

908 News

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

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Bellmawr, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, 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, West Berlin, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

Prsrt First Class
Postage Paid
Permit # 967
Bellmawr, NJ
08031

Return Service
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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



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

Presidents Report

Before I get to my main rant this month, I must commend all of you, since most manager's in this district won't, for the outstanding job you have done during these last few weeks trudging through the ice and snow with very few safety issues or accidents. I know the stuffed shirts want you to believe that once the main roads are cleared they really think our routes are clear and no additional time is needed to complete our routes. I do not know how many calls I received from carriers who insist their managers are telling them there should not be any extra time needed. Just remember, you know what obstacles you face on a daily basis when it comes to dealing with snow and ice. You do not have to put yourself in an unsafe position to get your route delivered. You don't have to cross lawns if the snow is deep, because who knows what lies underneath the mounds? You make the call, not your manager who is sitting in his warm office sipping the hot "kool-aid!" Observe all safety rules and you can't go wrong. Remember, its better safe than sorry!

Just for kicks, I challenge any one in management to switch places with us, navigate our routes, and show us how to deliver our routes with no additional time. We will not file any grievances for you doing our work in this instance! I will bet not one manager will take us up on this challenge!

My main issue this month deals with the JARAP process and how it was implemented in Blackwood. I said all along this process was a disgrace in this district and again they proved me right once more. How the team leader **Kevin Lafferty** is allowed to continue calling the shots for management is beyond my wildest belief! I won't go into the lengthy details as to how this adjustment was screwed up, but I will try to sum it up as easy as I can. First, this process is supposed to be used to capture savings for the postal service by adjusting routes to as near 8 hours as possible. This is where this process has become nothing more than a personal attack against my office and me. Even though the data showed, our office had enough work to support 27 full-time routes and the local managers and union both agreed, it didn't matter to the "team leader." He said since one route was over 9 hours he needed to run COR to adjust the office! I laughed at this statement because I thought he was joking. Therefore, like a spoiled little baby he stated that since one route was out of adjustment he had the right to use COR to adjust the entire office! We stated this wasn't necessary and we could tweak it ourselves to fix the routes involved and could save a lot of money and aggravation by doing it ourselves. He wouldn't allow it, and our leader allowed it to go through, so now we have overburdened routes that are a mess! I will continue to update you on the progress of this waste of money. I just hope someone takes a long look at this guy and sees how he is letting his personal feelings get in the way of doing the right thing repeatedly!

Gary DiGiacomo-President

Dates to Remember 2011

February 27-March 1 – Region 12 Annual Training Seminar
April 9 – Branch Retiree Banquet
June 26-June 28 – NJ State Convention
June 1st-June 3rd – NJ State Congressional Breakfast

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, February 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 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, February 9, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$50.00

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, January 19, Kenneth DePrince**, a member out of the **Blackwood Office**, would have been the recipient of the **\$25.00** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50.00** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Trustee Report

I would like to commend all letter carriers for the hard work and dedication in these hard conditions we have been working in the last few weeks. I would like to inform our members that an audit on the Branch's books was completed on January 27 and everything was in order. If any member has a question on any of the Branches monies please contact me. Remember it is your money and you have the right to ask about it!. In addition, the Branch renegotiated the Retirees Banquet and this year we will have a full open bar!. Please try to attend it is a good time. Finally a few monthly reminders; the Branch has two attorneys on retainer, and if any member is in need of uniforms we have clean used ones down at the hall. On a personal note, I would like all members to keep in their thoughts and prayers Health Benefits Officer Fred Mendel, who has liver cancer and also his wife Jennie Mendel, who may now need a liver transplant from other complications. Keep them in your thoughts.

James Comuso, SR Trustee Chairman

NALC HEALTH BENEFITS

To our new Members, you should be getting your insurance card in the mail, very soon. If you need to use the insurance just call the number on the web page and they will verify that you are a member. Also, check your paycheck to make sure they are taking the amount out.

Please mail your **Eye Glass bill** to my home because my wife has taken sick and I might miss several meetings.

HBR Fred Mendel

CORRECTION

It was inadvertently reported in last month's newsletter that the budget passed was for the year 2009. It should have read for the year 2011. I apologize for any confusion.

Mike Powell Recording Secretary

Phone Numbers to Remember

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

PROUD TO BE UNION

4th Annual Branch Banquet- April 9, 2011

The 4th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 9, 2011 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Nicolosi’s Catering, 1 Hessian Ave. Woodbury, NJ. 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 9, 2011 contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 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, 2011. 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 9 and your name is not on the list below, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comast.net.**

- James V. Barlow (Stratford)
- Earl L. Breslin (Wenonah)
- Joseph G. Guerra (Haddon Hts.)
- R.L. Hamlin (Sewell)
- Richard L. Page (Pennsville)
- G.E. Lawrence (Williamstown)
- Georgia E. Marko (Blackwood)

Nominations for 2011 Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch retiree’s banquet. Please use the form below and return by March 31, 2011. 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 2011, 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 2011 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

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

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Paulsboro- Management violated Article 34 of the National Agreement and the Step 4 settlement when they established a new performance standard as consideration for the assignment of the grievant on October 1, 2010. As a remedy management is instructed to cease and desist.

Paulsboro- Management violated Article 10 of the National Agreement, and the LMOU when they denied the grievant’s request for annual leave. As a remedy, the grievant will be provided the opportunity to take 3 hours of Annual Leave outside of prime time, at her discretion.

Westville- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Notice of Removal to grievant for allegedly violating the terms of a last chance agreement. As a remedy the notice of removal shall be rescinded immediately

Westville- Management **did not** have just cause to issue grievant a 7 Day Suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions/Extending Street Time. As a remedy the 7 Day Suspension shall be rescinded.

Mantua- Management violated Article 1.6 of the National Agreement when the Postmaster performed 6 hours of city carrier work. As a remedy 4 carriers will receive **\$80.10** (\$320.40) for the lost work opportunities.

The New Postmaster General Speaks Out

Below is one of the questions asked by the Federal Eye for the Washington Post’s On Leadership Series. The rest of the interview can be viewed at www.postalnews.com

Are the postal unions standing in the way of making changes you need to make?

No. They are led by good people. The presidents are very good people. They’re people. They’re looking at the challenges that we have with the same, ‘Oh my goodness’ that everybody else does. These guys, I’ll tell you, we’ve reduced head count in this organization by 225,000 people since the year 2000. There are very few labor unions in the world who wouldn’t be jumping up and down ranting and raving about that. They know what I and Jack Potter have done is to make sure there’s as soft a landing as possible. They’ve worked with us on that.

As far as contracts go, they know what we’re facing from a financial perspective. They know what we’ve got on the table with them, and they have to make some decisions. They’re tough decisions, but my point to these guys has been, it’s better for us to make the tough decisions now, then have somebody else make a decision later on, like GM, like Chrysler and some of the other companies you’ve seen going into bankruptcy.

By: Ed O’Keefe (Washington Post)

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. Or send changes to Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at: P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 or 908Recordingsec@comcast.net.

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

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!

