

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, 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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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com May 2013

Presidents Report

There are many things going on right now that everyone needs to stay on top of! First is the future of the postal service. As everyone is aware, we have stopped the Postal Service from going to 5-Day Delivery, for now, due to our union member's persistence in contacting our representatives in the Senate and House. The one thing we need to impress upon everyone is we need **"everyone"** to become more active in our future endeavors to keep those who want to dismantle the postal service from accomplishing that. One easy way to do that is to start contributing to COLCPE through your paycheck. We have included all our members who are doing their part in this month's newsletter and would like to thank the newest signees to COLCPE. This month's new members are **Pete DeSimone, Jeff Ferry, and Chris Bainbridge**. I know I sound like a broken record, but it is that important to get the money to the right places, especially since we have many members in the House and Senate who are not our friends. If you think what I am saying is a bunch of BS, please watch the full hearings from April 17th House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on the Postal Service's future, where President Rolando testified before Congress along with the Postmaster General and many other key people. I watched the entire 4-hour hearing, and I can tell you we are in for a very bumpy ride if these clowns get what they want. How does cluster box delivery for the nation sound to you? That is one of Darrell Issa's brilliant ideas. It is must see TV for every letter carrier and I bet after you watch these hearings you will see why I am very adamant that we all must step up and get involved. The next item going on is the PTF conversion memo, which was extended to May 11th, where PTF's may transfer to full-time vacancies in other installations. There are not many vacancies in the south jersey district, but there are others out there if you are willing to move. This is coming with the influx of the hundreds of new CCA's the postal service has brought on board to help with the staffing issues in many installations. It is great to see these new employees come in to the work force, but it appears management may have overloaded some of the installations with these new carriers. I just hope they can keep them gainfully employed when prime time vacations end, since they have assigned too many to certain offices. I guess they think not all will work out and are just covering their bases by over staffing installations. Time will tell. I would like to welcome all new CCA's to Branch 908, and look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly meeting. Please come out, meet your officers and members, stop up, and introduce yourself. One final note, are the local negotiations that have ended on April 30th. It amazes me how upper management has no respect for their postmasters. We have always sat down and negotiated our locals with the local postmaster and hammered out an agreement that both sides could live with. Not anymore! After we all agreed to an agreement, we had to wait for the postmaster to send their completed local to the district for approval! Why have postmasters and pay them ungodly amounts of money, when they cannot make any decision I guess this is why the postmasters are being consolidated and driven out of their offices! Remember the food drive is fast approaching, and remember this is our food drive, and our branch is a participating branch. I got an anonymous letter last year that said I was out of place telling our members that they have to participate in this food drive. I normally would not acknowledge someone who did not have the courtesy to sign his name, but I want to reinforce the great feeling it is to be able to

help those in need for a small inconvenience. Obviously, the letter writer has no heart! See you at the meeting

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, May 15 @ 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 **Thursday, May 8 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$125

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 17th, Sanford Fox**, a retired member from our Haddon Hts Office, would have been the recipient of 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 their name drawn.

Trustee Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters, The trustees will be making recommendations to change the wording of some branch by-laws that will help the Branch maintain budget integrity. All proposed by-law changes will be printed in the newsletter before they are voted on. Finally, please take advantage of the services our Branch has to offer. Examples, Optical Fund, Sick and Welfare Fund, and activities such as the Retiree and Award Banquet, Branch Picnic and of course the Kids Xmas Party just to name a few. Remember, it is all about you our members.

James Comuso, Chairman Board of Trustees

Health Benefits

To all the new CCA employees Welcome. Good to have you all onboard. Many of you will be interested in Health Benefits during your employment. I encourage you all to compare all available, and take a real good look at the NALC Health Benefit Plan. It is more than comparable to all the other plans, and in many cases meets, and exceeds them. It is owned, and operated by the NALC as a non-profit plan, which helps keep the costs down. Any questions on the plan please come to the meetings, and see me. We will get you any information you need. On another note warm weather is coming. Hydrate, hydrate, and hydrate some more. If you are not sweating, it is because you do not have enough fluid in your body. As with every year, I purchase Gatorade in powder form right from their web page. I get enough to last all summer while saving 50-60% of what you would pay in the stores. Prevent heat stroke. Drink allot, and often. Be safe out there. All optical claims send to me at: George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

George Greenwood, HBO

COLCPE CONTRIBUTORS

CHRISTIAN BAINBRIDGE	THOMAS J. BARNETT
ROBERT G. BEHM	CHRISTINE T. BIERNACKI
HARRY P. BITTNER	LEEANN BOSCHETTO
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KEVIN P. BREITENSTINE	JEFFREY H. BREYER
MICHAEL J. BREYER	DAN M. BURKHARDT
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DONNA L. VILLEC	THOMAS P. WALSH
JOHN VISGIL	

Branch Banquet

The Branch would like to extend congratulations to the following members who recently retired and were honored at our 6th Branch Banquet held on April 13th. Those retirees in attendance and honored were Tom Walsh, Joe Walder, and Don Caswell from our Deptford Office, Rose Burke- Stratford and AJ Cerquoni- Swedesboro. Those retirees unable to attend were James McCarthy, Tom Robinson, James Bowers, JJ Cone, Sam Fox, S Glenn, RJ Giorgianni, JW Johnson, KD Muntz, and Olga Smith. Also in attendance were our National Business Agent Bill Lucini and his assistants Ray McDonald and Dave Napadano. Pete De Simone, Shop Steward in our Marlton Office was this year’s Steward of the Year. Pete was presented with a plaque from our National President, Fred Rolando, and Branch President Gary DiGiacomo. I would like to send out a big Thank You! to our National President Fred Rolando for taking the time out of his busy schedule to not only attend our Banquet, but to personally make a point of going to each and every table and conversing and taking photos with all our members. It was truly an honor.

Mike Powell -Recording Secretary



National President Fred Rolando, with Branch 908 President Gary DiGiacomo and Vice President Steve Rutkowski

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838
Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

Tips and Snippets

If the USPS wants to go down to 5 days a week let them have one state(say the state of California that Darryl Issa represents or maybe Delaware that Tom Carper represents) to test this theory. The test must be for a full year and then let us see how much money if any they save. The following bills are the only that truly are help our cause

In the Senate, **20 senators** so far have co-sponsored **S. 316**, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery. In the House, **128 members** have co-sponsored **H.R. 630**, a postal modernization measure that preserves Saturday mail delivery.

I think everyone has heard about the grievance that the APWU recently won concerning the downgrading of Post Offices. Now the Postal Service has to put all the downgraded Offices back to their working level at the signing of their contract. From what I understand this means approximately 8000 clerks stand to be compensated. The big rumor swirling around this whole mess is that the APWU pleaded with District Management to wait for this grievance to be settled before they moved ahead with the downgrading and they (Management) allegedly said, “No we are moving forward with this process.” These are the kind of practices along with the pre-funding that are the reason the Postal Service is in financial trouble. Here are a few a tips

M-00492 states; *Normally employees on the ODL who have annual leave immediately preceding and or following nonscheduled days will not be required to work overtime on their off days.* It goes on to say that employees on the ODL may advise their supervisor in writing of availability to work a non-scheduled day that is in conjunction with approved leave.

M-1371 states; *where an employee has insufficient sick leave to cover an FMLA approved absence which qualifies for sick leave usage, LWOP cannot be denied.* The decision also makes reference to the ELM 513.61 where it addresses sick leave in general stating *"If sick leave is approved, but the employee does not have sufficient sick leave to cover the absence, the difference is charged to annual leave or to LWOP at the employee's option."*

Dates to Remember 2013

- Food Drive – 5/11
- NJ State Convention – 5/19-5/21
- Branch Picnic- 9/8

Contract Cola

The projected accumulation toward the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement is **\$416**, based on the April 16 release of the March Consumer Price Index (CPI). This COLA will be based on the increase in the CPI between January 2013 and July 2013.**NOTE:** Under the terms of the 2011-2016 agreement, payment of this COLA will be deferred for one year and will take effect in the second full pay period after the release of the July 2014 CPI.

Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The March 2013 Consumer Price Index (CPI) released April 16 showed a slight increase, so the accumulation toward the 2014 retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) now stands at **1.1 percent**.

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, Recording Secretary at P.O. Box 375, Gloucester

City, NJ 08030 or 908Recordingsec@comcast.net.

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