

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, Glendora, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

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08031

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com March 2015

Presidents Report

Brothers and sisters, I know you are all aware of the importance of being a union member, especially in this trying time in the postal service. With the threats constantly being put upon us by not only management, but the politicians in Washington, it is all more important than ever to reach out to those few who decided they don't need to be a part of this union. You may not be aware, but we only have 3 non-members in this branch! That is a testament to everyone in this branch, and I thank you all for your loyalty. I believe it is our responsibility to ask those members why they think they can ride along for a free ride, when you are paying their freight. Just so you know who they are I am revealing their names this one time so maybe you can try and get them to join and be with us. Please see the section of non-members and maybe you can change their mind and get them to join all of us for the fight ahead. Remember, there is power in numbers, and we really need to have everyone in for the long haul. I believe this is the least amount of non-members we have ever had and I think it would be great to say Branch 908 is 100% organized. See what you can do to get them on board and explain to them what this local has to offer them as well as what the national brings them as well. Also at this time I would like to thank all those members who have saw the need to become involved in our fight for our jobs by donating to COLCPE as witnessed in last month's postal record. We have a new COLCPE chairman for our branch, Ozzie Lecky, who has already begun to bring carriers into the fold on being a COLCPE contributor. We have seen Sandy Calsamilia out of Deptford and Dave Cullen out of Riverton sign up. Thanks for seeing the need to get involved. As I have said at every meeting, the only way to get politicians to support our issues is with MONEY. It is a dirty business, but that is what it takes in today's world. We all have insurance for our home, car and health, so think of COLCPE as an insurance policy for your job security, because it is just that! Remember, for those who say they cannot afford to donate, I say you cannot afford not to donate. Please consider joining your brothers and sisters who have stepped up. Another situation we are dealing with are CCA's who have been injured on the job. Management is now deciding to separate these employees before they are healed, which we contend is a violation of their rights under OSHA. We are helping them file an appeal with OSHA in order to get this practice stopped. You have to love an employer who thinks so highly of you that they want to throw you to the curb after you injured yourself. This is probably the most despicable act of inhumanity I have ever been associated with. Last but not least, we are starting to see some results from the CDRAAP in our offices, and as I suspected, there are some offices who we have noticed some data integrity issues. We will be making sure these times are corrected to reflect the proper times for the routes affected. I am asking all carriers once again to pay attention to your routes times. If you suspect there is something wrong, please bring it to the attention of the team or your steward before they leave your office. We have already seen situations where carriers are saying they do not take their lunch or breaks, but there is no proof this occurred. If your manager is aware you are doing this then you should be filling out form 1290, 1017-A or 1017-B to document your no lunch, unauthorized overtime, etc. There is no way the team can build up your route times if there is no documentation to support your claim. One thing I have noticed is how many of the offices being looked at show routes over 8 hours! It does not appear to me they can possibly cut routes from these offices

unless they try to COR them! I think they are dumbfounded by all the times these offices are showing, since management was looking at numbers that showed the opposite! Stay tuned for more updated info. See you at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now At \$75

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, February 18**, Ed Reiger, a member from our Gibbstown Office 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.

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, March 18 @ 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 11 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Trustee Report

Brother & Sister, there is still snow on the ground and we are losing an hour of sleep soon, will spring ever come we ask? Next month By-Laws changes will be printed in the April newsletter. Also we will be having the Branch social and awards banquet on April 18th 7-11pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester City. See your shop steward for tickets and information. Any retiree that wants to come to the Banquet and is in need of transportation please contact me ASAP 609-932-9913 Now a reminder of the list of Branch Benefits, any questions on these benefits please contact me at 609-932-9913

- Sick and welfare -- Mike DiGiacomo
- Eye glass fund -- George Greenwood
- Death benefits fund -- Jim Boyle
- Scholarship fund -- Shawn McBride
- Branch photography -- Pete DeSimone

Finally, any CCA interested in free uniform please contact me and we can set a time for them to come to the hall to go thru the uniforms we have.

James Comuso Sr Chairman Trustees

A Job Well Done

I would like to thank all our Branch 908 members for a job well done delivering the mail through the most recent snowstorm. Speaking of a job well done how about our stewards in Deptford. They have accumulated to date over 350 hours in steward time, which equates to a little over \$10,000. A special thank you goes out to Katie King and Joe Loveless for making available all the free money being paid to our Deptford Carriers.

Michael Powell- Recording Secretary

Health Benefits

<https://www.liveandworkwell.com/member/default.asp?lang=1>
What is this? This is the NALC HBP program for mental wellness. Many are shy about EAP through the USPS, but the NALC HBP is also there for you. During the winter months things can get tough mentally, and physically. Please don't let life get the best of you. For yourself, and your loved ones see what's available for you, and act on it. As we turn from winter to spring, and you want to shed a few of those added winter pounds try the NALC HBP Weight Talk Program. A simple program available to you for healthy eating, and nutrition at <http://www.weighttalk.net/nalc/>. For all available programs visit <http://www.nalchbp.org/>

All dues paying members of the branch please submit your optical claims to:

**George Greenwood HBR
1083 Chews Landing Rd.
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**

Any questions regarding HBP or optical reimbursements call 856-346-1177

Career Non- Member List

- David Exler- Williamstown
- Dean Harrison- Riverton
- Walter Lyons- Hammonton
- Bruce Stamper- Voorhees

CCA Non-Member List

- Donna Fetzer- Blackwood
- Mark Robinson- Swedesboro
- Hashan Johnson- Bridgeton
- Jason Busch- Hammonton
- Balvinder Banipal- Voorhees

Deptford Grievance Log

- 40 Letters of Warnings for missed delivery confirmation rescinded
- 2 Letter of Warnings for certified letter rescinded
- 1 Letter of Warning for missed Express Mail reduced to 3 months
- 2 **Article 8's from pay period 26 (2014) and pay period 1 – (2015) resolved, pay 23 carriers 3.0 hours at OT rate for a total of \$3400.00**
- 1 Letter of Warning for Attendance reduced from 2 years to 3 months
- 1 Letter of Warning for Failure to Follow Instructions reduced to a discussion
- 1 7 Day Suspension for not coming to work reduced to 3 months
- 1 7 Day Suspension for bringing back mail reduced to Letter of Warning for 3months
- 2 7 Day Suspensions for unauthorized OT rescinded
- 4 14 Day Suspension for unauthorized OT rescinded
- 1 14 Day Suspension for using the bathroom at Post Office rescinded

Total Steward hours used Approximately 350 hrs
Total cost Approximately \$10,500.00 Cha - Ching

8th Annual Branch Banquet-April 18th

The 8th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 18th, 2015 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom Highland Blvd. & Sylan 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 April 18th contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 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: _____
Print
Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()
Total number attending _____
Total remittance \$ _____

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by April 10th, 2015. 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 18th, 2015, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comcast.net.**

The following Retired Carriers will be honored at the banquet on April 18th.

- Mike Breyer- Sewell
- Arthur England- Penns Grove
- David Entwistle- Riverton
- George Greenwood- Atco
- Steve Lipski- Gloucester
- Dianne Nourse-Mantua
- Chalie Reynolds-Westville
- Jim Rusin-Haddon Hts
- Steve Rutkowski-Deptford
- Gary Stevens-Voorhees
- Wilbert Taylor- Riverton
- JD Visgil- Blackwood
- Bob Westcott - Pennsville

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree's Banquet. 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 31st, 2015. 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 2015, 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 2015 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

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

PROUD TO BE UNION