

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 March 2018

Presidents Report

This month I would like to catch everyone up on what is going on in our district. First and foremost, Article 12 has been lifted in the South Jersey and Philadelphia regions effective February 22, 2018 as per the district memo. Hopefully, all of our CCA conversions that have been delayed due to this position of the district, will proceed as quickly as possible as many of our CCA's have been patiently waiting for the district to do their job and get these conversions done. It has been very frustrating to everyone affected at the snail's pace this district is taking to do the right thing. We had to file numerous grievances in order to protect the CCA's conversion dates, since we contend they should have been converted many months ago. I am hopeful the postal service will make the conversion dates accurate to the times the affected CCA's should have made career. I will keep you posted as I hear of conversion dates.

The next issue we have been dealing with is the time-card fraud issue throughout our branch. As everyone is aware, we uncovered many deletions of hours by managers in a few of our offices and grieved those violations and got carriers made whole and also an additional monetary remedy of \$100.00 for these violations. We also were waiting on what kind of "corrective action" the guilty parties would be issued as well for this egregious behavior. The business agent finally received a response from the District Manager James Drummer, which stated the EAS did not document the legitimacy of the changes properly. I am not going to go through the entire response in this forum but can tell you the guilty parties are still managing in this district, which is a disgrace in my opinion. This type of reaction shows me the DM is ticked off that his managers got caught with their hand in his cookie jar and he has to deal with the repercussions.

Speaking of time-card manipulation, we have once again uncovered more of the old nonsense we uncovered in Deptford a few years back. This time we caught the managers in Williamstown putting carriers on 737, 354 and 782 time when in fact they are working on their own routes. From what I have gathered from the TACS record, it appears management is placing carriers who have a customer pick up of parcels on 737 time to lower the route's base time. You may ask why would they do that? The reason is the district manager is bullying all of his offices about making their base times, and one way to get to that number is to hide actual time by putting carrier on non-delivery times. What this does to our route times is lower their average times and opens up fake route evaluations. If you have ever heard of 1840B times, this is the times they use to find an average of your route over a period of time, this is what these manipulations affect. Williamstown is a DUO office that took in a couple different offices and was never given times for those offices that have longer travel times. Instead of going down there and inspecting the office to get accurate route data, they just try and use their old data, which is why they can't possibly make their base times, thus forcing managers to lie about their numbers. Why managers are afraid to stand up to these bullies boggles my mind. I am waiting on a response from the DM on what he plans to do with this information as once again we have caught his minions playing around to appease his threats. What this also tells me is that if they are doing it in Williamstown, they are more than likely doing it in offices who are having trouble making their base numbers. I am sure if the district was really concerned about this style of manipulations, they would just pull all offices 737, 731, 784, 354, etc. reports to expose

how rampant this practice is in this district. My guess is they are the ones behind this creative accounting and have no desire to stop this phony calculating of office numbers. Let's face it, it is all about the DM looking good to his superiors, not doing what is right and giving routes and offices the proper credit for their routes.

One last item regards the latest information on route inspections. We have just finished our Riverton office, where the office came back a little short, but nothing to eliminate more than a portion of the auxiliary route. We shall see how the team wants to approach these results and we will react accordingly. Our Bridgeton office has just finished their 60-day time period of new adjustments, and we are looking over the data to see how accurate they were. It appears there are a few routes that may need to be cut but we are waiting to see how the team will react to fix those affected routes. Hopefully, we can work with the team to get the routes adjusted properly without filing grievances. Finally, the Bellmawr/Gloucester adjustments are still in the beginning stages of their changes, and we will keep you updated on their progress. Hope to see you at this month's meeting.

- 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 @ 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, March 14th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$75

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday February 21, Mike Rofrano**, a retired member out of the Gloucester 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.

Comments from the VP

In the past two weeks, we have been hit by two Nor'easters. I want to thank all our Brothers and Sisters of Branch 908 who delivered mail in the horrific conditions inflicted by these storms. As I have said before, **you, the letter carriers, are the backbone of the Postal Service.** Our branch recently sent a delegation to Atlantic City for the Region 12 Training Seminar. Executive Vice President, Brain Renfro, was a guest speaker at the seminar and I had the opportunity to convey to him that the stealing of time worked by letter carriers was becoming an epidemic. I went on to suggest to him that the supervisors who committed such an egregious act should be walked out of the building and put on emergency placement just like any other employee who is charged with theft. I also informed him that one of the supervisors who was guilty of committing time fraud in an office of our branch was being promoted. Our Executive Vice President responded that supervisors had been fired for theft in the past and it didn't matter if the people committing the time fraud are promoted, as long as the time fraud is stopped

period. Well, in my opinion these thieves need to be made an example of, and the time fraud will only stop when the supervisors are marched out of the building in front of the work force and put out of the building on emergency placement because that retaining them on duty may result in the loss of Postal Funds. Over at the Camden, **a.k.a. The Hell Hole**, Annex we are approaching 60 days since the minions used COR to reconfigure our routes in Gloucester making them all overburdened. It's going to be interesting as to how the minions are going to get these overburdened routes back to eight hours. I again want to encourage all our members and especially our cca's to try to attend our monthly meetings. It's your chance to get some important information on things happening in the branch and most importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. **PROUD TO BE UNION**
Mike Powell - Vice President

Easter Ham Drawing

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 21**, there will be a drawing for an Easter Ham, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

Phillies Ticket Chances

Once again the Branch is raising money for NALC's National charity, MDA by selling chances for a pair of tickets for the Philadelphia Phillies Sunday Game Plan (lower level seats). Tickets are \$2 each and can be obtained from your Shop Steward. The winning ticket will be drawn on April 4, 2018.

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 16th**. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the Branch web site, or you can contact Trustee **Jim Boyle**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Jim by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee Jim Boyle can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Just some reminders this month. Any QLE, Qualifying Life Event, allows you to make changes in your health benefits. Such events would be marriage, birth, death, etc...

Also for any CCA's upon conversion to career status; you have a mini open season of 60 days to enroll in the FEHBP, and the health benefit plan of your choice.

The MBA, Mutual Benefits Association, is open year round. I strongly urge everyone to see what benefits are available for you. Possibly an alternative to FEGLI you might look into MBA Life Insurance for a policy that will be paid off by the time you retire. CCA's may want to look into the Retirement Savings available so you have something to show for your time in a non-career status. All funds in this savings can be converted to your TSP upon conversion to career status.

Anyone with a chronic illness/injury, or children in need of parental care are entitled to FMLA upon approval of submitted required documents. Should this need arise simply when calling the Employee call in number request FMLA, and the needed documents will be mailed to you. Once the required form is filled out completely, submitted and approved, you will be protected for your absence under the laws of the Family Medical Leave Act. Any problems with this please give me a call.

All branch 908 members in good standing are entitled to one \$20 optical reimbursement per year per member from the NALC Branch 908 Optical fund. To receive your reimbursement, mail a copy of your receipt to me with your name, and office/retired on it. Send requests to George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021...Any questions feel free to call me any time at 856-304-8665....Be safe brothers, and sisters...George.
- George Greenwood, HBR

NALC Lapel Pins Presented

At the regular Branch monthly meeting on February 21st, we were honored to present a **45 year** lapel pin to **Jim Serock**, retiree from the Woodbury office.

Also earning lapel pins this month are:
George Jackson, retiree from the Sewell office – **45 years**
Larry Seitz, carrier in the Pennsville office – **30 years**
The NALC Constitution provides for the awarding of suitable lapel pins for every five years of NALC membership commencing with the 25th year. For example: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and so forth. If you feel that because of your years of NALC membership, you are eligible for the award of a suitable lapel pin, see Branch Recording Secretary Norm Spence or send a letter to the Branch (PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070). Include your Name, Office, approximate date you became a member of the NALC and what pin you believe you have earned.

Ozzie's Corner

As I turned the pages of February's Postal Record and got our final numbers for our 2017 LCPF total as a branch, I couldn't help but be so damn proud and thankful for each and every active and retired member mentioned on that list. If you recall back in 2014, our COLCPE percentage was under 10% as a branch, but since then, we have made great strides and leaps. In 2015 we were at 13%, 2016 we did 23% and this past year an all time high at 26%. I want to take this opportunity to thank two people who have been a major influence in my life since I have been the Legislative Director, **Gary DiGiacomo** and **Norman Task**. Gary appointed me the position in January 2015 after Norman Task (COLCPE Coordinator) could not come out to meetings anymore because of major health issues. Gary saw something in me as a young guy coming up in our branch to give me a shot at this important NALC platform. He wanted a young voice to represent the carriers politically today and going forward into the future. Norman Task was our one and only leader in this political department for over 60 years, he taught me when you address your members at meetings, be honest and up front (do not sugarcoat anything). The voice you use has to be fiery, passionate and have conviction. Members in your branch have to be informed and as the Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman in this great branch, I take this position in its highest regard seriously. Once again, thank you Gary and Norman.

In other news, I want to thank our March LCPF contributor Keith Mitchell (Bellmawr). Finally, February 26th to the 28th, myself, officers and stewards will be in Atlantic City for our Regional Rap Session. I'll have my report on any Legislative info and updates at March 21st's general 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.)*

11th Annual Branch Banquet-April 14

The 11th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 14th, 2018 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. in Gloucester City, NJ. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and 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 14th contact Branch Vice-President, Mike Powell @ 856-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net. All 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 Vice- President, Mike Powell at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with check or Money order made out to NALC Branch 908 by March 24th

Name: _____
Print

Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()

Total number attending _____

Total remittance \$ _____