

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
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Bellmawr, NJ
08031

Return Service
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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com March 2012

Presidents Report

Unless you have been living under a rock lately, you know we are in for the fight of our life on many different fronts as we head forward. First, we are in the midst of some major political issues that may be affecting our members as early as this month if not sooner. What everyone needs to do is get themselves signed up as an **e-activist**. It is easy to do and I implore all of you who are not already signed up to do so **ASAP**. This line of communication is so important since our National gets us up to date information on what is going on in Washington immediately. Once we get that information, we can act quickly to contact our representatives. The latest issue facing our members is H.R.7 The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012. Once again, it looks like the bill will be offset largely on the backs of **current** and **future** federal and postal employees. Initial reports indicate that they might use \$30 billion from federal pensions hits to help pay for it. Two of the main possibilities contained in this bill are increasing pension contributions for FERS and CSRS employees 1.5 percent over three years, starting in 2013, and eliminating the Social Security supplement for those who retire after 2012. These are only 2 pieces of this deadly bill that if passed could have major ramifications for all federal and postal employees. Please stay tuned for the latest updates on this bill. Locally, we have another District Manager! That's right folks; her name is Linda Marie Malone. It seems like they change managers as much as we change our socks. Have not had a meeting with her yet, but I am told she is big on attendance! Really? I hope she looks at her managers as well as the craft, since they are out as much as anyone these days due the stress they are getting from their bosses! I have been informed from some stewards that attendance reviews are being given on a regular basis. WOW! I believe that is their job. I know some carriers feel they are being harassed by these reviews, but remember being regular in attendance is our responsibility. I do get a kick out of some managers who like to bring a carrier in after one callout in an 8-month period. These managers are so intimidated by their POOMS, they believe they must address every absence. One final thing, we had our Regional Training Seminar in Atlantic City for our stewards and officers held by our Business Agent's Office. I believe our stewards gained a lot of valuable information to bring back to better protect your rights on the workroom floor. Our National President, Fred Rolando addressed the delegation, and I will report what he had to offer at our regular meeting. Hope to see you there.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, March 21st, 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 meet 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 14th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

The following Trustees have been assigned the following duties: Mike Digiacoimo has been assigned the Sick and Welfare Fund. Mike can be contacted at **609-682-0420** or **19 Madison Dr. Laurel Springs NJ 08021**. Shawn McBride has been assigned to the Branch Scholarship Fund, MBA material, Steward Supplies and the Annual Food Drive. Shawn can be contacted at **856-649-9317** or **1204 Huntingdon Mews Clementon, NJ 08021**. Donna Villec has been assigned the Kids Christmas Party, MDA fund raising and any general fund raising that the Branch may need. Donna can be contacted at **856-287-6215** or **P.O. Box 2393 Cinnaminson, NJ 08077**. Donna is also the Branch Photographer. Jim Boyle has been assigned to the Death Benefit Fund. Jim Boyle can be contacted at **856-953-6107** or **1003 Glendora Ave. Glendora, NJ 08083**.

***A reminder to all Branch members. The Branch ONLY accepts check or money orders no cash!**

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$75

Had he attended at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday February 15th - Wayne (The Mayor) Sheltman**, a member out of our Riverton Office would have won 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 his/her name drawn.

Health Benefits

Anyone with questions about the NALC Health benefit plan, or the Branch 908 optical plan I can be reached at **856-304-8665**. In addition, all members, and their dependents are eligible for one \$20.00 reimbursement (one per household) annually for prescription eyeglasses, or contacts. Please send your name, address, phone number, the office you work out of, and a copy of your receipt of purchase to Health Benefits Officer George Greenwood at:

**1083 Chews Landing Rd.
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**

George Greenwood -HBO

Contract Update

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director George Cohen announced Feb. 13 that he has appointed attorney Joshua Javits as mediator to assist NALC and USPS in reaching a new collective-bargaining agreement. An impasse was declared after USPS declined on Jan. 20 to extend talks toward a contract. Once mediation begins, the NALC and USPS will have 60 days to reach an agreement. If they fail to do so, the issues will then be submitted for final and binding resolution before an interest arbitration panel, which under law must consider all the evidence presented by both parties.

Dates to Remember 2012

March 27-March 29 – NJ State Congressional Breakfast

April 14 – Branch Retiree Banquet

May 20-22 – NJ State Seminar

July 23-27 – National Convention

PROUD TO BE UNION

5th Annual Branch Banquet- April 14th, 2012

The 5th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 14, 2012 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. Gloucester City N.J. 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 14, 2012 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 \$20 pp. The cost for current Branch retirees is \$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: _____

The following retirees will be honored on April 14:
Paul J Collier, Paul F McCarthy, John P McCormick, JF Powell, Phillip S Procida Jr., Don J Vonderschmidt, and Ronald J Wnek.

Last Call for Shop Steward of the Year Nominations

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree’s Banquet. There is a nomination form below or simply write on a piece of paper the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination (must be from Steward’s 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, 2012. 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 2012, 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 2012 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

Branch 908 Steward of the Year PO Box 375
Gloucester City NJ, 08030

Attention Stewards

PHILLIE TICKET MONEY IS DUE BY
MARCH 28th

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Blackwood- Management violated Article 41.1.A.2 of the National Agreement when a carrier who was temporary detailed to a supervisory position over 4 months was returned to the craft solely to circumvent the provisions of this Article. As a remedy the bid assignment will be awarded to the next senior qualified bidder.

Bridgeton- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when a non-ODL carrier was required to work on a route other than his own when an ODL carrier was available to work some of the time. As a remedy the available ODL carrier will be compensated a total of \$20.00 for the lost work opportunity.

Paulsboro- Management violated Article 7.2 of the JCAM when a PTF clerk performed carrier work when carriers were available to do the work. As a remedy 3 carriers will be compensated a total of \$114.00 for the lost work opportunity.

Salem- Management did not have just cause for issuing grievant a letter of warning for “failure to meet the attendance requirements of your position.” As a remedy the letter of warning is rescinded and expunged from the record.

Stratford- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when a non-ODL carrier was required to work on a route other than his own when an ODL carrier was available to work some of the time. As a remedy the available ODL carrier will be compensated a total of \$27.00 for the lost work opportunity.

Stratford- Management did not have just cause when they issued grievant a letter of warning for unauthorized overtime and failure to follow instructions. As a remedy the letter of warning is rescinded and expunged from the record.

Stratford- Management violated Article 15(M-1470) on 2 separate occasions when they borrowed a PTF from another office for the sole reason of avoiding the payment of overtime. As a remedy 5 hours of overtime will be paid to carriers of the affected office.

Proposed cuts to federal workers' retirement benefits would fund House 'jobs' Bill

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, in a party-line vote, has approved H.R. 3813, the Securing Annuities for Federal Employees Act of 2012, which contains language that would severely reduce the net pay and retirement benefits of federal and postal employees covered by both CSRS and FERS. H.R. 3813 is set to be combined with the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act (otherwise referred to as the Highway Bill or H.R. 7), and while the NALC has not taken an official position on H.R. 7, we certainly support a strong infrastructure bill that will create jobs and strengthen our economy. But such a bill should not be financed on the backs of hard-working federal and postal employees who have already sacrificed so much.

2013 Retiree COLA

The projected accumulation toward the 2013 retiree COLA was 0.2 percent following the Feb. 17 release of the January CPI. The 2013 retiree COLA will be determined by the increase in the average CPI between the third quarter of 2011 and the third quarter of 2012. Following the release of the September 2011 Consumer Price Index (CPI), CSRS annuitants were due to receive a 2012 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 3.6 percent. Under COLA rules, this means FERS annuitants will receive a COLA of 2.6 percent. Because there was no retiree COLA for 2010 or 2011, the 2012 retiree COLA was determined by comparing the average CPI during the third quarter of 2011 and the average during the third quarter of 2008.

Annuity Withholding Changes

The "Making Work Pay" tax credit expired Dec. 31. The credit was originally included as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (President Obama's economic stimulus package). As a result, many retirees could see higher federal tax withholding amounts this year, although due to an IRS delay, any adjustment of withholding levels did not actually take place until Feb. 1

HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY!

