

# 908 News

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

## South Jersey Letter Carriers

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08031

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com October 2011

### Presidents Report

As most of you know we just participated with the three other unions in a rally to save the postal service on September 27<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout considering the time of day it was scheduled, which ran from 4 till 5:30pm. I was quite pleased with our branch turnout at Congressman Andrews's office in Haddon Heights. We had roughly 45 of our member's turnout after work where approximately 130 other union members and their families attended. Once again it was the carrier craft that made the majority impact. We had approximately 100 of the 130 in attendance. It goes to show what craft really cares the most about our jobs. WE also had approximately 1600 postal workers state wide that also participated in the rally, which was a great showing considering. Anyhow, it was a great event that occurred nationwide in 492 congressional districts throughout the country to spread the word about what needs to be done to save our jobs and the postal service. The one thing that ceases to amaze me is how little some of our members knew of this rally. We have been hyping this for the last month, and unless you have been under a rock, you should have known about this. I hope our members start to wake up and pay attention to what is going on around them. It is important to start to get involved in our job and what you can do to help keep it thriving. The days of sitting on your hands and letting someone else take care of business is over. Start getting involved and attend your union meetings and become an E-activist, give to COLCPE, to keep in tune with what is happening in the postal service. We are entering a crucial time with negotiations and legislative issues, and everyone needs to be educated on what is going on. I would also like to thank Brother **Mike Stanton**, president from Haddonfield, who helped organize the rally and made it a success. An issue which is surfacing in our district has the clerk craft coming over to the carrier craft to perform work in our craft. We haven't seen this occur as of yet in our branch, however, I have been told it may be happening shortly. We are prepared to file all the necessary grievances to stop this blatant violation of the contract, even though I have been told the district's policy is they don't care if this violates the contract and will do it regardless. I hope this is just posturing on their part, because this is no way to run a business. Stay tuned for updated info. I will be attending the NALC national rap session this month in Las Vegas and hope to get some updated info on our upcoming negotiations as well as bringing back information on the NALC Health Plan, which has their seminar in conjunction with the rap session. We also have branch elections this month, which will take place at the regular meeting on October 19, 2011. All positions are up for election and anyone who wishes to run must be nominated at this time. Hope to see to see everyone at this months meeting

Gary DiGiacomo- President

### Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$200

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, September 21st, Kenneth Rieger, out of our Blackwood Office** would have been the recipient of the \$175 attendance prize. The prize now increases to \$200 and will increase \$25 per meeting, up to a maximum of \$250, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

### Notice Of Nominations And Election Of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards And Convention Delegates

This is to provide official notice that nominations for the election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards and Convention Delegates for the term 2011 thru 2013 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 19, 2011**. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership held as soon as possible after nominations at the October regular monthly meeting. Nominations shall be made from the meeting room floor or in writing to the Branch Recording Secretary, mailed or presented to him/her prior to or at the October regular Branch meeting. Each eligible member of the Branch nominated for office shall accept or reject nomination in writing prior to the adjournment of the October regular monthly Branch meeting. Failure to accept nomination for Branch office prior to adjournment of the October regular Branch meeting will invalidate the nomination. Shop Stewards shall be nominated by an eligible Branch member from the office at which the nominee is employed to represent the Branch membership. Installation of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards and Convention Delegates shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch in January. Offices up for election include that of the Branch President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Trustees' Chairman, Trustees (4), Health Benefits Representative, Housing Chairperson, Sgt. at Arms, Shop Stewards (37) and approximately (36) Convention Delegates. The number of Convention Delegates to be compensated for their attendance at a State or National Convention, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for such compensation, shall not exceed two and one half (2.5) percent of the total Branch membership, (which is approximately 18).

### Mailing and Return Of Branch Election Ballots

Branch election ballots will be prepared and mailed out by the Branch Election Committee on **Wednesday, November 2nd** for completion and return to the Election Committee by **Wednesday, December 14th**. The results of the election will be announced by the Election Committee at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, December 21st**.

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, October 19<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 at 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 at **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board at **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

# PROUD TO BE UNION!

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, I want to remind everyone that anyone doing any business with the Branch, must use a check or money order. This is done in this manner so the Branch has a paper trail if any questions should arise concerning any transaction. Just a few reminders. The Branch provides a Sick and Welfare Fund, that provides members with a spray of flowers when there is a death of a members immediate family and for members that are out on sick leave, a ten dollar a week payment for up to 5 weeks per year is also provided by the Branch. The Branch also provides a Death Benefit Fund that provides the family of a deceased member, with \$200.00. These are just a few of the benefits dues paying members receive, which shows the importance of being a member of this great Local Union. Also do not forget the Branch Scholarship fund drawn every June. The Scholarship provides the winner with \$500.00 per year for 4 years, and finally we have fund raising. Anyone with any ideas for a fund raising project, for charity or for the Branch can contact Donna Villec. Finally do not forget that it is Branch Election time, please vote.

**James Comuso, SR Trustee Chairman**

### Not a Done Deal: NALC Vows to Oppose 5-day Delivery in Obama Plan

President Obama sent a deficit-reduction package Sept. 19 to the special joint committee of Congress established by the debt limit law to find ways to reduce the federal budget deficit. The package included a number of reforms to address the financial crisis at USPS. We are both encouraged and disappointed. We are encouraged that President Obama is attempting to creatively address the USPS cash crisis through the deficit reduction process and welcome his proposal to return the \$6.9 billion postal pension surplus in FERS to the Postal Service as proposed in Rep. Stephen Lynch's H.R. 1351. But we are very disappointed that the administration opted for a deferral of the next two pre-funding payments (\$5.5 billion each) instead of embracing a permanent reform based on the Lynch bill's recovery of the even larger CSRS surplus. And we deeply regret that the administration has given into pressure from the postmaster general and has proposed to eliminate Saturday mail delivery. The NALC has carefully examined the various elements of the White House plan. It is important to remember that these are just proposals; they cannot become law unless Congress adopts them. We want to assure our members and all those who are interested in preserving the U.S. Postal Service that we will work with everyone involved, including members of the joint congressional committee, to build a strong Postal Service that will continue to provide exceptional service to the public six days a week.

**Health Benefits Plan  
Open Season:  
November 14 through  
December 12, 2011**

### Branch Shirts and Hats Available

We now have shirts available with our new Branch logo and hats for \$20. Anyone interested in purchasing a shirt or hat, please contact Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at (856) 287-8768 or at 908recordingsec@comcast.net or Jim Comuso (609) -932-9913.



### Congratulations

At the NJ State convention held in Atlantic City I had the pleasure to witness our Branch President Gary Digiacoimo be elected to the NJ State Association Executive Board as a Trustee. Also elected as a trustee was Mike Stanton, President of Haddonfield and Russ Olive from Branch 540 was elected as Sgt of Arms.

**Mike Powell Recording Secretary**

### \*Attention\*

Any Branch member who is not registered as an e-activist please see your Steward or contact Recording Secretary, Mike Powell for a registration form or you can go to the NALC website. It is very important that we all get registered. The National will send you via e-mail important updates on Legislative and other issues they want us to support. One of the Legislative bills that has been introduced is HR 1351, if passed it would correct the unfair overcharge to the Postal Services pension funds.

### Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, November 2-Election Ballots Mailed  
Wednesday, December 14-Election Ballots Returned  
Wednesday, December 21-Election Results Announced**

### \*Attention\*

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information or send changes to Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at: [908Recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908Recordingsec@comcast.net) or P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030

Name: _____
_____
Current Address: _____
_____
New Address: _____
_____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____

### Phone Numbers to Remember

**President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838  
Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026**

**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!**

