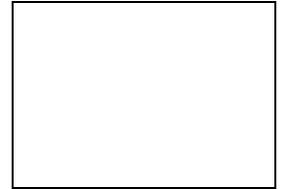


# 908 News

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



Return Service  
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell    Ph: 906-2838    Fax: 227-0516    www.nalcbranch908.com    May 2018

## Presidents Report

Well brothers and sisters, it is that time of year when we do the greatest one-day event in the nation. **Our Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** is on May 12<sup>th</sup> and represents our 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row collecting food for our local food banks who distribute these items to the needy in our region. I can remember the first one back in 1993 when we did this all on our own without any help from the postal service and have watched this great endeavor blossom to where it is today. I know there are a lot of carriers who despise this one-day event, and for the life of me I can't understand it. Today, we have the cooperation of the postal service, so the pressure to pick up the food should no longer be an issue. The district is on board with this program, so don't let your managers tell you otherwise. We have received the cards and every office should have gotten them. One reminder to everyone, especially our CCA's. The cards are mail that must be delivered to all, as they are paid for by the sponsors. Please don't let any manager tell you not to worry about delivering the cards. If you are given this instruction please notify me immediately and give me their names. Let's make it a worthwhile day and realize how many not so fortunate people you are helping.

The next issue I want to reiterate to our members are those who feel the need to participate in the Safety Ambassador Program. I have been informed there are a couple of carriers who decided on their own they are going to help management by joining this program. Once again, I ask you not to be persuaded to join this program as it does nothing to help our members. This is a unilateral program designed by management to try and divide our members. Please reconsider if you have already signed on. The next item some of the former TE's will be interested in. If you weren't aware, any **CCA who was employed as Transitional Employee (TE) after September 29, 2007 and has been, or will be, converted to a career position may be eligible for a one-time advancement to a higher step on the career pay scale. The step advancement and eligibility is to be determined as follows:**

**2 years but less than 3 years = 1step. 3 years but less than 4 years = 2 steps, 4 years but less than 5 years = 3 steps and 5 or more years = 4 steps.**

The step advancements will take place on May 26, 2018 for those eligible employees whose conversion to career is on, or was prior to, May 26, 2018. For eligible employees converted after May 26, 2018 the advancement will take place upon conversion. City carriers placed in a higher step will retain their time in step credit and move to their next step. It took a while to finally get this situation resolved, but hopefully those TE's who stuck it out will now get their proper due for their past time worked. This is the reason it is good to belong to our great union. Do you think any other company would try and do the right thing if they didn't have to?

Also, I want to update everyone on the thief's we have still employed in our district. Many managers are taking offense when I refer to them as thieves, but what else should they be called? When you steal peoples hard earned money, you are a thief. The only difference in this company is you can still be employed and even get promoted, even though the District Manager states he won't tolerate it! We haven't heard a peep from him since all of this has been sent his way. Just to update you on some cases that were resolved at the DRT from the Stratford office. In two cases ruled on, the managers were guilty as charged and payment of 2 hours stolen were given back to

our members. You may say it's only 2 hours, what's the big deal? The big deal is no money should ever be taken from someone for working, no matter how little it is. These managers should be removed from the postal service and dealt with appropriately. I may sound like a broken record, but I will continue my rants until this type of managing stops! You hear that Jim?

We also are still waiting on how the inspection team is going to fix the routes that have been totally overburdened by the use of COR in two of our offices, Bellmawr and Bridgeton. Both offices show times are way off on most routes and the routes that were taken need to be put back in order for these offices to get back to normal. We have seen some of the team examiners go back in and walk routes, but that isn't the way to fix the routes. They can look at the street times for the day they walk, but in order to be fair and get a proper evaluation, they need to do a 6-day count if they don't believe the 60-day data is correct. We shall see how they want to approach this mess, but if we need to send up the grievances and get a neutral parties remedy, we are prepared to do that. Stay tuned.

Lastly, the back pay some of our CCA's were due is supposed to be in the May 4<sup>th</sup> checks. Hopefully, this is accurate, and we can finally close the door on this frustrating wait for our CCA's. Hope to see everyone at our regular meeting.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 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, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

## Attendance Prize Now at \$125

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, Mike DiGiacomo**, a retired member out of the Gloucester 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.

## Comments from the VP

I would like to congratulate all of our retirees who were honored at our Annual Retiree and Award Banquet held at Elizabeth's Ballroom in Gloucester City on April 14. I would like to thank the following members for donating their time to help with the banquet, Pete DeSimone, Phil Haas, Joe Townsend (photographer), Ozzie Lecky and our very own, Jake (the snake) Evison, who provided some great music. Everyone I had the pleasure to speak with said they had a great time.

I want to remind everyone to **check your personnel file!** Some carriers have probably never seen their file. I would recommend that everyone check their file at least once a year for mistakes and for disciplines that should have been removed. The Postal Service, in compliance with OPM, has gotten rid of the paper versions of the OPF (Official Personnel File), the files are all digital now and you can view your file from your home

computer. Go to the eOPF website at <https://eopf.usps.gov/eOPF/jsp/essLogin.jsp>. Once there, you will need your EIN (Employee Identification Number), this is the number on your pay stub, and your USPS PIN number (the same one you use for Postal EASE). If you forget your PIN, call 1-877-477-3273 and follow the prompts to have a new PIN mailed to you. Once you log in you can view and print anything in your file. If you find something that should not be there, contact your Shop Steward. We will be selling raffle tickets for two (2) season tickets to the Eagles games. See your steward for more info and tickets. I want to encourage all of our active, retired and CCAs to try to attend our monthly meetings. It's not only your chance to get some important information on things happening in the branch but more importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. You can also grab a bite to eat, have a beverage of your choice and meet and mingle with new and old friends. If any active, CCA or retired member needs my assistance on any issue please contact me anytime at (856)-906-2026 or [908vp@comcast.net](mailto:908vp@comcast.net). **PROUD TO BE UNION**

**Mike Powell - Vice President**

### **Branch Scholarship Drawing**

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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 all. Just some reminders this month. All new Mutual Benefit Association brochures are available at NALC.org, or pick some up from me at the next meeting. New interest rates on MBA products/services is ranging from 3 to 4 percent. CCA's yes you are eligible for all the products/services offered thru the NALC Mutual Benefits program. I urge all CCA's to look at the retirement savings plan offered through MBA which is transferable to your TSP upon conversion. Plan ahead!

Quick reminder for CCA's when you are converted to career you have sixty days to enroll in the FEHBP (Federal Employee Health Benefits Program). Don't put it off, or you'll have to wait for open season to enroll in better plans. With this opportunity you can enroll in many choices of Dental, vision, and health insurance programs. I encourage you all to plan ahead, do your homework, and make your choices ASAP after your conversion. NALC Health Benefit Plan will offer you excellent coverage for self, or self and family at very reasonable rates. Give a look see at NALCHBP.org.

Optical reimbursements for all members in good standing are available to you from NALC Br. 908. The reimbursement is one \$20.00 per year, per member/family for any incurred optical expense you may have. Simply send me a copy of your receipt with your name, address, and office/retired written on it to George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any questions please give me a call at 856-304-8665, or visit [nalc.org](http://nalc.org). Have a great, safe springtime. See you at the next meeting....George

**- George Greenwood, HBR**

### **Ozzie's Corner**

On April 13th, President Trump has signed an executive order establishing a task force to study the United States Postal Service. Trump states that the postal service is on "an unsustainable financial path" and "must be restructured to prevent a taxpayer-funded bailout". The team will be assigned to study such factors as pricing in the package delivery market. The task force will have 120 days to submit a report with its recommendations. Our national website gives you all the latest updated Legislative and Political information at: [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) and stay tuned as this development continues to unfold in its early stages. In other news, On April 25th to the 27th, Gary DiGiacomo, Shawn McBride and myself had our annual trip to Washington, D.C. for our Congressional State Association visit. At our nation's capital on the 26th, we saw Senators Cory

Booker and Rob Menendez and Congressmen Donald Norcross, Frank LoBiondo, Tom MacArthur and Chris Smith. Sen. Booker stated that we have a special place in America serving to the public and supports strong postal reform for Letter Carriers. Sen. Menendez (who has been a supporter for Letter Carriers for 26 years) says to privatize the post office would damage society in a whole. The Senator said whether it's a letter or package, the customer looks forward in getting that special piece of personal mail every day. Our Congressmen echoed the same praises as well, but it was bittersweet for one we visited, Frank LoBiondo. After serving the 2nd Congressional District for 24 years, the Congressman will be stepping down after this term to pursue other ventures. From day 1, he has had our backs as Letter Carriers and understood the issues we had politically. On behalf of Branch 908, I want to thank him for all he did for us and good luck in your future endeavors. Later that day at the NALC building, we had a closing meeting, cocktail hour and surprise appearance from Con. Norcross. The Congressman once again gave an inspiring speech saying we are the best at what we do and continue the great work serving the public. Finally, I want to take this time to thank George Greenwood and Phil Haas for last month's LCPF report and collection at our meeting, Chuck Greene (Woodbury) for the Legislative info, Digna Townsend (Dis. Representative for Con. Norcross) for the branch retiree certificates at our retirement banquet and our April LCPF contributors: Leroy Blount (Marlton), Joe Fenuto (Blackwood) and Pat Penza (Runnemedede retiree). Remember, for as little as a dollar per pay, contributing to the LCPF is a sound investment in protecting your job, pay and benefits. I hope to see you all at May 16th's meeting. In Solidarity,

**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.)*

### **Retirement Seminar**

Our National Business Agent **Dave Napadano** has informed us that he will be conducting a Retirement Seminar for all carriers that are considering retirement in the not too distant future. The seminar will be held on **Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00** at the George Walton American Legion Post, 41 N. Lakeview Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026. There is limited space, so **anyone interested in attending must inform their Shop Steward by May 20<sup>th</sup>** so we can reserve enough spots.

### **Phone Numbers to Remember**

**President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838**

**Vice- President- Mike Powell- 856-906-2026**

