

# 908 News

NALC Branch 908  
AFL-CIO  
PO Box 150  
Pennsville, NJ  
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# South Jersey Letter Carriers

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



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April 2016

## Presidents Report

This month I want to update the CCA's and career employees on some new answers that the National parties have agreed to, since I am sure the local managers haven't informed you. The one very important answer concerns **breaks for CCA's** who work less than 8 hours on a particular day. It can be found as question #81 in the CCA memo. It states, "**Breaks for CCA's who work only a portion of a day (less than 8 hours) will be as follows: One 10 minute break if the employee works less than 6 hours and two 10-minute breaks if the employee works six hours or more.** So, I am asking the CCA's to take your allotted breaks if you earn them, don't give them back because you are trying to hurry through your assignment because of the pressure from your managers. Remember, **if you don't know your rights, you don't have any!**

The next question #26 asks this, "with regard to scheduling holiday work, are full-time employees who are scheduled after the Tuesday deadline to replace a properly scheduled city carrier assistant employee who calls in sick or is otherwise unable to work eligible for holiday scheduling premium? The answer is **YES!** This means all regular carriers will get the extra premium if scheduled after Tuesday to replace a formerly scheduled CCA, which is a good ruling for our career employees.

The next issue I want to make everyone aware of is management trying to intimidate the carriers with another program that uses your latest 3999 and then tries to hold your daily performance to those numbers, and if you exceed it, they are trying to issue discipline. They are calling it the Performance Enhancement Tool, or (P.E.T.) which is just another unilateral program, not a legitimate test as they are trying to push, and has not been endorsed or even acknowledged by our National Union as something the postal service is implementing which again shows it is nothing more than another way to harass the workforce. They will say you are not making your "demonstrated performance", which is a bunch of garbage. Don't be bullied into thinking you aren't doing your best by their ridiculous little numbers games. These clowns have to justify their bloated salaries by coming up with more and more ways to squeeze the craft that is keeping them employed. Your stewards have been provided with all the necessary documents you will need if the managers try and start issuing discipline based on this premise. Remember, the contract says a fair days work for a fair days pay. I know we are giving them that, I can't say that for the bean counters!

One last item I would like everyone to be aware of and that's a memo that was disseminated back in September of 2015 in regards to Letter Carrier Behavior and was signed by Edward Phelan, Jr, from USPS headquarters. I believe we should be using this memo for our own benefit if management wants to play their games. It deals with the use of mobile phones. They are reiterating that the use of cell phones in the performance of delivery is prohibited. This includes talking, texting, emailing, and posting to social media while driving a postal vehicle and delivering packages. Postmaster and supervisors should only contact on duty carriers via the Mobile Delivery Devices (scanner) for limited USPS business or an emergency. I guess this means we are not required to answer our cell phones because if we do we would be violating their own rules. Just saying. Hey, if they want to try and jam their ridiculous little rules down our throat I say we do the same! Keep up the fight.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, April 20th @ 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 Executive Board and Shop Steward meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Executive Board meets @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, April 13th 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

## Attendance Prize Now at \$100

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 16th, Wayne Kline**, a retired Gold Card member out of the Bridgeton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$75** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$100** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

## Comments From The VP

It's spring time. That time of the year that we clean out our garages, attics, basements, etc. It's also a good time to go on line and check your e-opf or your personnel folder. Everyone should check their personnel folder at least once a year to make sure there is nothing in there that doesn't belong. If for instance, you find that there is expired discipline in your file, you should request from management that it be removed. I have seen management attempt to use expired discipline in an effort to show progressive discipline, however contractually it cannot be used. Another reason to check your personnel file is to make sure your beneficiaries are in order, especially if you are going to retire. Speaking of retiring, we will be holding our annual retirement banquet at Colleen's Catering in Gloucester City on April 16 from 7-11. If anyone needs information or tickets, please contact me at **856-906-2026**. One last thing, Steve Lipski and myself are planning to have a Phillies day downstairs at the hall for retirees and any member that would like to watch a game. We will have more details in next month's newsletter. I can be reached at **856-906-2026** if any members have any questions or need assistance on any matter.

Proud to be Union

Mike Powell - Vice President

## Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA

Hello all. Happy Springtime. All NALC HBP members should by now have received a form 1095-B for income tax purposes. If you have not, then call the plan at **1-703-729-4677** ASAP. You need this to prove you were covered in 2015.

All 908 members please give brand new CCA's my number, and have them call me immediately. Unfortunately, way too many are not being covered with insurance, and ultimately are being fined by law. Please give new hires, those going on their 360 day break, and those being converted to career my number so we can help them avoid any additional expenses with fines, etc....856-304-8665 cell number.

Spring brings new life so how about some new life for all us smokers. Quit for life! Don't wait. Call today to get started! 1-866-784-8454 or visit [www.quitnow.net/nalc](http://www.quitnow.net/nalc). No time like the present. Don't wait for medical need. Do it for yourself.

Optical reimbursements of \$20 one per member/family per year. Send copy of receipt with your name office/retired, and phone number to me at: **George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.** Any questions give me a call at home 856-346-1177.

Drink plenty of fluids. Have a safe happy springtime.

**George Greenwood – Health Benefits Officer**

### Trustee Report

Just a few things this month. Trustee **Jim Boyle** has scholarship forms and they are on the branch website, the drawing is at the May regular Branch meeting. You may contact him at 856-952-6107. The Branch is always looking for new and used uniforms, please bring them to the hall and see me at a meeting. Any new hires please come to regular monthly meeting and look through our assortment of uniforms, you may find something you need for free. Trustee **April Litty** will be at our branch social/retiree banquet, taking pictures and staffing the door taking tickets. Any special picture requests, please see April, she's the branch photographer. April also runs the Branch Children's Christmas party, feel free to ask her any questions you may have about this event. If any member of the Branch passes away, please inform the Steward or a Branch Officer so they can contact Trustee **Mike Graff** who is in charge of our death benefit fund, you may contact him at 856-979-7713. Trustee **Pete DeSimone** handles our sick and welfare fund, if a Branch member has an immediate family member pass away. Contact Pete and the Branch will send flowers or a donation if the family requests. You can contact Pete at 609-680-3129. Finally, be on the lookout for more info on the Branch picnic on September 11, 2016 at Clementon Lake Park, our Sergeant at Arms **Phil Haas** is working hard on this event. Summer is coming fast, lol.

**James Comuso Sr – Trustee Chairman**

### Ozzie's Corner

Happy spring my 908 brothers and sisters! The Letter Carrier Political Fund had 4 new carriers added on to our branch list: **Eugene J. Curry, Tom Danaher, Gregory F. Geier and Jason Imes.** The LCPF was adopted by the NALC to preserve our craft tools such as 6-day delivery and door to door delivery. As the Legislative Director of 908, I'm asking each member of our union (active and retired) to contribute JUST \$1 per pay to our National Pact, to sign up I can be reached at (856) 220-8658 or by my email at [opleckyjr@gmail.com](mailto:opleckyjr@gmail.com). In addition, on April 20th to the 22nd I'll be in Washington DC for our congressional visit with Branch President **Gary DiGiacomo** and Branch Health Benefits Officer **George Greenwood**, look for my report in May's article on our visit to our nation's capital. In Solidarity,  
**Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman**

### 9th Annual Branch Banquet-April 16th

The **9th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 16, 2016** from **7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Colleens Catering** located at **Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City NJ.** This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and especially to honor those members who have retired in the past year as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards. If you have retired since the last banquet or you will retire before **April 16** contact Branch Vice President, **Mike Powell** at 908vp@comcast.net. All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20pp. The cost for current Branch retirees is \$10. Tickets may be picked up from Branch Vice President **Mike Powell** at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to Branch Banquet 136 New Jersey Road Brooklawn, NJ 08030.

Name: _____ Print
Check One: Honoree ( ) Retiree ( ) Other ( )
Total number attending _____
Total remittance \$ _____

### This Year's Honored Retirees Are:

**Ron Croxton** – Blackwood - 30 Years  
**Gary DiGiacomo** – Blackwood - 37 Years  
**Charles Layden** – Blackwood - 41 Years  
**Anthony Riccardi** - Blackwood - 33 Years  
**Tom Saia** - Blackwood - 35 Years  
**William Gore** – Mantua - 36 Years  
**Ron Bibbo** – Marlton - 32 Years  
**Chuck Gravener** – Marlton - 42 Years  
**Mark Rouin** – Marlton - 31 Years  
**Joseph Laluk** - Maple Shade - 20 Years  
**Karl Schluth** – Wenonah - 18 Years  
**Mike Richway** – Somerdale - 20 Years  
**Mike Rofrano** – Gloucester - 36 Years  
**Jesse Casares** – Deptford - 31 Years

### New Gold Card Members

At this year's Banquet, we are also honoring **NINE** new Life Members. Per the NALC Constitution: when a member reaches 50 years of membership in the NALC, he/she shall be given a Life Membership Card of Gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the NALC without the payment of dues. It is our honor to recognize the following members for their service:

**Edward Carola** – Woodbury  
**Robert Fraley** – Voorhees  
**Norman Haas** – Glendora  
**Leo Mealey** – Westville  
**Alfred Capaldi** – Stratford  
**Carlo Marta** – Runnemede  
**Pasquale Penza** – Runnemede  
**Paul Sheets** – Gibbstown  
**Robert Zurlo** – Somerdale

### Judy Willoughby Attending Branch Banquet

We are pleased to announce that although NALC National President **Fred Rolando** was unable to attend our Branch banquet, he has assigned NALC Assistant Secretary – Treasurer **Judy Willoughby** to attend as his representative. This is a great opportunity for our members to meet one of our National Officers in an informal, relaxed setting and ask any questions you might have for her.

### \$10,000 Seat Belt Policy

If State Law, Postal Regulations and plain old Common Sense aren't enough for you, here is another reason that you should be buckling up that seat belt every time you move your Postal vehicle:

Per the ELM 844.1: \$10,000 will be paid to the estate of any postal employee who, while in a pay-duty status, sustains fatal injuries as the result of a job-related motor vehicle accident, provided he or she is wearing the lap belt and shoulder belt when required and is not in violation of the traffic laws and postal policy at the time of the accident.

### Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 18th.** 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 Branch web site, or you can contact Trustee **Jim Boyle**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Jim 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 **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

