

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
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Permit # 967
Bellmawr, NJ
08031

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

Presidents Report

There is a change in the air. By now everyone is aware we have a new District Manager, his name is Tim Costello. I Don't know anything about him but I am told he is only in town for approximately 7 weeks. What he is doing here is anyone's guess! As I write this month's article I still haven't gotten any information on what is happening around here. Everyone is either in the dark or is sworn to secrecy! Whatever the case, I am damn sure things are going to start heating up for everyone shortly. I was hoping to have some updated information on the consolidations and the DUO offices when we had our meeting with the former DM, but that has been postponed until such time as another one can be scheduled with the new DM. As soon as I hear something I will let everyone know. All we can do is hang in there until then. We just returned from Atlantic City where the Region 12 training session was held for all of your stewards and officers. It was again very informative and educational. Your stewards picked up a lot of good tools and knowledge to use to protect your rights. National Officer Lew Drass, Director of City Delivery, was in attendance to address the delegation and shared some information about what is happening in our union and what is going on legislatively and contractually. He told us as of February 28, 2011 the memo to continue the JARAP process had expired. As of now we are not sure whether a new memo will be signed or whether management will try a unilateral approach to adjusting our routes. Hopefully by next meeting I will have some updated information. He also has asked us to try and sign up as many carriers as we can for COLCPE. If you read last month's Postal Record you will see that our Branch had a dismal showing of contributors. It is important that we participate in this endeavor because like it or not, politics is what we have gotten ourselves involved with as a union. I know we all may have different philosophies and beliefs about how our union spends this money, but the bottom line is we must trust their choices. At least if you give even \$1.00 a pay you can have a voice in how this money is spent. Otherwise, you are just a silent voice. Think about it and let your Steward or Branch officer help you sign up. It is very easy and it will also strengthen our Branch. On to another issue that has bothered me since last month. At last month's meeting I shared an E-mail with those in attendance that was sent by one of the POOM's to all of his Postmasters. I wanted those who weren't there to read what he had to say and let you see how they really feel about us! Here it is exactly as it was sent out;

"Though we normally struggle on Thursdays, before the snow storms we were always still below total DOIS variance as a group. What has occurred throughout the group that we no longer make DOIS variance on Thursdays? I also need to ask the same question for the rest of the week as well. Why are we not saving as many hours daily like we did before the storms? Need to snap the carriers back into shape."

So, if you were wondering how management really feels about you, look no further than what your postmaster's boss thinks! How this attitude is allowed to continue is an absolute disgrace. The nerve to suggest we were dogging it during these horrendous conditions shows the total disdain they have toward us. All I can say is if they continue to treat us like this, then we are in bad shape as an organization. Why would anyone want to work for an employer who treats his employees like this!

Gary DiGiacomo- President

From The Vice President

This past summer some of our members expressed interest in putting together a Branch 908 softball team to play in the NJSALC Softball Tournament in September. If any brother or sister with some serious softball skills, from past or present, have an interest in participating call Steve Rutkowski at 856-906-2026. We want to try to field a respectable team to represent Branch 908.

Steve Rutkowski, Vice President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, March 16th, 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, March 9th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively

Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$75

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, February 16, Kenneth Rieger, out of Marlton** would have been the recipient of the **\$50** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$75** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Trustee Report

It's getting close to the Branch Scholarship time. If any member has a qualified family member and needs an application please contact Trustee Shawn McBride, at 856-649-9317. Or go to the Branch website and print out the application, fill it out and mail it to Shawn McBride, 1204 Huntingdor Mews, Clementon, NJ, 08021. Also any National Convention Delegate, who has not yet paid the Branch for last year's baseball game, in California, please do so immediately. Contact Mike Powell or me. Finally, I was asked by our Health Benefits Officer and his wife to pass along to the membership that they are both very thankful for all of the cards, phone calls, letters and flowers, from everyone. It has meant so much to them both, and they thank you all from the bottom of their hearts. From Fred and Jeannie Mendel!

James Comuso, SR Trustee Chairman

NALC HEALTH BENEFITS

I would like to thank you for all the cards and prayers for my wife and I while we are sick. Please mail all your eyeglasses bills to my home. Hope to be feeling better in April

HBR Fred Mendel

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

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

Grievance Log
Informal A

Bellmawr- Letter of warning reduced to discussion.

Formal Step A Decisions

Westville- Management violated Article 34 of the J-CAM when they changed the times of a prior job offer from 4 hours to 3 hours and 15 minutes. As a remedy the job offer is rescinded.

Westville- Management did not have just cause for issuing a 14-Day Suspension for Failure To Follow Instructions/Extending Street Time. As a remedy the 14 day suspension shall be reduced to an official discussion.

Westville- Fulltime regular carrier paid 3 hours straight time for work done by PTF.

Step B Decisions

Bellmawr- Management did not have just cause to issue letter of warning. As remedy the letter of warning shall be rescinded.

Bellmawr- Seven day suspension was not the appropriate degree of discipline to issue. As a remedy the seven day suspension shall be reduced to a letter of warning and removed from grievants OPF in six months from date of issue.

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. 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 and your name is not on the list below, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comast.net.**

- James V. Barlow (Stratford)
- Earl L. Breslin (Wenonah)
- Joseph G. Guerra (Haddon Hts.)
- R.L. Hamlin (Sewell)
- G.E. Lawrence (Williamstown)
- Georgia E. Marko (Blackwood)
- Rick Watts (Voorhees)

Dates to Remember 2011

- April 9 – Branch Retiree Banquet
- June 26-June 28 – NJ State Convention
- June 1st-June 3rd – NJ State Congressional Breakfast

**PROUD TO BE
UNION**

Last Chance for Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The **Shop Steward of the Year Award** will be awarded at the Branch retiree's banquet. There is a nomination form available online at nalcbranch908.com/sofyear.pdf. or simply write on a piece of paper the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination (must be from Steward office), and statement including accomplishments, knowledge of contract, ability to deal with co- workers and management, and dedication to the NALC and 908. All submissions must be received by March 28, 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**

If you've ever worked for a boss that reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this story.....

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hired a new CEO and he was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the new CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He walked up to the guy at the wall and asked, 'How much money do you make a week? A little surprised, the young man looked at him and replied, 'I make about \$400 a week. Why? The CEO then handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and screamed, 'Here's four weeks pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!' The guy left without saying a word to the CEO. Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here? From across the room came a voice, 'Pizza delivery guy from Domino's.'

This story sounds like something one of the jackasses (management) from the post office would do.

**HAPPY ST. PATTY'S
DAY!**

