

# 908 News

NALC Branch 908  
AFL-CIO  
PO Box 375  
Gloucester City,  
NJ 08030

## 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, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

Prsrst First Class  
Postage Paid  
Permit # 967  
Bellmawr, NJ  
08031

Return Service  
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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



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

### Presidents Report

I just want to remind everyone about this year's Branch Banquet on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester City, where we will honor this year's retirees. This is our 7<sup>th</sup> annual event, and is a great time for all members to enjoy a night out at a reasonable price. (\$20 dollars for active members and \$10 for all retirees.) Where can you go out for a night and get plenty of good food, open bar and great dance music for such a bargain. For those who came out last year, you were treated to an evening with National President Fred Rolando, who spent the entire night talking and sharing information with everyone in attendance. We have again invited him to attend this year's celebration but due to a prior commitment, he is sending Health Benefits Director, Brian Hellman, on his behalf. Also invited is our National Business Agent, Bill Lucini along with his staff Ray McDonald and Dave Napadano. I can guarantee you a fun and relaxing night, which you all deserve, considering the nonsense you have been dealing with. Hope to see you there. On to the business at hand, I have just received the latest inspection schedule, and there are only a few offices scheduled for spring inspections. Those offices are as follows; Blackwood/Hammonton-April 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, and Woodbury/Pitman-May 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. We are exploring options to hold training for the members who wish to get up to snuff on what to expect from these teams. I will explain at the regular meeting what I am looking to do. We already know what to expect, and I want to make sure everyone is aware of their rights before these people come in and try to exploit us. Last month I mentioned the issue of managers changing clock rings and making improper code entries in regards to carriers' route times. It appears there are more than just route codes being changed. We have found carriers who were cheated out of hours worked by managers deleting timecard rings. This is going to cause these offices to be audited as we are contacting the O.I.G. to investigate this illegal practice. We are in the midst of scheduling a labor/management meeting in one office who is a major offender to try to find the underlying cause of this mess. I will keep everyone updated as the investigation progresses. I will not stop my push to get the guilty offenders punished, as they rightfully should. They say there is no honor among thieves, but in this case, I hope somebody will step in and stop this behavior. One last item I know you are probably tired of hearing about deals with COLCPE and being an e-activist. Our branch continues its upward swing in signing up members, but we can definitely do better. Believe it or not, we are in the upper echelon when it comes to e-activist nationally, and I would like us to be in the top 10 by this year's convention in Philadelphia. Please give your steward your e-mail address and phone number and I will do the rest for you. Thanks in advance for your help; it is information that will keep you current about your job and future events, should we be called upon to gather. Also, consider signing up as a COLCPE contributor, it is an insurance policy for your future! 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 \$100

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Michael Webb**, a retired member from our Maple Shade Office, would have been the recipient of the \$75 attendance prize. The prize now increases to \$100 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, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 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, March 12<sup>th</sup> @7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters,

The Branch Social and Awards Banquet is a month away, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 11pm at Kelly Ann Ball Room, Gloucester City NJ. Any retiree that would like to attend, but has transportation problems please let me know ASAP 609-932-9913. We will arrange to pick you up and drop you back at home. Branch is currently selling chances for Phillies Tickets (Sunday game plan), with proceeds going to MDA. Please see your shop Steward or Trustee Pete Desimone, to get tickets and support the MDA. We have the Clementon Lake Park Branch Picnic, tickets include food and drinks and one Adult Refreshment for 15.00 per person. Both parks are included from 11am to 7pm, please see you shop Steward or SSgt at Arm Phil Haas for tickets. This year The NALC National Convention is being held in Philadelphia PA on July 21st thru the 25th. If any members has any questions or concerns for the National Leaders, please write them down and give them to a Branch Officer, we will attempt to get the answers for you. On a final note please take advantage of the optical fund, which pays 20.00 per year per family see George Greenwood

James Comuso Sr, Chairman Board of Trustees

### Health Benefits

For all new members to the NALC Health Benefit Plan, plan guides are available at NALC.org under departments/health benefits. Three programs that continue to grow in demand from the plan are the Healthy Rewards Members Discounts, the Alere Weight Talk program, and the Quit for Life smoking program. Information on all three can be found on the website. Any questions I can be reached at 856-346-1177. Any new optical claims please make sure your name and address are on it, and send a copy of your receipt to me at: Send your optical claims receipt to George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

### Last Call

#### 7th Annual Branch Banquet-March 29th

The 7th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 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 members 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 **March 29th** contact Branch Recording Secretary, **Mike Powell** at [908recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comcast.net). All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of **\$20pp**. **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: _____

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by March 21, 2014. 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 March 29th, 2014, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or [908recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comcast.net).**

#### S. 1486 clears Senate committee, 9 to 1

On Feb. 6, the Senate committee with Postal Service oversight, the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, finished its mark-up of the modified Carper-Coburn postal bill, S. 1486, and approved the measure by a vote of 9 to 1. "Unnecessary and damaging attacks on the Postal Service's vital networks and its employees—such as those unfortunately included in S. 1486—would only send the USPS on a downward trajectory," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

#### Long-Term Care Insurance

Letter carriers or retired carriers can apply for coverage under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program at any time. You do not have to wait until the next Open Season, but you must submit a "full underwriting" application. "Full underwriting," means that applicants will have to answer numerous health-related questions. It may also include a review of medical records and possibly an interview with a nurse. OPM has stated that this is the same level of underwriting that those who purchase individual policies in the private market undergo. Letter carriers may obtain additional information about any aspect of the Long-Term Care Program by calling 800-582-3337 or visiting the LTC web site at [www.LTCFEDS.com](http://www.LTCFEDS.com).

#### Arbitrator blocks USPS from excessing Non Full-Time Clerks into Full-Time Letter Carrier jobs

The Letter Carriers' Union prevailed in arbitration securing an award by Arbitrator Nolan prohibiting the Postal Service from reassigning any clerk craft employee who does not meet the definition of full-time employee under the NALC contract into a full-time carrier craft position. - See more at: <http://www.postal-reporter.com/blog/arbitrator-blocks-usps-from-excessing-non-full-time-clerks-into-full-time-letter-carrier-jobs/#sthash.XRDiz2Qy.dpuf>

### Staples' Decision to Close 225 Stores: Further Proof That It's a Bad Idea to Move U.S Post Offices into Staples Stores

Staples announced today that its sales are declining, its earnings are less than expectations, and it will close 225 stores in North America by the end of 2015. "This proves, more than ever," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein, "that it's a bad idea to turn public services over to a private company that can close stores at will, with no public input and no public comment."

#### Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

There was **no accumulation** toward the 2015 cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) following the Feb. 20 release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January 2014.

#### Load leveling' to more evenly spread Standard Mail Delivery

USPS is implementing new rules designed to revise delivery expectations for some Standard Mail that will result in a more balanced distribution of volume throughout the week. Standard Mail pieces that qualify for the Destination Sectional Center Facility rate generally are delivered in three days. With its new rules, USPS is extending delivery to four days for mail entered Friday or Saturday. USPS says this change will improve delivery efficiency and reduce the traditional heavy Monday workload by spreading the delivery of these Standard Mail pieces across the week. The broadened delivery expectation also benefits customers, since a smaller number of mail pieces delivered each day will more effectively compete for the consumer's attention. Prior to implementing this change, the Postal Service worked with a mail industry workgroup to conduct a test of the load-leveling concept. The test confirmed that extending the delivery date for Standard Mail entered Friday or Saturday helps balance delivery volume during the following week. The new rules will go into effect April 10.

#### \*Attention\*

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Alternatively, send changes to Mike Powell at [908recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comcast.net) or PO Box 375 Gloucester, NJ 08030

Name: _____
Current Address: _____
New Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____

**PROUD TO BE UNION**