

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
Permit # 967
Bellmawr, NJ
08031

Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



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

Presidents Report

As everyone is aware, the bill before the Senate, 1789 was passed by a wide margin 62-37 to the dismay of all of us. Not all hope is lost, as this bill now must go before the House of Representatives for discussion of their version of this bill, 2309, that has some major flaws. We do have support for other bills most notably H.R. 137 and H.R.1351. Please keep close attention to these bills as they make their way to the floor. Your best way to stay in tune to this important information is to sign up as an e-activist. One item of note that should be mentioned about this vote. Our supposed friends in the Senate really showed their true allegiance by voting for this bill. Our own Senator, Frank Lautenberg, voted against us even though are members rang his phone off the hook this day asking for a no vote. It goes to show he could care less about what his constituents think and more about what his buddies want him to do. We will not forget him or his buddies this November that is for sure. As you will notice in this month's newsletter in the Grievance Log section the amount of cash the mis-managers have shelled out to our members. The big winners this month are the carriers from the Bridgeton Office. Thanks to management's repeated Article 8 violations, they put well over \$1000.00 of cash in our members pockets. We thank you for your incompetence, and I am sure you will continue to violate the contract until someone above slaps you down. I am hearing that management may resort to this style of managing once again this summer, although I hope that it is just a rumor. If they wish to travel this road again then we will be ready to "cash in" again. Another big loss from management came in an arbitration decision where they put a carrier out for 1 full year only to have to put the carrier back to work with full back pay and benefits. I am happy we prevailed in this case, but not at the price to the carrier. There is no accountability on management's part when this occurs, which needs to be addressed. They can mess with someone's livelihood with no penalty to them. If they had to give up a year's salary if they lost this case would they be so gung ho to try such a weak case. They knew this was a loser, but just wanted to screw with the carrier, which is flat out wrong. Oh well, these are the beasts we are surrounded by and must learn to deal with them. One last note I must mention is the food drive coming up shortly. It still amazes me how some carriers, you know who you are, continue to try to get out of doing their duty for a good cause. Once a year you are asked to do something good, but you let your selfishness drive you. We have offices out there who arrogantly say they are not participating! You really should be ashamed of yourself. Those Postmasters who allow this are just as much too blame as well. How about for once thinks of someone besides yourself. Just a thought.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$125

Had he attended at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 18th**, D.M. Schafhauser, a member out of our Voorhees Office would have won the \$100 attendance prize. The prize now increases to \$125 and will increase \$25 per meeting, up to a maximum of \$250, until a member in attendance has his/her name drawn.

Next Meeting

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

Trustee Report

The Branch Scholarship Drawing will be held at this month's regular meeting. Good-luck to everyone. Any member with any suggestions for fundraisers for COLCPE or MDA, please contact trustee Donna Vilec, at 856-287-6215. Any steward or member that needs to gain access to the hall for office work or for free uniforms please contact me at 609-932-9913.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Branch Scholarship

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 web site or you can contact **Trustee Shawn McBride**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Shawn 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 Shawn McBride can be contacted by phone at 856 **649-9317** or email smcbride1@comcast.net

Shawn McBride

Branch Picnic

The tentative date for the Branch Picnic is September 9, 2012 at Clementon Lake Park. The cost should be around \$15, which will include both water and amusement parks, food and drinks. More details will be in the June Newsletter.

Health Benefits

Any member with any questions about their health benefits or the optical plan please feel free to contact me at 856-304-8665 or jrzsure@yahoo.com

George Greenwood -HBO

Branch Cell Phone Numbers

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

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

Dates to Remember 2012

May 20-22- NJ State Seminar

July 23-27 - National Convention

Grievance Log

Arbitration Decision

Paulsboro- The grievance is sustained. The grievant is to be returned to work with her seniority and benefits intact, and she is to be made whole for all loss of earnings, minus any amounts she might have earned or been paid under workers or unemployment compensation.

(Grievant was out of work for 1 year)

Step B Decisions

Blackwood- Management was in violation of a Step-B decision when they forced grievant to return to Blackwood, who was working in Palmyra, as a result of a previous decision. As a remedy management will make grievant whole for all lost wages (up to 8 hours per-day 40 hours per week) and benefits from November 19, 2011 until such time as grievant is provided the opportunity to voluntarily return to the Palmyra Post Office.

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when several non-OTDL carriers were required to work overtime on a route other than their own as well as their own routes when ODL and PTF carriers were available. As a remedy 3 carriers to receive a total of **\$353.53 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when several non-OTDL carriers were required to work overtime on a route other than their own as well as their own routes when ODL and PTF carriers were available. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive a total of **\$18.75 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when several non-OTDL carriers were required to work overtime on a route other than their own as well as their own routes when ODL and PTF carriers were available. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive a total of **\$24.45 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when several non-OTDL carriers were required to work overtime on a route other than their own as well as their own routes when ODL and PTF carriers were available. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive a total of **\$44.42 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5.G of the JCAM when several non-OTDL carriers were required to work overtime on a route other than their own as well as their own routes when ODL and PTF carriers were available. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive a total of **\$44.83 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8 of the National Agreement by requiring a non-OTDL carrier to work on a non-scheduled day before seeking to use a carrier from the OTDL.

As a remedy 4 carriers to receive a total of **\$222.65 for the violation.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5G of the National Agreement by not maximizing the ODL carriers. As a remedy 4 carriers to receive a total of **\$218.28.**

Bridgeton-- Management violated Article 8.5G of the National Agreement by not maximizing the ODL carriers. As a remedy 2 carriers to receive a total of **\$142.62.**

Bridgeton- Management violated the LMOU item 10, section H.1 in regards to incidental leave. As a remedy the grievant will be awarded an approved day of incidental annual leave up to 8 hours, **regardless of the number of carriers off on leave!**

Paulsboro- Management violated Article 10 of the National Agreement, and the Step B decision dated 4/14/11 when they denied the grievant his request for annual leave on January 17, 2012. As a remedy the grievant will be awarded 6 hours off of his choice anytime over the course of the next year and may not be refused by management as long as he gives 24 hours' notice and will be charged to **Administrative Leave!** Failure to abide by this DRT decision will result in a monetary remedy for the grievant.

Correction

The number of tickets our Branch sold for the Phillies Raffle was 942 not 924 as reported in last month's newsletter. The holder of the winning ticket was Steve Courant. We did not have a winner from our Branch this year as we did in last year's drawing. Sorry for any confusion.

Mike Powell -Recording Secretary

NALC disappointed, but determined, as Senate passes S. 1789:

The Senate adopted a deeply flawed postal reform bill on April 25, voting for S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Service Act, by a vote of 62 to 37. "We're disappointed, but we are determined to fight on," NALC President Fredric Rolando said after the vote. He reminded letter carriers that the legislative process is far from over. "It may take months to get a bill through the House of Representatives," he said, "but we will not rest in this struggle to defend a strong and viable Postal Service."

Contract Talks End As Mediation Deadline Passes

The April 8 deadline for mediation has passed and negotiations for a new National Agreement between the NALC and the U.S. Postal Service have concluded. The process now moves to interest arbitration. Formal talks between the two parties began in August, three months before the Nov. 20 expiration date of the 2006-2011 contract. But following several extensions, the USPS announced on Jan. 20 that it was declining to further extend its collective-bargaining negotiations with the NALC. "I am disappointed by the Postal Service's decision," NALC President Fredric Rolando said in January. "We have been making steady progress in negotiations, and our negotiations have been innovative, professional, and productive and have been conducted at the highest level." About three weeks after the impasse was declared, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director George Cohen announced the appointment of a mediator, attorney Joshua Javits, to help NALC and USPS reach a new agreement. The two parties agreed on a mediation deadline of April 8. In mediation, the neutral mediator—in this case, Javits—is called upon to assist the parties to jointly explore and attempt to settle their differences. Javits held a number of meetings with both sides, both jointly and separately, and attempted to focus on the parties' common interests. Unfortunately, an agreement could not be reached. The process now moves to interest arbitration. In interest arbitration, each party selects an arbitration advocate to represent it on a three-person board, with the third person being an independent and neutral third party chosen by both parties to resolve the dispute. Much like a court case, each side presents evidence through witness testimony and documents, complete with opening and closing arguments, chances for cross-examination and rebuttal. After the arbitrator takes time to review the case, he or she announces a decision and explains how the arbitration decision was reached.

Branch Banquet

The Branch for like to extend congratulations to the following members who recently retired and were honored at our 5th Branch Banquet held on April 14th. Those retirees in attendance and honored were Jack McCormick and Phillip Procida – Blackwood, Paul McCarthy- Pennsville, and J.F. Powell-Mt. Ephraim. Those retirees unable to attend were Don Vonderschmidt- Marlton and Ronald Wnek- Voorhees. Also in attendance were NALC National Secretary- Treasurer, Jane Broendel, along with our National Business Agent Bill Lucini and his assistant Dave Napadano. Phil Haas, shop steward in our Westville Office was this year's Steward of the Year. Phil was presented with a plaque from Branch President Gary DiGiacomo.

Mike Powell- Recording Secretary

EAP for Postal Employees

Magellan Behavioral Health, the contractor providing the Postal Service with Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) services, has created a free, informative, new website for postal employees. Letter carriers may join the site by surfing to **EAP4you.com**, clicking "New User," entering 800-327-4968 and registering with an anonymous user name and password. The site contains a huge storehouse of up-to-date health and wellness information on everything from coping with workplace stress, to child and elder care, to time and money management, to learning the warning signs of substance abuse. It also offers an "ask the expert" section for customized advice, anonymous self-screening tools for such problems as depression and alcohol abuse, and a wealth of links to Internet resources on all things related to personal or family health

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