

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



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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com June 2019

Presidents Report

As we head into the summer, I wanted to let everyone know of a possible great opportunity that has come to our branch and will be discussed at our June meeting. As everyone knows, we have been looking to buy a building for years and are always looking for an opportunity to find a permanent home for our branch. Well, thanks to some early talking with the American Legion, and asking them if they had any interest in selling their building, since their membership is declining, and the building is in dire need of repairs, they said they would be willing to explore the possibility, since it would be a win/win opportunity for both organizations. We spoke with our attorney and they ran it by their attorney as well, to see how, if at all, it could be done. Our attorney stated the best way to do this transaction would be for the Legion to donate the building to our branch. On May 13, 2019, the American Legion Post 100, the owners of the union hall where we have our meetings, held a vote among its members to donate the building to our branch. The vote passed by all the members at their meeting, and now we will discuss the possibility of taking over the building at this month's general meeting. We will discuss whether the membership will be willing to start the process of getting an inspection from a certified engineer and the costs associated with that, in order to move forward with the possible acquisition of the building. We have agreed to allow the legion to have the same rights to the building as they have given us, with one difference, they will not pay any rent to use the building and can stay as long as they wish. We basically are switching roles. There are a lot of things that need to happen to get this transfer to become official, but a vote by the membership at this month's meeting is what we will need in order to start the process. Please come out and voice your opinion and concerns for this very important endeavor for our branch.

Next, we just finished up the last of our inspections in Gibbstown/Paulsboro and it appears we may be losing a little bit of time in that office. I also have been informed the district has selected our Sewell/Mantua/Wenonah office for route inspections this fall. As is our practice, we will be holding inspection training for those offices, so I suggest all carriers in those offices be prepared to attend to learn what to expect during these stressful weeks. I can say that all carriers who have attended our training have done much better than those who didn't attend. We will have a date as we get closer to the actual inspection date.

Lastly, I have also been notified that two of our offices have been selected by the postal service to be part of the consolidated casing initiative or the caser/streeter disaster that we had in the past. The two offices selected are **Marlton** and our offices in the **Camden Annex**. Our national has filed a national level grievance on this issue, and hopefully there will be a resolve before they try and implement it in our offices. If not, we will be ready to file all appropriate grievances as our union is putting together templates to help us beat down this ridiculous idea. It is amazing that the only people who are on board with this initiative are the stuffed shirts in DC who have no idea about delivery and are obviously trying to destroy the service and our jobs. Please pay attention to the NALC app during the summer as we will have no meetings until September and it will update everyone on the latest news.

Please stay safe and remember to stay hydrated as the heat starts to roll in. Hope to see everyone at the meeting for shrimp and wings. Have a great summer.

- Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 19th @ 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 12th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$125

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, May 15th, Irene Tralie**, a retired member out of the Marlton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$100** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$125** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Comments From the VP

I want to wish all our regular, CCA and retired carriers and their families, a Happy, Fun Filled, Safe Summer. I also want to give a big thank you to all our shop stewards for doing a great job representing our members I hate to mention the **Camden, aka Hell Hole, Annex** because it's such a depressing place to talk about, but it seems that the minions in upper management are at it again, by announcing that the **Hell Hole** will be a test site for the Consolidated Casing Initiative. Never mind they just spent \$100,00 if not more on a 6-day count which finally has the routes adjusted to 8 hours. The minions now want to throw the **Hell Hole** into upheaval by implementing this so-called test. They tried something similar in our Bellmawr Office in 2012, but they called it Caser/Streeter. Basically, the way this asinine test works is that there are office routers that case and get ready for the street 3 or 4 routes and then you the carrier deliver on the street for 8 hours including your 2 10-minute breaks. It failed so badly in our Bellmawr Office that they abandoned it after about a month and paid out about \$6,000.00 in out of schedule premiums to the affected carriers. Please, go to the National website if you want more information on this lame brain idea. I would also like to ask all our members, active and retired, and especially our CCA'S to please take the time to get involved with the union. Remember, brothers and sisters, you are the union. Come out to a meeting, grab a bite to eat and have a beverage of your choice, meet carriers from other offices and see how your elected officers are managing your dues money. If any active, CCA, or retired member needs my assistance on any issue please contact me anytime at **(856)-906-2026** or **908vp@comcast.net**.

Proud to Be Union
Mike Powell – Vice - President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello brothers, and sisters. It's here! Summertime! That means hydrate! Please protect yourself from any chance of heat related injury. Injuries can vary from dizziness to death. Don't take chances. As the months get even warmer you also need to replace the electrolytes in your body. This is possible by

drinking sport drinks such as Gatorade, Propel, etc... Do not think soda and coffee drinks. They are diuretic and could actually bring on heat injury quicker. Most experts suggest 64 ounces of water per day, or more when needed. For facts and information go to www.mayoclinic.org....

As always I encourage not only regular carriers, but even more so converting CCAs to give a good look at the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Top of the line coverage, low premiums and co pays, and it's owned by you (NALC Members). Get the facts and compare at opm.gov... under insurance. Also, for all members especially CCAs give a look at the Mutual Benefits Association retirement savings, and other offers such as life insurance at NALC.org under member benefits. CCAs can save now for the future, and when converted can easily transfer all savings into your TSP retirement savings. Quite a nice offer with great rates.

NALC Branch 908 also has a great deal for you with optical expenses. Any member in good standing is entitled to one per member/family member \$20 reimbursement for your optical expenses. Simply mail me a copy of your optical receipt with your name, address, and office/retired to George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021....any questions feel free to call me at 856-304-8665

Brothers and sisters have a great summer, drink your fluids, and be safe.....

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

In May's Ozzie's Corner I wrote about The White House FY 2019 Budget Proposal: The Ugly, here is part 2 of the report. First (among all the eliminations and reductions), the administration is studying a way to change new employees TSP (Thrift Savings Plan). The defined benefit portion of FERS would end for new workers, leaving just collecting from your TSP as the main and lone retirement system. The TSP's G fund Interest rate is another reduction the White House wants to make. The biggest and most highly regarded level in the TSP, would see an estimated 1.4-billion-dollar loss annually (very ugly!). In the Health Benefit column, the budget proposes decreasing the contribution percentage for all employees (active and retired) from 72 to 75, to 65 to 75. Although there are no details in length about this part of the report, retired members could see a decent chunk out of their monthly take-home-pay. The Network Service cuts would be changed as well (eliminating 6-day delivery, door to door and privatization). In addition, the training relief for workers who lost their jobs as a result in layoffs and natural disasters would be sliced from \$220 million to over \$50 million. The biggest blow would be an elimination to collective bargaining (no union at all). Basically, it is 1 party controlling everything. You and I have no say at all. However, there is a message you can relay. The message has been the same from day 1: LCPF. Remember, by contributing to the pact for as little as a buck per pay, you, as a federal employee care about every piece of bad ideology in this budget. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you want to join the fight with me. I want to thank my latest contributors to LCPF: **Nick Acevedo** (Westville), **Shakerra Johnson** (Gloucester City), **Herb Nuss** (Atco), (thanks Jason) and Retirees: **Vince Castagna** (Blackwood) and **Pat Penza** (Runnemede). I want to wish you a safe and happy summer and see you for shrimp and wings at June 19th's meeting.

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.)*

No Meetings For the Summer

Just a reminder that there will be no regular monthly Branch meetings or Shop Steward meetings in July or August. There will also not be a newsletter published during this period. We will return to our normal schedule in September.

Branch Scholarship Winner

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Joseph McBride**, son of **Shawn McBride** out of the Woodbury Office. The alternate is **Clarissa Dunlap**, daughter of **Greg Dunlap** out of the Stratford Office. 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.

Branch Picnic

The Annual Branch picnic at Clementon Park and Splash World will be held on **Sunday, September 8th**. Park hours are from 11am to 7 pm. Food will be served between 11am and 5 pm. The buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$15 per person (children 36" and under are free), tickets include admission to both parks and free parking. All tickets must be bought in advance; there will be **No Tickets Sold at the Gate.**

The park is not open to the general public this day, only to a couple groups. They require a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, **all tickets must be purchased by August 23, 2019 – no exception!**

Tickets can be purchased by **check or money order only, no cash.** at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch or from a Branch Officer or your Shop Steward. You can also mail a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check or money order made out to "Branch 908" to Phil Haas, 112 Park Ave., Gloucester, NJ 08030. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or for more info: 609-868-3285.

Notice of Nominations and Election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards and Convention

Delegates

This is to provide official notice that nominations for the election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates for the term 2020 thru 2021 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 16, 2019**. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership and held as soon as possible after nominations at the October regular monthly meeting. Nominations shall be made from the meeting room floor or in writing to the Branch Recording Secretary, mailed, or presented to him/her prior to or at the October regular Branch meeting. Each eligible member of the Branch nominated for office shall accept or reject nomination in writing prior to the adjournment of the October regular monthly Branch meeting. Failure to accept nomination for Branch office prior to adjournment of the October regular Branch meeting will invalidate the nomination. Shop Stewards shall be nominated by an eligible Branch member from the office at which the nominee is employed to represent the Branch membership. Installation of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch in January. Offices up for election include that of the Branch President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Trustees' Chairman, Trustees (4), Health Benefits Representative, Housing Chairperson, Sgt. at Arms, Shop Stewards (19) and approximately (36) Convention Delegates. The number of Convention Delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a State or National Convention, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for such compensation, shall not exceed two and one half (2.5) percent of the total Branch membership, (which is approximately 18).

Newest Gold Card Member

Per the NALC Constitution: when a member reaches 50 years of membership in the NALC, he/she shall be given a Life Membership Card of Gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the NALC without the payment of dues. It is our honor to recognize **Richard Davis**, retiree from the Gloucester office for his service.

Trustee Report

On May 23rd the Trustees and I did a full audit on the branch main checking account and the sick and welfare account. Both accounts were in excellent shape and all checks and money are accurate and within financial guide lines! Branch financial condition is excellent, and your money is accounted for with no discrepancies! Records are available for review to any dues paying member. Just a reminder that branch has free used and some new uniforms at the hall. If you need them, please come to meeting or call me, I can meet you at hall. Have a happy, safe summer!

- Chairman of the Board of Trustees - **James Comuso Sr**