

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, 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 June 2016

Presidents Report

Well brothers and sisters, it just won't be the heat we will have to deal with this summer, it appears the district is ramping up its pressure on all carriers to try and force feed this new P.E.T. program on everyone. Their latest harassment techniques is now telling carriers every morning what their street times will be, not what the carriers expect it to be. They are not even engaging a conversation with the carrier, who may not agree with their assessment. It has become the old deliver all the mail and be back on time, and pick up a half hour under-time as well. They are trying to use the one-day walk time (3999) to hold every carrier to their so called "demonstrated performance!" I will continue to remind everyone every month, as long as management tries to intimidate the workforce, that there is no such animal in any manual that says management can hold anyone to a one-day walk time or a "demonstrated performance." They can produce all their stupid little reports that they have their supervisors look at each day to try and beat you down with, but the bottom line is each day is a different day, and "YOU" make your assessment of your workload, not some silly little report they throw in your face. If you are going to be late fill out a 3996, and don't let them tell you it is not necessary. If they want to hold us to every little thing, we must do our job properly and submit all the proper paperwork in order to protect our rights. Their reports don't take into account weather conditions, etc. Remember to be extremely careful with the heat this summer, and let your managers know if you are struggling. It is better to be safe and take a little longer, than to skip your breaks and lunch and suffer from possible heat exhaustion.

I have to mention one other item in regards to this new program the district is pushing. It really bothers me that the local managers are being told to issue at least 5 pieces of discipline a week for carriers who aren't making their "demonstrated performance!" I know the district leaders will deny ever saying this, but trust me when I tell you they are saying these things. If this isn't the most pathetic form of managing I have ever been associated with, then I can't recall anything as idiotic. We work with a bunch of hypocrites! I go to these meetings with the district manager and the POOMS, and they ask for our input on how to make things run smoother, and this is the result of our conversations? The morale in this district is at an all-time low and will continue to erode as long as the leadership in this district continues to treat its employees this way.

On a different front, many of you are aware our contract expired on May 20th and as of this writing we are still talking in hopes on getting a negotiated agreement. Unless something drastic happens, I would expect we will probably end up in arbitration. President Rolando has stated he will not agree to any contract that doesn't reward our craft for all we have done to keep this organization afloat. Make sure you sign up as an e-activist so you can keep track of all our issues this summer. Hope to see everyone at our last meeting until September. Keep up the fight!

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 15th @ 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, June 8th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$150

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday May 18th, William Davidson**, a member out of the Pennsville Office would have been the recipient of the **\$125** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$150** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

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 15.

Comments From The VP

I have a few important reminders to share this month, but first I would like to wish all our Branch 908 members a safe and fun filled summer. I have said this a few times already, however it needs to be repeated. Please inform management verbally (section 131.41- M-41) and fill out a 3996 (section 131.43 - M - 41) when you believe you will be unable to complete your assignment within the allotted time. Submit the completed form to your supervisor, who will then approve or disapprove the time. If the time is disapproved, call the supervisor in the afternoon and get further instructions. Make sure you get a copy of the 3996. It's not that complicated. If you are denied a 3996 or the supervisor tells you he will give you a copy of it later, request to see your steward. We have had a few 90 degree days already this year, so please drink plenty of fluids to keep yourself hydrated. I can be reached at **856-906-2026** if any members have any questions or need assistance on any matter.

Proud to be Union

Mike Powell - Vice President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA

Hello Brothers and Sisters, and Happy Springtime all. Warm weather time so drink water, water, and more water. With the warmer weather, we tend to become more active in addition to our work. With that in mind, "How's your health"? Find out for sure by taking the NALC HBP Health Risk Assessment survey. For completing the survey, you will receive one of three gifts of your choice. 1- A Self-only Cigna plus savings Discount Dental, 2- A \$40 CVS gift card, or (the one I chose) 3- A Wearable activity tracking device. Much to my surprise the device is an authentic "Fitbit". Top of the line device.

In addition to the above mentioned check out the NALC HBP Healthy Rewards Program. Here you'll find some great discounts such as: Weight and nutrition discounts thru dieticians, and Jenny Craig; fitness club discounts of minimum 10% for Giant, Future, Curves, etc...; Vision and hearing discounts of 15% for lasik and 20% hearing/headphone protection; Mind and body 10% discount on meditation; and finally Wellness products to include 5% savings online pharmacy and at Healthyroads.com up to 40% discount on vitamins, and supplements. Check all this out at nalchbp.org.....

This will be the last newsletter for the summer, so hang on to it

should you need to contact me for HBP, MBA, or FMLA matters. 856-304-8665 cell, or home number 856-346-1177.

All optical reimbursements please send copy of receipt with office of work or retired to me at: George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Have a safe happy summer....George...

George Greenwood – Health Benefits Officer

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters it's finally summer time. I hope it stops raining. Think we have had enough? On May 26th at 730 pm at the union hall, there was a Branch Trustee meeting. All Trustees were in attendance. The Trustees and myself reviewed and audited the Branch's main checking account, along with the sick and welfare and optical accounts. All accounts were in order with no problems found. As always the Branch officers that handle these accounts were once again on their A game. Everything was accounted for. Trustee Litty had taken pictures at the Branch banquet on April 16th. All pictures are on the branch web site, for anyone to review. (nalcbranch908.com). The Branch picnic is 09/11/16 from 11 am to 7 pm at Clementon Lake Park. See your Steward or Sgt at Arms Phil Haas for tickets. They are \$15.00 pp for both parks, including free parking and all the food, drink and beer included. Also, Trustee Litty will be scheduling the kids xmas party soon. Either December 4th or 11th 2016. Also, sometime in November she will be decorating the hall. Anyone interested in assisting her please give her a call (856-885-1451). I know this seems early but summer will go fast. Next any member having a family member pass, please make sure your Steward contacts Pete DeSimone at 609-680-3129, he sees that flowers or a donation goes out to the family, or its charity of choice. And any member who knows of a Branch member passing away please have your Steward contact Trustee Mike Graff at 856-979-7713. Mike is in charge of the Branch's death benefit fund. And finally as always uniforms, uniforms, uniforms - any one, especially retiring carriers who have some to get rid of or donate, please contact me (609-932-9913) and anyone needing some please call me. Thank you, please have a safe and fun summer.

James Comuso Sr – Trustee Chairman

Ozzie's Corner

Happy June my Brothers and Sisters of 908, we had 1 contributor for The Letter Carrier Political Fund this month and it was **Jonathan J. Cross** out of our Sewell office. Remember, the LCPF was a special pact designed through the NALC to do 1 thing for Letter Carriers, give us job security. The members of Branch 908 (active and retired) are urged to donate just \$1 per pay toward this City Letter Carrier investment. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me if you need to sign up or if you have any legislative questions for our branch. Also, I'm asking all of my union family to keep Branch 908 life member and former COLCPE Coordinator **Norm Task** in your prayers and thoughts. Norm has had a rough year and a half medically suffering from 2 strokes. However, I talked to him recently and he wanted to say a big hello to everyone. Norm's passion and fire are truly missed at the union meetings and has played a major influence to a younger member like me in realizing how important Legislation is to our craft. I want to send a big thank you to you Norm. I want to wish you all a safe, happy and prosperous summer and see you all for shrimp and wings at the June 15th meeting.

In Solidarity,

Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

Branch Picnic

The date for the Branch Picnic is September 11, 2016 at Clementon Lake Park. The cost is \$15, which will include free parking, both the water and amusement parks, food and drinks. It's a great time so bring the kids and grandkids. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or to get tickets, 609-868-3285.

Phillies Game Day

On Sunday June 26, we will be holding a Phillies game day downstairs at the union hall for all retirees and regular members. Festivities start at 3 pm. Game time is 4:05 against the San Francisco Giants. Refreshments and light snacks will be served. Contact **Mike Powell** with any questions @ 856-287-8768.

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

Resolution To National Convention

Branch 908 has submitted the following resolution to be considered by the Delegates at the National Convention August 15 – 19, 2016 in Los Angeles, CA. Any Branch that would like to co-sponsor the resolution can contact Branch President **Gary DiGiacomo** at 856-906-2838.

Whereas: The United States Postal Service has been using the HALT Dog Spray since 1966. And

Whereas: Dog bites on Letter Carriers have increased in recent years, 5,581 in 2013 to 5,767 in 2014, and expected to reach 6,000 by 2016. And

Whereas: The use of “Weapon Dogs” or “Status Dogs” has increased in recent years.

Let it be resolved: That the NALC explore new methods of Dog Deterrent. Considering but not limited to, Royal Mails compressed air device, Dazers, Instant Stop, Bite Back Vapor Have, and Sonic devises etc.

Branch Scholarship

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Casey Rusk**. The alternate is **Rachael DiSipio**. 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 **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

Non Members Listing as of 5/10/2016

The following carriers wish to thank our members for paying their way during the ongoing contract negotiations. They will gladly take the raises and other contractual benefits that the NALC negotiates in the next agreement, but they do not feel that they should have to pay their fair share. If they are from your office, please try to make them see the error of their ways.

Donna Fetzer – Blackwood
Jonathan Goodwin (CCA) – Blackwood
Patrick Gallagher – Gibbstown
Walter Lyons – Hammonton
Bruce Stamper – Voorhees
Shamela Carter (CCA) – Marlton
James Brown Jr (CCA) – Riverton
Dean Harrison – Riverton
Mark Robinson (CCA) – Swedesboro
David Exler – Williamstown
Luis Luna – Woodbury

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that over that last couple of months Branch 908 has lost three of our Gold Card members. **Edward Carola** from the Woodbury Office, **David Singleton** from the Woodbury Office and **Ed White** from the Marlton Office. Each of these men had over 50 years service to the NALC and they all truly be missed.

School's Out – Please Drive Safely

School bells will soon be silent and once again youngsters will be in the neighborhoods during the time we deliver mail. For drivers, this means more possibilities of unwary young pedestrians wandering into roadways or darting from between cars or hidden places. This is a true test of anyone's defensive driving skills!

In spite of all the training children receive at school, and in spite of parental instruction and admonishment, some children do play in the street. Most dangerous, perhaps, are those who play merely *near* the street, leaping out suddenly after a ball or chasing a dog.

We are all familiar with the necessity of caution near playgrounds, but we should take care also while driving in residential areas or anywhere else. Remember the following things:

- Whenever you see a ball rolling in the street, you are likely to see a child following it. Slow down and prepare to stop quickly.
- When the ice cream vendor starts into the neighborhood, watch for children coming from all directions.
- Pay attention to the lone child walking along the street. You are much more unlikely to overlook a single youngster than several together.
- Children and others on roller skates, skateboards, or roller blades can roll into the street. They require your extreme alertness.
- Bicyclists, especially young or novice riders should be watched carefully and provided plenty of room.