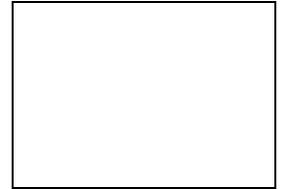


908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 150
Pennsville, NJ
08070

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, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown



Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com February 2018

Presidents Report

We had our installation last month, and I would like to thank our National Business Agent, **Dave Napadano**, for coming over to do the installation of all of the officers for their next term. For those who were in attendance, you got to meet and greet the entire staff of the region 12 office, **Brian Thompson** and **Leo Zachwieja**, and put a face on the voice you hear when you call over there for assistance.

I wish to report our branch is financially sound and in excellent shape as we head forward, thanks to the great work of all of your officers in watching how your money is spent.

We have a few issues to deal with as we head into the New Year. The first issue is route inspections that a few of our offices will be undergoing. The offices involved are Riverton and Maple Shade. We will be holding training for all offices scheduled for inspections, and hope everyone makes the time to attend the meetings we schedule to prepare you for what to expect and how to protect your route from improper deductions, etc. It has been a long time since many of our carriers have experienced a unilateral inspection where the union was not involved. There are probably many of our carriers out there who have never been involved in a route inspection, which makes it a good idea to come out and hear our presentation on what you will be dealing with. This will be your chance to learn what your rights are and what to expect when the team comes a calling. We already have had inspections in three of our offices the past year, and two of them are now in the process of seeing how the adjustments will work out. It appears so far, the offices involved, Bridgeton and Gloucester City look to be overburdened by the adjustments made by management, but time will tell if we will be filing grievances to get the routes corrected or possibly have the inspections thrown out due to improper adjustments.

The next issue we are still dealing with are the time-card fraud issues we uncovered last year as well. It appears there may be other offices involved in stealing time from carriers, as we are investigating these concerns. If you believe you have been involved in a time keeping issue, please let your steward know or contact me directly. If you weren't aware, there were more issues uncovered in the Boston area concerning the same issues we uncovered. It appears the politicians were contacted to investigate these allegations of the managers who were the perpetrators of these deeds. No word yet on what was uncovered, but if it is going on there and here, it must be a situation that is a national concern and has to be dealt with. I hope all those who are "stealing" from our employees get their due punishment.

The next piece of news is the 26th annual food drive, **Saturday May 12th**, that will be here before you know it. Hopefully, this year we won't have the issues we had last year when our bags and cards were sent to the wrong office and sat in one of our offices without anyone knowing they were there. Our branch food drive coordinators are **Mike Graff**, **Shawn McBride** and **Jim Comuso**, out of our Deptford installation. We will be having our materials sent to their installation for processing and will make sure everyone gets theirs in a timely manner this year. Remember, this is the largest one-day food drive in America, so let's make it another huge success and replenish our food banks for the summer months.

One last item I want to address is Article 12. It appears management in our offices are being told they can't promote our CCA's due to our district being under Article 12! The Business

Agent told everyone at last month's meeting we are no longer under any type of withholding and our CCA's should be converted to regular. We are having our stewards file the appropriate grievances to try and get these conversions made, but it appears these cases are being sent to the area for processing. Hopefully, we will get these issues resolved, but if not, we will grieve these violations to protect the seniority dates that may be delayed due to this stalling of conversions. If you believe you should be converted and haven't been, please contact me so I can let our Business Agent know and have your steward file the appropriate grievance.

On a sad note, I would like to let everyone know of the passing of the NJ State Associations Director of Retirees and longtime State Association and Branch 38 member, Charles Connell. I came to know Charlie when I came on the state board.

He was a great union man and will be sorely missed. Please keep his family in your prayers.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, February 21st @ 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 Executive Board and Shop Steward meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Executive Board meets @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, February 14th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$50

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday January 17**, **Tanisha Bostic**, a member out of the Sewell Office would have been the recipient of the **\$25** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Comments from the VP

I would like to thank all our active and retired members who contributed to the Letter Carrier Political Fund and a big thank you to Political Fund Chairman, **Ozzie Lecky**, for getting out the information on all the legislative issues that threaten our jobs and benefits as active and retired letter carriers. Now for my report on the Camden, a.k.a. **Hell Hole**, Annex. We recently completed route inspections on our routes in Gloucester. The carriers did an excellent job during the inspections and after the dust settled and according to the information gathered by the minions on the inspection team, we had 2 routes that needed minor adjustments. When I say minor, I mean they needed possibly a relay. However, the minions from the inspection team decided to core the routes which resulted not only in totally new and unrecognizable routes, but the routes so far are overburdened anywhere from 45 minutes to close to an hour and a half. We have 60 days for management to check on their adjustments and I have reminded the carriers to continue to take the time necessary to complete their new and overburdened routes. I will have more to report on this next month. The next thing should sound very familiar. Lawmakers are calling for a federal probe into allegations of time card fraud in dozens of post offices in the Boston area. This is very similar to the time

card fraud allegations raised in Richmond, Virginia in which there is a pending federal lawsuit, and the time clock fraud that was proven with documented evidence by our shop stewards in the Elmer and Pennsville Post Offices. Seems to me this is an epidemic and needs to be taken seriously, and in my opinion, maybe we need our lawmakers here in New Jersey conduct a federal probe into the SJ District. Speaking of epidemics, the flu bug has really reared its ugly head this year. It's been reported that there are 3-4 different strains of the flu going around this year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following steps to help prevent the flu and to stop the spread of germs - **Get a flu shot, cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, wash your hands with soap and water after you cough or sneeze, avoid contact with people who are ill, and if you get sick with the flu or similar symptoms stay home from work!!** If any active or retired member needs my assistance on any issue, please contact me anytime at **(856)-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net**. Proud to be Union

Mike Powell - Vice President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Not much happening on all fronts so I would just like to stress a few things for everyone, but CCA's please take note. The first would be MBA, and all its life insurance policies, hospital plus, and retirement savings. These are all great deals on policies, and plans that will be there for you in the long run. The cost of life insurance is through the roof when you retire so why not take advantage, and buy a plan that will be paid in full by that time? It is available through MBA. Just as a retirement savings account with MBA, which is fully transferable to your TSP, and it's pre-tax deducted right from your paycheck with an allotment. CCA's this is a great way to have something to show for the time you work before being converted to career. Simply go to NALC.org under benefits to see what's there for you.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan is also a tremendous asset our Union has to offer for all members. High option thorough coverage, great rates, low co-pays, and very low deductibles. CCA's when it is time to convert to career take a long hard look, and do your homework. I think you will find The NALC Health Benefit Plan is a great fit for singles, and families. Information can be found at nalchbp.org., or give me a call anytime.

Any member in good standing get your \$20 reimbursement for optical expenses. One per year, per member. Simply mail a COPY of your receipt with your name, office, or retired on it to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.....Any questions give a call 856-304-8665.....Be safe all...George.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Newest Gold Card Member

Per the NALC Constitution: when a member reaches 50 years of membership in the NALC, he/she shall be given a Life Membership Card of Gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the NALC without the payment of dues. It is our honor to recognize **Ernest Viehweg**, retiree from the Glassboro office for his service.

NALC Lapel Pins Presented

At the regular Branch monthly meeting on January 17th, we were honored to present a **55 year** lapel pin to **Warren Reid**, retiree from the Pennsville office.

At the regular Branch monthly meeting on February 21st, we will be presenting a **60 year** lapel pin to **Rodman Geisler**, retiree from the Woodbury office. Come out and help honor Rodman for his service.

The NALC Constitution provides for the awarding of suitable lapel pins for every five years of NALC membership commencing with the 25th year. For example: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and so forth. If you feel that because of your years of NALC membership, you are eligible for the award of a suitable lapel pin, see Branch Recording Secretary Norm Spence or send a letter to the Branch (PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070). Include your Name, Office, approximate date you became a member of the NALC and what pin you believe you have earned.

Trustee Report

Some upcoming Branch events are the Branch social and retirement dinner on April 14th, and in May we have the Branch scholarship award drawing (forms are available on our web site). Also available to Branch members is access to the Branch's OWCP attorneys, Uliase & Uliase are retained by the

Branch and handle both occupational and traumatic job related injuries. The consultations are free phone is 856-310-9002. The Branch is currently in discussion with the law firm of Berg and Person to replace recently retired Branch attorney Hal Crass. We will keep you updated as we finalize details.

- James Comuso Sr – Trustee Chairman

Ozzie's Corner

As a resident of Camden County, one Legislative area that continues to be a growing and popular one is VBM (Vote By Mail). With 2018 having so many elections at the local, primary and general state wide, there are so many good reasons why we need to support the mail in ballot system. First, when you send your ballot in the mail, you are supporting the backbone of the Post Office, Letter Carrier jobs. The postage on every return ballot is free and already paid. Second, the process is convenient. In today's society, people have crazy, fluctuating, busy schedules before and during Election Day, therefore using this method is very easy and hassle free. In addition, this is a great way for senior citizens, shut-ins and the disabled to practice as well. Lastly, by sending your vote in, it counts, just as if you walked up to the polls and cast it in person. If you or anyone you know who is interested in VBM, please contact your local County Clerk office. In other news, I want to thank our 3 latest LCPF contributors for the month of February: **Javier Colon** (Bridgeton), **Phinnara Pai** (Maple Shade) and **Bill Stopfer III** (Blackwood). Remember, for as little as a \$1 a pay period, you as a City Letter Carrier are supporting and investing in your job. As always, I can be reached day or night at (856) 220-8658 for any questions about LCPF or otherwise. I hope to see you all at February 21st's meeting. In Solidarity,

Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

**(By making a contribution to the LCPF, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the NALC or of employment by the USPS, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The LCPF will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the LCPF are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the LCPF from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administration staff, or their families.)*

11th Annual Branch Banquet-April 14

The 11th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 14th, 2018 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. in Gloucester City, NJ .This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and to honor those members who have retired in the past year as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards. If you have retired since the last banquet or you will retire before April 14th contact Branch Vice-President, Mike Powell @ 856-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net. All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20 pp. The cost for current Branch retirees is \$10. Tickets may be picked up from Branch Vice- President, Mike Powell at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with check or Money order made out to NALC Branch 908 by March 24th

Name: _____

Print

Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()

Total number attending _____

Total remittance \$ _____

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the annual Branch Banquet. Simply write on a piece of paper, (and mail it to NALC Branch 908, PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070), the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination (must be from Steward Office), and statement including accomplishments, knowledge of contract, ability to deal with co-workers and management, and dedication to the NALC and Branch 908. All submissions must be received by March 31st, 2018. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.