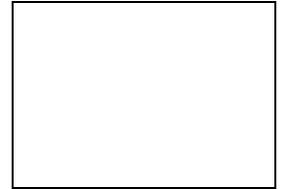


908 News

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



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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com June 2017

Presidents Report

We have a new contract! I am sure everyone is aware our National has negotiated a new tentative agreement with the Postal Service that will be sent out to the membership for a vote later this month. It was over a year we had to wait, but as President Rolando stated throughout this time period, as long as the Postal Service was willing to keep the line of communication going in the right direction, he was willing to try and reach an agreement that would benefit the Postal Service, but more importantly reward Letter Carriers for their hard work and dedication in keeping the company thriving. The one item I must mention was the strong union support throughout this long tedious endeavor in getting a contract that would hopefully payoff for the members. We all were becoming a bit impatient, but never doubted the leadership at the top. This patience definitely paid off in my opinion, as we were able to get a lot of excellent benefits going forward. I will be attending a National rap session on June 13th where I will get all the particulars of this new agreement to bring to the membership at our regular meeting on June 21st. There are a few items that are addressed vaguely in the highlights the National has put out, but I will have all the answers after I return from the rap session. On the forefront, this looks like a very good contract which addresses many of our members concerns like the CCA's, the former TE's, improving workplace issues as well as an upgrade in pay level. We can discuss any other questions or concerns about this tentative agreement at the meeting.

The next item I want to address were the recent route inspections from our Deptford installation. First, let me congratulate the carriers in Deptford for doing a professional job the 3 weeks the teams were there. I had very few problems brought to me by the team, which shows the makeup of our carriers there.

The numbers are in and adjustments were supposed to be implemented within 52 days, which was June 5th, but it looks like they will be delayed. The good news for us is that the numbers showed exactly what we have been saying for the last 3 years, the routes that were DUO'd in weren't given their proper base times and were way over. This has led to routes in Pitman, Lawnside and National Park, being cut and/or auxiliary routes being made 8 hours, and auxiliary routes being added. Also, all the remaining routes in the other zones are now getting updated base data, which was not correct either. I will have the exact numbers in September's newsletter after the adjustments are implemented. The feedback I am hearing from the area is they cannot believe these adjustments added time. Well "**Doctor**," your relying on that phony data your managers started imputing all those years ago has now blown up in your face and has cost the postal service thousands of dollars. Maybe you should stop accusing the carriers of "stealing" and start blaming your chicken s###t managers from putting in the incorrect information because that's what you wanted. We welcome any route inspections you wish to conduct on your own, because all of the offices are cheating to give you your bogus numbers. On another note, that I am sure the Doctor won't like, I would like to thank the inspection team for being very honest and professional in their conducting these inspections. They wanted to get the office numbers correct and now I believe we have good numbers to work with. I know the area doesn't like that, but we really need to re-evaluate the managers who are calling the shots in this Eastern area!

The last item this month deals with the by-laws that were in last month's newsletter and read at that meeting. There will be a discussion and vote on the merits of these new by-law changes, so any questions or discussions can be brought up at this month's meeting.

One other issue I will be discussing in September deals with more time-card tampering in our branch. We are investigating these issues as I write this and if what we are seeing is true, I believe some managers should lose their jobs! Stay tuned! Come out for the shrimp and wings and good talk before we recess for the summer.

- Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 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, June 14th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$150

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday May 17th, Richard Gillespie**, a member out of the Riverton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$125** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$150** 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 want to wish all our regular and retired carriers and their families, a happy, fun filled, safe summer. I would also like to thank all of our branch members for doing a great job during some deplorable conditions during the food drive on May 13. Now, back to the **Camden, aka "The Hell Hole, Annex**. Last month I wrote about the bullying and horrible morale that exists in this building. Well, it isn't getting better. A supposedly new policy being instituted here now is the supervisors threatening carriers that appear like they may have a limp or call out using FMLA, with a fitness for duty exam, wow what a great morale builder. The bullying using false numbers is still going on, and another issue that seems to becoming prevalent every pay period are all the pay adjusts that have to be made. I have had approximately 6 or 7 adjustments done for carriers the past couple of pay periods for having been charged the wrong leave, etc. I think it cost the Postal Service about \$100 to do an adjustment. So, just for the adjustments I had done, it cost them approximately \$700. I'm sure this is going on in the other three zones as well, probably costing the Service hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Keep in mind the above issues are being dictated and formulated by some **minion** over at the SJ District. Let's sum up the above, fitness for duty exams, bullying carriers with fake numbers, pay adjustments out the "wazoo" sounds like the **minion is cuckoo for cocoa puffs**, and maybe they should go for a fitness for duty exam. PROUD TO BE UNION

Mike Powell - Vice President

In Memoriam – Norm Task

For those members who didn't have the pleasure to know "NORM," you missed a true union activist who was Branch 908's political voice for over 40 years. The 91 year old, who left us on May 5, 2017, was always a treat at our meetings when he talked about the importance of giving to our political action committee, was never at a loss for words to debate the political landscape with anyone who dared to challenge him. "Stormin Norman" was a lifetime union member for over 69 years, which is amazing. I don't think there was anyone who ever had a bad thing to say about Norm, which is hard to believe when you are involved in a union officer position. Norm had a saying when he finished his report about giving to COLCPE, which was, "everybody wins!" He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. Rest in Peace my friend until we meet again.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Hope everyone is well. So the big news is a tentative contract. Much talk about it, but also some concern. In a few words I'm going to clear that up. First CCA's will be receiving more USPS contribution to your NALC HBP. See details in the tentative agreement.

Now second many folks (career) are concerned, even upset about a 4.6% increase in pay, but also the USPS 3% drop in their share of health benefit premiums over the life of this agreement. No, it is not a washout. You have to put it into perspective. Using some ballpark figures, I'll show you.

Let's say you're earning \$4000 monthly. Add 4.6% to that (4000x.046) you get \$4,184. An increase of \$184. Now the USPS pays 76% of your let's say \$1000 monthly HBP premium which comes out to \$760, but it's going to drop to 73%. Now they're paying (1000x.073) \$730, and you're paying an additional \$30 monthly. You are still \$154 ahead.

So although no one likes to pay more this is nowhere close to a washout. Keep this in mind as you receive, and read over your tentative contract before voting on it. 73% contribution to an employee's health benefit plan is still quite high for an employer.

All NALC 908 members in good standing are entitled to one per member/family \$20 optical reimbursement annually. To receive your reimbursement, send a copy of your receipt identifying the optical expense/facility, your name, address, and which office you work/retired in to me at:

George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions or concerns regarding NALC HBP, MBA, or FMLA feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665.

Have a safe summer, and remember hydrate, hydrate, and hydrate some more. Take care Brothers, and Sisters.

George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

On April 26th to the 28th, Gary DiGiacomo, Jim Boyle and myself attended our annual state congressional conference in our nation's capital. We didn't get to meet to many of the congressmen that Thursday morning. However, we finally had a meeting set up after 12pm with our friend and Letter Carrier supporter, Rep. Donald Norcross. From day one, he has been on our side fighting for strong postal reform and for all of our work related HR bills. Later that day, we went to the NALC building where our national president, Fred Rolando addressed the state association (about our then contract issues). In addition, we learned for the first time that all 12 congressional representatives in the state of New Jersey are for all 3 major HR bills. In my opinion, that was a huge win for our craft in the state and worth the trip down to D.C. Now for an even bigger loss, Norman Task passed away peacefully on May 5th at the tender age of 91. I will never forget his zest and love for 908 and his fiery passion for COLCPE. I am damn proud that he passed the torch to me and I will do my very best to never let him or our members down. I love you Norm and may you rest in peace. Finally, I want to thank Kevin Crossan, Dave Jacobson Jr, Joe Townsend and Ryan Schmidt for being our latest LCPF contributors. I hope to see you all for shrimp and wings at the June meeting.

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.)*

Branch Scholarship Winner

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Matthew McClure**, son of **Dan McClure** out of the Riverton Office. The alternate is **Matthew Huster**, son of LeRoy Huster out of the Woodbury Office. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). If you have any questions, Trustee **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

The proposed By-Law amendments that were published in the May Branch newsletter will be opened for debate and voted on at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **June 21st**.

No Meetings For the Summer

Just a reminder that there will be no regular monthly Branch meetings or Shop Steward meetings in July or August. There will also not be a newsletter published during this period. We will return to our normal schedule in September.

Branch Picnic

The Annual Branch picnic at Clementon Park and Splash World will be held on **Sunday, September 10th**. Park hours are from 11am to 7 pm. Food will be served between noon and 5 pm. The 5 hour buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$15 per person (children 36" and under are free), tickets include admission to both parks and free parking. All tickets must be bought in advance; there will be **No Tickets Sold at the Gate**.

The park is not open to the general public this day, only to a couple groups. They require a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, **all tickets must be purchased by August 25, 2017**.

Tickets can be purchased at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on June 21st or from a Branch Officer or your Shop Steward. You can also mail a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check or money order made out to "Branch 908" to Phil Haas, 112 Park Ave., Gloucester, NJ 08030. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or for more info: 609-868-3285.

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 2018 thru 2019 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 18, 2017**. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership and 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 (18) 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).

THE BRANCH OFFICERS AND SHOP STEWARDS WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!