

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

Prsrt First Class
Postage Paid
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Bellmawr, NJ
08031

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

President's Report

As you will notice, we are finishing up our by-law changes in this month's newsletter, so I will keep my report brief for the newsletter this month. There are a few things I would like everyone to be aware of. First, the lifting of Article 12, which many of our CCA's and PTF's had to deal with not knowing how long they would have to wait for being promoted or hired for a career position! It did not last long, which is a good thing for our members. Patience is the key word for all you guys and gals, which I know is easy to say, but I promise if you all hang in there you will see it was worth the wait. Based on what lies ahead, I can see many of our eligible carriers look for the exit as the job is becoming a lot more stressful and difficult. I know that is not something a lot of you younger carriers want to hear, but it is obvious the postal service is becoming more regimented and with the advent of their new technology, they will be trying to reap the benefits of their newfound toys and look to hold their employees accountable for every little thing. Many of us senior carriers believe this style of management is not for us and will look to leave the future to those younger carriers to continue the fight. I have been preaching for the last year and a half about doing your job as if you are on count every day, and I will continue to beat this drum until everyone gets on board and does their job this way. With the new capabilities of these new scanners, management can track your every minute and location and see when you are not physically doing something. The one thing they cannot solely use at this time is the data they can compile from these tracking devices, to issue discipline, even though I am getting reports they are questioning carriers about what they think carriers are doing on the street based on this information. I suggest you not answer any questions regarding your performance on the street, since you are out there working, not consumed with justifying every minute management is looking to get from you! If they really need an answer, I suggest they get up off their lazy butts and come out and watch us. Another report I received is management trying to discipline carriers for falsifying their 3996 when requesting assistance! This ploy is truly unbelievable! They are trying to hold carriers to the exact minute when they submit their form. I guess the portion of the form that states "estimated" does not mean a thing to them. We shall see how that plays out. Stay tuned! One last item, I would like to congratulate your Recording Secretary and Camden Annex Shop Steward, Mike Powell, for receiving this year's Shop Steward of the Year award at our annual retirement banquet. Thanks Mike for all your hard work and dedication to the member's you represent.

Gary DiGiacomo-President

Attendance Prize Now At \$125

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 15, Dave Umphress**, a member from our Deptford 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.

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, May 20 @ 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 Shop Steward meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, May 13 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Branch 908 Delaware Park Trip

We will be running a trip to Delaware Park and Casino on Columbus Day Oct. 12, 2015. The cost per branch member is \$16.00. This will cover admission, program, open bar (12:30 to 4:30) and all you can eat BBQ (12:30 to 3:30). Payment can be made by check payable to Branch 908 or cash. Delaware Park requests an exact count a month prior to the event so no tickets will be sold at the door. Therefore, all monies must be received by June 17, which is the last regular meeting before the summer. We are trying to keep the event to 50 people so get your money in early.

Questions contact Steve Lipski 856-430-0398

Branch Scholarship

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 20**. 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. Contact **Trustee Shawn McBride** at 856 649-9317 or email smcbride1@comcast.net

Eagles Raffle

We will be conducting our **Eagles Season Ticket Raffle for MDA**. Tickets were distributed to all Shop Stewards at the April Executive Board meeting. This is our only fundraiser for MDA for the entire year; therefore, Shop Stewards are expected to sell all tickets. **Ticket money is due by the end of July**. If you have questions or need tickets, see Trustee, Pete DeSimone or Recording Secretary, Mike Powell.

COLCPE CORNER

I wanted to take the time to introduce myself as the new COLCPE Chairman of Branch 908. As we move forward this year and into the future, I strongly recommend and urge you to contribute to this fund. COLCPE is there for one thing, letter carrier job security. As Chairman, I am asking every retired and active member to donate 1 dollar per paycheck, the contribution is well worth keeping your job. I am available every 3rd Wednesday during our general meeting or you can contact me anytime @ (856) 220-8658

In Solidarity, Ozzie Lecky Jr

Health Benefits/MBA

The NALC Mutual Benefit Association is offering NALC CCA Retirement Savings Plan. This is a retirement income plan designed for City Carrier Assistants (CCA's) to supplement your pension. You choose the amount you want to contribute to your NALC CCA Retirement Savings Plan. It can be as little as \$15 per pay period (the minimum amount allowed)

For more information go to: <http://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association/mba-brochures-applications-and-forms/cca-retirement-savings-plan>, or give me a call at 856-346-1177. Optical claims send to: **George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**

Article 5: Section 18 now reads:

Section 18: The Branch shall bear the cost of transportation, meals and lost time for delegates of the Branch to attend the annual NJ State Association Congressional Breakfast. Housing will be arranged by the Recording Secretary, and any cost deviation from same shall not be compensated for by the Branch. By virtue of their election to office, the elected officers of the Branch shall be delegates to the Breakfast. They shall be compensated \$100 per day for meals and transportation. Housing arrangements shall be made and paid for by the Branch.

Amend Article 5, Section 18 to read:

Section 18: The Branch shall bear the cost of transportation, meals and lost time for delegates of the Branch to attend the annual NJ State Association Congressional Breakfast, as long as it does not exceed the Branch budget. If this occurs the membership may vote at the regular meeting to approve the additional expenditures. Housing will be arranged by the Recording Secretary, and any cost deviation from same shall not be compensated for by the Branch. By virtue of their election to office, the elected officers of the Branch shall be delegates to the Breakfast They shall be compensated \$100 per day for meals and transportation. Housing arrangements shall be made and paid for by the Branch.

Article 6 Section 12 now reads:

Section 12: In addition to the duties assigned to each officer, he/she all perform such other duties as the Branch may from time to time direct.

Amend Article 6, Section 12 to read:

In addition to the duties assigned to each officer, he/she shall perform such other duties as the Branch President may direct from time to time.

Article 5 Section 15 now reads:

Those Convention Delegates elected by the Branch to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention shall be compensated for the actual cost of meals and incidental expenses not exceeding the GSA per diem rate established for the city and state in which such convention is held. The mode of transportation, cost, and place of lodging shall be determined by a consensus of the delegates elected to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, the cost of which shall be borne by the Branch Convention Fund, provided that the cost of lodging does not exceed the GSA maximum lodging amount for the city, state in which the convention is held, however, if suitable housing is not available at a rate below the GSA maximum lodging, the Branch will pay the additional housing costs. Also, that the cost of transportation is the result of an exhaustive search for suitable transportation at a reasonable cost. Unless reasonable and necessary travel arrangements otherwise preclude it, convention lodging will cover the period Sunday through Friday, 6 nights. Unless exempted by a consensus of the delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, all Branch compensated convention delegates will be lodged in the hotel determined by the delegate consensus. Those who do not use the mode of transportation or lodging determined by a consensus of the delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, shall not be compensated for any travel, lodging or per diem

cost in excess of that provided for delegates who comply with the consensus. Also, eligible National Convention Delegates elected to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention will be compensated \$50 per day lost time.

Amend Article 5, Section 15 to read:

Those Convention Delegates elected by the Branch to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention shall be compensated for the actual cost of meals and incidental expenses not exceeding the **branch budget** established for the city and state in which such convention is held. **Also, if the National or State Conventions are held within 75 miles of the branch location, the branch will not be responsible for housing and/or airfare cost to attend. The branch will determine a reasonable rate to be paid any member attending these conventions.** The mode of transportation, cost, and place of lodging shall be determined by a consensus of the delegates elected to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, the cost of which shall be borne by the Branch Convention Fund, provided that the cost of lodging does not exceed the GSA maximum lodging amount for the city, state in which the convention is held, however, if suitable housing is not available at a rate below the GSA maximum lodging, the Branch will pay the additional housing costs. Also, that the cost of transportation is the result of an exhaustive search for suitable transportation at a reasonable cost. Unless reasonable and necessary travel arrangements otherwise preclude it, convention lodging will cover the period Sunday through Friday, 6 nights. Unless exempted by a consensus of the delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, all Branch compensated convention delegates will be lodged in the hotel determined by the delegate consensus. Those who do not use the mode of transportation or lodging determined by a consensus of the delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention, shall not be compensated for any travel, lodging or per diem cost in excess of that provided for delegates who comply with the consensus. Also eligible National Convention Delegates elected to be compensated for their attendance at a National Convention will be compensated \$50 per day lost time.

Article 5 Section 12 now reads:

Section 12: A member elected to represent the Branch as a Branch compensated Delegate to a National or State Convention must have attended at least eleven (11) regular monthly or Executive Board meetings of the Branch from the month of the last National Convention, to and including the month of the October Branch nominations. The months of July and August, although no meetings are held, will be counted toward the attendance requirement. Only one monthly Branch meeting, the regular monthly or the Executive Board meeting, will be counted toward attaining the eleven (11) meeting requirement to be a compensated Delegate

Amend Article 5, Section 12 to read:

A member elected to represent the Branch as a Branch compensated Delegate to a National or State Convention must have attended at **least (13)** regular monthly or Executive Board meetings of the Branch from the month of the last National Convention, to and including the month of the October Branch nominations. The months of July and August, although no meetings are held, will be counted toward the attendance requirement. Only one monthly Branch meeting, the regular monthly or the Executive Board meeting, will be counted toward attaining the **(13)** meeting requirement to be a compensated Delegate

Article 13 Funds

Add Section 11

The Branch shall establish and maintain a building fund. And the only uses of this fund is to purchase a building and maintain said building and property. At least \$2000.00 a year will be added to the fund