrimination under section 11(c).

NALC has successfully assisted probationary CCAs who were terminated after reporting a workplace injury by helping them contact OSHA to file a whistle-blower complaint. In many cases, the CCAs were returned to work.

There were countless CCAs fired from 2017- 2019 due to fact that a lot of Shop Stewards I believe were being told as I was that CCAs were undefendable within their first 90 days. This statement always seemed wrong to me then and now I regret not challenging it. Remember when something just doesn't seem right, go in search of the truth at a higher level. We lost a lot of carriers in Jupiter.

Reporting to the labor department has been updated and filed to the IRS for our branch. Our assets and liabilities are all in order and will be reported to our branch at the monthly meetings. Books are available to any member to review with appointments. Our branch checking account has been newly signed with our new officers at the credit union. Our funds are in order and all vouchers are reviewed by our trustees with their report at branch meetings. Our next report will be the 990 to the IRS. I'm on it. We are in compliance with all branch requirements.

There has been no updates on the yearly food drive at this time. We are looking at ideas for future MDA events. Many committees have been formed such as bylaws, locals, and building changes. When asked when will we see the past reimbursements from our national contract. I've been told months. But it will be. Thank goodness for the union. Negotiations have been favorable for the NALC. We have great leaders and officers who care about their brothers and sisters in the field.

Where is our new rides? Maybe next year. They just keep putting Band-aids on our old ones.

In closing remembering past friends and retirees, memories are forever. Good friends are treasures I wish all well and stay healthy.

Keep the customers first, because it seems carriers today are the only ones who still care and keep service in the Postal system.

Be blessed and continue to be a blessing.



Sergeant at Arms  
Barbara Raphael

Greetings Branch 1690 and welcome to the start of the 2nd quarter of 2021. Let me start by wishing everyone well and congratulating our

new and upcoming Converted City Carrier Assistants to Regular Carriers. This is a new journey and a good elevation to your title as well as your postal career. I am asking that you take advantage of all available resources that will help you to continue to inspire, elevate and make the best of all opportunities afforded to you during this period of your career. In the meantime, I just want to share a few tips and reminders for those of you that are interested:

- 1) Most importantly, please take some time to set up all of your benefits ASAP, such as thrift savings and anything else that may benefit you in your career and everyday life.
- 2) The overtime, work assignment, and ODL lists are open and available for all of you that would like to participate. Please feel free to take advantage of this opportunity.
- 3) Get to know your routes that you were placed on and your customers. Decide if these routes best suit you. Keep in mind and never forget that great customer service is always a win win.



*Don't forget to turn in your Doyle Adair / Beatrice Trapp Scholarship Award Assistance Application.*

*The winner will be drawn at our July meeting so hurry and get you application sent to the hall.*

4) The new contract has been revised and updated, please take the time to read it. Learn and understand it. If nothing else, know your rights. It just may become your best friend when navigating through the policies and politics of the Post Office.

Please make your decisions accordingly. Do yourselves a just service, always stay focused, remain prepared and vigilant at all times. Serving our communities to the best of our abilities is how we will prosper in our positions and contribute to the success of the US Post Office. Lastly, to all you have experienced any type of loss in the recent months near and dear please accept my heartfelt condolences to you and your families. Please stay uplifted and encouraged. To those of you that have experienced great happiness and bliss, it is my wish that you continue to walk in those blessings and please find it in your hearts to inspire and encourage others. As I leave you with this quote from the great Eddie Harris Jr, "It takes a dream to get started, desire to keep going, and determination to finish". I hope and pray that all of my fellow postal brothers and sisters of branch 1690 and everywhere else stay safe, protected and covered in peace & joy. Until then, keep your masks on, hands sanitized, trucks clean. Let's continue to pray for a safe and successful year.

**Emergency Federal Employee Leave**

Article by Branch 1477 President Joe Henschen

**Effective March 12, 2021**, the American Rescue Plan Act (Act) provides employees with up to 600 hours of paid Emergency Federal Employee Leave (FEEL). This leave is available to employees beginning on **March 12, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2021**—or until the funding established in the Emergency Federal Employee Leave fund (Fund) for reimbursement is exhausted. The leave is available to eligible employees who are unable to work due to one of the eight qualifying reasons as summarized.—NALC.org

**Qualifying Reasons**

An employee is entitled to take FEEL related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work because the employee:

1. Is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19
2. Has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
3. Is caring for an individual who is subject to such an order as in (1) or has been so advised as in (2).
4. Is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis.
5. Is caring for the employee's son or daughter if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, requires, or makes optional a virtual learning instruction model, requires or makes optional a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning instruction models, or if the childcare provider of the son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.
6. Is experiencing any other substantially similar condition.
7. Is caring for a family member with a mental or physical disability or who is 55 years of age or older and incapable of self-care, without regard to whether another individual other than the employee is available to care for such family member, if the place of care for such family member is closed or the direct care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.
8. Is obtaining immunization (vaccination) related to COVID-19 or is recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.

All career and non-career employees, regardless of tenure, are immediately eligible for EFEL.

Full-time Employees can receive up to 600 hours of paid EFEL, capped at \$2,800 per pay period.

Part-time Employees can receive up to the proportional equivalent of 600 hours, capped at a proportional equivalent of \$2,800 per pay period.

**Other Considerations**

EFEL does not count as creditable service toward an employee's retirement benefits.

Employees cannot contribute to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) while on EFEL.

As a reminder, the Postal Service provides an essential federal government service as part of the nations critical infrastructure. Therefore, postal employees are generally not subject to Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation orders related to Covid-19, so employees will generally not be eligible to use EFEL for qualifying reason (1) ABOVE. Additionally, no substantially similar condition has been identified that would qualify an employee to use leave for qualifying reason (6) above.

We are continuing to work the issues associated with implementation of these new leave requirements, and we anticipate receiving additional guidance from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which will administer the Fund, in the coming weeks. **In the interim, employees seeking to use EFEL should submit a PS Form 3971 indicating for which of the eight qualifying reasons they must take leave, and employees must affirmatively state that they are unable to work because of the qualifying reason.**

**OWCP claims for COVID-19**

Beyond additional paid leave, the COVID-19 relief package also includes a provision guaranteeing workers compensation benefits to certain federal employees who have contracted the virus and raise a claim with the Labor Department.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 makes it easier for federal workers diagnosed with COVID-19 to establish coverage under the Federal Employees Compensation Act FECA).

Cont. pg. 9



## OWCP claims for COVID-19

cont. from pg. 8

The **legislation essentially presumes** federal employees who have direct contact with patients or members of the public contracted COVID-19 on the job. That presumption means employees may have an easier time filing for workers compensation benefits with the Labor Department, because they won't need to prove they contracted the virus at work.

A letter carrier who contracts COVID-19 while in the performance of their job duties would have the full coverage of the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) for related medical treatment and for wage loss or disability related to that condition or associated complications. The impacts of this provision are as follows:

Any COVID-19 claim filed under the FECA that was accepted for COVID-19 prior to March 12 2021, is not impacted because coverage for benefits has already been extended.

Any COVID-19 claim filed under FECA that was denied or withdrawn prior to March 12, 2021, is eligible for review under the new eligibility requirements.

Any COVID-19 claim filed under the FECA on or after March 12, 2021, will be reviewed solely under the new eligibility requirements.

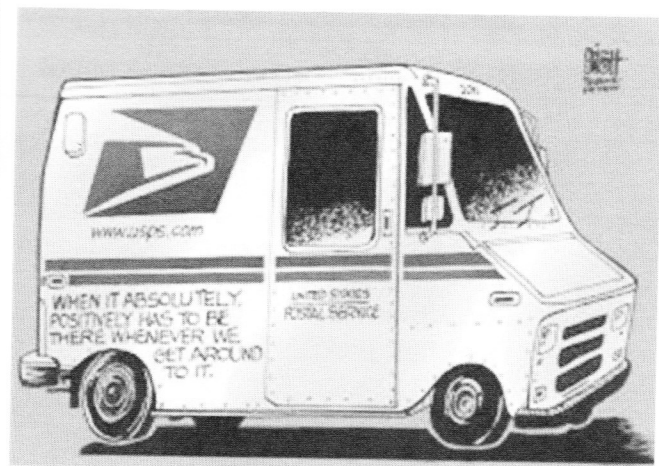
### What this Means to You

If you previously filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA that was accepted by OWCP, you can expect no change.

If you previously filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA that was denied by OWCP based on a lack of federal exposure or a lack of medical evidence establishing causal relationship, you can expect to hear from our office in the next 30-45 days.

If you have never filed a COVID-19 claim under the FECA and you believe you have contracted COVID-19 as a result of your federal employment, you will need to file a CA-1 (Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation) through the Employees Compensation Operations and Management Portal (ECOMP)

# LOL...

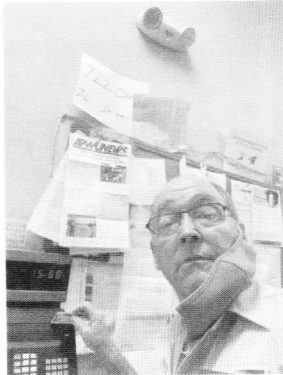


# Welcome New Members

Rudy Benvin  
Robert Torres  
Marbel Pena  
David Quinonez  
Dennis Fulmore  
Rafael Rodriguez  
Neville Barrett  
Natalie Tatoute  
Chevaugn Smith

Mark Laro  
Christopher Gunn  
Mukeshkumar Patel  
Labron McGlond  
Janlet Ngo  
Immacolata Punzo  
Kata Vazir  
Gamaelle Calixte

Zachary Franck  
Sade Lyons  
Leonardo Zayas Rodriguez  
Jeffrey Harfst Jr.  
Alexandria Scopinich  
Davina Buckner  
Gabriel Robels  
Maribel Dauta

**Mark George,**  
who has been a longstanding steward at our Port St. Lucie office retired in December of 2020.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Branch 1690 Mark!

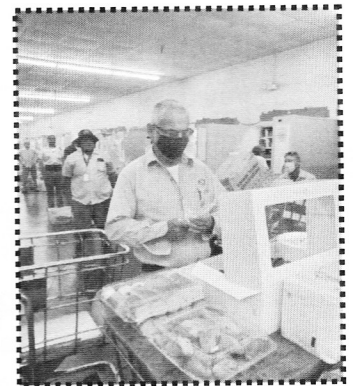
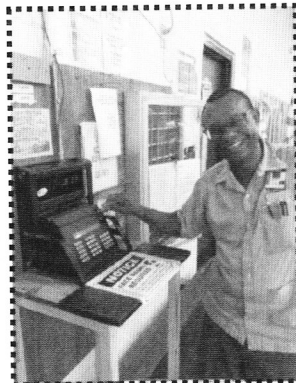
**Bonnie Adams**  
retired back in January 2021 from our Stuart Office.  
Enjoy Retirement Bonnie!



Denise Tims recently retired from our Wellington Annex Post Office.

34 years, way to go!  
Enjoy retirement Denise!

Chris Macario recently retired from our Wellington Annex Post Office.  
Enjoy retirement Chris!



Maurice Caron enjoyed his last day as a letter carrier on March 31, 2021

Enjoy retirement Maurice!

# Treasure Coast Letter Carrier

## Branch Officers

### Branch Office Phone Number

561-967-0240

<b>President</b>	Jeffrey Wagner
<b>Vice President</b>	Patty Badini
<b>Rec./ Fin. Secretary</b>	Genaro Mascolo
<b>Treasurer</b>	Starr Hunter
<b>Health Benefits Rep.</b>	Nancy Zlomaniac
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Barbara Raphael
<b>Trustees</b>	Frank Graham Jason Maldonado Mitch Mullin
<b>TCLC Editor</b>	Patty Badini
<b>Food Drive Coordinators</b>	Starr Hunter Mitch Mullin
<b>Legislative Liaison</b>	Kevin Byrne
<b>Webmaster</b>	Kevin Byrne
<b>Holding Corp.</b>	Karen Barker Patty Badini Starr Hunter
<b>Director of Retirees</b>	Nancy Zlomaniac

*National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1690*

*1840 Alice Ave.*

*West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

*Phone (561) 967-0240*

*Fax (561) 963-9181*

*E-mail: [nalc1690@comcast.net](mailto:nalc1690@comcast.net)*

*Website: [nalc1690.com](http://nalc1690.com)*

## NALC Branch 1690 Stewards

<b>Belle Glade</b>	James Vickers
<b>Clewiston</b>	Leonard Moore
<b>Fort Pierce Midway</b>	Todd Bussard Casey Lorange
<b>Orange Ave</b>	Mitchell Mullin
<b>Jensen Beach</b>	Joshua Gosney
<b>Jupiter</b>	Celeste Farrell Coleman Curry
<b>Tequesta</b>	Kevin Almario
<b>Okeechobee</b>	Roger Jones
<b>Pahokee</b>	Vacant
<b>Palm Beach</b>	Adrian Wasersztrom
<b>PSL West</b>	Brian Johnson Nick Colaiacovo
<b>PSL Midport</b>	Roy Solomon Katie Tassinari
<b>Sebastian</b>	Carlos Quinones
<b>Stuart Main</b>	Casey Coles
<b>Stuart Annex</b>	Frank Graham
<b>Vero Beach Main</b>	Jason Maldonado Mikey Wright
<b>Vero Downtown</b>	Ryan Encarnacion
<b>Vero Citrus</b>	Mike Perrotta

### West Palm Beach

<b>City Place</b>	Trina Hamlin
<b>Haverhill</b>	Linda Soto
<b>Palm Beach Gardens</b>	Larry Osborne Trina Hamlin Shateka Jackson
<b>Palm Central</b>	Jose Yanes
<b>Palms West</b>	DonWon Cooley Doug Lambe
<b>Riviera Beach</b>	Delvin Ramos April Armstrong
<b>Wellington Annex</b>	Barbara Raphael

The Treasure Coast Letter Carrier is a bi-monthly publication of NALC Branch 1690. Articles appearing in this publication reflect the author's opinion only and are not necessarily the opinion of Branch 1690. **All members are invited to contribute articles for publication.** Articles must be submitted one month prior to publication deadline for consideration. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month prior. Articles must be submitted electronically with proper punctuation. Any submissions requiring substantial editing will be rejected. The editor reserves the right to edit all articles submitted and determine what will be printed for the good of the Branch.

NALC Branch 1690  
1840 Alice Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WEST PALM BCH FL  
PERMIT NO. 2751

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
May/June 2021

\*\*\*\*\* SCH 5-DIGIT 34953

KEVIN J. BYRNE  
256 SE TODD AVE  
PORT ST LUCIE FL 34983-3137



**Attention Military**

If you are activated and in a no pay status from USPS for any extended period of time, contact your shop steward or the Union Hall. Thank you for your service.

**If you don't tell us we don't know**

Union Hall at 1840 Alice Avenue is available for rent.

Parties, Showers, Graduations.

Contact the Holding Corp. at (561) 967-0240 or

Karen Barker @ (561) 603-4782

*This is a Members only Benefit*



Let us know of any changes in your mailing address, phone numbers, email or name.

Email us at [Nalc1690@comcast.net](mailto:Nalc1690@comcast.net)  
Or call the Union Hall at 561-967-0240.