

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



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

Presidents Report

As we head into the busiest time of the year for everyone, I want to remind our newer employees, and even our seasoned veterans about a few items. First and foremost, please be extra careful when delivering the enormous amount of packages you will be getting this month, as many people are in a hurry to get nowhere but may put you at risk by their careless driving habits. I know many of the newer carriers may be overwhelmed with the amount of time it may take to complete your assignment, but please don't be intimidated to rush through your job by some of your overzealous and inexperienced managers! You have now been instructed to scan every package while loading up, which obviously will take more time on the street, even though you will hear some managers say the reduced mail volume makes up for the extra packages. Please don't buy into that nonsensical comment. You determine the time it takes, not their DOIS program, which does not take into account your additional parcels. Some offices, who have competent managers, which aren't many these days, "get it" but some will continue to try and manage by the computer. I suggest you stay in communication with your local managers when you are not going to make their morning expectations. Just remember, the postal service has already gone on record as stating the parcel volume will be up by better than 10% this year as compared to last year. Please be smart and take it safely, even if it means it may take longer.

One nice thing I wish to mention is the work of our stewards in Williamstown and Marlton, who with the help of our Business Agent, has gotten carriers grievance settlements totaling over \$10,00.00 for being screwed by local managers. The Williamstown situation dealt with time-card tampering which netted 11 carriers approximately \$1200.00 and a carrier in Marlton over \$9300.00 for being done wrong. The one downer to this good news is the manager who is guilty of these thefts in Williamstown is still employed in the postal service!

Another important item to report on is I have just been officially notified that a few of our offices will be having route inspections in the spring. The list is as follows: **Magnolia** and **Somerdale** are **March 16th thru March 22**. **Stratford** is **March 23 thru March 29**. **Clayton** and **Glassboro** are **April 6th thru April 12th**. **Williamstown** is **April 13th thru April 19th**. **Gibbstown** and **Paulsboro** are **May 18th thru May 24th**.

This is the most updated list as of now and may be changed or added too. As always, we will set up training classes for all offices as the dates approach, so please don't sweat not being prepared for this, as we will give you all the information you will need to make it a successful inspection. I know many carriers would rather make a deal than do a full-blown inspection, but for the offices who haven't been inspected in over 5 years, it really is to your benefit to get updated and fresh data going forward. Your routes have been using old numbers to measure what you do now, which isn't fair to anyone. Getting credit for all the extra duties you do today will benefit you in the future.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year**. Hope to see everyone at our December meeting for some wings and shrimp and a chance to win our attendance prize of \$250.00. Stay safe and be smart.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 19th @ 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 12th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$250

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday November 21st, Vance Shepherd**, a member out of the Woodbury Office would have been the recipient of the **\$225** attendance prize. **The prize now increases to \$250 and will be won by a member in attendance at the December 19th meeting.**

Comments from the VP

Brothers and Sisters, to keep in the spirit of Christmas, I am going to keep this month's article positive. First, I want to wish all our Branch 908 members (regular, retired, cca's) and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous and Safe New Year. Brothers and Sisters this is the season for giving and lending a helping hand to those less fortunate than us and that's why I got our branch involved in The Angel Tree for Underprivileged Children. The past 2 years our members have opened their hearts to buy gifts for underprivileged children, so that these underprivileged children can have a Merry and Happy Christmas. I want to thank the following Branch 908 members who have sponsored a child and in some cases 2 or more children this year, they are Ozzie Lecky (Westville), Chuck Huff (Mt. Ephraim), Bob Olszewski (Bellmawr), Min Liu (Bellmawr), Bill Kyser (Haddon Hts.), Joe Sloan (Gloucester), Steve Elias (Gloucester), Bob Gaff (Gloucester), Vice President Mike Powell (Gloucester), Joe Powell (Mt. Ephraim, retired). A big thank you! to Tom Danaher (Gloucester, retired) who sponsored 3 children and a great big thank you!!! to Shari Owens (Riverton) who sponsored 5 children. Brothers and Sisters, I hope I don't get any coal in my stocking this year, because I fibbed about keeping this article positive. It's hard not to talk about all the hardships inflicted by the high-priced henchmen/women here at the aka **Hell Hole (Camden Annex)**. The henchmen/women here at the **Hell Hole (Camden Annex)** have decided to change the start times from 7:30am to 8:00 am. I'm guessing these geniuses figured that since it gets dark sooner, starting the carriers later will somehow create a safe work environment and keep the overtime hours down. Hello, is there anyone home, this start time thing has failed miserably, along with their Pet Tool, Dois Tool and any other idiotic program they have tried here at the **Hell Hole**. When Harassment, Fake Numbers, and Intimidation are part of the equation the answer will always be **FAILURE** here at the **Hell Hole (Camden Annex)**. Before I end this article, I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCA's to try to attend our December meeting. It's not only your chance to get some important information on things happening in the branch but more importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. You can also grab a bite to eat, have a beverage of your choice and meet and mingle with

new and old friends. If any active member, Cca or retired member needs my help on any issue please contact me anytime 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. The holiday season is upon us, and open season is now history. Hope you made any changes you needed by the deadline. Only opportunity for changes now are qualifying life events (QLE), or a change in status, such as a conversion to career, or retirement. CCA's converting to career, and those about to retire, I urge you all to take a look at the NALC health benefit plan. You'll see you do get excellent coverage at very low cost, and low out of pocket expense.

Open season has ended, but any time of year you can purchase one of many life insurance, hospital plus, or retirement savings plans available through the NALC Mutual Benefits Program. Go to nalc.org under member benefits to see what's available for you. CCA's I strongly urge you to open a retirement savings plan so you have something to show for time spent as a CCA. Once converted to career you can have all the funds in this savings transferred into your TSP Thrift Savings Plan retirement account, or keep it in your MBA retirement Savings. Either way is a win win for you.

December is now upon us, and as the New Year approaches don't forget to get your optical reimbursement in for the year. The reimbursement for optical expenses is one \$20 payment per year, per member/family for any member in good standing. To receive it please send a paper copy of your optical 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 feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665 anytime. Have a Safe holiday season all.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

As we look back over the 2018 year, let's look at the major headlines that 908 was involved in within the Legislative and Political arena. In February, we had our New Jersey State 3 day Seminar in Atlantic City. The primary focus of the rap session was to figure out ways to reach out and educate our members about LCPF (The Letter Carrier Political Fund) and why we contribute. In addition, representatives from the NALC talked about the upcoming election in November. In April, we had a successful trip down to Washington D.C., where we met with 2 Senators and a number of Congressmen in person who signed off and supported our Letter Carrier platforms. In July, we had our National Convention in Detroit where Branch 908 received national recognition receiving 2 LCPF awards. In September, we went back down to Atlantic City for another 2 day rap session focusing on the election candidates for November. In October, we had our inspiring national rally in Philadelphia to support not privatizing the Postal Service. In addition, many Congressmen from Pennsylvania and New Jersey came out to show our support. Most recently, we just had our midterm elections in November. Covering our 30 plus offices in South Jersey, we had 1 re elected candidate (Donald Norcross) and 2 new appointments (Andy Kim and Jeff Van Drew). Finally, we had 14 new contributors to LCPF this year out of the 180 plus who continue to give. For December, we had Ashley Andrews (Maple Shade), Jason Axilbund (Westville), Delores McClellan (Maple Shade), Carole Porch (Deptford) and Stacy Sutton (Pennsville) (thanks Ryan) who donated to LCPF. In closing, I want to first thank all of my 908 brothers and sisters who contribute to LCPF. Secondly, I want to thank all of my fellow officers and shop stewards for their assistance in 2018. Last but not least, I want to give a special thank you to Jim Camuso, Shawn McBride and the members at our October meeting in voting for me to receive and use an electronic tablet for our branch. I can be reached anytime at (856) 220-8658 for any matters in our branch. I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday and Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!

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.)*

Turkey Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, November 21st, **John Sharkey**, a carrier out of our Sewell Office and **Megan Anderson**, a carrier out of our Williamstown office were the winners of the Annual Jack Bittner Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to Branch Trustee Chairman Jim Comuso and Trustee April Litty for donating this year's turkeys.

Proposed 2019 Branch Budget

The proposed 2019 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 21st. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration, and vote at the regular monthly Branch meeting on December 19th. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of \$236,849.00 for 2019.

Annual Branch Banquet - April 6

Start planning to attend now. The 12th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on **April 6, 2019** from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Elizabeth's Ballroom 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 the end of the year contact Branch Vice President, Mike Powell at 908vp@comcast.net. More info to come.

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 1st, 2019. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

New Branch Attorney Selected

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, November 21st, the membership in attendance approved the Branch putting on retainer the law firm of Platt & Riso to serve our members needs. Our contract will start in the New Year. Details will be in next month's newsletter.

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 25-18-Week 2 (Dec. 1, 2018) and ends Pay Period 01-19-Week 1 (Dec. 28, 2018).

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, first I would like to wish all members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, better things are coming in 2019! Trustee April Litty, chairperson of the kids Christmas party would like to give a shout out to the following people who came out on 11/25/18 to the union hall to decorate for the party. Those members are Ozzie Lecky and Allyce, Pete DeSimone, Jason Dempster and Mike Powell, thank you for giving of your time. Some carriers have asked me who handles different benefits for the branch so here it is: Pete DeSimone, sick and welfare -609-680-3129; eye glass fund, George Greenwood - 856-304-8665; death benefits, Mike Graff – 856-979-7713. Merry Christmas hope to see you at the December branch meeting

- James Comuso Sr - Trustee Chairman

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!