

# 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 2015

## Presidents Report

In keeping with the holiday season, I will try to be as positive as I can in this month's article, even though it is hard not to speak about the treatment many of us are dealing with on a daily basis. With the postal service already predicting another banner year on parcel deliveries, it is good to remember a few things as we head into the heart of the season. This reminder is really intended for all of our new CCA's who have never been through this type of craziness. You will be overwhelmed by the amount of packages you will be getting on your routes you are carrying, but just remember to take your time and make sure you scan everything properly. You will be told by some of your managers that parcels do not take any longer to deliver, which is not accurate. They will tell you your mail volume is lighter than usual so this makes up for the extra 70 packages you have to deliver. Again, not true. Remember also, your parcels are not included in your street base time, if management tries to use DOIS to give you their projected street time. **Also, on your 3996 you will notice that on the back of the form next to the letter "j" it states, (omit reason for requesting assistance during the Christmas period.)** There is a reason this is there. This time of year all numbers go out the door and make it really difficult to project how much time you actually need. If you think you need assistance then all you need to do is tell them how much time you think you will need and put the letter J in the reason box. Hopefully, you won't have those overzealous managers try and intimidate you and instead work with you during this hectic time. Just know your rights when it comes to asking for assistance. It appears the district has been hiring CCA's in droves, as I have been getting tons of new 1187's in the mail, which is good news. Hopefully, we can get the majority to stay on board, since there are more and more carriers heading for the door in retirement. These new employees are the future so we must make them want to stay and keep the postal service thriving for years to come. One last item is everyone just received their last contractual raise in their paychecks and the CCA's got 2 raises, which all helps. If you weren't aware, our contract expires this coming May and you can expect negotiations on a new one to start in February. I am sure there will be a lot of tough issues we will be dealing with next year, as always, when it comes to trying to negotiate a new agreement. Stay informed by signing on as an e-activist to get up to the minute news when it breaks. On behalf of all your officers I want to wish everyone a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you at the Christmas meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 16 @ 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 9 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

## Health Benefits

Well Monday December 14 open season comes to an end, but keep in mind any CCA's converted to Career, or anyone having a "Qualifying life event" you will be afforded the opportunity to make any needed changes to your Health Benefits Plan. With that in mind you may want to consider filing one of the "Privacy Forms" available at nalchbp.org. These forms are vital should the need arise for a designated individual to have access to your medical records, or represent you in a claim dispute. Designated individuals must 18 years of age. New for 2016 the NALC HBP is rolling out a new "Disease Management Program". Effective January 1, 2016, NALC is introducing a new disease management program called the Personal Health Team at Your Health First. This program allows you to work 1 on 1 with a health advocate on a wide range of conditions to help improve your health. More details on the program will be provided as they become available. Should you have any questions, or concerns regarding your Health Benefits, Mutual Benefits, Optical Reimbursements, or FMLA please feel free to contact me anytime at 856-346-1177. Have a safe, happy, healthy Holiday Season, and New Year.

For Optical reimbursements please send a "COPY" of your receipt with your name, address, and specify what office you're employed in, or retired to:

George Greenwood, HBR  
1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

## Annual Christmas Meeting December 19th

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

## Ozzie's Corner

Hi Branch 908 Family, I want to say a big thank you to all of Branch 908's LCPF contributors for 2015. The LCPF is a vital part of job security moving into 2016 because we need to keep everything we have in place. The LCPF had six contributors this month: Gary Chew, Robert Gaff, Phil Haas, Richard J. Mcnee Jr., Amanda Norton and Dana M. Watkins. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you need to contact me about the fund. I want to wish all my Brothers and Sisters of 908 a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In Solidarity,

**Ozzie Lecky, Branch 908  
Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairm**

## Branch Election Committee

This is to publicly express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following members of the Branch Election Committee who did an outstanding job of prepping for, mailing and tabulating the Branch 2016-2017 Election ballots. **Chuck Patel** (Chairman), **Chuck Greene**, **Joe Foreman**, **John Ebinger** and **Eric Renninger**

## Guaranteed Winner December 16

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday November 19**, **James Costello**, a member out of the Somerdale Office would have won the \$225 attendance prize. The prize now stands at \$250 and will be given away at our general membership meeting on Wednesday, December 16th.

### Annual Branch Banquet-April 26

The 9th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on **April 26, 2016** from **7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Colleens Catering** located at **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 **April 26** contact Branch Vice President, **Mike Powell** at [908vp@comcast.net](mailto: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 \$ _____

### 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 March 31st, 2016. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

### Pew Survey Ranks U.S. Postal Service as Most Favorable Federal Agency

A [national poll by the Pew Research Center](#), released Nov. 23, found the USPS ranked as the most trusted federal agency, with favorable ratings given by 84 percent of those polled. Congress, which has failed repeatedly to heed the Postal Service's request for financial assistance, was at the bottom of the list, with favorable ratings assigned by 27 percent of those polled. Perhaps more encouraging to postal executives was an unusual survey conducted by the University of Maryland for the Initiative. The survey found an "overwhelming majority" of the respondents favored relaxing a requirement of the USPS to "prefund" retiree health benefits.

### Penalty Overtime Exclusion

As referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the National Agreement between the NALC and the USPS, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins Pay Period 26-15-Week 2 (Dec. 5, 2015) and ends Pay Period 01-16-Week 1 (Jan. 1, 2016).

### Turkey Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**, **Larry Adair**, a carrier out of our Deptford 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.

### Update on Cyber Attacks

The recent cyber-attacks against Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Postal Service data systems remain under investigation. NALC President Rolando has received a letter from OPM's Acting Director advising that postal employees and retirees were affected by the OPM incident. According to OPM, it is highly likely that NALC members were impacted if they underwent a background investigation through

OPM in 2000 or afterwards (which occurs through the submission of forms SF 86, SF 85, or SF85P). Individuals who submitted this information prior to 2000 may be impacted, but it is less likely. OPM has begun notifying impacted individuals beginning in late September and such notifications will continue on a rolling basis. NALC members are encouraged to review available resources on OPM's cyber web site at <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity/>. Individuals may sign up for cybersecurity updates directly on this website. Meanwhile NALC and the other major postal unions are continuing to negotiate over issues arising from the earlier cyber-attack on the Postal Service. Such negotiations are required by the settlement of the unfair labor practice charge against the Postal Service filed by NALC.

### A Note From The Recording Secretary

I would like to take this time to thank all of our Branch members for their support during my past year as your Recording Secretary. I look forward to serving our members in the upcoming New Year as the Vice President of our great Branch. I would like to wish all our active and retired members a **Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year**. I can be reached any time at the following 856-287-8768 or [908vp@comcast.net](mailto:908vp@comcast.net).

**Mike Powell - Vice President**

### \*Attention\*

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Alternatively, send changes to **Norm Spence, Recording Secretary, NALC Branch 908, PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070** or e-mail - at [norm908@comcast.net](mailto:norm908@comcast.net)

Name: _____
Current Address: _____
New Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____

*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!*

