

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 October 2012

Presidents Report

Well brothers and sisters, I do not know where to begin with what has been going on in our District the last month, but I will try to sort it out the best I can. I always said when it is appropriate I would call out all managers, regardless of their title, when it was necessary to bring out their incompetency and poor decisions! Well, this past month I have seen a remarkable display of incompetence, hypocrisy, and stupidity! I am not quite sure who is the "brains" behind these moves, but I would have to think it is the District Manager making these calls. The first brilliant move we had to deal with was the September 14th memo from OPS manager Sally Dryden who has decided that all carriers need to start no earlier than 8:30 am in order to reduce work hours! How in the world do they believe by starting carriers later will reduce hours? Well, we have now seen carriers working until 7:00pm and later due to this brilliant strategy! Has this move really saved hours? Not in my office or any of our other offices that I have noticed! If they believe carriers are spending too much time in the office, wouldn't that be a supervisor's and postmaster's job to monitor that issue? I guess they do not trust them to make sure carriers are getting out in a timely matter. I am sure DOIS has a lot to do with this, but they just do not get it that this system has many flaws. Thanks to this brilliant move, we now have Article 8 grievances beginning to pile up and we will be getting free money once again because of the forcing of non-otdl carriers to work overtime due to the late start. Why the district leadership is not being held accountable for the useless grievances that will be paid out to our craft is beyond me! We are trying our best and doing our part to keep the postal service solvent, but this district leadership is trying to run itself out of business. The next brilliant strategy the district imposed was adding 3 more MSP scans to all routes! Hey, all I can say is thank you very much for slowing carriers down, since the added scans gives carriers another reason not to show any urgency in speeding up! When will someone in upper management get the hint that all these little schemes to monitor the carrier's street performance are defeating the purpose? I know they think we have all this free time out there, but the problem is they have no clue what we are dealing with anymore! This is why all these old throwback managers must go! The final rant this month deals with the hypocrisy of the district. They have beaten us to death with the 1700 window for the last 2 years, and now that is no longer an issue! They went to the greatest lengths taking the position of a 5 o'clock window and how it was extremely important to get all mail delivered by this time, but now they say as long as we meet the dispatch truck or not, it is no big deal! WOW! How these people are allowed to continue steering this ship is embarrassing! On to some better news. We finally have a ruling from President Rolando on our DUO offices that went to the Camden Annex. He has ruled that Branch 908 and Branch 540 will co-exist in the Camden installation. He has also agreed to allow our Mt.Ephraim carriers to come back to our Branch as well, which is great news. There will be many challenges for us ahead as we will be under the LMOU of Camden but will have one steward elected by our Branch to serve our members there. I would like to thank Branch 540 president Chuck Goushian for working with the National and me on this important issue. Just remember, we all are union brothers and sisters working under the same contract, and just because the Postal Service is combining every possible office with the hope of saving money, we must stand together as

one union, no matter where we become housed. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$75

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, September 19th**. **Rick Bacon**, a retired member out of our Bridgeton Office, would have won the \$50 attendance prize. The prize now stands at **\$75** 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, October 17th @ 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, October 10th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, On September 27th, the Branch Trustees did an audit of the Branch Main Checking Account and, we are pleased to inform you that the account is in order. At the regular meetings in the months of October and November we will be selling \$ 2 raffle tickets for a Blue Ray DVD Player. The proceeds of this raffle will go to MDA. Also, remember your Stewards and Officers are selling raffle tickets, to win a 42 inch color flat screen TV with a home entertainment theater, see trustee Shawn McBride with any questions. This money will be used to offset the cost of our Retiree's Banquet. The Banquet will held on April 13th from 7-11pm, at Kelly Ann Ballroom in Gloucester City. Please save that date. This year the Branch will have our famous DJ Jake from our Woodbury/Deptford Office. The Branch Christmas Party will be held on Sunday December 9th from 1-3pm. Santa will be there. Kids get a picture with Santa and they also get a gift. Any questions contact Donna Villec. The Branch will be having the Branch Picnic at Clementon Lake Park next September. More details will follow.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Branch Picnic

The Branch Picnic held on Sept 9, 2012, at Clementon Park was a big success after a 4 year absence. 188 members and their families enjoyed a perfect weather day in the two parks. Food and drink were catered by the park this year. Jim Livingston would like to thank all those who attended and helped make this a success. A big **Thank You** goes out to our Branch members who collected \$265.00 for deceased Haddonfield letter carrier Rob Lawson, who passed away suddenly with a heart attack while working.

Jim Livingston Sgt. At Arms

PROUD TO BE UNION

Health Benefits

It's officially fall. Time for those flu vaccines. The NALC Health Plan offers them free. To find a pharmacy near you that participates in the NALC Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccine Administration Network, visit http://pharmacyshots.com/vaccine_network.01.pdf, or you can call CVS Caremark Customer Care at 1-800-933-NALC (6252). That also means open season is quickly approaching. Nothing yet on rates for 2013, but will get them out to everyone ASAP. Anyone not in the plan give it a look this year. It might surprise you how good it is. Time is also running out on optical reimbursements. Get your receipts in before the New Year, or better yet bring them to a meeting. Next one is Wednesday October 17th. at 8 P.M. Believe me everyone should come out for the meetings. I've been around almost 30 years, and have never seen an anti-postal climate as I do now. Knowledge is power. Hope to see you all at the meeting. Peace.

George Greenwood -HBO

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Salem- The DRT has resolved this grievance by determining that the Notice of removal had no effective date for the removal and the charge to the grievant was vaguely stated. Furthermore, it was the concurring management official who reviewed the discipline at both the Informal and Formal A steps, thus denying the grievant an independent review of the discipline at each level. Therefore, without addressing the merits of the case, the Notice of Removal shall be rescinded.

Step A Decisions

Gibbsboro- The Letter of Demand issued to grievant is rescinded. No violation of Article 28.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 8 of the national agreement. As a remedy 4 carriers to receive \$30.00 for this violation of working non-otdl carriers.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 8 of the national agreement. As a remedy 3 carriers to receive .82, .80 and 1.38 hours at the overtime rate for working non-otdl carriers

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 8 of the national agreement. As a remedy 3 carriers to receive 1 hour at the overtime rate and 1 carrier to receive .50 hours for working non-otdl carriers.

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

Contract Update

Interest arbitration began on Thursday (Sept 6). The USPS opened by offering a proposal that contained the following: **NO raises, NO COLAs, NO Layoff Protection, a 25% TE workforce, and a two-tier wage scale.** Yes, Brothers and Sisters, we are in for a fight.

APWU, USPS Negotiate Retirement Incentive Employees to Receive \$15,000 in Two Installments

The APWU reports: "The incentive will be offered to eligible full-time employees who terminate their service through retirement, early retirement, or voluntary separation. Eligible part-time employees will receive a prorated amount. Most full-time employees will have a separation date of Jan. 31, 2013. To allow sufficient time to provide accurate retirement estimates, part-time employees and employees occupying Non-Traditional Full-Time (NTFT) assignments of less than 40 hours per week will have a separation date of February 28, 2013. (10-1-2012)

MY BROTHER ED

Ed was like a brother to me and the best friend I ever had. I really got to know Ed at a Branch 908 union meeting at the old Knights of Columbus Hall in Woodbury. Ed was hired by the postal service just before the postal strike. We worked together at the Post Office and Ed soon became an officer of Branch 908. Ed was very active in the union as an Recorder and OWCP Officer. We attended many National and State Conventions and had many crazy and great times. We were also life members of both the American Legion Post #100 and the Army & Navy Union Garrison #52 also the Knights of Columbus Council #1994 in

Woodbury. We were also known at the Post Office as the sick committee, for we would visit our friends and families at the hospitals and their homes. We visited the Vineland Veterans Home and helped the Special Childrens Programs, for we loved people and helped put on shows and gave gifts to children at Christmas for the Legion and the Union. The holidays were special, especially St Patricks Day, where we would visit our friends homes with music, conversation and Ed telling of jokes and **true stories**. Someday I hope to meet my best friend again in heaven. My prayers go out to him and his family. May God bless and watch over us all. See you later my friend and that's a **true story** !!!

Tom Barnett Treasurer

Postal Service in the red while U.S. House says 'Return to Sender' on Reforms

Imagine this scenario: An American business with a workforce the size of Wal-Mart defaulted on a \$5.5 billion payment to its creditors in August, and defaulted again last weekend. On top of that, the company is losing \$25 million a day. Nightmare? Sadly, it's the hard reality facing an institution that has been a critical part of our nation's fabric for more than 200 years — the United States Postal Service. The Postal Service faces serious challenges due to the recent economic slowdown, online competition, and congressional inaction. Unless Congress acts to help fix the problems, the universal mail service that Americans rely on — a service that supports a \$1 trillion mailing industry and some 8 million jobs — will be in jeopardy. Five months ago, the Senate passed a bipartisan, comprehensive bill — the 21st Century Postal Service Act — to prevent these historic defaults by right-sizing, modernizing, and reforming the Postal Service. It wasn't easy, and the Senate bill isn't perfect, but most Senators recognized that we have to act now to save such a critical part of our economy and a key engine of our ongoing recovery. The bill passed by a vote of 62 to 37. In contrast, Republicans pushed through the House Oversight Committee their version of a postal reform bill on a strictly party-line vote nearly one year ago. House action stopped there, however, and the bill has languished ever since. Despite claims that they have enough votes to pass their bill, Republican leaders have refused to bring it to the House floor for a vote, forcing the Postal Service to default for the first time in its history. This inaction has prevented progress on a solution to address the Postal Service's challenges, it has eroded confidence in the Postal Service's future, and it has impaired the ability of Congress to implement reforms. That shouldn't happen, and it doesn't need to happen. Unfortunately, House Republican leaders have decided to delay any further consideration of postal reform legislation until after the November elections. Every day the House fails to consider a bill, the challenges facing the Postal Service grow more difficult and more expensive to resolve. Simply put, continuing to ignore the Postal Service's woes is fiscally irresponsible. We still hope that Republican House leaders will step up and do their part to help fix the serious, but solvable, financial challenges facing the Postal Service. We're ready to bring our ideas to the table and work out our differences in a conference committee. Members of Congress from both parties believe we can and should come together and do the right, responsible thing. We urge House leaders to do so quickly so we can preserve the Postal Service for future generations.

Postal Regulator Questions USPS Consolidation Efforts

9.28.2012 - The Hill reports: "The Postal Regulatory Commission said Friday that its models showed the savings could be much lower than the \$2.1 billion predicted by USPS, and that the Postal Service could make consolidations that would not delay by as much when mail is delivered. In its Friday advisory opinion, the PRC said that the consolidation process could save as little as \$46 million a year, with \$2 billion in savings possible if all of USPS's assumptions bear out."

Branch Cell Phone Numbers

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

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

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 6TH