

# 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 June 2012

### Presidents Report

As we head into the summer season, I wanted to give everyone an update as to what is going on within our Branch before we resume business in September. As many of you are aware, we are in the process of some more offices being selected for the DUO process. As of this writing, I have been notified that our offices of Gloucester, Bellmawr, and Haddon Heights will be going into the Camden Annex on or around August 11<sup>th</sup>. There are rumors out there that the period may be delayed, but I have not been notified of this as of yet. I want these carriers to be aware that they are only going to be housed in this installation, and will not be leaving our Branch. The National President is looking at this situation and will make a decision on how this move will be handled. As soon as I hear back from the National I will let everyone know what will be happening. We also have the Mantua and Wenonah offices being moved into the Sewell installation around the end of August. This will have no effect on our Branch other than these offices will now become one large unit. This is the future of the Postal Service, in that they will constantly be looking to consolidate smaller offices into larger ones. We must all understand this and figure out the best way to make these moves as painless as possible and try to make them work. I understand change is a hard thing to get used to, but working for the postal service in an uncertain time is what we are going to be faced with for the rest of our career. As soon as I hear anything else in regards to these and any new DUO's I will let everyone know. On another front, I recently attended our State seminar in Atlantic City and have been given an updated list of our COLCPE and E-Activist participants. Our number of COLCPE contributor's stands at **41**, and our E-Activist number totals **111**. I have decided to start a new initiative to get our members involved and hope you will make it a successful endeavor, because our future depends on being educated and getting the right people elected to support our cause. The first and simplest initiative is signing up as an E-Activist. All I need from every member is your current **E-Mail address**. I will be giving your steward a form for you to sign requesting your e-mail address. If you would like to skip this step, you can just send me your e-mail and I will do the rest for you ([garyd908@comcast.net](mailto:garyd908@comcast.net)). It is very important to stay in touch with our National Leaders and this will give you the latest information on contract negotiations, early out info and legislative issues that may arise this summer. Please take a minute and drop me a line. The next initiative is to get more members signed up for COLCPE. Starting in September we will be setting up our computer to be able to sign up members right at the hall after the regular meeting. All you need to bring is your Pin number to access your Postal Ease Account. We have all the other necessary info needed to sign you up. All info will be confidential as you will be right there to watch how it is done. Please consider this method of signing up because it is an insurance policy for your job. Like it or not, our jobs depend on those ugly politicians in Washington, and by getting the ones voted in that we support will only help our cause. Thanks for all your support and help in making our Branch even stronger. If I do not see you at this month's meeting have a Safe and Healthy Summer.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

**PROUD TO BE UNION**

### Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$25

We had a winner at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. **Patrick Burkhardt**, a member out of our Lawnside Office, won the **\$125** 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 his/her name drawn.

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 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 Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.** The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, June 13th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, summer is here and so is the heat. The last meeting before summer break is rapidly approaching. The Branch Officers are available to the stewards and the members all summer. We have a large assortment of used uniforms at the hall that are free. If anyone would like to, please stop down the Hall to see what is available. I can be reached at 609 -932-9913 or call Recording Secretary Mike Powell at 856-287-8768. Trustee Shawn McBride will be raffling off a 42-Inch RCA TV which also includes a Home Theatre Pkg at the December Regular Membership Meeting. The money raised will be used for varies Branch functions such as the Retirement Banquet, Branch Picnic, Beef and Beer, etc. This will save The Branch considerable money. Trustee Donna Villec will be in charge of the MDA and MS Fund Raising. Members will be informed prior to purchasing any tickets what their money will be used. In other business, it is my pleasure to inform the members of the Branch that due to the hard work of Recording Secretary Mike Powell, and with my assistance, the Branch came in well under budget for the Retirees Dinner Banquet. Remember it is your money and your Branch so please come to the Branch meetings, and support our Branch functions.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

### Branch Scholarship

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is Catherine Lamplugh. The alternate is Allison McLaughlin. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$ 2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). If you have any questions, Trustee Shawn McBride can be contacted by phone at **856 649-9317** or email [shawnmcb1@comcast.net](mailto:shawnmcb1@comcast.net)

Shawn McBride

### Branch Picnic

The date for the Branch Picnic is September 9, 2012, at Clementon Lake Park. The cost is \$15, which will include water and amusement parks, food and drinks. There will be a charge of \$5 to park.

### Shrimp and Wings

As is the custom for our last meeting before breaking for summer, there will be shrimp and wings after the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 20.

## Health Benefits

June is upon us, and we now start heading into warmer weather; and with that sometimes-extreme weather. It is important to stay hydrated, and as the weather becomes extreme, it is important to replenish the electrolytes in our bodies. For many years now, I have been purchasing Gatorade for that purpose directly from [Gatorade.com](http://Gatorade.com). What I have done is purchase powder form in bulk to last an entire summer with shipping included still comes out to approximately fifty percent of what you pay in the stores. With that in mind stay hydrated, healthy, and safe, and keep a few more dollars in your pocket. Please send all optical requests throughout the summer to George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021-2903. Have a safe, fun filled summer

**George Greenwood -HBO**

## Grievance Log Step B Decisions

**Bellmawr**-Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to be regular in Attendance. As a remedy the Letter of Warning shall be reduced to a discussion.

**Bellmawr** – Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to be Regular in Attendance. As a remedy, the Letter of Warning shall be rescinded.

**Bellmawr** – Management **did not** have just cause to issue a 7-Day Suspension for Unsatisfactory Job Performance. As a remedy, the Suspension shall be rescinded.

**Bridgeton**- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to Meet the Availability/Dependability of your Position. As a remedy, the Letter of Warning shall be expunged and reduced to a discussion.

**National Park**- Management has not provided the grievant with a job offer within her medical restrictions as required by the ELM Section 546.14. As a remedy, management shall provide the grievant with a job offer.

**Voorhees**- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to Meet the Attendance Requirements of Your Position. As a remedy, the Letter of Warning shall be rescinded.

**Westville**- Management **did not** have just cause to issue a Letter of Warning for Failure to Follow Instruction/Unsatisfactory Job Performance/Safety. As a remedy, The Letter of Warning shall be rescinded.

## Step A Decisions

**Bellmawr** – Carriers at the Bellmawr Station will be paid Out of Schedule Premium for taking part in the case and deliverer test program. The carriers will be paid from 2/25 until the end of the test at the end of August. To date the total to pay out to 10 carriers in Bellmawr Station is **\$5,895**.

**Bellmawr** - 14-day suspension for Unsatisfactory Job Performance will be reduced to official discussion.

**Bellmawr**- 7-day suspension for Unsatisfactory Job Performance will be reduced to an official discussion

**Westville**- 14- day suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to a 7 –day suspension to be removed in 6 months from date of incident.

**Westville**-14- Day Suspension for Conduct Unbecoming of an Employee reduced to a 7 –Day Suspension to be removed in 1 year.

**Westville** -14-Day Suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions/Unsatisfactory Job Performance reduced to a Letter of Warning to be removed in 1 year.

**Westville**- 7- Day Suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to a discussion.

**Westville**- 7- Day Suspension for Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to a Letter of Warning to be removed in 6 months.

**Westville**- Letter of Warning for Unsatisfactory Job Performance/Safety rescinded.

**Westville**-Management violated Article 8 of the JCAM. As a remedy carrier paid \$100.00 for being forced and management not maximizing the OTDL.

**Westville**-Carrier paid \$180.00 for being improperly sent home by Postmaster.

**Westville**-Carrier paid \$400.00 for work being performed by PTF clerk.

**Westville**- 2 Carriers paid \$150.00 for inequitable distribution of overtime for the last quarter.

**Westville**-Non-OTDL carrier paid \$40.00 for being forced to work overtime.

## Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO)

The geniuses in our District have decided to DUO the Gloucester/Bellmawr installation along with the Haddon Hts. installation and move us into the Camden Annex. These same rumors were swirling around this time last year, however our Postmaster at that time told a chosen few that a study had been done and the Bellmawr Carriers were to far away from the Camden Annex to justify a DUO. What happened to that study? Your guess is as good as mine. The word on the street is that Management at the 501 Bldg. in Bellmawr wants to use the space where the carriers are housed for storage. That sure makes a lot of sense, then again we must remember with who we are dealing with, just read the Grievance Log, and will get my drift. The definition of **optimize** is to make something function at its best or most effective, or use something to its best advantage. With the definition stated above, does it make sense to move 3 offices a mile or more away from the distribution plant in Bellmawr? Let's see move the carriers farther away from their routes, use more fuel, more hours, leave the Gloucester, Bellmawr, and Haddon Hts offices open which all will still have some clerks and probably a Postmaster collecting their same salary for at least 2 years and of course the utilities for the 3 Bldgs. Does the above fit the definition of optimize? I think not. I have a scenario that fits the definition of optimize, how about putting the Gloucester, Bellmawr, Haddon Hts and maybe even the Westville and Audubon Offices all in the 501 bldg. There is plenty of room there, and the distribution plant is right next door, or better yet how about just leaving everything alone? The Camden Annex can be used for the storage. Seems logical to me, then again we have to remember the A ##Holes we are dealing with. On another note, I want to wish all our members and their families a Safe and Fun Summer.

**Mike Powell -Recording Secretary**

## Nalcrest: A retirement that's union-made

Nalcrest, the letter carriers' retirement community, is located in Central Florida just south of Route 60, midway between Tampa on the Gulf Coast and Vero Beach on the Atlantic Coast just east of [Lake Wales](http://LakeWales.com). Nalcrest features 500 garden-style apartments, arranged in clusters of four to 10 apartments—and all are on ground level. Monthly rents range from \$365 for efficiency apartments to \$395 for one-bedroom apartments, which are all leased unfurnished on a yearly basis. Rental fee includes water, sewage, trash removal, basic cable TV, interior and exterior maintenance and use of all recreational facilities. Nalcrest is committed to the spirit of, and compliance, with the Fair Housing Act, and all anti-discrimination and fair housing laws. It is Nalcrest's policy to make reasonable accommodations to our rules, policies and procedures and to permit reasonable modifications as necessary to permit our residents and applicants with disabilities the full enjoyment of their apartment home and community. To request a reasonable accommodation or modification, please contact the Nalcrest rental office. In determining whether a requested accommodation is reasonable, Nalcrest may consider, among other things, whether the request places undue burden on Nalcrest or its staff, fundamentally alters its programs, or interferes with other residents' health, safety, or quiet enjoyment of the premises. **No pets allowed.** Those who are offered apartments must be members in good standing with NALC. There are no exceptions. For information and an **application**, contact the Nalcrest office at P.O. Box 6359, Nalcrest, FL 33856-6359 or call 863-696-1121. An **application form** is available on the NALC website in **Adobe PDF** format. Please print it out and mail it to the address above.

## Branch Cell Phone Numbers

**President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838**

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

## PTF Vacancy in National Park

**Attention:** Any PTF carrier looking to transfer from their current office can take note that there is a vacancy in the National Park Post Office beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you think you may be interested and want more information please contact Steward Jim Comuso at 609-932-9913.

**THE BRANCH OFFICERS AND SHOP  
STEWARDS WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS A  
SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!**