

# 908 News

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

## South Jersey Letter Carriers

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com December 2011

### Presidents Report

As I write this month's article, we are waiting to hear from the national on our contract negotiations, as they extended the talks until December 7<sup>th</sup>. By the time, you receive the newsletter we should all have a better idea as to where these talks led. I hope that we will have an agreement we all can accept! Stay tuned for the latest updates. Last month we asked everyone to do their part and get ten signatures on the petitions to save six-day delivery. Based on our membership we should have collected at least 5000 signatures. As I write this month, we have collected a little over 1800. It is very disappointing to receive this little participation from our members. I would like to thank all of you who did your part, you know who you are, and for those who did not participate I would love to know your reason why you do not feel you need to help save your job? Nationally we have collected 834,684 signatures, short of our 1 million-signature goal, but we are still collecting signatures until the end of the year, so if you still want to do your part please keep gathering the signatures and forward them up to the national. Please include our branch number (908) on the petitions so we can get credit for the signatures. Another issue we are facing is more DUO's upcoming early next year. I have just been notified of the following offices slated to be moved into other installations. They are as follows: **Palmyra into Riverton 2-11-12, Paulsboro into Gibbstown 1-28-12, Pedricktown into Swedesboro 2-11-12, Gibbsboro into Voorhees 2-11-12, and Magnolia into Stratford 2-25-12.** I know many carriers are not happy with these moves, but this is the future of the streamlining that is going on in the postal service and we must learn to adjust to these changes. We should not fight amongst ourselves because of the moves our employers are undertaking. We need to act like adults and accept the change. It is all about keeping this company solvent, and if consolidating offices is a way to keep us employed, then we must accept these moves. There are many rumors on early outs, but I have not heard anything more than most of you. We hear there may be something early next year, but who it would be offered to is still a mystery. Again, stay tuned. We will also be voting on the Branch Budget this meeting, so bring your questions and concerns to the meeting. Thanks to Trustee chairman Jim Comuso and Treasurer Tom Barnett for keeping us well under budget last year and keeping the branch on good financial footing for the future. At this time, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and hopefully next year we will have some more positive news to report on the financial condition of the postal service. Hope to see you at our annual Christmas Party Meeting to enjoy good food and drink.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

### Branch Election Final Notice

This is your final notice that the Election Committee must receive all ballots for the Branch Election by December 14th. The Election Committee will begin tabulating the ballots on December 15th, at 6 pm, downstairs at the Branch Union Hall. Candidates and/or their representatives may observe the tabulations.

### Annual Christmas Meeting December 21

As is our tradition, we will have shrimp and wings. Come out and enjoy!

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 21st, 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 at 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 at **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board at **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively

### Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$250 Guaranteed Winner December 21

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday November 16, Reggie Harris**, a member out of the, Bridgeton Office would have won the **\$200** attendance prize and, **E. E. Biedeman**, a member out of our Bellmawr Office would have won the **\$ 225** prize. The prize now increases to **\$250 and will be given away at our general membership meeting on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, It's Christmas time already can you believe it. The Children's Christmas Party is 12/11/11 from 1-3. It is a great time for the kids. Hope to see you all there. Please contact Trustee Donna Villec with any questions. Branch Elections are underway; I hope all of you voted. This message is to notify all members that the Branch Scholarship drawing will be held at the regular monthly meeting in May instead of June. Please contact Trustee Shawn McBride with any questions. Some reminders, Branch Retirees Banquet April 14, 2012 7pm - 11pm. We have a full open bar; buffet and DJ all for only \$20 a person, get your tickets early or for more info contact Mike Powell. Also, any Steward needing to use our office to make copies or any member that is in need of uniforms the Branch has new and used uniforms available at the hall for free please contact me for access to the hall. From my family to yours have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

### Proposed 2012 Branch Budget

The proposed **2012** Branch Budget, which has been approved by the Executive Board, was presented for the review and consideration of the membership in attendance at the regular monthly meeting on **November 16**. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration, and vote at the regular monthly Branch meeting on **December 21**. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of **\$ 266,867.29** for **2012**.

### Dates to Remember 2011-2012

**December 11-** Children's Christmas party  
**December 14-** Election Ballots Due  
**December 21-** Election Results  
**February 27-28** – Region 12 Annual Training Seminar  
**March 27-March 29** – NJ State Congressional Breakfast  
**April 14** – Branch Retiree Banquet  
**May 20-22** – NJ State Seminar  
**July 23-27** – National Convention

**5th Annual Branch Banquet- April 14th, 2012**

The 5th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 14, 2012 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. Gloucester City N.J. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and especially to honor those carriers 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 14, 2012 contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at [908Recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908Recordingsec@comcast.net). Those being honored will receive one free ticket to the banquet. All other Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20pp. **Current Branch retirees will receive one ticket at half price (\$10).** Tickets may be picked up from Branch Recording Secretary Mike Powell at any Branch meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)  
Check One: Honoree ( ) Retiree ( ) Other ( )  
Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of remittance enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by March 31, 2012. Members of the Branch who have retired since our last Banquet will be honored and presented with tokens of our appreciation. **If you have retired since the last Banquet or you will retire before April 14, 2012, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell 856-287-8768 or [908recordingsec@comast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comast.net).**

**Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year**

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree’s Banquet. There is a nomination form below or simply write on a piece of paper the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination ( must be from Steward office ), and statement including accomplishments, knowledge of contract, ability to deal with co- workers and management, and dedication to the NALC and 908. All submissions must be received by March 28, 2012. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

**Branch 908 Steward Of The Year Nomination Form**

Name of Steward being Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Making Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please write a brief statement as to why you feel this person should be the Branch 908 Steward of the Year for 2012, including accomplishments, knowledge of the contract, ability to deal with co-workers, management, communication skills, and dedication to the NALC and 908. In other words, what makes this person special? (Use additional pages if necessary.)  
I believe \_\_\_\_\_ should be the 2012 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Branch 908 Steward of the Year PO Box 375  
Gloucester City NJ, 08030

**Expanded Family Leave Takes Effect Oct.31**

The Office of Personnel Management issued final regulations Friday allowing federal employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to help a family member who is in the military and deployed overseas, or who is about to deploy. The regulations, which were published in the Federal Register Sept. 30 and take effect Oct. 31, amend the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover deployments for feds' spouses, sons, daughters, or parents. Employees can use sick or annual leave under FMLA, but if they run out, they must take unpaid leave. This will allow feds to arrange for child care of a deployed relative's son or daughter, attend official ceremonies related to the service member's deployment, or make funeral arrangements if the service member is killed. Federal employees will be able to take leave to attend counseling for himself or herself, the service member, or for the service member’s child, as long as the counseling is related to the deployment. OPM said counseling from nonmedical providers — such as ministers, other religious figures and military service organizations — will be covered under the regulations. The regulations also cover school and childcare activities such as parent-teacher conferences, financial and legal arrangements such as preparing a will, rest and recuperation, post-deployment activities, and other circumstances. Congress expanded the benefits as part of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. OPM issued interim regulations in March 2010 extending leave benefits

**Steve Rutkowski, Vice President**

**Turkey Drawing Winner**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, November 16th, Jim Boyle, a carrier out of the Somerdale Office was the winner of the Annual Jack Bittner Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to Branch Trustee Chairman Jim Comuso for donating this year’s turkey.

**From Your Recording Secretary**

USPS has been in a crisis for years this just did not happen overnight. Now here is something to consider. Why are Federal and State Agencies using UPS and FEDEX at a premium rate? Are all Federal and State Agencies mandated to use the most economical means in all expense items? If so, they should all be using the Postal Service to comply with using the most economical service available. It is a real horror to see Federal and State buildings frequented by the more expensive private carriers when it should be USPS. Forcing all Federal and State Agencies to use the Delivery Services provided by the USPS should help the bottom line not only for the USPS but also for every Agency paying top dollar to use private carriers. Just a thought. Finally, I would like to take this time to thank all of our members for their support during my past year as your Recording Secretary. I look forward to serving our members in the coming New Year. I can be reached at 856-287-8768 or [908recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comcast.net). I would like to wish all our members a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

**Mike Powell-Recording Secretary**

**The Officers and Shop Stewards of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to personally wish You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!**

