

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



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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com April 2018

Presidents Report

I would like to open this month's report with a shout out to all those CCA's who attended last month's rescheduled meeting. It was the largest showing since the CCA category was established, and I hope this trend continues. We are looking at possibly having a CCA only meeting to address all of the questions and concerns it appears many of our new brothers and sisters are having. If you would like the branch officers to arrange this special meeting, please drop me a line or let your steward know if you would be interested in such a meeting. If we get enough interested CCA's to respond, I would be more than happy to accommodate you. Based on some of the questions we received last meeting, it appears many of you aren't too aware of your rights and many of your responsibilities that are associated with your job. I hope we answered the questions and concerns from the ones who attended and look forward too many more members to come out and ask your questions and make your job less stressful by learning your rights. My one suggestion to those in attendance was to download the NALC app on your phone and go to the section on workplace resources and click on the CCA resource guide. It has everything you will need to know in learning your rights and responsibilities as you wait to get converted to a career position. There was one item I shared with those in attendance, that I want to share with the rest of the CCA's, which deals with the money you are losing by skipping your lunches and/or breaks. This is a number management doesn't want you to know, because they love it that you are donating money back to them. If you skip your lunch you are losing \$8.59 per day, \$52.14 per week, \$208.56 per month and \$2502.72 per year. If you skip your two ten-minute breaks you lose \$5.60 per day, \$33.60 a week, \$134.40 per month and \$1612.80 per year. That adds up to over \$4000.00 a year in lost monies, which management won't tell you. So, I ask you to think about the money you lose by skipping these two guaranteed parts of your job. Also, when you work off the clock you lose additional monies as well. Think about the special meeting I am suggesting and let me or another officer or steward know if you would like to schedule one.

The next item this month, which I am really getting annoyed with talking about, is the issue with time-card theft, and the reaction from the guilty parties. Last month we identified Williamstown of theft and manipulations, and this month we have found Stratford and the Camden annex of stealing from our members. What really is starting to annoy me is how the managers in these installations want to shift blame to the union for making an issue of these findings. Are you kidding me or what? We didn't steal money from the hard-working carriers, you did! Stop trying to hide behind the fact you are thieves and are upset because we have caught you dead to rights. The district manager has gone on record saying he won't tolerate this behavior from any employee guilty of these antics. So, I suggest to any manager who is stealing, either fess up and say you are being told to do this or face the possibility you may lose your job for theft. This branch will not stop pushing to have those who steal removed or given the penalty that any craft member would receive for a like offense. We will continue to investigate all managers we believe may be stealing time from our members until they just stop! I ask all carriers to start looking at your paychecks for missing time. It seems to happen when carriers may be working after 18:00 or may need an 8-hour day to avoid paying penalty time. We also noticed managers are not

paying carriers who may have been expected back at a certain time and didn't return at the time they were expected. We also noticed managers giving carriers extended lunches to make it look like they are not working for certain times. It is now obvious this practice has been going on for a long time with no one looking. Well, I can tell you we are now looking and will continue to look until this practice stops. Please don't be intimidated not to clock in or out by your manager. If they ask you or order you to do this please let your steward or notify me immediately.

Another item to mention is the unilateral program the postal service is trying to implement called the **Safety Ambassador Program.** I won't go into detail about this program, but all I can say it replaces the safety captain program and is not a program the NALC endorses. I am asking all carriers not to be persuaded to join this initiative, as it is not for the benefit of the membership.

Lastly, we are in the midst of finishing up route inspection issues in our Bridgeton office as the 60-day review has been completed and we are waiting on the team to come back in a walk the over-burdened routes. Once the routes are walked and the times are verified, we expect see a route put back in there at least, based on the data I have reviewed. As for the other offices, Bellmawr is almost done their 60 days and Riverton is looking to do a local adjustment without using COR. Hopefully, we can mutually work with the team to get these accomplished without filing grievances. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, April 18th @ 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 11th @ 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 28th, Ben Rickert**, a member out of the Woodbury 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

The minions at the Camden, a.k.a. Hell hole, Annex never cease to amaze me. This week we are being walked with because of the ridiculous route adjustments imposed upon us by the inspection team led by, I think their names were Moe and Larry. They will resort to any trick to try to justify the overburdened routes they have created here at the Hell Hole. Here are a few for your entertainment; the first one occurred on Wednesday 4/4. We were told that the flat sorting machine was broke down, I kid you not, which resulted in most of us being walked having about 50 flats for the day. Thursday 4/5 took the cake. We had red plums on this day and one of the inspectors decided he was going to cry like a baby. I mean this inspectors eyes were

watering, and his bottom lip was quivering. I mean this guy ran to the postmaster's office like he just ate an ex-lax. Well, the postmaster decided to curtail the red plums. This is the same postmaster who is always boasting how great a carrier he was and how red plums or no other house to house delivery should take any carrier longer to deliver. Then why in the hell did he curtail the red plums!!! The fact is Moe, Larry and the minions from the District will never admit they made a mistake in the route adjustments here at the Hell Hole. I again want to encourage all our members and especially our CCA's to try to attend our monthly meetings. It's your chance to get some important information on things happening in the branch and most importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. If any active, CCA or retired member needs my assistance on any issue please contact me anytime at **(856)-906-2026** or 908vp@comcast.net.

PROUD TO BE UNION

Mike Powell - Vice President

Easter Ham Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 28**, **Alyssa McConnell**, a member out of the Blackwood Office was the winner of the Easter Ham drawing, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 16th**. 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.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Springtime is a sign of rejuvenation, and new life. With that in mind, I have just a few reminders this month for a couple things of what's available to all the members of the NALC.

With the NALC High Option Health Benefit Plan, don't forget to take advantage of some of the offerings for you. The Health Assessment is a questionnaire to help give insight as to what actions may help to improve your health. This is available yearly, and for filling out the questionnaire, you are still entitled to one of three free gifts being offered. Be it the fitbit activity tracker, discount dental card, or the reimbursement of some co-pays it pays to fill this out in the form of better health, and a free gift. Second is the Healthy Rewards Discount Program. Healthy Rewards is a program offering up to 60% savings on many name brand health, and wellness products, and services. For information on these go to NALCHBP.org, and click on the links.

Next would be the NALC MBA. Mutual Benefits offers various life insurance policies, hospital plus, and many savings opportunities. I can't stress enough to all CCA's to look into the CCA Retirement savings plan which is totally transferable into your TSP account when converted to career. It really helps to have something to show for all the time you are in a non-career status. Start saving for tomorrow today. Various other savings plans are available for individuals, family members, and retirees. All plans offered can be found at NALC.ORG, and click on member benefits.

The final reminder is for optical reimbursements. Any member of NALC Br. 908 in good standing is entitled to one per year, per member/family reimbursement of \$20 for any optical related expense. To receive your reimbursement send a copy of your receipt with your name, address, and office/retired to me at: George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021..Any questions on any of the above please give me a call at 856-304-8665....Have a safe happy spring time...George..

- George Greenwood, HBR

New 60 Year Members

At the regular Branch monthly meeting on **March 28th**, we were honored to announce that three more of our Branch Gold Card

members have surpassed the 60 Year membership mark.

The members receiving their 60 year lapel pins are:

Richard Beers – Woodbury; **Cecil Laverne** – Blackwood and **George Tyson** – Penns Grove.

We thank them for all their years of service. Branch 908 would not be the great branch it is without the sacrifices made by those that came before us.

Ozzie's Corner

On March 12th, I had the pleasure to attend a Camden County Town Hall meeting at the Camden County Boathouse in Pennsauken. The guest speakers in attendance were Jack Killion (Pennsauken Mayor), Pam Lampitt (New Jersey Assemblywoman), Jeff Nash (Camden County Freeholder) and Donald Norcross (U.S. Congressman). Con. Norcross was born and raised right here in South Jersey. He started his career as an apprentice electrician and soon after, became a leading voice for hard working men and women in New Jersey. Con. Norcross fully supports all 3 of our HR (House Resolution) bills and believes our jobs are greater than delivering letters and packages. He stated, "The Letter Carriers are the eyes and ears in our neighborhoods and on their routes". In addition, he is a big time follower of our veterans, which is a big feather in our caps because a third of our membership locally is exactly just that. Con. Norcross will continue to receive support in this great branch because he understands our issues and he is a true blue collar brother. In April, myself, Gary DiGiacomo (President) and Shawn McBride (Asst. Recording Secretary) will be in Washington, D.C. for our New Jersey Congressional visit. I'll have a report on the trip at April's general meeting. In other news, I want to thank our 3 contributors for April's LCPF: Alyssa McConnell (Blackwood), John A. Prelas (Woodbury) and Julia Rosenthal (Pennsville). I can be reached anytime at (856) 220-8658 for any Legislative matters in our branch. I will see you all at April 18th's meeting. In Solidarity,

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.)*

Phillies Ticket Winner

George Elmer was the winner of the Phillies tickets. Unfortunately, he is not one of our members. We did however raise \$455 for **MDA**. A Big Thank You to everyone who bought and sold tickets. Up next Eagles Tickets. Contact Trustee April Litty with any questions.

This Year's Honored Retirees

Kevin Breitenstine – Stratford
Roy Johnson Jr – Swedesboro
Edward Mauger Jr – Stratford
Steve Nelson – Maple Shade
Joe Foreman Jr. – Marlton
Mike Randazzo - Bridgeton
Kathleen Ward – Marlton
Richard Carapucci – Woodbury
Kenneth Deprince – Blackwood
Gabriel DiSilvestro – Gibbstown
Ella Sands – Maple Shade
Francis Dipipi - Blackwood
Dawn Catroppa – Blackwood
Mike Fitzgerald – Woodbury
Robert Howdershell – Woodbury
James Kilgore Jr – Marlton
Jamie Oliva – Woodbury
Gary Chew – Gibbstown
Dennis Keener – Marlton
Joseph Grasso Jr – Williamstown
James Haydak – Bridgeton
John Gomen – Stratford
William Sperry – Blackwood
Ronald Page – Pennsville
Don Connelly – Bridgeton
Frank Matkowsky – Williamstown
Peter Dela Garza - Marlton

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838
Vice- President- Mike Powell- 856-906-2026