

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, 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: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com February 2016

Presidents Report

Hopefully everyone got through the blizzard of 2016 in one piece. I have to once again give credit to our district leaders who saw the seriousness of this storm and did the right thing by suspending all operations on the Saturday of the blizzard. I can't remember this district ever making a decision like that, which was the right one, but I applaud them for thinking of their employees.

Speaking of the snow, it didn't take long for the usual suspects in management, and you know who you are, to try and convince their carriers, especially the new CCA's, that the snow and ice doesn't take any longer to deliver the mail. Just once, I wish these managers could stop treating people like they are idiots. Thank God, we only had 1 accident in our branch the week of the storm, which is great, and hopefully everyone was being cautious as they navigated the tough terrain. I continue to hear some managers telling the carriers to cut through the snow and make a path. Just remember, by doing this you are putting yourself in a possible safety situation. You can't possibly know what lies beneath a foot of snow, so please do not try and make a path until it is clear. Don't let management tell you that you must cut through a foot of snow. If they give that instruction, please contact a steward or call me immediately and I will report them to the district. I can tell you the district's policy is one of safety first, and they would never want an employee to put themselves in any type of risk when delivering the mail.

Another disturbing piece of news I have been receiving from our new CCA's is the treatment some of our managers are placing upon them. They are being told that since they aren't working fast enough they better resign or face being terminated since they are not meeting their manager's expectations. This type of behavior is absolutely unacceptable and I urge all CCA's to give the name of the supervisors who are attempting this type of blackmail to your steward or to me personally so I can let our district manager know of this nonsense. Please do not resign unless you really believe this job isn't for you. I am sure our district manager would like to hear from you if this is going on, as she has stated her commitment to getting CCA's properly trained and wants all of you to have every opportunity to succeed.

Next, I would like to this time to thank our Business Agent, **Bill Lucini** and his assistant **Dave Napadano**, for coming to our regular meeting last month and officially installing all of the officers for their upcoming term of office.

One last thing I would like to mention was National President **Fred Rolando** and his testimony before Congress on January 21. I won't go into full detail on his testimony, but if you get a chance go to the NALC website and watch the entire hearing. I believe it was a very positive hearing and it appears there may actually be some agreement to get some major things accomplished, especially the pre-funding mandate we have been fighting for the last 10 years. With this being an election year, it is very important that you start to pay attention on what is going on in Washington. See you at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, February 17th @ 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 Shop

Steward meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, February 10th 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$50

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday January 20, Allen Muff**, a member out of the Sewell Office would have been the recipient of 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 their name drawn.

Comments From The VP

I would like to thank all our branch members for a job well done delivering mail in the aftermath of Blizzard Jonas. If you live in South Jersey and smell a nasty foul odor every morning there is a good chance that it is coming from the Camden Annex. It just happens that Management is back to their old bull crap again. Every morning the zone supervisors are under orders to instruct all carriers that they have a half hour of under time regardless of mail volume, weather conditions, etc. Did you know you probably have better odds of winning the lottery then all the carriers showing the same amount of under time. Please don't fall for this crap. Evaluate your workload and inform management via a 3996, the estimated time it will take you to complete your assignment. I would like to invite all our CCAs to come to a branch meeting and get involved. You are the future of the Postal Service. Finally, if any active or retired member needs my assistance 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

The NALC HBP is offering to all members a New Disease Management Program for 2016. Go to nalchbp.org, click on the link. Once you are in to MyCareAllies the group ID is NALC. MyCareAllies provides you with information and tools to help you improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. You will have access to health and medical topics in addition to interactive tools to obtain immediate feedback on your health status. You can also review questions to ask your physician and nurses to better manage your health.

February is American Heart month, and the coldest time of the year. Protect yourself from Cold Stress. Dress accordingly, keep hands, and feet dry, WEAR A HAT, and yes drink water. Water helps take the stress off your heart. More facts about Cold stress can be found at cdc.gov. Since February is heart month maybe even schedule yourself, and your family for a physical.

CCAs, and all NALC members don't forget MBA offers Life Insurance, Hospital Plus, and Savings Retirement plans for your financial needs. Go to nalc.org under member benefits to learn more. CCAs the retirement savings is a great way to plan for the future, and all funds are transferable to the TSP Retirement Savings when converted to career.

FMLA questions, or problems give me a call: 856-346-1177, and leave your name, and a brief message. I will return your call.

For optical reimbursements, please send a copy of your receipt

specifying which office you work in, or retired from, and make sure your name is on the receipt. Reimbursements are one per family, per year. Be safe.

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

Ozzie's Corner

Happy February 908 Family! I would like to thank the following contributors to the LCPF this month: **Keith Mitchell, John Mcleer, John Sikorski, Dave Colonna and Nick Zerno**. The LCPF is a fund designed by the NALC in Washington DC to do 1 important thing for Letter Carriers: job security. Our Branch simply requests for every active and retired member to donate just 1 dollar per pay and it is worth keeping your job. As 2016 rolls on, please look for individual mailings I'll be sending out to every member in 908. In addition, I want to thank Recording Secretary **Norm Spence** for updating our current membership listing. My email address is opleckyjr@gmail.com if you have any questions about the LCPF and I look forward to meeting you at February 17th's meeting.

In Solidarity,

Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

60 Year Member

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **January 20**, National Business Agent **Bill Lucini** presented Branch retiree and Gold Card member **Howard Foxwell** a lapel pin honoring his **60 years** as a member of the NALC. Congratulations and Thank You for all you've done! We look forward to presenting you with your 65 year pin!

NALC Lapel Pins

The NALC Constitution provides for the awarding of suitable lapel pins for every five years of NALC membership commencing with the 25th year. For example: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and so forth.

If you feel that because of your years of NALC membership, you are eligible for the award of a suitable lapel pin, please send a letter to the Branch (**PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070**) including your Name, Office, approximate date you became a member of the NALC and what pin you believe you have earned.

What To Do In Case Of a Retired Carrier's Death

1. Notify Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Programs, Employee Service and Records Center, Boyers, PA 16017. In your letter include: full name of deceased; exact date of birth; exact date of death; CSA claim number, address, relationship and signature of person entitled to survivor benefits.
2. For quicker action, notify NALC's Director of Retired Members, 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144, or call toll-free 800-424-5186 Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10am – noon and 2 - 4pm (Eastern time). NALC will alert OPM so that survivor benefits will commence as quickly as possible, and will send you forms SF 2800 – Application for death benefit, survivor annuity and FE 6 – Claim for benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance. Remember that survivor annuities are not paid automatically. You must apply to OPM to receive benefits.
3. Return any uncashed checks to the address on the accompanying Treasury Department envelope. If payments are made directly to a financial institution, notify it of the retiree's date of death and request any future checks be returned to the Treasury Department.
4. Contact the following for accounts or benefits:
 - a. The local NALC union office
 - b. If veteran, the Veterans' Administration local office and the commanding officer of local military installation
 - c. Local bank or other financial institution
 - d. Social Security Administration local office
 - e. Insurance companies for policies on life (if NALC Mutual Benefit Association, write 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318); hospitalization (if NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Ct, Ashburn, VA 22093 or call 703-729-4677); house; and automobile

- f. Internal Revenue Service local office
5. Change name on all important papers to survivor's name.
 6. Have mortuary officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs. They can advise how many.
 7. Gather miscellaneous necessary papers such as birth certificate, marriage license, divorce decree, death certificates of deceased children or spouses or other documents establishing identity of relationship of survivor.
 8. **Note: If spouse of retired carrier dies:**
Call NALC retirement office to obtain the forms to:
restore annuity to full amount; switch health coverage from family to self (unless dependent children); change beneficiary of government life insurance.

Phillies Ticket Chances

Once again the Branch is raising money for NALC's National charity, **MDA** by selling chances for a pair of tickets for the **Philadelphia Phillies** Sunday Game Plan (lower level seats). Tickets are \$2 each and can be obtained from your Shop Steward. The winning ticket will be drawn on April 6, 2016.

\$1 A Month, \$12 A Year!

Recently, we have been advised National that a few of our members who recently retired have not as yet completed and forwarded the Form 1189 sent to them with a letter explaining the annuity withholding program to continue their membership in the Branch and the NALC. The retiree membership dues for retention of your Branch and NALC membership is \$12 a year, \$1 a month withheld from your annuity check. For that measly amount, you are eligible to retain your membership in the NALC Health Benefits Plan, run for and hold office at the National, Branch or State level. You are eligible for optical reimbursement of \$20 per year. Reduced admission to the Branch's Annual Banquet. Also, free food and beverage at the monthly meetings and an opportunity to win the attendance prize of up to \$250. Can you afford not to retain your membership in the Branch and the NALC after retirement? Think about it!!

9th Annual Branch Banquet-April 16th

The **9th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 16, 2016** from **7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Colleens Catering** located at **Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City NJ**. 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 16** contact Branch Vice President, **Mike Powell** at 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.

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| 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, 2015. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.