

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
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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com September 2012

Presidents Report

I would like to welcome everyone back after this long, hot, and humid summer! Once again, it seems the heat was worse than I can remember. I hope that everyone made it through without much difficulty, since you men and women are the consummate professionals in doing your job. Management can continually try to underestimate what you do, which I can say they tried to do all summer long in some offices due to a lack of personnel, but we all made it through despite their ridiculous expectations in these awful conditions. Many things have taken place these last 3 months concerning your job, which I will go into more detail at the regular meeting this month. I will briefly explain some things that have taken place since we last met. We had our national convention in Minneapolis in July, where many of your officers and stewards attended to bring back information about the committees they serve on for the branch. I can say there were many excellent seminars the national provided for us where we got some good information that your officers and stewards will be able to put to use in representing you. I guess everyone was hoping to hear news about our negotiations, which at present is beginning to start, but I must report we were not given anything we did not already know. I will go into more detail at this month's meeting. If you recall in the June newsletter, I had said we were going to try a new initiative during the summer in trying to get more people signed up as e-activist, and we did fairly well in that we now have over 180 carriers signed up, which is an increase of 9%, from 18% to 27%, I thank those who responded. We are starting an e-activist honor roll, where all those signed up will be recognized in the newsletter, as you see this month. If you gave your steward the information I requested from him to ask you for and your name is not here, please forward me your e-mail so we can get you on the list. If you were not given, this request please let me know so I can find out why it was not done. Now there is no reason why everyone should not be signed up as an e-activist, since our future is on the line and we all need to be informed as to what is happening and what we can do to keep the postal service thriving. In addition, this month we will be making signing up for COLCPE very easy for you to do. We will have our computer set up to sign you up right after the meeting. All you need is your pin number and we can do the rest for you. I have also been informed we have doubled our percentage of COLCPE givers over the summer from 3.83% to 6.56%; once again, I would like to thank those who have stepped up. Please consider signing up for this as well, regardless of your political affiliations. The NALC supports all candidates who support our cause, regardless of their party, so please consider this as well. One last item I need to address is the DUO's that have occurred this summer. Our Gloucester/Bellmawr and Haddon Heights offices have moved into the Camden Annex as of August 25. Our Mantua and Wenonah offices have moved into Sewell as of August 11th. There also are other rumors of offices possibly being moved as well, and if I hear anything, I will let you know as well at our meeting. Hope to see everyone there!

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Branch Cell Phone Numbers

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

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$50

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, June 20th**. **C H Opferman**, a member out of our Blackwood Office, would have won the \$25 attendance prize. The prize now stands at **\$50** 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, September 19th @ 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, September 12th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

Welcome back Brother and Sisters, I hope everyone had a great Summer. Some info reminders; The Children's Christmas Party will be December 9th from 1-3pm at the Union Hall. Please contact Trustee, Donna Vilec at 856-287-6215 for additional information or to help with the party. The Branch Office phone and fax number is 856-845-7740; to all transfers from other crafts, the Branch has free uniforms and accessories at the Union Hall. The Branch has a Sick and Welfare Fund, Death Benefit Fund, and Optical Fund. Members with any questions concerning any of the above call me at 609-932-9913. Finally, the **Branch Retiree's Banquet** will be held on **April 13, 2013**, at the Kelly Ann Ballroom, in Gloucester City, from 7-11pm. Please save the date and come out to support this year's retirees.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Health Benefits

Hello all, and welcome back. I hope everyone had a safe, healthy summer. A subject that I want to touch on is the USPS plan to do away with all HBP's, and replace them with one USPS Health Plan. I am sure that would not set well with most. NALC, aka you, and I cannot let this happen, and we must do all we can to make sure of that. Lastly, with that in mind open season is coming up, and I urge everyone to really look, and compare all your options. As your HBO Rep, and a member of the NALC Health Plan I ask you to give it a good look/see, and you will find it is a very sound, economical, and very competitive program compared to all the others. I hope that it can meet your needs quite nicely, and you will consider making the switch this year. Do not forget your optical claims too. Hope to see everyone at the meeting. Peace.

George Greenwood -HBO

Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The projected accumulation toward the 2013 retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was **1 percent** following the release of the July Consumer Price Index (CPI).

908 Honor Roll of Involvement

COLCPE Contributors

THOMAS J. BARNETT	CHRISTINE T. BIERNACKI
HARRY P. BITTNER	LEEANN BOSCHETTO
MICHAEL T. BOSTON	JAMES G. BOYLE
MICHAEL J. BREYER	JEFFREY H. BREYER
VINCE F. CASTAGNA	JAMES COMUSO
JOHN J. CZOP	GARY E. DIGIACOMO
STEPHEN M. ELIAS	PETER G. FITZPATRICK
JOSEPH W. FOREMAN JR	STEVEN C. FOX
WILLIAM J. GORE	GEORGE W. GREENWOOD
PHILIP G. HAAS	DAVID F. JACOBSON JR
DENNIS E. KEENER	WILLIAM J. KYSER JR
OSWALD P. LECKY JR	STEPHEN J. LIPSKI
APRIL M. LITTY	JAMES E. LIVINGSTON
ANDREW P. MARCOIONNI	SHAWN F. MCBRIDE
LORETTA T. MORRIS	STEVEN L. MURPHY
PAUL PONIATOWSKI	FRANKLIN J. POTTS
MICHAEL POWELL	RICHARD C. RAHMEL JR
KENNETH W. RIEGER	JAMES E. RUSIN JR
JOSEPH F. RYNKIEWICZ	JAMES F. SEROCK
NORMAN M. SPENCE JR	GARY V. STEVENS
NORMAN E. TASK	DONNA L. VILLEC
THOMAS P. WALSH	

E-Activist

DAN ALLEN	TIMOTHY AMBROSIUS
PAUL ANDERSON JR	VALERIY APARTIN
DOMIAN ARCHER	PATRICK ARMSTRONG
DAVID BAILEY	MAUREEN BAILEY
JAMES BARLOW	THOMAS BARNETT
CLEVELAND BELIN JR	RONALD BIBBO
CHRISTINE BIERNACKI	HARRY BITTNER
JOHN BOBO	BRADLEY BOCCHICCHIO
LEEANN BOSCHETTO	JAMES BOWERS JR
JAMES BOYLE	KEVIN BREITENSTINE
JEFFREY BREYER	MICHAEL BREYER
FREDERICK BUDESA	DAN BURKHARDT
PATRICK BURKHARDT	DAWN CAIN
EDGAR CANTIVEROS	VINCE CASTAGNA
DAWN CATROPPA	VINCENT CATROPPA
MICHAEL CHESNEY	KENNETH CHOJNACKI
DARRIN COLLINS	JAMES COMUSO
DONALD CONNELLY	GARY CREEK
ANTHONY CRISTELLA	MICHAEL CROMER
RONALD CROXTON	DAVID CULLEN
JOHN CZOP	THOMAS DANAHER
ERIC DARE	DENIS DEENEY
JASON DEMPSTER	KENNETH DEPRINCE
BRIAN DEPUTY	CHRISTOPHE DERKOTCH
PETER DESIMONE	GARY DIGIACOMO
MICHAEL DIGIACOMO	JEFFREY DIMITRI
FRANCIS DIPIPI	ALBERT DISIPIO
MICHAEL DORISIO	WILLIAM DOUGHERTY JR
STEPHEN ELIAS	DAVID ENTWISTLE
LOUIS EVANS III	JEFFREY FERRY
WILLIAM FOLTZ	JOSEPH FOREMAN JR
PAUL FOWLER	GEORGE GENAY
ROSALYN GLASCO	JOHN GLENN JR
SHANE GOODMAN	WILLIAM GORE
CHARLES GRAVENER	GEORGE GREENWOOD
PHILIP HAAS	RALPH HAGNER
PAUL HAJDUK	MICHAEL HANNA
JOHN HARLEY	HARRY HARRISON
BRIAN HECKLER	EDWARD HERDA
JONATHAN HICKS	DAVID HOGATE
AMY HOPKINS	TIFFANY HURLEY
FRANK INGEMI	JAMES JONES
DENNIS KEENER	CHERIE KELLY
WILLIAM KING	THOMAS KOEHLER
JOHN KURUC	KAREN LANCASTER
GARY LAWRENCE	CHARLES LAYDEN
STEPHEN LIPSKI	APRIL LITTY
JAMES LIVINGSTON	CAROLYN LLOYD
LINDA LONG	MATTHEW MAHER
ANDREW MARCOIONNI	CHARLES MARKS JR

SHAWN MCBRIDE	PATRICK MC CARTHY
PAUL MCCARTHY	JOHN MCCORMICK
MARYELLEN MCGUIRE	SIMON MCKEE
DENISE MCNELIA	ANTHONY MONTANERO
CARLO MORNING	LORETTA MORRIS
WILLIAM MORRIS	KAREN MOSS
JAMES MURPHY	STEVEN MURPHY
JANICE MURRAY	JOSEPH NATALE JR
DENNIS NICHOLS	DIANNE NOURSE
TIMOTHY OHARA	ROBERT OLSZEWSKI
SHARI OWEN	LISA OWENS
BERNADETTE PARNCUTT	ANTHONY PASQUALE
ERIK PENDLEBURY	ROSA PEREZ
PAUL PONIATOWSKI	CAROLE PORCH
MICHAEL PORTER	MICHAEL POWELL
JAMES POWERS	PHILIP PROCIDA JR
RICHARD RAHMEL JR	MICHAEL RANDAZZO
MICHAEL REED	WILLIAM REVAK
ANTHONY RICCIARDI	MICHAEL RICHARDS
KENNETH RIEGER	MICHAEL ROFRANO
MARC ROUIN	STEPHEN RUTKOWSKI
JOSEPH RYNKIEWICZ	THOMAS SAIA
CHRISTOPHE SAVIO	ANTHONY SCARDINO
CARL SCHMITTINGER	EDWARD SCHOPF
ARLENE SCHWARTZ	JACK SCOTT JR
JAMES SEROCK	JOSEPH SIFKOVITZ
ALFRED SIMPKINS	JOSEPH SLOAN
KEVIN SMITH	ARTHUR SPENCER
WILLIAM SPERRY	BRIAN STACKHOUSE
LISA STAUFFER	GARY STEVENS
ROSEMARY STIO	ROBERT STOLTZ
MARK STRANG	GLENN STRUNK
JEFFREY SWANSON	KARIN SWOOPE
WILBERT TAYLOR	CALAI TOLBERT
JOSEPH TOWNSEND	DAVID UMPHRESS
PAUL VEIOCK	JOHN VISGIL
THOMAS WALSH	ROBERT WILLIAMS JR
DARRYL WILSON	JAMES WILSON
JOSEPH ZANE JR	

Arbitration Underway

Interest arbitration for a new National Agreement between the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service began formally on Thursday, Sept. 6. The hearing convened at NALC Headquarters in Washington, with the union's entire Executive Council in attendance along with a contingent from the USPS. The three-member arbitration panel, consisting of neutral arbitrator Shyam Das, NALC attorney Bruce Simon and USPS attorney Robert Dufek, heard opening statements from NALC's lead counsel Keith Secular and his USPS counterpart, Thomas Reinert. "The NALC acknowledges that the Postal Service's financial situation is as dire as the agency says it is," NALC President Fredric Rolando remarked afterward, "but the main source of the problem is not the pay and conditions of letter carriers, but the Congress of the United States. The arbitration panel cannot solve the financial crisis by helping the Postal Service dismantle itself; Congress must act and the arbitrators must give the parties the chance to do what's necessary to adapt to the needs of the 21st century."

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

In Memory Of Our Dearly Departed Union

Brother Ed Friel

Ed was a dedicated and loyal Branch Officer, Union Brother and Friend. We will miss him dearly!

Step B Decisions

Bellmawr-Management did violate Art. 41 of the National Agreement. As a remedy the grievant will be placed on his new assignment immediately.