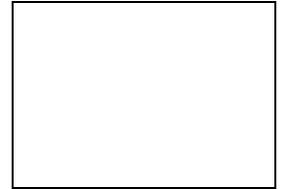


908 News

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 2019

Presidents Report

“Justice has been served!” If you have been at our last few meetings, I was discussing how one of our brothers was treated unfairly by management in the **Deptford Post Office**. I guess unfairly would be an understatement to describe the treatment these managers of **Deptford** laid upon our brother. Thank God for the relentless work of our business agent, David Napadano, who was able to correct this injustice to our brother and get him back to work prior to this grievance getting to arbitration. To sum up what occurred here is quite disturbing to me and anyone who was associated with this case. What occurred here was a complete disgrace by the managers in Deptford, who didn't do their job to avoid this unlikely situation. I am letting everyone know what happened in the event they have a situation where they could possibly find themselves in a similar situation. Our brother made an irrational verbal statement to a supervisor that he wanted to resign from the postal service. Instead of the installation head speaking directly to the carrier, she had the 204-B supervisor process a resignation on behalf of the carrier's verbal statement! The carrier later on decided his statement was made because of undue duress and wanted to recant that verbal resignation. Management stated it was too late and already processed his resignation. I kid you not, this is what occurred. There was no written resignation and the carrier even contacted shared services to stop this once he found out management already sent in the paperwork. The postmaster never spoke directly to the carrier to see if this is what he really wanted, which is what really disturbed me about this whole incident. Bottom line, the case was scheduled for arbitration since management didn't want to settle this grave injustice. Finally, a few days before the hearing, the business agent finally got the area to agree to put our brother back to work and do the right thing. My word of advice to all of you who may say things that could possibly come back and haunt you; please don't ever say you want to resign, because there is a provision in the ELM that states you can verbally resign. The ELM also states there should be due diligence on the managers part to get a signature to validate the resignation. This case was a complete miscarriage of justice and shows the incompetence of managers when it comes to dealing with employees. Shame on all of you for your actions!

The next issue deals with our CCA's, who I have been telling for the last 2 months, about a possible conversion to regular status, due to the overstaffing of CCA's and being over the national cap. It appears management has forced our national union to file a national level grievance on this matter and until the postal service promptly converts a sufficient number of CCA's to career status, this case will move forward. Hopefully, this matter can be resolved amicably, but it always takes us to file grievances nationally, to get headquarters to respond and do the right thing. I will keep everyone updated as soon as I hear anything.

The next issue I need to address is the next initiative the postal service is planning on trying to implement. They call it the, “the consolidated casing initiative!” We all remember it as the caser/streeter program. Once again, our national union has filed a national level grievance on this matter, since management has unilaterally stated they will be implementing this program that will cause numerous contractual violations. This study is scheduled to start in Annandale, VA post office in early May, and then move on to 200 offices, one in every district. Hopefully, they will not proceed before meeting with our

national to discuss many questions we have on this disastrous program.

The last item I need to address is my last meeting with the district manager in April, and a new idea he has proposed to all branch presidents when it comes to route inspections. He stated that with revenues decreasing due to many factors, and the cost of having full blown route inspections, he is asking if we would be willing to agree to do minor route adjustments, per se, in offices they select for route inspections. I have my opinion on this method, but will not publish it here. I will be discussing it at our steward and general meeting, to get the memberships feedback to see if they would be interested in this type of process. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

- Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

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

Attendance Prize Now at \$100

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 17th, Douglas Flood**, a retired member out of the Magnolia Office would have been the recipient of the **\$75** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$100** 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 our retirees who were honored at our Annual Retiree and Award Banquet held at Elizabeth's Ballroom in Gloucester City on April 6. I would like to thank the following members for donating their time to help with the banquet, Ozzie Lecky and his fiancé Allyce, Joe Townsend (photographer), 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 encourage all our members and especially our CCAs 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. If any active, CCA or retired member needs my help on any issue please contact me anytime at **(856)-906-2026** or **908vp@comcast.net**.
Proud to Be Union

Mike Powell – Vice - President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello brothers, and sisters. Couple very important items this month. Might want to jot these down.

First is the NALC “Accidental Death Benefit” afforded to you by the NALC Mutual Benefit Assoc. This benefit is for all active, and retired carriers, and CCAs of the NALC in good standing. The benefit coverage is for \$5000, and there is no cost

to the members. For more information please log onto nalc.org...member-benefits/mutual-benefits.

Second is with the recent outbreak of contagious diseases in both adults and children nationwide The NALC Health Benefit Plan has posted immunization schedules for both children and adults. Yes adults. Vaccination schedules can be found at nalchbp.org. Please protect yourself, and make sure you and your children are up to date with vaccines.

Last, but not least, would be Optical reimbursements. Any brother, or sister in good standing of Branch 908 is afforded a one per family/member optical reimbursement of \$20 annually. To receive your reimbursement simply send me a copy of your optical expense receipt with your name, address, and office/retired to me at: George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any questions on any of these matters please feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Happy spring and be safe brothers and sisters.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Easter Ham Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 17th**, **Bill Gore**, a branch retiree out of the Sewell office was the winner of the drawing for an Easter Ham, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

NALC Lapel Pin Presented

At the Branch Banquet on April 6th, we were honored to present **30 year** lapel pins to Riverton Shop Steward, **Jim Livingston**, and **Joe Townsend**, from the Gloucester office.

Also earning **30 year** lapel pins this month are: **Joseph Begley III**, from the Hammonton office, **Gregory Byrnes**, also from the Hammonton office and **Charles Foley**, also from the Hammonton office.

Earning **25 year** lapel pins this month are: **Charles Perry**, from the Hammonton office and **Kerry Wright**, from the Elmer office.

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

This month's Ozzie's Corner is like that classic Clint Eastwood movie: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. First the good, In April, Branch 908 had 3 contributors to LCPF. I want to thank Scott Cooper (Gloucester City), John Prelas (Deptford) and Greg Solly (Haddon Heights). Next, I want to thank Joe Foreman Jr. for his annual Easter Ham donation. Each April, Joe brings this special gift and we raffle it off to a member who is in attendance at our April general meeting. The raffle is in memory of Norm Task (Branch 908's original COLCPE Coordinator). Speaking of Bro. Task, Branch 908 finally got published in his honor the LCPF dedication statement in April's Postal Record (page 5). However, the dedication took a year and a half to get cleared by NALC staff (the bad). Finally, we have the 2019 White House Budget Proposal: The Ugly. On the Federal side, they want to increase postal employees under the FERS program pension contributions by 1 percent of pay per year up to 6 years (costing active Letter Carriers \$3600 annually after 6 years). Therefore, a Letter Carrier's pay would be drastically cut. The slashes don't end there. Also, they want to adjust the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS pension benefits for new retirees by basing annuities on worker's highest average pay over 5 years (high 5) instead of the highest 3 years (high 3). The annuity supplement would be totally eliminated across the board. In my opinion, this is a punch in the gut to anyone who retires before they qualify for Social Security. The supplement is there and needs to be there for 1 thing: to bridge the gap! COLAS (cost-of-living adjustments) would be sliced. Under CSRS, it would be reduced to 0.5 percent each year in the new proposal, However FERS employees would see the COLA gone completely. We as Letter Carriers must understand that this detrimental ideology will never go away, the best defense in these circumstances is an insurance/protection to cover all of

these fronts. Since 1975, our pact has fought and won every piece of bad legislation that covers Letter Carriers and this budget is no different. Remember, for as little as a \$1 per pay you can join the fight and stand up to this bad legislation. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you need my help with any matters in our branch. I hope to see you all at May 15th's meeting and don't forget I'll be covering part 2 of The Ugly in next month's newsletter.

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.)*

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 15th**. 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

Branch Picnic

The Annual Branch picnic at Clementon Park and Splash World will be held on **Sunday, September 8th**. Park hours are from 11am to 7 pm. Food will be served between 11am and 5 pm. The buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$15 per person (children 36" and under are free), tickets include admission to both parks and free parking. All tickets must be bought in advance; there will be **No Tickets Sold at the Gate.**

The park is not open to the general public this day, only to a couple groups. They require a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, **all tickets must be purchased by August 23, 2019 – no exception!**

Tickets can be purchased by **check or money order only, no cash**, at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch or from a Branch Officer or your Shop Steward. You can also mail a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check or money order made out to "Branch 908" to Phil Haas, 112 Park Ave., Gloucester, NJ 08030. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or for more info: 609-868-3285.

In Memoriam

Bruce Pilling passed away on March 31, 2019, Bruce retired from the Woodbury Post Office.

Glenn Acheson passed away on April 7, 2019, Glenn was a former Branch Officer and retired from the Woodbury Post Office also.

