

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 November 2012

Presidents Report

Well brothers and sisters, the elections have ended and we have our President once again, and thanks to the labor movement and all those volunteers who hit the pavement and manned the phones, Barak Obama, will lead us for the next four years, to hopefully a better result than we got from him the past four years, in regards to the Postal Service's plight! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Branch members who stepped up to help with our local phone bank the national asked us to do for this year's election. Our phone bank coordinator was Recording Secretary Mike Powell, who organized the phone bank this year, and got us set up to make the calls to our members. His committee was comprised of Branch members Steve Rutkowski, Pete Desimone, Dennis Keener, Rich Rahmel, Vince Castagna, Chrissy Bernacki, Diane Nourse, and Ozzie Lecky. Also helping was Theresa and Carly Deantoneo. Once again, thank you guys for helping on this important endeavor. This is what this union is all about, taking time out of your busy life to volunteer for the greater good. Remember, you cannot spell union without "U," and your involvement is what makes this union strong. Thanks again. It looks like we will be facing the same hurdles we had to deal with the last two years, since many of the same players got re-elected once again. This is where we must hold our "friends" accountable this go round, since they now see how we can make or break their getting into office. For instance, John Runyon's seat was a very close race, but thanks to us, he was able to survive, and hopefully he realizes he needs us. He stepped up for our cause and was rewarded with a win, so it shows how we take care of those who listen to our concerns. This is why our giving to COLCPE is very important. Please consider giving through your paycheck each pay, since it will be even more important as we move forward. We offer easy set up at each meeting for you to give, and with all the overtime carriers are getting now, I do not see a reason you cannot give 5 bucks a pay! Please consider giving, it is a necessary evil we must be a part of to get the right people in our corner! On to other issues that must be addressed were the awful results many of our brothers and sisters felt due to Hurricane Sandy. I know many of us around here were spared much damage, thank God, but our brothers on the coast were not as lucky. I must commend the district on their handling of the storm. They were monitoring it hourly and communicated with the employees to keep them out of harm's way. They got us off the street, back in the office by 11am, and sent us home, with pay! This is the first time in my 32 years that management did the right thing where we did not have to file a grievance to be paid for this type of disaster. It is not too often I praise their style of managing, but this is one time they get a high mark for actually looking out for their employees. Next month, however, I will explain where I believe they are really missing the boat on all of these DUO's they are implementing in our district. See you at the meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Remember our Vets- Veterans Day November 12

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$100

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, October 17th. Steve Smith, a member out of our Glassboro Office, would have won the \$75 attendance prize. The prize now stands at **\$100** 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, November 21st @ 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, November 14th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

At this month's regular Branch Meeting will have **The Annual Jake Bittner Turkey Give Away** in honor of former Trustee Chairman Jack Bittner. All members in attendance at the regular member meeting on Wednesday November 21st will get a ticket for the drawing to be held at the meeting. The Branch just paid our legal retainers for another year. I want to remind everyone that Hal Crass of Pearson and Crass in Woodbury, handle all legal matters; you get a free 1hr. consultation along with reduced rates. Hal can be contacted at (856)-845-7900. The Law Firm of Uliase & Uliase handles the Branches OWCP and Injury Comp claims. They can be contacted at (856)-310-9002. Both law firms are the best at what they do. So please use them when needed. Reminder, The Branch has free new and used uniforms at the Union Hall for any member in need of them. Contact Jim Comuso at 9609)-932-9913 or Mike Powell at (856)-287-8768 if you need any assistance. Finally, please attend the Union meetings they are very important!

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

In Memoriam

The Branch would like to express their deepest sympathy to Tony Pasquale and his family for the loss of their daughter Autumn. Tony is a former Clayton Carrier and a Branch 908 member. To help aid the Pasquale Family and to show our support I will be running a gift-card fundraiser for the next two months. Stewards will be canvassing their Offices asking for gift cards to help the Pasquale family. In December, at our Christmas meeting all gift cards will be collected and passed on to the family. Brothers and Sisters in Tony's time of unimaginable and unfathomable tragedy your thoughts, prayers and generosity is greatly needed.

Thank You Camden 540

A special shout goes out to the Brothers and Sisters from the Camden installation. Through their efforts, they raised \$1,040 for the Pasquale Family. Branch 908 would like to thank all those who generously contributed to this worthy cause. Last but not least, the Branch 908 Orphans, Gloucester, Bellmawr, Haddon Heights, and Mt. Ephraim. Way to go guys!

Steve Lipski

Health Benefits Plan Open Season: November 12 through December 10

Health Benefits

As I have been saying open season is coming. Well it is here. Nov12-Dec10. This is the only time of year you can change your health benefits, unless you have a life-changing event. With this in mind, I encourage everyone to research all the different plans available to see what is best for you, and your family, but also ask you give a good look at NALC's own. This is available to all NALC members as well as many other Postal Employees. Please inform all your co-workers of every craft. They too can become associate members of NALC for an annual fee of \$36.00 therefore making them eligible to participate in the plan. Also know that if you choose NALC HBP you will also have to purchase the additional coverage plans for dental, and vision. The two I chose for self only cost me less than \$25.00 per pay. Add that to my NALC premium, and I pay only \$75.00 per pay for all coverage. Less than most other plans offered. One thing besides being very competitive in coverage with all plans the NALC plan has even come down in premium price this year. How many other prices have come down for you this year? For many questions you may have the answers can be found at NALC.org in the departments section under Health Benefits. Anyone who needs help, or has some questions that cannot be answered on the web page please give me a call @ 856-304-8665 after 5 PM. For optical claims, mail your copy of receipt to me at 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Peace. GG

George Greenwood -HBO

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Stratford- 10 Carriers to receive a total of **\$573.00** for management's violation of Article 8 when they required non ODL carriers to work overtime when ODL carriers were reasonably available to perform this time.

Stratford- Management was in violation of Article 8.5.C.2.b when they failed to distribute overtime opportunities equitably in Quarter 3. As a remedy 3 carriers to be given 19 hours of overtime opportunities in Quarter 4, 1 carrier to be given 6 hours, and 1 carrier to be given 4 hours.

Maple Shade- Management was in violation of Article 8.5.C.2.b when they failed to distribute overtime opportunities equitably in Quarter 2. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive 12 hours of overtime opportunities in quarter 4 and 1 carrier to receive 6 hours.

Hammonton-Management violated Article 8.5 of the National agreement when requiring non-ODL carriers to work overtime prior to maximizing the ODL carriers. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive **.64 units** at the overtime rate.

Hammonton-Management violated Article 8.5 of the National agreement when requiring non-ODL carriers to work overtime prior to maximizing the ODL carriers. As a remedy 1 carrier to receive **.85 units** at the overtime rate.

Step A Decisions

Gibbstown- Management agrees that 204-B Pendlebury is instructed **not** to alter carrier clock rings. If changes need to be completed, he will notify carrier prior to doing so. Management and union will review the TACS periodically.

Gibbstown-Management violated Article 8 of the national Agreement when they required a non-ODL carrier to work when an ODL carrier was available to do the work. As a remedy ODL carrier to be paid **5** hours at the overtime rate.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 8 of the national Agreement when they required a non-ODL carrier to work when an ODL carrier was available to do the work. As a remedy ODL carrier to be paid **1** hour.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 8 of the national Agreement when they required non-ODL carriers to work when an ODL carrier was available to do the work. As a remedy 2 ODL carriers to be paid **1** hour each for the violation.

Informal A

Camden Annex (Gloucester) - Letter of warning issued for Unsatisfactory Job Performance/Failure to Follow Instruction Reduced to a Discussion

Camden Annex (Haddon Hts) -Letter of Warning issued for Failure to Work in a Safe Manner/Unsatisfactory work performance. Reduced to a Discussion

Camden Annex (Haddon Hts) – Management Violated Art 8.8a Guarantees. Management will pay Grievant 2 hours at the overtime rate.

Interest Arbitration Update

The interest arbitration board that will set the terms of a new National Agreement between NALC and USPS, chaired by Shyam Das, convened by telephone in executive session on Thursday. The session was held after hearings dates scheduled for Monday, Oct. 29, and Wednesday Oct. 31, had to be rescheduled due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy. A progress report on the proceeding will be forthcoming.

Children's Christmas Party

The annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **December 9th, from 1pm- 3pm** at the Union Hall. Anyone interested in helping or has any questions can contact Trustee Donna Villec at 856-332-4238

Dates to Remember 2012

Children's Christmas Party- 12/9

Holiday Raffle and Branch Christmas Party - 12/19

Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch will hold its **First Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on December 19, 2012. The Branch will be raffling off a 42-Inch RCA TV, which also includes a Home Theatre Pkg. See your Steward for tickets, which cost \$3.00. Contact Trustee Shawn McBride @ (856)-649-9317 with any questions.

Postal Service to Cut Trucker Jobs on Flimsy Environmental Pretext

Postal workers and others protested the privatization of over 800 truck driver jobs on Halloween. They charge the Postal Service with using an environment-friendly excuse to contract out jobs that are currently done by American Postal Workers Union members. Photo: Kevin Cole, Communities and Postal Workers United. The Postal Service is using environmental regulation as a fig leaf for its latest privatization ploy. Postal workers, politicians, and community activists staged a Halloween rally yesterday outside Representative Darrell Issa's office in Vista, California, calling for Congress to "carve the pumpkin, not the postal eagle." **USPS plans to contract out all 840 of its California truck driver jobs**, beginning this month, claiming it cannot afford to bring its vehicles up to state emissions standards. The regulations require older heavy-duty diesel trucks engines to be upgraded on a staggered schedule from 2012 to 2022. The Postal Workers Union offered to pay the cost of retrofitting the trucks out of an existing fund jointly controlled by the union and the employer, but the Postal Service ignored the offer. "They're carving us up for private industry," said Kevin Cole, Southwest California maintenance director for the AWPWU and chief steward for the Anaheim processing and distribution facility. "They've basically allowed the security and sanctity of the mail to be trumped by cheap labor." USPS employs 7,000 APWU truck drivers nationally, carrying mail from processing plants to post offices. If the California cuts go through, members in other states fear their jobs could be next.

By **Alexandra Bradbury** | Thu, 11/01/2012

Happy Thanksgiving from the Branch Officers and Stewards

