

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 375
Gloucester City, NJ
08030

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Barrington, Bellmawr, Berlin, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, Egg Harbor City, Gibbsboro, Gibbstown, Glassboro, Glendora, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

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Bellmawr, NJ
08031

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com April 2014

Presidents Report

I would like to congratulate all those retirees we honored at this year's banquet and I hope you all have a long and healthy retirement, you definitely deserve it! Speaking of the banquet, it was the largest turnout we have ever had and was a great time had by all those who attended. Make it a point to attend next year's celebration. You will not regret it! On to the business at hand. It looks like the district is at it again, in regards to trying to save hours! It appears they have resurrected the pivot plan that failed miserably a few years back under the Diglio reign, where they are told to keep a percentage of routes vacant and use under-time to pivot on them. All this plan accomplished back then was to pay out enormous amounts of overtime grievances to carriers because management ended up forcing non-OTDL carriers to work when OTDL carriers sat home! I hope they are not serious in trying to implement this plan, because it spells disaster! Another issue I have been detailing the last few months at our meetings had to deal with the abuse of a carrier from Deptford had to deal with in regards to his route being overburdened due to being DUO'd to Deptford. Well, we have gotten a decision from the Dispute Resolution Team, and they agreed the carrier's route was overburdened based on the inspection data and must receive 45 minutes of relief within 30 days. They also must pay him \$250.00 as remedy for not adjusting his route within 52 days. As I write this article, I have been told they are looking to give him router time as relief! If that is what they think is a proper adjustment, then they are just putting a Band-Aid on a huge cut. Think about this rationale; the carrier spends about an hour and 15 minutes in the office each morning and 7 and a half hours on the street. How will 45 minutes of router time possibly work in this instance? The answer is simple, it will not. I hope they ask for our recommendation to make this route adjustment proper or else they risk another major grievance remedy. Speaking of Deptford, we recently had a labor management meeting with the Business Agent and the POOM and OIC to address the time-card issues in this office. Our findings showed there were thousands of hours that were tampered with this past year. The steward is now monitoring all future clock rings to make sure this practice will not ever happen again. I guess you are wondering what happened to the guilty parties who were doing these improprieties? Well, as is the postal service, the two 204-B's were promoted to career supervisors! People ask me, how is this justice, when we would be put up for removal? I cannot answer that question, but it tells me that management is aware of this practice and gives their supervisors their blessing in managing this way. The one mistake they made was being caught with their hands in the cookie jar, which is why they got a slap on the hand. One last item, we are beginning to see our CCA's being promoted to career positions. The NALC and the Postal Service just signed a new memo that gives CCA's a greater chance to be promoted to career under new guidelines in the transfer memo. Please go to the NALC website and read M-01834. Hope to see you at this month's meeting

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838
Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

Attendance Prize Now At \$125

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, March 19th, Chad Rusk**, a member from our Deptford Office, would have been the recipient of the **\$100** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$125** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, April 16th @ 8 p.m.**, at the American Legion Hall, 502 Colonial Ave., North Woodbury. The regular monthly meetings of the Branch are held on the Third Wednesday of each month @ 8 p.m., The Branch Board of Officers and Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, April 9th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Health Benefits

We all have those times be it holidays, evenings, weekends, etc... When we need a doctor, and an emergency room visit is not only over kill, but expensive as well. For these times, the NALC Health Benefit Plan offers through CVS Caremark the "Minute Clinic Walk-in Medical Clinics". Nurse practitioners and physician's assistants staff the clinics. They provide medical services for most common illnesses, injuries, routine lab work, vaccinations, and more seven days a week at participating Pharmacies. To find one near you log onto www.minuteclinic/locations, or call 1-866-389-ASAP (2727). Reminder optical reimbursements for all 908 members please send copy of your receipt with name, and address to George Greenwood, HBR 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions concerning NALC HBP or optical reimbursements give me a call at 856-346-1177. Knowledge is power. Learn more. Come to the meetings, and get stronger.

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, The Branch Social and Awards Banquet was a complete success, everyone had a great time. Next year's event will be on April 18th from 7 to 11 at the Kelly Ann Ball Room in Gloucester City, NJ, tickets are going to be \$20.00. Coming up on September 7th is the Clementon Lake Park Branch Picnic from 11am to 7pm. The cost is \$15.00; this includes all the food and drinks for the day and access to both parks for the day. Please contact Sgt at Arms Phil Haas at 609-868-3285 for info and tickets, they are on sale now. Finally, for all new hires the Branch has new and used uniforms at the hall free. Please contact me at 609-932-9913 or come to a meeting, third Wednesday of every month at 8pm. Do not forget we have a National Convention this year in Philadelphia from July 21 to the 25th. Anyone that has any questions for the National Officers please write them down and we will try to get a response.

James Comuso Sr
Chairman of Broad of Trustees

Grievance Log
Step B Decision

Blackwood- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to Follow Instructions when he was charged with not notifying management he would be late on numerous occasions. The file shows grievant did call and verbally inform management he would need assistance. As a remedy, the Letter of Warning shall be rescinded.

Blackwood- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a 7 Day Suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions when he was charged with being belligerent and refusing to work. Based on the file management has not proved grievant acted as charged. As a remedy, the 7 Day Suspension shall be rescinded.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 17 of the National Agreement when they refused to provide the steward time and access to interview 3 carriers on the clock, which resulted in the interviews being conducted off the clock. **As a remedy, the steward will be paid 1.33 hours at the overtime rate, 1 carrier .33 hours OT and 2 carriers .50 hours OT.**

Stratford- Management violated Article 19 of the National Agreement, specifically Section 432.712 of the ELM, when they disallowed overtime worked by the grievant. As a remedy, management is instructed to inform the carrier and the union of any time disallowance in the future prior to disallowing time it may believe to be warranted. No monetary remedy is appropriate in this case because the amount of work time is de minimis.

Stratford- Management violated Article 19 of the National Agreement when they improperly edited carrier's time cards by placing them on incorrect Management Operating Data Systems Codes in violation of the M-39 Section 126.42 and the M-32 Handbook. **As a remedy, since the integrity of the data has been compromised, specifically MODS code edits, this data shall not be used for any route analysis purpose. Management is also instructed to cease and desist.**

Stratford- Management violated Article 19 of the National Agreement, specifically Section 432.712 of the ELM, when they disallowed overtime worked by the grievant. As a remedy, the DRT will pay grievant for .19 units at the overtime time rate.

Stratford- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the National Agreement when they forced work assignment carriers to work overtime on other routes when the ODL carriers and a CCA were available to do this work. **As a remedy, 5 carriers will each be paid .50 hours at the overtime rate.**

The 22nd Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive is
Saturday, May 10

Each year on the second Saturday in May, hundreds of thousands of letter carriers, retirees, family members and volunteers take to mail routes in every state and territory across America, pick up sacks of non-perishable food and deliver the goods to the food banks and pantries that serve their local communities.

Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The accumulation toward the 2015 cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) is **0.2 percent** following the March 18 release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February 2014.

Phillies Ticket Winner

Dan Schnell was the winner of the Phillies tickets. Unfortunately, he is not one of our members. We did however raise \$308.00 for **MDA**. A big Thank You to everyone who bought tickets. Up next, Eagles Tickets. See you Steward for Tickets.

PROUD TO BE UNION

Branch Banquet

The Branch would like to extend congratulations to the following members who recently retired and were honored at our 7th Branch Banquet held on March 29th. Those retirees in attendance and honored were Tom Walsh, Joe Walder, and Don Caswell from our Deptford Office, David Grasso- Stratford, Tom Koehler – Voorhees, Phil Haas - Westville and Ken Grasso and Scott Butler - Hammonton. Those retirees unable to attend were Ted Walter, Robin Minor, Anthony Pasquale, Richard Swiacki , David Hogate and Frank Friedman. Also in attendance were Brian Hellman, Director of our Health Benefits Plan, and his lovely wife, Geneva. Also, our National Business Agent Bill Lucini. Shawn McBride was this year's Steward of the Year. Shawn was presented with a plaque from our Branch President Gary DiGiacomo. I would like to send out a big Thank You! to Ozzie (Leckey) Lecky and Nancy DiGiacomo for working the front door and selling 50/50 tickets.

Mike Powell -Recording Secretary

Branch Scholarship

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on May 21st. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$ 2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting , on the web site or you can contact **Trustee Shawn McBride**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Shawn by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee Shawn McBride can be contacted by phone at 856 **649-9317** or email smcbride1@comcast.net

Shawn McBride

New Colcepe Contributor

Maryellen McGuire has become Branch 908's most recent Colcepe contributor. Maryellen works in our Marlton Office

Attention

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Alternatively, send changes to **Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ or 908recordingsec@comcast.net**

Name: _____
Current Address: _____
New Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____