

# 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



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



DELIVERING FOR AMERICA

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

## Presidents Report

Each December I try to make my report as positive as I can, since this is the greatest season of the year, in more ways than one. It is becoming increasingly hard to stay positive as I watch the way this organization is being run into the ground. The service we once provided was top notch compared to any of our competitors, but now is falling off miserably. The managers we have running many of our offices have little more than two to three years in. What a shame the many who were proficient at running this company have had their full of the nonsense being forced down their throats and decided to retire. Who could blame them for wanting to get out of this cesspool? I have been around a long time, and know many of the big boys and girls who tell me they can't stand the way the company is going, and rather than stay and risk their jobs by doing improper things, that are expected of them, would rather keep their morals and move on. I applaud those who still believe in letting the numbers speak for themselves, although those too are dwindling.

This brings me to the situation we have been dealing with for the last 3 months. We are still trying to hold the managers who were falsifying time-cards accountable, and will continue to press on until we accomplish this. I have been informed that some managers are still doing this as I write this month's article, which blows my mind. This has to stop, and if the district doesn't want to stop acting like they are addressing it, we must try other methods to get this style of managing corrected. I get sick to my stomach every time I hear of another manager deleting time-cards and allowed to continue to stay employed. All I can tell everyone is we are continuing to fight this fight, and will not rest until a resolution is found that is appropriate.

Another item that has finally been resolved is the back pay due to the members. It appears many received around \$1000.00 give or take a few dollars, which many members think is a low number. Not sure how they did all the calculating, but hopefully those numbers are accurate and no one got short changed. Those who retired also should have gotten a paper check mailed to their former office. I suggest those of you who are in that category check back with your former office. Looks like the CCA's will get theirs in February. For all the details check the National website.

One last item I would like everyone to be aware of is the time you will need to deliver the enormous amount of parcels you are getting. It appears we are at a record breaking pace already, and just remember, you still need to fill out a 3996 if you think you won't make your managers low-ball projections. They will tell you there is no volume and that will make the extra parcels you get a wash. You decide how much time you need, not the DOIS projections that don't include your parcels. I guess I wasn't that positive, sorry.

I want to wish everyone and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hope to see everyone at our Christmas meeting for a relaxing and enjoyable evening of good food and drink. Until next year.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 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, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

## Attendance Prize Now at \$250 Guaranteed Winner at December Meeting

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Krystal Murray**, a member out of the Marlton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$225** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$250** and we will draw names at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

## Comments from the VP

The Holiday Season is upon us and since it's that time of year to be Joyous and Happy, I will not be addressing any of the numerous issues at the deplorable Camden Annex, AKA "The Hell Hole", this month. I want to wish all our active and retired members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. I have a few reminders for everyone to keep in mind before the start of the New Year. First, when filling out your 3996 you can put the letter J for your reason for auxiliary assistance. If your 3996 is denied call your office in the afternoon and get instruction from your supervisor. Just because your 3996 was denied doesn't mean that your mail will magically deliver itself, and it certainly doesn't mean that you should skip your lunch and breaks or work in an unsafe manner. Second, if management instructs you to finish your assignment in the dark then make an effort to follow that instruction. If you determine the conditions are unsafe then inform your supervisor that you will be returning to the office. You, the carrier, are the one that makes that determination. If anyone has any issues with any of the above, please contact me immediately. Next, I got our branch involved in a program for underprivileged children called the Angel Tree. Tags are placed on the tree representing these children's Christmas wishes. Donors pick a tag from the tree and shop for the perfect gift for the child selected. I want to thank the following members for selecting a tag this year, Shari Owens, Joann Lamplugh, Ozzie Lecky, Bill Kyser, Ryan Schmidt, Chuck Huff, Bobby Oslewski, Joe Sloan, Bob Gaff, A.J. Rybicki, Mike Hoopes, Steve Elias, Gary DeMore retired members Phil Haas and Joe Powell and Scott Mitchell and John Andrioli. Thank you all for your generosity. I can be contacted at any time at **856-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net. Proud to be Union.**

Mike Powell - Vice President

## Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Open season has officially closed. Hopefully all needed changes were made in time. Any changes from this point on can only be made for life, and career changing events. New hires have 60 days from day of hire to enroll in the USPS HBP.

The year is coming to an end so if you haven't already, anyone in the NALC HBP High Option if you fill out a Health Assessment you are entitled to one of 3 free gifts offered by the plan. When one covered member completes the HRA, you may choose one of the following:

Self only CignaPlus SavingsSM discount dental program;

Waiver of two \$20 PPO medical office visit copayments (when the Plan is the primary payor) incurred in the same year as the Health Assessment is completed; or  
a wearable activity tracking device.

When two or more covered family members (including the member) complete the HRA, you may choose one of the following: Family CignaPlus SavingsSM discount dental program,

Waiver of two \$20 PPO medical office visit copayments (when the Plan is the primary payor) incurred in the same year as the Health Assessment is completed; or

a wearable activity tracking device (limit 2 devices per enrollment)

Go to [nalchbp.org](http://nalchbp.org) to complete the assessment.

With the new year upon us I urge everyone to look into all that is offered through NALC MBA. Various life insurance plans, hospital plus, retirement savings, and CCA savings, are all offered to us through MBA. Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) under Member benefits to see the options. Start your tomorrow today at MBA.

Optical: Any NALC 908 member in good standing is entitled to one per member/family optical reimbursement annually. For 2017 all receipts must be received by Saturday 12/30/2017 in order to be credited for this year. After that, 2018 reimbursements will begin on Monday January 1, 2018..Send all requests with a copy of optical receipt, name, office/retired to me at: George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021... Any questions on all the above please give me a call at 856-304-8665.....Have a Merry Blessed Christmas, or whichever holiday you may observe, and have a safe Happy New Year.

- George Greenwood, HBR

### Ozzie's Corner

In November's Newsletter, I emphasized that the 2017-2018 proposed Postal budget is a clear cut direct hit on all active and retired Letter Carriers. The last four areas covered in this proposal produce serious consequences that need to be payed close attention to, another words, these are true and actual. Point 1, the annuity supplement that covers the gap for employees who retire under FERS before they qualify for Social Security benefits at the age of 62 would be eliminated. Point 2, The G Fund under the Thrift Savings Plan would slash the rate of interest paid on assets invested, costing active and retired Letter Carriers alike \$32 billion over 10 years. Point 3, \$46 billion in revenue changes and defined cuts to the Postal Service. The memo includes reducing the frequency of delivery (eliminating Saturday delivery) and scaling back door to door delivery. The last piece in the budget, to me is the worst, it would make the financially independent Postal Service into an "on-budget status". The USPS would see across the board spending cuts (sequestration). Also, service would be disrupted should the federal government shut down during these conflicts. However, through all of this doom and gloom, there is a solution to this horrific ideology, a light at the end of the tunnel: The Letter Carrier Political Fund. Investing and protecting your job as a City Letter Carrier costs as little as a dollar per pay period. In closing, I want to thank Pedro Rodriguez (Pennsville Office) for being this month's LCPF contributor and Ryan Schmidt for his assistance. I hope to see you all at the December 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.)*

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, its Christmas time and we once again held the kids Christmas party on December 10th from 1 to 3 pm at the union hall. Hopefully you and your family were able to attend and enjoy this fun day with Santa and your Union Brothers and Sisters and their families. Reminder, at our regular meeting coming up December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm someone will win the \$250.00 attendance drawing, plus the food and drink is awesome too. As chairman of the budget committee and chairman of the board of trustees I have many hats, and one is always look for a permanent home for our branch, a building of our own. We are looking for hall type building all members can be proud of. If anyone has any prospects, please contact me. Remember we have the installation ceremony in January for

Branch officers and down the road we have retirees banquet in April. From my family to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Jim Comuso - Chairman of the Board Trustees**

### 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 25-17-Week 2 (Dec. 2, 2017) and ends Pay Period 01-18-Week 1 (Dec. 29, 2017).

### 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, mailing and tabulating the Branch 2018-2019 Election ballots. **Bill Gore** (Chairman), **Chuck Greene**, **Joe Foreman**, **Sal Destralo** and **Eric Dare**. Election results will be announced at the regular monthly meeting on **December 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### Turkey Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, **Jake Evison**, a carrier out of our Woodbury Office (and our fantastic DJ for the Annual Branch Banquet) was the winner of the **Annual Jack Bittner Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway**. Thanks to Branch Trustee Chairman **Jim Comuso** for donating this year's turkey.

### Proposed 2018 Branch Budget

The proposed 2018 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 15<sup>th</sup>**. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration, and vote at the regular monthly Branch meeting on **December 20<sup>th</sup>**. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of **\$222,947.00 for 2018**.

### Congratulations To Our Three New

#### Gold Card Members

Per the NALC Constitution: when a member reaches 50 years of membership in the NALC, he/she shall be given a Life Membership Card of Gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the NALC without the payment of dues. It is our honor to recognize the following members for their service:

**Joseph G. Santangelo – Blackwood**

**John V. Hillman Jr. – Woodbury**

**James J. Wilson – Blackwood**

***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!***

