

# 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  
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



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

### President Report

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday and stayed safe. As we begin the New Year we are going to face many issues, but as long as we stay together, we will be able to deal with any situation management presents us. Regardless of differing opinions on many key issues, the key to our success in dealing with these issues is staying together as a Union. It is healthy to debate and argue, but after we are finished, we must move forward as one united group. I can tell you one thing, we will be facing a number of key changes this year, and we must be ready to deal with them when they are upon us.

The first issue we will be confronted with is the implementation of the FSS mail, which is supposed to start on January 3, 2011. I have been notified that none of our local offices are on the docket for this first phase, which goes until February 24, 2011. The offices affected are all in Central Jersey, so when I hear the date that our local offices will be affected I will let you know.

The next issue will be the consolidation of offices, which we have been hearing about for the last year. It appears the Postal Service is getting ready to roll out their plan to start consolidating offices, even though our National Leaders have not communicated this to us as of this writing. The new process is called DUO, which stands for Delivery Unit Optimization. I am not going to go into details until I get more clarification on this process, but from what I have read it looks as though the Postal Service is going to look at offices with 9 routes or less and try to put them in a hub office if it makes sense. That is the scary part! What makes sense to the normal person does not always filter up to the stuffed shirts in Washington. We shall see. I hope to have more information at our regular monthly meeting.

Another issue we will be dealing with is the JARAP Process. As everyone knows this process is still alive, although it should be on life support. This process is becoming a nightmare in my opinion, especially in this District, since there is not any common sense being used when looking at some offices. As everyone is aware, my office in Blackwood is in the middle of an evaluation phase of this process, and no common sense is being used in dealing with my office. I will explain in detail at our regular meeting on what has transpired.

Hope to see everyone at the January regular monthly meeting.

**Gary DiGiacomo, President**

### Vice President Report

I hope everyone had a happy, peaceful and meaningful holiday, maybe even found some time to enjoy life without thinking about the turmoil and incompetence that is bringing down the Postal Service. I have been in the Post Office 29 years. The incompetence and blatant disrespect towards the contract signed by the U.S. Postal Service and the NALC is the worst it has ever been even though it has always been bad. I am not talking about the bullshit disciplinary actions management takes, and keeps losing at a high cost to the Postal Service, or the Article 8 grievances we keep winning. I am talking about the inability to stop management from ignoring grievance settlements and ignoring orders from their superiors. You have everyone from the Union, the POOMS, Labor Department, Human Resources saying something is wrong and nothing gets done. They make phone calls, send faxes, emails and then their job is finished. If you happen to be in a non-pay status and cannot pay your bills you are screwed. What I cannot understand is how our Union

has allowed management to just run wild and do what they want. How do we attack this problem? If certain Offices are having problems with management, believe it, gather up the Union Brothers and Sisters who may not be suffering and make a stand! (Example; Informational Picketing). When I began my career as a Union Officer, if a serious problem occurred we could call our Business Agent, he would call Labor Relations [who had the knowledge to know the difference between right and wrong] and the problem was solved. Now we have Labor Relations "specialists" who are clueless. Sadly they are the ones guiding our delivery supervisors and postmasters! Every once in awhile we get management in Bellmawr to agree there is a problem. More times than not it is the offices with poor management, like Paulsboro, Voorhees, and Marlton and they just do what they want. If you do not want to follow the contract you are part of the problem, not part of the solution!

**Steve Rutkowski, Vice President**

### Trustee Report

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a good start, and a very safe one. The Children's Christmas party was a great success. I would like to thank Trustee Donna Villec for running it and doing a very fine job. I also would like to thank everyone who helped set up and clean up. Just to mention a few, Joe Walder, Tommy Barnett, Cline Barnett, Bill and Marie Revak, Fred and Jeannie Mendel, and many more, thank you! Some usual reminders, the Branch has clean new and used uniforms available at the Hall. Again any Branch Officer who has in his or her possession a Branch asset please make a list of those items and send them to me ASAP. Any questions about this please contact me. The Branch Trustees hold a meeting the last Thursday of each month at the Hall starting at 7:00 pm members are welcome to attend.

**James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman**

### NALC Health Benefits

I would like to welcome our new members who joined the NALC Health Plan this open season. Thank you for supporting our own Union Plan. If you happen to have any problems, please give me a call at 856-933-2649. May you and your family have a **Healthy and Happy New Year!**

**HBR Fred Mendel**

### Children's Christmas Party A Huge Success

The Branch held its annual Children's Christmas party on **Sunday, Dec. 5th** and once again, it was a huge success. The party was well attended and all the children received American-made presents and a photo with Santa taken by **Theresa DeAntoneo** and **Rose Stio**. A big thank you goes out to Trustee, **Donna Villec**, for organizing the event and Branch Officers **Gary DiGiacomo, Steve Rutkowski, Tom Barnett, Joe Walder, Jim Comuso, Mike Powell, Fred Mendel, Rose Stio, Shop Steward (Riverton), Nancy DiGiacomo, Clinnie Barnett, Jeannie Mendel, Bill and Marie Revak** for all the hard work they did to make the day special for the children and grandchildren of our Members. Also, let us not forget **Sophia Powell** who was our greeter and last but not least a big thank you to Santa Claus (Tom Barnett's son-in-law, Charles Rohlfiging)!

### Next Meeting – January 19

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, January 19 , 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, January 12, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively

### Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$25

**Arnold Moore**, a retired member of the Branch and out of the **Gloucester Office**, was in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, December 15**, and was the recipient of the **\$250** attendance prize. The prize now stands at **\$25** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

### Grievance Log Step A Decisions

**Marlton**- Management violated Article 8 of the J-CAM and the TE-Memo on 4 different occasions. As a remedy **27 hours at the overtime rate** shall be split evenly among the OTDL carriers.

**Marlton**- Management violated Article 8 of the J-CAM and the TE-Memo. As a remedy 2 OTDL carriers to split 3 hours each at the overtime rate.

### Grievance Log Step B Decisions

**Marlton**- Management **did not** have just cause to issue grievant in a **letter of removal** for alleged safety violations. As a remedy grievant will be returned to duty immediately. The grievant will be paid for all lost wages and benefits for this improper action by the Marlton management.

### Start The New Year Off Right!

**Check your personnel file!** Some carriers have probably never seen their file. I would recommend that everyone check their file at least once a year for mistakes and for disciplines that should have been removed. The Postal Service, in compliance with OPM, has gotten rid of the paper versions of the OPF (Official Personnel File), the files are all digital now and you can view your file from your home computer. Go to the eOPF website at <https://eopf.usps.gov/eOPF/jsp/essLogin.jsp>. Once there, you will need your EIN (Employee Identification Number), this is the number on your pay stub, and your USPS PIN number (the same one you use for PostalEASE). If you forget you PIN, call 1-877-477-3273 and follow the prompts to have a new PIN mailed to you. Once you log in you can view and print anything in your file. If you find something that should not be there, contact your Shop Steward.

### For Retirees “Incapacitation”

**Question:** What happens if I am unable to manage my own affairs? **Response:** If you are ever unable to take care of your own financial affairs, no one else can sign, cash or deposit your annuity check. In the event of your incapacitation, a family member or other individual should call the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 888-767-6738 or write to the Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045. You would need to provide the full name of the retiree, the retirement claims (CSA) number and date of birth. OPM would mail instructions, along with “Representative Payee” form RI 20-7, to the individual who would serve as your representative. **OPM does not accept a power of attorney.**

Source-NARFE (Nat'l Active & Retired Fed. Employees)

### 2011 Branch Budget Approved

Those in attendance and eligible to vote at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on **December 15th** unanimously approved the Branch 2009 Budget. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of the Branch at **\$300,647.10** for 2011.

### Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

### 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](mailto: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 please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 856-287-8768 or [908Recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908Recordingsec@comcast.net).

### 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

### Dates to Remember 2011

February 27-March 1 – Region 12 Annual Training Seminar

March 22-March 24 – NJ State Congressional Breakfast

April 9 – Branch Retiree Banquet

June 26-June 28 – NJ State Convention

Happy New Year