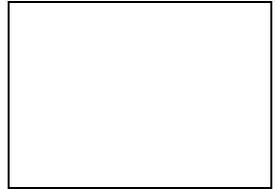


908 News

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 February 2019

Presidents Report

I have received a correspondence from our Business Agent asking me to check our membership for all those carriers who also serve as volunteer fire fighters. The national is trying to get a number of the carriers who serve in this role and would like to recognize them in the postal record. If you are a volunteer fire fighter could you please let me or your steward know so I can let our national know.

The next issue I must address, since it seems to be getting a lot of play lately, deals with our CCAs and some regular carriers as well. For some reason, management has been finding carriers leaving their vehicles unsecured and at times with the vehicles running while not in their vehicles.

I am not sure why anyone would do this, but I am asking everyone, especially our newer CCA's, to please turn your vehicles off when you are leaving them to make a delivery, whether it is a dismount or a parcel. I understand you may think this is saving you time, but the repercussions that could result in a vehicle left running while unattended could be disastrous. Thankfully, we haven't had any accidents from this, but please don't play Russian roulette with your job.

As I stated last month, we will be having route inspections in 2 of our offices coming up shortly, so I am asking all the carriers in those offices that are being inspected to make a point in coming to our training. These offices haven't been inspected in a long time and I think it would benefit everyone to free up the date to come and get yourself prepared for what will be coming. I know some carriers think they don't need training, but I can say that all the carriers who attended our previous training did quite well when their offices were inspected. For those who can't make it, please try and meet with your steward prior to the inspection so he can at least give you a brief summary of what to expect. CCAs should definitely try to attend, especially if you are holding down a route and will be counted on it. This process can be overwhelming for a seasoned carrier, let alone a newer one, so please come out and learn the rules and your rights when the week comes. Like an old friend used to say, "if you don't know your rights, you don't have any!"

Next, in this month's postal record, you will see all those brothers and sisters who have stepped up to give to the Letter carrier Political Fund. I can say I am extremely proud of all of you who have seen the importance of giving to this most important political fund. I want to thank our LCPF chairman, Ozzie Lecky, for the outstanding job he has done in getting members to see the importance of supporting this endeavor. Our numbers continue to rise thanks to his hard work and long hours trying to educate everyone on its importance. I know some carriers don't believe in giving to this fund, but if you talk to Ozzie and let him explain how it really works, I will bet you will sign up like those already on board who understand its importance.

One last thing I want to remind everyone about is when you get hurt on the job. If you suffer an on the job injury, please let your steward or a branch officer know ASAP. It appears we have many new and unfamiliar supervisors who are giving wrong information and not submitting forms properly. I am not saying it is being done intentionally, but getting forms filled out properly and sent to the right place is extremely important. Please don't assume your manager knows what he/she is doing. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

- Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, February 20th @ 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, February 13th @ 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 16, Timothy O'Hara**, a member out of the Voorhees 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.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello brothers and sisters. With February being American Heart Month, and the onset of our coldest time of year, please protect yourself from cold weather injuries, and yes drink plenty of water. Cold weather puts an extreme workload on your heart, and more so should you allow your body temperature to drop, and not maintain proper fluid levels in your body. Please be aware of what your body tells you. Always remember "Safety First"!

For all of our Veterans The USPS recently updated the Wound Warriors Leave policy effective January 5, 2019. Eligible military veterans will be credited with 104 hours of Wounded Warriors Leave each leave year going forward. This is a significant improvement over the previous policy which provided this benefit as a one-time occurrence only. More information can be found at nalc.org.

With the New Year all NALC HBP High Option members can once again fill out the health assessment survey, and choose from one of three free gifts offered to you. Go to nalc.org, and click on Health Assessment to begin the process. This is a great way to assess, and maintain a healthy lifestyle, and enjoy your free gift. Have another covered member in your family also do the assessment, and they too will be entitled to a gift of their choice. Maximum of two gifts per family.

A quick reminder any NALC Br. 908 member in good standing may also request a one per member/family \$20 reimbursement for optical expenses. Simply send me a copy of your optical receipt with name, address, and office/retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any questions on all matters pertaining to HBP, MBA, or FMLA please give me a call anytime at 856-304-8665. Be safe all. See you at the meeting. George.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Proud To Be Union

Ozzie's Corner

In the month of January, 3 major resolutions were reintroduced to the House. Anti-Privatization (HR 33), Door to Door Delivery (HR 23) and Six-Day Delivery (HR 54). HR 33 was reintroduced by 13 House Lawmakers on January 9th. HR 33 is similar to HR 993 (which reached 240 cosponsors) in 2018. The Lawmakers on this panel want to insure that the Postal Service needs to continue to operate as an independent agency. HR 23 was reintroduced by 3 House Lawmakers on January 15th. Like HR 28 (which reached 248 cosponsors), this trio in the house want to make the American Public aware that it is vital and important to continue to have letters, bills, publications, magazines, packages and medications delivered to each house, apartment and business to keep as many Letter Carrier jobs in Postal Service as possible. Finally, HR 54 was reintroduced by 2 Lawmakers on January 16th. The cosponsorship on this bill previously had 259. The 6-day work week is a realization that Letter Carriers are providing the best service each and every day to their customers and it provides as many positions/jobs in the Letter Carrier craft. As 2019 comes in, the NALC knows that there are new members in the 116th Congress, therefore it needs to be stressed and known that Letter Carriers need to reach out to these men and women and tell them to please support not only these HR bills, but a better and stronger postal reform too. Remember, for the latest Legislative updates, go to NALC.org. In other news, I want to thank our February LCPF contributors, Phil Haas (Westville Retiree and Sgt. of Arms), LeRoy Huster (Woodbury) and Karen Marroletti (Woodbury). For as little as \$1 per pay check, you are standing up and letting Congress know to not take away our jobs, pay, collective bargaining rights, benefits, and pension. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you need assistance in Legislative, Political and union matters in our branch. Lastly, 2 points....I'll be in Atlantic City from the 24th to the 27th of this month for our NJSALC rap session. I will give my report on it at March's general meeting and this month will be our annual Postal Record issue on LCPF contributions. I will give a report on that as well. I hope to see you all at February 20th's meeting. 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.)*

12th Annual Branch Banquet - April 6

The 12th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 6th, 2018 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. in Gloucester City, NJ. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and 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 in 2018 after the last banquet contact Branch Vice President, Mike Powell @ 856-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net. All 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 Vice President, Mike Powell at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with a check or Money order made out to NALC Branch 908 by March 23rd.

Name: _____

Print

Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()

Total number attending _____

Total remittance \$ _____

The following Branch members have retired since the last banquet up to the end of 2018. Those members retiring beginning with pay period 1 – 2019 through pay period 26 – 2019, will be honored at the 2020 banquet.

Loretta Morris – Gibbstown
Kenneth Chojnacki – Riverton
Stephen Marino – Maple Shade
Sue Peterson – Maple Shade
Bruce Shelton – Woodbury
Albert Kuttruf - Maple Shade
Clinton Proffitt – Pennsville
Stephen Morse - Sewell
Walter Palczewski – Voorhees
Charles Cobb – Pennsville

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.

Dates To Remember

February 24 – 27 – NALC Region 12 Training Seminar

April 6 – Branch Banquet

April 10 – 12 – NJ State Congressional Reception

September 8 – Branch Picnic

September 15 – 17 – NJ State Training Seminar

NALC Lapel Pin Presented

At the regular Branch monthly meeting on January 16th, we were honored to present a **35 year** lapel pin to Branch Sgt at Arms, **Phil Haas**, a retiree from the Westville office.

Also earning lapel pins this month are: **Annette Rodriguez Rivera**, from the Pennsville office – **30 years**, and **Christine McKee**, also from the Pennsville office – **25 years**.

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, see Branch Recording Secretary Norm Spence or send a letter to the Branch (PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070). Include your Name, Office, approximate date you became a member of the NALC and what pin you believe you have earned.

\$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!!

New Branch Attorney

Free consultation and reduced rates for all Branch 908 members.

**PLATT
& RISO, P.C.**

Attorneys at Law

Stuart A. Platt

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