

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 375
Gloucester City,
NJ 08030

South Jersey Letter Carriers

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

Presidents Report

We just completed nominations for all officers and stewards at the October meeting, and it was nice to see some new faces step up to the challenge of being shop steward at our offices. I have said for a long time we need new and younger carriers to step up and look to be the leaders of the future of this branch, and it looks like this is the beginning of that transformation. I want to welcome all those who have taken the step to become the fighter for your members' rights and I promise to give you the tools you will need to succeed in this thankless job. I ask those offices who have these new stewards to give them all your support to make their transition a smooth one. Remember, they are willing to put in their time and effort to help protect your rights, so you owe them the courtesy and patience while they learn. On another front, it appears the wait for CCA's to be made regular is about to become a reality. After meeting with the District manager and his staff, they have stated that two CCA's in our district are about to be hired into the career workforce. They stated they were from Vineland and Atlantic City. I hope that this will be the start of many more to come. Speaking of CCA's, the District Manager filled us in on the "CCA summit" they held with approximately 75 randomly selected CCA's to get their feedback on their experience so far in the USPS, and find out why 30% of all new hires end up quitting. I will not go over the entire findings here but will speak about it at our regular meeting. One of the main issues they reported was the treatment they were getting from the career workforce. They felt they were not being treated fairly and being treated as second-class citizens. I find this very disturbing, but do understand why they would feel this way. They came into the postal service and basically cut the overtime out of many employees, which was a major shock to many people. Hopefully, this attitude has subsided, and everyone understands these people are going to be our next generation letter carrier. Another issue that I see firsthand and is running rampant throughout our district, is the threat of losing their job if they do not get back on time or being given unreasonable expectations to complete an assignment. All managers are guilty of this, and you know it! It is a shame that anyone should be treated like this, and I wish those managers would be held accountable for this type of behavior. That is never going to happen, because these people are running on numbers, and will get them at any expense. One last thing to mention about our meeting has to do with Customer Connect. Once again the district states they are "all in" with this most important endeavor, so I am asking anyone of our coordinators who ever has an issue with leads that are not followed up on to please let me know ASAP. The assure me they will be addressed immediately. Hope to see you at the next meeting

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$100

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 16th**, **Patrick Burkhardt**, a member from our Stratford 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.

PROUD TO BE UNION

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, November 20th @ 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 13th @7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, I will be donating a turkey for the Annual Jack Bitter Turkey give away at the November regular branch meeting. On October 25th, the Branch Trustees and I did a complete audit of the Branches main checking account. All money and checks were accounted for and all was in order with your money. In addition, on October 28th, the Branch Budget Committee met and prepared a budget proposal for upcoming year of 2014. The branch is in outstanding financial shape. The budget proposal will be available for your review at the November meeting and will be voted on at the December regular meeting. I recommend the membership support and pass the proposed budget for 2014. Remember to vote in this year's election, it is our right and we need to exercise it... In addition, do not forget the Kids Xmas Party December 8th from 1 to 3 pm at the hall. The Branch Awards and Social Banquet will be held on March 29th from 7-11 pm at the Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester City. Finally, Have a Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and your families.

James Comuso, Chairman Board of Trustees

Health Benefits

Choosing a health insurance plan is a big decision. The right plan has to be the ideal balance of cost and coverage. It has to provide coverage for the services most important to you and your family, and it has to be provided at an affordable cost. **For 2014**, the NALC Health Benefit Plan will offer our High Option Plan. In addition, we will offer two new plans: the Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) and the Value Option Plan. The NALC Health Benefit Plan High Option is same great Plan we have offered for over 60 years. It provides our members accessibility to quality medical care while maintaining a comprehensive benefit package. We pride ourselves in offering excellent benefits with affordable premiums. The CDHP/Value Option focuses on you, the health care consumer, and gives you greater control in how you use your health care dollars. **You add it up: Quality plus affordability plus over 60 years of service equals the NALC Health Benefit Plan. Call the Plan toll free at 1-888-636-NALC** if you have questions about your rates. There are dedicated union employees waiting to talk.

George Greenwood, HBO

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

