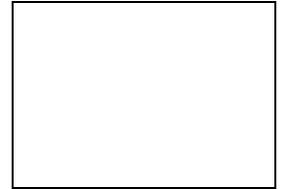


908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 150
Pennsville, NJ
08070

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, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown



Return Service
Requested



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DELIVERING FOR AMERICA

Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com April 2017

Presidents Report

Well brothers and sisters, there is still no news on our contract! It is very strange that we haven't received any information other than they are still talking. I am not going to make any predictions on when we will hear something, so maybe by not expecting some news; we will get some good news. We will be attending the Congressional conference at the end of April, and hopefully we will know something by then.

We are in the midst of route inspections in our Deptford/Woodbury installation, and so far the inspection is going fairly smoothly. I have been observing the counts on different days, to monitor compliance, and can say the team leaders have been very cooperative and upfront with the process, which is a good thing. The one thing I can say is all the players involved want to fix the numbers in this installation. Hopefully, this will get accomplished, and we can get the workforce some much needed relief from the daily confrontations with management because of outdated and incorrect base data for all the routes. I will keep everyone updated as to how this inspection proceeds.

The next information I want to share with everyone is your daily discussions with your manager each morning when they come around to discuss their expectations with you for the day. Please keep in mind the P.E.T. tool managers are using does not take into account your allied office functions or your parcels you will be delivering. Before you give your manager your estimate as compared to his expectations, please ask him how many parcels you have and check your accountable mail as well before estimating your time. If you are over your base parcel number then you must adjust your street time to reflect that. If you have more accountable mail than your average, that must also be put into the equation. This advice is especially for those newer carriers who aren't familiar with calculating time. I am asking the regulars who understand how to calculate time to help the CCA's when a manager comes around trying to bully them into unrealistic expectations.

Speaking of CCA's, a new mandate has been issued from the district with regards to how to utilize the new CCA's. All new CCA's must remain in their installation for the first 30 days. This time is when they have completed all 3-weeks of their training after they are done with the OJI. CCA's should not be sent out alone their first day doing Amazon Sunday deliveries, but should be buddied up with another CCA to show what it is all about. Hopefully, those overzealous supervisors who threw the new CCA's to the wolves on their first time will get the mandate this time. If any CCA do not get this training please let your steward know immediately or contact me directly.

Lastly, if anyone gets injured on the job please contact a union official and let them know immediately. We can guide you through the proper procedure in filling out the proper forms and making sure your manager complies with the law. Please make sure you get a receipt if you fill out a CA-1. The last page of the form is the receipt, and is extremely important to get, because if your manager sits on the paperwork, we can use your receipt as proof of when you handed it in. Not many managers understand that not processing these forms in a timely manner is against the law and can lead to them being prosecuted. If you are not sure what you have to do, please get a hold of a union representative ASAP. Don't trust your manager, since some are new and have no idea how to process this type of paperwork.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, April 19th @ 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 12th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$100

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 15th, Ronald Hamlin**, a retired member out of the Sewell 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

I would like to congratulate all of our retirees who were honored at our Annual Retiree and Award Banquet held at Elizabeth's Ballroom in Gloucester City on April 1. Those retirees in attendance were **Dan Allen** (Marlton), **Ronald Balbi** (Blackwood), **Thomas Danaher** (Gloucester), **William Dougherty** (Williamstown), **Shannon Falls** (Swedesboro), **Ronald Iulucci** (Williamstown), **Dave Jacobson Jr.** (Pennsville) also the following retirees were unable to attend, **Charles Amicone** (Stratford), **William Blazer** (Williamstown), **Linda Burrington** (Marlton), **Robert Marsh** (Deptford), **Janice Metzger** (Swedesboro), **Steven Smith** (Williamstown), **Crisitito Tadeja** (Stratford), **Isaac Thompson III** (Bridgeton). I would like to thank the following members for donating their time to help with the banquet, **Pete Desimone**, **Phil Haas**, **Joe Townsend**, **Ozzie Lecky** and his significant other Allyce Baron and our DJ, **Jake (the snake) Evison**. Everyone I spoke to said they had a great time.

I want to remind everyone to **check your personnel file!** Some carriers have probably never seen their file. I would recommend that everyone check their file at least once a year for mistakes and for disciplines that should have been removed. The Postal Service, in compliance with OPM, has gotten rid of the paper versions of the OPF (Official Personnel File), the files are all digital now and you can view your file from your home computer. Go to the eOPF website at <https://eopf.usps.gov/eOPF/jsp/essLogin.jsp>. Once there, you will need your EIN (Employee Identification Number), this is the number on your pay stub, and your USPS PIN number (the same one you use for Postal EASE). If you forget your PIN, call 1-877-477-3273 and follow the prompts to have a new PIN mailed to you. Once you log in you can view and print anything in your file. If you find something that should not be there, contact your Shop Steward. PROUD TO BE UNION

Mike Powell - Vice President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

60 DAYS!...CCA's this is the time you have to take care of your benefits. Whether you are a new hire, rehire, or being converted you have 60 days to take care of your benefits. Make sure you set up your account immediately on lightblue.usps.gov...you

must get your password to take any actions. Don't miss your chance. Any questions please call me at 856-304-8665, or the NALC HBP at 1-703-729-4677.

New for 2017 - Telemental Health Medicine (High Option Plan)

Beginning January 1, 2017, the NALC Health Benefit (High Option) Plan offers outpatient Telemental Health services through Optum. Telemental Health is a convenient access to virtual visits for mental health assessments and mental health treatment at a distance. Telemental Health appointments also offer the advantage of reducing the time you may need to be away from work and eliminate travel time. Providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. For services provided by In-Network providers, members will pay a \$20.00 copayment. To find an In-Network Telemental health provider call Optum at 1-877-468-1016.

Mutual Benefits Plan-All members think ahead. Plan ahead. The Mutual Benefit Association has various plans for life insurance, retirement savings, and supplemental insurance plans available for you. All plans offer very competitive rates, and returns since this is owned, and operated as a non profit organization by the NALC for the benefit of all members. Information on all plans is available at www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association. For optical reimbursements (one per member/family per year) please send a receipt along with your name, and mailing address, and also the office you work, or retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any questions don't hesitate to give me a call 856-304-8665. Be safe brothers, and sisters.

George Greenwood, HBR

Trustee Report

The Trustees and I did a complete and thorough audit of the Branch's main checking account and the sick and welfare account. After completing the mandated audit, I am pleased to report that both accounts were in proper condition, and the branch is in excellent financial shape. We have also implemented some additional checks and balances to our finances, which I will explain at our next general membership meeting, keeping us moving forward. If anyone ever has a question or concern on any of your monies, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the trustees or come to a meeting and ask questions there. The branch has some upcoming events we would like to remind everyone about. We had our branch retirement banquet on April 1st and we had our National Business Agent, **Dave Napadano** and his staff in attendance along with your National Director of Safety and Health, **Manny Peralta**, in from Washington also in attendance to congratulate our recent retirees. The next branch function is the picnic at Clementon Lake Park on **September 10**. We also want to remind new CCA's about uniforms we have available at the union hall that many career carriers have donated. The branch has many local programs that all dues paying members can take advantage of, so please take the time to find out what programs we have to offer.

James Comuso Sr – Trustee Chairman

Ozzie's Corner

As a City Letter Carrier in today's day and age, cutting Saturday Delivery would be a horrifying reality not only for the NALC, but for society too. First, the T6 or jumper position would be eliminated and some of our second tier workforce would be gone (CCA's). Therefore, some postal clerks, mail handlers and other crafts would feel the brunt through excess. Carrier assignments would go through mass bidding. Next, special popular Saturday publications ordered by our customers like Time Magazine and Entertainment would be all but cancelled. In addition, medicines ordered from different pharmaceutical providers that have a Saturday in/at home date would be delayed until that Monday or Tuesday, which would give our customers a lackluster service. Also, we as City Letter Carriers would have double the mail every Monday coming back from the weekend and triple the mail on a Tuesday that has a Monday holiday. Finally, we would lose that extra day of bringing joy, happiness and professionalism to our customers (kids, adults and elderly). So you see my Branch 908 family, Saturday elimination affects everybody!! In other news, I want to thank our 2 newest LCPF contributors this month, **Tim King** and **Edward Mauger Jr.** Lastly, I reported in February's newsletter that President Trump issued a hiring freeze on all federal employees, however, the City Letter Carrier position is not included in this memo. I hope

to see you all at April 19th's meeting.

Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

**(By making a contribution to the LCPF, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the NALC or of employment by the USPS, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The LCPF will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the LCPF are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the LCPF from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administration staff, or their families.)*

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on May 17th. 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.

Branch Attorney's

Due to the retirement of our Branch attorney, Hal Crass, the Branch has decided to go with the the NJ State Association's attorney **Donald Millman**. Donald is a former letter carrier and has been representing letter carriers and their interests for many years. Although Donald's office is in north Jersey, almost all of the services he can provide our members can be done either over the telephone or by mail or e-mail. His contact information is as follows: Attorney-at-Law DONALD MILLMAN, 111 Northfield Ave. Suite 201, West Orange, NJ 07052. (973) 669-9776; e-mail: donaldjmillman@yahoo.com.

In addition, the firm of Uliase & Uliase is on retainer for the Branch to handle Federal Workers' Compensation Claims. These are the only issues that they handle. Uliase & Uliase are located at 106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035 and can be reached at 856-310-9002.

Membership Dues While In A No Pay Status

According to the Branch By-Laws, Article 8, Section 4; a Branch members in a leave without pay (LWOP) status who are receiving no type of pay or compensation shall be excused from the payment of monthly dues. Those on LWOP receiving any type of compensation, COP, OWCP, Administrative Leave, etc. shall be required to pay their dues directly to the Branch. If you have any questions about your dues, contact Branch Financial Secretary **Steve Lipski** at 856-430-0398.

Don't Use Personal Cell Phone When Your Scanner Battery Dies

The new scanner was supposed to be the ultimate tool for the USPS. The intent was to move the Postal Service into the new millennium and give us an edge on the marketplace. When it first arrived the new scanner was welcomed by letter carriers and it seemed to work better than any scan tool that was put into the field, but this did not last long.

The new scanners are failing **daily**. The screens are deteriorating and creating difficulties for carriers to see the information being transmitted. The biggest, most consistent problem is that the battery life will not last for a carrier's entire day. It is a normal circumstance for carriers to report that their scanner quit working. **The shutdown occurs while many of you have hours of delivery time left in your day.**

We know that many carriers use their own cell phones to take pictures of bar codes after their scanner dies. This type of proactive initiative is a double edged sword in the world we work and can be a detrimental action for letter carriers.

All carriers should be aware that management is using this type of information to discipline letter carriers and the discipline includes removals.

It is **highly recommended** that carriers cease and desist in using their cell phones to replace scanners or to use them in any other way that would implicate themselves in a violation of the National Agreement and the associated handbooks.

