

908 News

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com June 2014

Presidents Report

As this will be our last newsletter until September, I want to update everyone on what is going on with our branch. The first item deals with the COLCPE contest our branch won at the 2012 National convention. As winners, we have been awarded **two** \$100.00 gift cards that we will raffle off at this month's meeting. To be eligible you must have been a gimme 5 contributor to COLCPE, or if you sign up before next meeting you will also have a chance to win one of the two gift cards. The eligible members who will be put in the hat are in the back of the newsletter. As it stands now there are 40 members who contribute at least \$5.00 a pay through their paycheck. I want to thank all those who see the importance of this endeavor, and ask those who haven't contributed to think about signing up to help save our jobs. Remember, we all have different type of insurance policies to protect ourselves from certain things, and COLCPE is an insurance policy that helps get the right people in office to take up our cause. We also are selling raffle tickets @ \$5.00 a piece to support the election of Tim O'Malley and Bill Lucini. Anyone interested please let me know so I can get you as many tickets as you need. The prizes are \$500, \$250 and \$100.00. We will have them on sale at this month's meeting as well. As I mentioned last month, we are just concluding route inspections in some of our offices. It appears management has decided to throw out the inspection they performed in Hammonton! I guess they couldn't get the numbers they wanted. Another waste of money that no one will be held accountable for I am sure. They did make adjustments in Blackwood, and all I can say is they created many overburdened routes, that time will show, and they will then have to do something to fix that mess. Just to show you how their COR program operates, they added 89 walking stops to one route and gave him 34 minutes to deliver! Another route added 34 walking stops and gave 4 minutes to deliver! These are just a few of the examples we uncovered, but it will all come out in the wash once they see their masterpiece in operation. I am sure by our September newsletter I will have some hard facts to report. We are still waiting for the results of the Woodbury/Deptford numbers to come in, and I will report on that office as well. One last item is our National Convention that is being held in Philadelphia this year. If anyone has a day off and would like to attend please contact me and we can make arrangements for you to come and see how your union is run at the national level. There are many excellent seminars that are held prior to and after the convention, that your delegates are obligated to attend and get some valuable information to bring back to the membership. If you never had the opportunity to attend a convention, you should really make it a point to try and get there. Another item I must mention are the disciplines we are seeing being issued for missing MSP scan points. It appears this useless piece of information management is stuck on holding us accountable for, will never go away as it is tied to their performance bonus. It has no bearing on delivery or customer service, but they continue to try and hold us accountable for "allegedly" missing them. One day, I wish some stuffed shirt would stop this nonsense and concentrate on real problems, like properly training their new employees. Don't get me started, but I had to throw that in again. One last thing, on a positive note we have seen 3 more CCA's made career employees. The new hires are McFerren Sockwell Jr out of Bridgeton, Craig Carroll and Carmen Zambrano out of Voorhees. Congratulations, and welcome. Remember to stay

safe and well-hydrated this summer. Hope to see you at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

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

Attendance Prize Now At \$175

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 16th, Gary Pasquale**, a member from our Gloucester city office would have been the recipient of the **\$150** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$175** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 18 @ 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 11 @7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Trustee Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters, its June and almost time for summer recess, lol. Well in many ways, that means more than the branch has no meetings or newsletters in July and August. It always means for us as letter carriers that we have to be more safe, and pay more attention, because more kids and families are off from school and away from their homes. We are always there every day, so keep an eye out for what we would call our extended families, our customers. Remember we are a union family and it's with our numbers that we gain our strength. Your branch and national leaders are only as strong as its membership. We have a national convention this year in Phila, July 21st thru the 25th, any member that has questions for our leaders, please write them down and give to a branch officer, we will do our best to get an answer. Now on to Branch benefits, we have the Branch picnic coming up at Clementon Lake Park on Sept 7th from 11 am to 7 pm, all food and drink is included, also beer for adults. Tickets are 15.00 pp and parking is 5.00 per car, kids under 2 are free. Please contact Phil Haas for more info - 609-868-3285. Any ccas or any carriers in need, the branch has new and used uniforms for free at the hall contact me at 609-932-9913 for more info. For those of us that were at the Branch social and awards banquet in March, next year's banquet is April 18th 2015 at Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester City. Do not forget, kids Xmas party on December 7th at the hall from 1 to 3 pm. Finally, to everyone have a great and safe summer.

- James Comuso Sr, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Health Benefits

Here we go folks. It's June. It is warm. It is going to get extreme. Please protect yourself. Hydrate often, shade when possible, and take a breather when needed. As it does get extreme water is not enough. Hydrate with some form of replenishment fluid, i.e. Gatorade, PowerAde, or even make your own. For years, I have gone to the web pages of the major sport drinks, and purchased powder forms in bulk for about 60% of the cost you would pay in the stores. Protect yourself in every way. You are worth it. Also, learn the signs, and symptoms of heat stress/stroke. Management should give a standup talk on this issue. Hang on to your newsletter for the summer so you will have needed names, numbers, and mailing addresses for union business. For any optical claims send a copy of your receipt with name, and address on it, and any NALC Health benefit information please contact me as follows. George Greenwood, HBR 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021 856-346-1177, enjoy your summer, and be safe.

Grievance Log Step B Decision

Atco- Management **did not have just cause to issue the Notice of Removal** to the grievant on March 27, 2014 for "Improper Conduct." The DRT has stated management **did not** show the grievant engaged in "Improper Conduct" by willfully abusing her prescription medication as charged! Therefore management **did not** have just cause to issue the Notice of removal. As a remedy, the Notice of Removal shall be rescinded and based on the medical reports clearing the grievant, shall be immediately returned to full duty and made whole for all lost wages and benefits.

Blackwood-Management violated the M-39 section 211.1 when they failed to share the results of the route review with the carriers and the union prior to the route inspection conducted the week of April 5th, 2014. As a remedy, management is directed to share the work hour, volumes and possible deliveries data for each route from before the route inspection with the carriers and the NALC President so it can be compared with the route inspection/adjustment data.

Camden Annex Formal A

Bellmawr - Management violated ART 8 when they forced non-odl carriers to work. As a remedy odl carriers will share 25.19 hours at the overtime rate.

Bellmawr – Letter of Warning for Failure to follow instructions/ Failure to Meet Reporting Requirements reduced to a discussion.

Bellmawr- (2) Letters of Warning Missed MSP- rescinded

Gloucester – (3) Letters of Warning Missed MSP- rescinded

Haddon Hts – 14- Day Suspension Failure to work in a Safe Manner/ Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to Letter of Warning 6 months

Haddon Hts – 14 –Day Suspension Failure to Follow Instructions/ Failure to meet Reporting Requirements- rescinded.

Haddon Hts - 7 Day Suspension Failure to Work in a Safe Manner/Failure to Follow Instructions- rescinded.

Haddon Hts - Letter of Warning Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to Letter of Warning for 9 months

Westville – 7 Day Suspension Failure to Meet Attendance Requirements - rescinded.

Informal A

Gloucester- Letter of Warning Missed MSP rescinded.

Mt. Ephraim – Letter of Warning Failure to Follow Instructions/ Failure to Meet Reporting Requirements reduced to discussion.

Westville - Letter of Warning Failure to Follow Instructions rescinded.

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 18.

Fourth Contract Cola

Following the April 15 release of the March Consumer Price Index (CPI), the accumulation toward the fourth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2011-2016 National Agreement is **\$520 annually**. This COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI between January 2014 and July 2014 and will be effective in the second full pay period after the release of the July 2014 CPI.

Retiree Cola

The accumulation toward the 2015 cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) was **1.4 percent** following the April 15 release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2014. The 2015 COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI between the 3rd quarter of 2013 and the 3rd quarter of 2014.

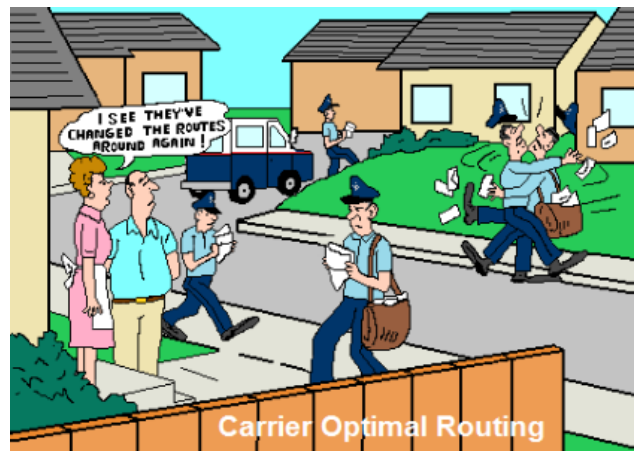
Branch Scholarship

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is Alexander Breitenstine. The alternate is Fred Simpkins. 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

Gimme 5 Contributors

Listed below are the Gimme 5 contributors who are eligible to win one of the two \$100 gift cards at this month Branch meeting on June 18th: (winner need not be present and you can sign up that night and also be eligible).

CHRISTIAN M. BAINBRIDGE	THOMAS J. BARNETT
ROBERT G. BEHM	LEEANN BOSCHETTO
MICHAEL T. BOSTON	JAMES G. BOYLE
VINCE F. CASTAGNA	ADAM J. CERQUONI
JAMES COMUSO SR	DONALD W. CONNELLY
PETER A. DESIMONE	GARY E. DIGIACOMO
PETER G. FITZPATRICK	WILLIAM J. GORE
GEORGE W. GREENWOOD	DAVID F. JACOBSON JR
WILLIAM J. KYSER JR	CHARLES B. LAYDEN
OSWALD P. LECKY JR	STEPHEN J. LIPSKI
APRIL M. LITTY	JAMES E. LIVINGSTON
ANDREW P. MARCOIONNI	SHAWN F. MCBRIDE
MARYELLEN M. MCGUIRE	ROBERT J. MELONI
LORETTA T. MORRIS	KOUROSH A. NAJIMI
DIANNE E. NOURSE	PAUL PONIATOWSKI
FRANKLIN J. POTTS	MICHAEL POWELL
KENNETH W. RIEGER	JAMES E. RUSIN JR
JOSEPH F. RYNKIEWICZ	ALFRED K. SIMPKINS
NORMAN M. SPENCE JR	NORMAN E. TASK
DONNA L. VILLEC	JOSEPH A. WALDER



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