

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, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia,
Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, National Park, Paulsboro, Penns Grove,
Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford,
Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury,
Woodstown

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

Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com February 2012

Presidents Report

As everyone is aware, we have not agreed on a new contract since the Postal Service has declined to extend collective-bargaining negotiations with us. This automatically sends our issues to a mediator for 60 days of mediation. You can rest assured the mediation process will be an exercise in futility, since the Postal Service, in my opinion, has no interest in negotiating a fair contract with the NALC. From what I have been told we have been offering many solid ideas and proposals to move this company forward, but to no avail. I am sure our National President will continue to try to convince the Postal Service to do the right thing and listen to what we are saying. Time will tell. On to a positive development that just occurred in our District. As of Saturday January 28th, we had 8 PTF's converted to regular in those offices that had Q-2(T-6) vacancies. It has been a long time coming to get these positions released, but they have finally agreed to do this. Congratulations to those affected and hopefully the rest of the PTF's who are in offices with residual vacancies will be next. I have also been notified the Postal Service has selected our Bellmawr Office to begin a unilateral initiative called the "caser/streeter program. For those who were not at our last meeting, where we tried to explain what this program entails, I will briefly explain how it works. First, it does not work as we have been told in the offices affected by the Phase 1 implementation of this initiative. As we are used to by now, that does not stop these fools from continuing to try to fit a square peg in a round hole! What is supposed to happen is management comes in and CORS an office to build routes up to 7:30-7:45 on the street. Another carrier comes in early to case and pull down the route for these "streeters" so as soon as they clock in they get their accountables and instructions and head out to load their truck and deliver their new long route. Sound easy enough? We all know this is just another disaster waiting to happen. I have many scenarios to show how this will not work, but will not divulge them here. We will let these geniuses do their magic and when all is said and done, we will be putting more money in our members' pockets. We are prepared to grieve this entire process. This is a process that once again management wants no input from the Union. We all know what happens when these people are left to fend for themselves. They crash and burn! One last item I need to make you aware. The Postal Service has contracted the services of a medical vendor, **Align Networks Therapy**, for employees who suffer on-the-job injuries. Just remember you do not have to use this service, it is strictly voluntary. If you have, any questions about this see your steward immediately.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 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 meet 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 8th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

The following Trustees have been assigned the following duties:

Mike Digiacoimo has been assigned the Sick and Welfare Fund. Mike can be contacted at **609-682-0420** or **19 Madison Dr. Laurel Springs NJ 08021**. Shawn McBride has been assigned the Branch Scholarship Fund, MBA material, Steward Supplies and the Annual Food Drive. Shawn can be contacted at **856-649-9317** or **1204 Huntingdon Mews Clementon, NJ 08021**. Donna Villec has been assigned the Kids Christmas Party, MDA fund raising and any general fund raising that the Branch may need. Donna can be contacted at **856-287-6215** or **PO Box 2393 Cinnaminson, NJ 08077**. Donna is also the Branch Photographer. Jim Boyle has been assigned to the Death Benefit Fund. Jim Boyle can be contacted at **856-953-6107** or **1003 Glendora Ave. Glendora, NJ 08083**.

***A reminder to all Branch members. The Branch ONLY accepts check or money orders no cash!**

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$25

Had he attended at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday January 18th Gil Curran**, a retired member out of the Haddon Hts Office would have won the **\$25** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has his/her name drawn.

Branch Scholarship

In May we will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$ 2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the web site or you can contact **Trustee Shawn McBride**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Shawn by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee Shawn McBride can be contacted by phone at **856 649-9317** or email smcbridel@comcast.net

Shawn McBride

Health Benefits

NALC Health Plan members and their dependents can receive free flu shots at CVS. Call 800-933-6252 for nearest participating pharmacy.

George Greenwood HBO

Dates to Remember 2012

February 27-28 – Region 12 Annual Training Seminar
March 27-March 29 – NJ State Congressional Breakfast
April 14 – Branch Retiree Banquet
May 20-22 – NJ State Seminar
July 23-27 – National Convention

Attention Stewards

Banquet and Phillies ticket money are due in by the end of March.

Fund Raising

One of my jobs is fund raising. Some of the new ideas I have are a Texas Hold 'em, motorcycle ride, fishing trip, and a casino night. I would also like to start having some of the events we have done in the past such as the walk-a-thon, bowling and parties that correspond to some of our holidays. I need the support and ideas of all our members to make the above events a success. Call me anytime and thanks to everyone that voted for me. **Donna Villec 856-287-6215.**

USPS Declines To Extend Contract talks

The USPS declined to extend collective-bargaining negotiations with the NALC, triggering an impasse that will automatically send the matter to mediation. "I am disappointed by the Postal Service's decision," NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said. "We have been making steady progress in negotiations. NALC continues to believe that a negotiated agreement is in the best interests of the parties, the businesses that rely on us and the nation we serve. We will continue to negotiate in good faith as mediation takes place."

USPS Staffing Cuts Are Not Created Equal

The USPS has continued to reduce staffing levels across the board in 2011, but it may surprise some that these cuts were not created equal. If you look at the facts, you will see the following staffing changes from 1997 to September 2011.

Staffing Changes from 1997 through September, 2011:

- **Headquarters Senior Management = Total GAIN of +796 Jobs**

- **Headquarters Employee Staffing = Total Loss of -237 Jobs**

- **Local Level Management Staffing = Total Loss of -25,016 Jobs**

- **All Career Craft Employee Staffing = Total Loss of -189,947 Jobs**

This comes while USPS Postmaster General, Senior Management Officials, and USPS Media Spokespeople continuously go before the media and explain how the mail volume has drastically declined over the past 5 years and speak of gloom, doom, and the further decline in mail volumes in the future. Meanwhile, there were/are 796 more Senior Level Managers who make more money than the average employee does at USPS Headquarters than in 1997. Why is this? Why the need for more of them? Why isn't this being discussed?

Since March of 2011, more job cuts have been made. Below is the breakdown of where USPS Management has made employee cuts.

Staffing Changes since March, 2011:- Headquarters Senior Management = Total Loss of 74 Jobs (still at +40.84% gain since 1997) - Headquarters Employee Staffing = Total Loss of 503 Jobs- Local Level Management Staffing = Total Loss of 5,224 Jobs- All Career Craft Employee Staffing = Total Loss of 11,134 Jobs. As you can see, even with 74 USPS Senior Management Job cuts, they are still at a 40.84% gain since 1997. This being while every other employment areas of the USPS has been slashed by well over 20%. Yes, management has begun reducing Senior Management staffing levels, but not at a rate that will come close to the cuts made in every other area of the USPS. Employees and Supervisors at the local levels are doing more work with fewer employees, yet USPS Senior Management employees have been working with increased staffing levels since 1997. The USPS Postmaster General claims employee pay and benefits take up a big portion of the revenue, however, these Headquarters Employees are the highest paid employees within the USPS. The Postmaster General has never (to my knowledge) made negative comments concerning the huge salary increases or bonuses made to USPS Senior Staff Employees. With conversations going on concerning the future of the USPS, this is one of the issues that cannot be overlooked and must be discussed. It is time that USPS Headquarters make the same sacrifices as other employees have made in order to save the Postal Service and stop their attempts to cut service standards or close Post Offices in order to keep their own benefits at the expense of all other Postal Employees and USPS Customers.

*The Postal Service is starting to direct injured employees hurt on the job to go to **Align Networks Therapy Services**. You are not required to go to these places for treatment, it is strictly voluntary. **Choosing a Physician or therapy services is the responsibility of an injured employee.***

5th Annual Branch Banquet- April 14th, 2012

The **5th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 14, 2012** 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 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 14, 2012** 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 **\$20 pp. 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 31, 2012. 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 14, 2012, 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. There is a nomination form below or simply write on a piece of paper the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination (must be from Steward's 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 28, 2012. 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 2012, 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 2012 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

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

PROUD TO BE UNION