

# 908 News

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

## 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, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, 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 2013

### Presidents Report

Well Brothers and Sisters, you can tell the prime time vacations have concluded, since we are now seeing management start to clamp down on the carriers for everything and anything. As many of you have witnessed or will soon be seeing, the pre-inspection audit team, as they are known as, has cast their presence on our offices getting the offices set for spring inspections. It appears the "brain trust" in the district, have decided to take another go at route inspections, without any union involvement. We all know how expensive and grievant laden these endeavors are. This should be very interesting, to say the least. That is why we are going to start training all of our stewards to be ready for this onslaught when the time comes. I am sure the "good fairies" will bring their bag of deals to try to get us to give them all the routes they want with the scare tactic of what a full-blown inspection will produce if we do not agree. I hate to burst their bubble, but those days of worrying about street time is no longer an issue. We welcome a route inspection, because we want to get all of those new street duties on record and jammed into their DOIS programs. I have been telling everyone for a while that it is time to get back to the basics of the M-41 and do everything by the book. If you think I am kidding, just imagine being written up for fingering mail while crossing the street in your little town. This is what they are looking to do to and have done. They will say it is unsafe to do that, but little do they know that seasoned carriers do not do anything that would create a safety issue. I say; if that is how they want to play, bring it on! Start reading your M-41 and get yourself prepared for the fight ahead. You must know the rules and your rights in order to wage a winning battle. Start doing your routes each day like you are being walked and we will prevail in this never-ending fight to prove ourselves. Once again, I want to remind everyone about your duties when it comes to working past 8 hours. If you think you cannot make 8 hours on your route you must verbally inform management you will not make it. Do not be intimidated into not filling out a 3996, which is what they want, because if you do not and work more than 8 hours management will have grounds to discipline you. We are seeing more and more of these cases every day because carriers are not filling them out. Do not worry if they deny your request, because that is their brilliant response to everyone who puts one in. Get a copy and keep it for your records in case they do try to discipline you. One last thing, there is still no movement on Postal reform. President Rolando testified before the Senate and once again gave great ideas and solutions to help solve this crisis. Only time will tell what is going to happen. I just wish the Postmaster general would get off the five-day mail delivery strategy; because I think, there would be a fix immediately if he did! Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

### Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$75

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, September 18 th, KR Van Deventer**, a member from our Pennsville Office, would have been the recipient of the **\$50** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$75** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, October 16 @ 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 9<sup>th</sup> @7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, this year is an election year please vote. I hope to see more of our younger members become involved. Being involved with the running of the Branch is very rewarding. The Branch has on retainer attorney Hal Crass of **Pearson & Crass**. Hal is on retainer as the Branch attorney for all other legal matters. **Hal's** office is located at 59 N. Broad St., Woodbury, NJ 08096 and he can be reached at **856-845-7900**. In addition, the firm of **Uliase & Uliase** is on retainer for the Branch to handle Federal Workers' Compensation Claims. These are the only issues that they handle. **Uliase & Uliase** are located at 106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035 and can be reached at **856-310-9002**. So, please if you need a legal team call either firm and let them know you are from Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers. The branch has free new and used uniforms at the hall, see me for more info. The kids Christmas Party is December 8 th at hall from 1-3 it's a good time the kids get to see Santa and the branch provides gifts, food and drink .Save the date March 29 from 7-11 at Kellyann Ball Room in Gloucester City for the branch Social and Awards Banquet cost is \$ 20 dollars, which includes open bar, buffet and music. Please plan to attend. Finally, the trustees have their meeting the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm, any member who would like to attend please let me know.

James Comuso, Chairman Board of Trustees

### Health Benefits

Welcome back from summer. News has it that the Health fair for all those who would like to attend will be held in the 501 Bldg. in Bellmawr on Wed. Nov. 8th from 2:30PM until 8:30 PM. I encourage everyone in need for a plan that fits your needs to attend. You will find your Unions plan the NALC Health Plan is very competitive, as well as very comprehensive coverage. Another tid bit for your future is The NALC Mutual Benefit Assoc., which has various plans of additional Life, medical, and retirements' plans to invest. Go to NALC.Org for more information. Finally yet importantly have a great Fall Season, and for optical claims mail to: George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ. 08021 (856)-346-1177

George Greenwood, HBO

### 2014 Color Coded Rotating Day Off Calendar

Branch Assistant Recording Secretary and Webmaster **Norm Spence** has once again created a rotating day off calendar for 2014. The calendar can be viewed online, downloaded as a 12 page monthly calendar or a 2-page version. Thanks Norm.

PROUD TO BE UNION

### Help a Member in Need

One of our members, Anne Adair from Collings Lakes, has lost her home and all her belongings in a massive fire, which occurred over the weekend. Unfortunately, Anne had no Homeowners Insurance. Therefore, if any members or friends of Branch 908 have any unwanted furniture, electronics, clothes, household items, etc. Please contact George Greenwood ASAP @ (856)-304-8665. George would be happy to pick up any donations. Monetary donations in the form of a check can be made out to Anne Adair and sent to George Greenwood @1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Our prayers are with Anne and her family

### 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 2014 thru 2015 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013**. 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 (25) 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).

### 2013 Retiree COLA

Based on the August 2013 Consumer Price Index (CPI) released Sept. 17, the accumulation toward the 2014 retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) stands at **1.5 percent**. The 2014 retiree COLA will be based on the increase in the average CPI between the third quarter of 2012 and the third quarter of 2013.

### Mail Not Affected During Government Shutdown

Since Congress has failed to do its job and keep the federal government operating, many parts of the government are being adversely affected by this shutdown. However, the U.S. Postal Service is funded by postage and not by taxes, so **mail will still be delivered to every address in America, six days a week**, even while this partial shutdown of the federal government continues. The shutdown will have no affect on the benefits of active letter carriers, and currently retired letter carriers will continue to receive their CSRS or FERS pension payments. However, new retiree claims processing will be delayed. [Services provided by the Division of Federal Employees' Compensation are also affected](#), and though the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will continue to process claims, only automated assistance will be available over the phone. "It is a disgrace that a radical fringe group in the House of Representatives has decided to close the government, furlough 800,000 workers and impose untold damage on the fragile U.S. economy in a desperate attempt to reverse the result of last November's election," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

### Phone Numbers to Remember

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

### Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch will hold its **Second Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on December 18th. This year we will be raffling off three **Visa Gift Cards worth (1) \$500 and (2) at \$250**. See your Steward for Tickets, which are \$2. Any questions contact **Trustee Shawn McBride (856) 649-9317** or **Recording Secretary Mike Powell (856) 287-8768**.

### COLAs

In 2014, of both the deferred 2013 COLAs, \$146 annually and \$541 annually, will be added to the Step O pay rates in Table 2 of the Pay Schedule, which applies to City Carriers hired in career positions on or after January 13, 2013. The pay rates of Steps A through N of Table 2 will be increased proportionally, as provided by the contract. **For example, Step A is set at 61.5% of Step O, so the COLA for Grade 1, Step A is \$333 annually.**

### Carrier Hero

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Gregory Brown who is a carrier in Haddon Heights was driving on the 1700 block of West High Street and heard a young child (approximately five years of age) screaming for help. Gregory quickly assessed that the child was alone on the school playground. He stopped his vehicle placing it swiftly in park with his hazard lights on and proceeded to scale over the five-foot chain link fence to aid the young child. Gregory had to rapidly assess the child's injuries and found that he was responsive and injuries were not life threatening. Gregory continued to talk to the child and try to get him to calm down and explain his injuries. The young child was in shock due to the extensive knee injury on the right leg that exposed the flesh under the skin. Two additional children arrived and Gregory swiftly instructed them to get assistance from the nearest adult. Once adults arrived, Gregory informed them of the child's condition and at that point proceeded back to his postal responsibilities. Great job Greg.

If you know of any active or retired branch member who has performed some sort of heroic action, contact me as soon as possible at (856) 287-8768 or [908recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908recordingsec@comcast.net). I will follow up with you to obtain the information for the 908 newsletter.

**Michael Powell, Recording Secretary**

### Children's Christmas Party

The annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm- 3pm** at the Union Hall. Anyone interested in helping or has any questions can contact Trustee Jim Comuso @ ( 609) – 932-9913

### \*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. Alternatively, send changes to **Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at P.O. Box 375, Gloucester** City, NJ 08030 or [908Recordingsec@comcast.net](mailto:908Recordingsec@comcast.net).

<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Current Address:</b> _____
<b>New Address:</b> _____
<b>Phone Number:</b> _____
<b>E-mail:</b> _____
<b>Post Office:</b> _____