

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, 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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Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com December 2013

Presidents Report

As we head into the holiday season I have always tried to make this month's report as positive a report as possible, due to the fact this should be a happy time of year. Thanks to the events of the past few weeks, I find it impossible to ignore and must address. It just amazes me how the "brain trust" in this district just never seems to stop coming after the craft that is doing the hard work, and forces me to address their treatment of our craft. I am referring to last month's pre-walks their "misfit" inspection team threw at a couple of our offices where they believe they can take out some routes! Good luck with that! Remember the last time management tried to run their own inspections without the help of the NALC? It cost them millions of dollars nationwide as well as locally. They brought their total disrespect of our craft by trying to intimidate and harass the carriers from the offices they did their pre-walks with. It started by their trying to say a pre-walk doesn't adhere to the same rules as a regular inspection! Really? Where in the M-39 does it state that nonsense? They came in with guns blazing by telling carriers they had to double up all relays, even with ADVO's, because that is the way it is going to be! Never mind the routes are not set up that way, they said to do it anyway! They then instructed carriers to work out of the front of their vehicles instead of out of the back! Now this is coming from a group of people who never carried a piece of mail in their lives! Oh yea, they know best on how to deliver a route. You know, they manage rural routes in the sticks, so they are definitely an authority on city delivery. They then tried to say it was a safety issue, but when I inquired about the carriers who use vans and work out of the back they seemed dumbfounded! What a bunch of disgraceful people who have no clue on delivering mail. I can go on and on to describe this pathetic showing of management flunkies but won't, because it is the holiday season. For the record, not all of these people should be included in my assessment, but we all know who the "biggest losers" in this group are. Another issue I must mention, since I was never given the courtesy of an answer by the district manager last year, even though he agreed to look into it. I asked if they considered re-evaluating any of the DUO's they implemented because they may not be cost effective to the postal service. He asked me what office I was speaking on and I told him the National Park office going into Deptford. Since he never got back to me, the carriers had to put in for special inspections because of the constant harassment of the local managers. We just finished one inspection and I can tell you there will be a nice route cut and a new route should be added to the auxiliary route and possibly another auxiliary after the next route is inspected. I am sure we will have to file a grievance to get these adjustments implemented, but that's fine since the numbers speak for themselves. Had they looked at the cost factor of this DUO, I believe they would have never gone through with it at this time. You have routes that never worked overtime and were able to absorb some of the auxiliary route on a daily basis. Now you have carriers driving 45 minutes to give help to these routes when they have to break up the route. You have carriers now making 80 grand instead of 60 grand doing their same route! Not a brilliant strategy if you ask me! This is only the beginning! Hope to see you at the Christmas meeting, but if not, have a safe and happy holiday!

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 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 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, December 11th 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize We had a Winner

Gil Curran, a retired member from our Haddon Hts. Office, won the Attendance Prize (\$100) at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 20th**. The prize now stands at **\$25** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Trustee Report

Brothers and sisters, another year has flown by and it's Christmas already. Therefore, as I stated last month the branch budget for 2014 is ready for your review and approval. In addition, the branch trustees and I recommend its approval. The branch had a good year financially. So please take time to review it and discuss it. The branch children's Christmas party is December 8th from 1-3 at the hall. Santa will attend. There will be food and drink, pictures with Santa, and gifts for all kids. All new carriers please come out bring the kids it is a great time. Moreover, while you are there please check out the branches supply of free uniforms that are down stairs. Now just a few reminders, the branch social and awards banquet is March 29th from 7-11 at Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester. There is a dj and all you can eat and drink, with free open bar all for \$20.00 pp. Also remember that the branch has 2 attorneys on retainer please take advantage of their services when needed. Other benefits offered by the branch, sick and welfare, and optical funds see your steward for more info. Finally from my family to yours have great and safe holiday season.

James Comuso, Chairman Board of Trustees

Mailing and Return Of Branch Election Ballots

The Branch Election Committee mailed branch election ballots out on **Monday, November 4th** for completion and return to the Election Committee by **Wednesday, December 11th**. The Election Committee, at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, **December 18th** will announce the results of the election. Any eligible member who has not received an election ballot, or received the wrong ballot, should contact the Branch Election Committee Chairperson, **Chuck Patel at (609) 790-9432**. (If no answer leave message). The Election Committee will begin counting the ballots on **Thurs, Dec. 12th at 7pm** at the Union Hall. Candidates are welcome to observe.

Penalty Overtime Exclusion

This year, the December period begins Pay Period 26-13-Week 1 (Nov. 30) and ends Pay Period 01-14-Week 2 (Dec. 27).

Grievance Log
Step B Decision

Blackwood- Management was in violation of Article 7.1.C.4 when they failed to utilize two PTF carriers at the straight-time rate over the course of the service week in question prior to utilizing CCA's. As remedy the following two PTF carriers will be compensated **8 hours** each for the lost straight-time work opportunities.

Blackwood-Management violated Appendix B and the joint CCA questions and answers when they involuntarily reassigned the grievant from the Blackwood Post Office to the Pennsville Post Office. As a remedy, the grievant shall be immediately returned to Blackwood as a CCA and made "whole" at the applicable mileage rate for the additional expense he incurred due to the increase in his daily commute that resulted from this violation.

Deptford- Management violated Article 41 of the national agreement when they removed a CCA from her hold down assignment. As a remedy, the grievant shall be "made whole" by compensating her for the difference in the number of hours actually worked and the number of hours she would have worked had she not been improperly bumped from her assignment. A payment of **8 hours** at the overtime rate will be paid to grievant.

Deptford- Management violated Article 41 of the national agreement when they removed a CCA from his hold down assignment. As a remedy, the grievant shall be "made whole" by compensating him for the difference in the number of hours actually worked and the number of hours he would have worked had he not been improperly bumped from his assignment. A payment of **8 hours** at the overtime rate will be paid to grievant.

Deptford- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the national agreement when the required non-ODL and work assignment carriers to work approximately 17 hours of overtime when ODL carriers were available. As a remedy, **1 carrier to receive 10 hours, 2 carriers to receive 1 hour, and 8 carriers to receive .50 hours,** at the overtime rate.

Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch will hold its **Second Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on **December 18th**. This year we will be raffling off three **Visa Gift Cards worth (1) \$500 and (2) at \$250**. See your Steward for Tickets, which are \$2. Any questions contact **Trustee Shawn McBride (856) 649-9317** or **Recording Secretary Mike Powell (856) 287-8768**.

Mail Carrier Fatally Shot While Delivering Mail at 7:20PM

11.24.2013 - Washington Post reports: "A U.S. Postal Service mail carrier was shot and killed Saturday night while on his rounds in Prince George's County, authorities said. The shooting occurred about 7:20 p.m. in the Cheverly-Landover area of the county, said Officer Harry Bond, a police spokesman."

Health Benefits

Health Benefits open season has come to a close, and hopefully you found the best program to fit your needs. Newly hired CCA's keep in mind with the new Affordable Care Act everyone is required to be covered with a Health Insurance Program. If you are not on a spouse, or parents plan, and after your 90 day probationary period you can find all the information you need at both nalc.org, and at liteblue.usps.gov. Any questions feel free to contact me at 856-304-1177. Finally, all NALC Br. 908 members are entitled to a one per family per year optical reimbursement of \$20.00. Please send a copy of your receipt including your name, and address to: George Greenwood, HBO 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 0802108021

George Greenwood HBO

A Note From The Recording Secretary

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**. I would like to wish all our members a **Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year**.

Mike Powell-Recording Secretary

7th Annual Branch Banquet-March 29th

The **7th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **March 29th, 2014** 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 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 **March 29th** contact Branch Recording Secretary, **Mike Powell** at 908recordingsec@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 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 21, 2014. 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 March 29th, 2014, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comcast.net.**

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree's Banquet. 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 February 28th, 2014. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

Phone Numbers to Remember

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

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!

