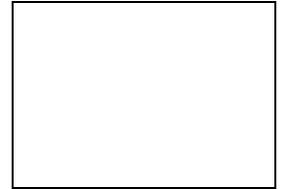


908 News

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

Bill Revak Branch 908 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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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com June 2021

Presidents Report

As we head into the summer months, it appears we are finally getting back to some sort of normalcy. The mask mandates have been lifted along with the indoor capacity numbers, so it looks like we can get back to business as usual. It has been a long road, but I think we can start to breathe a little easier now that the numbers are down, and everything is opening up. The one question I am getting is when will the postal service lift its mask mandate and when will the staggered start times be lifted. As I write this month's article, I have not gotten any word on when these things will be changed, but hopefully, the word will come down shortly and I will let your stewards know. There are many rumors out there about these things that I don't want to publish because they probably aren't accurate. I will give everyone an update at this month's meeting.

The next good news I want to report concerns the board of governors. We finally have a full board of governors as the last nominee of Anton Hajjar, was confirmed by the Senate at the end of May. Hopefully, we will now be able to get things done to improve delivery standards and keep the postal service viable for the foreseeable future. Another thing I mentioned at last month's meeting concerned the appointment of Deputy Postmaster General Doug Tulino. For those who aren't aware of the significance of this appointment, let me explain how this could affect our jobs going forward. The DPMG, is now second in command behind PMG DeJoy, which means if things don't work out for the PMG, Doug Tulino, who has over 40 years' experience with the USPS, would be next in line to run the postal service. Doug Tulino was the former head of Labor Relations and Chief of Human Resources. Our national leaders have always said they had a great working relationship with him and look forward to working with him in his new expanded role in trying to strengthen the agency. I think now that this appointment has been made, the PMG will definitely have to watch how he plans on running this organization going forward.

The next news I would like to announce concerns the services of our founding father **Bill Revak**. The family has sent us the information, which we will also print in the September newsletter, but I wanted to give everyone ample time to make preparations if you would like to pay your respects to Bill. The services are **September 30th at 11am at Church of Incarnation, 240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051**. Next, he is getting buried at The Veterans Cemetery in Williamstown, NJ. And then a luncheon will follow which will be at the Riverwinds in West Deptford, NJ.

Next, the official summary of the voting on the National Agreement has been issued, and I wanted to share those numbers with everyone. Nationally, there were 180,944 ballots sent out and of those 63,452 were returned. Of those, 60,111 were in favor and 3,341 were opposed. Our branch returned 192 of the 475 ballots sent out. I don't have to tell you how distressing that is to me, to see only a third of the membership took the time to vote. I am not sure why this always is, but members need to start taking a more active role in the process. This is your job, the least you could do is exercise your voting rights.

Lastly, we will be having our annual shrimp and wing fest at this month's meeting, like we have done in the past, but not since the pandemic. It will be nice to get back to ending our summer meeting, until we reconvene in September, with a nice night of food and drink and a relaxing mask free meeting.

Stay safe this summer, and I hope to see you at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

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

Attendance Prize Now at \$250

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, May 19th, Anne Freshcoln**, a carrier out of the Sewell Office would have been the recipient of the **\$225** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$250** and will remain there until a member in attendance at a regular monthly meeting 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 want to thank all our brothers and sisters who have risked their health to deliver for the American people during this pandemic. As I have said before **YOU ALL ARE HEROES!!!** The tv and plaque I donated in honor of **Joe Walder** should be in place at the union hall bar by the regular branch meeting so come out grab a bite to eat and have a beverage of your choice, meet carriers from other offices and see how your elected officers are managing your dues money and also to celebrate the renaming of our branch after **Bill Revak**. Over here at the **Camden, aka "Shit Hole", Annex** the sewerage just keeps overflowing like a clogged toilet. I sincerely hope our National Officers come up with a grievance template that will get our brothers and sisters paid some ADMIN LEAVE for all the forced overtime that they have had to endure and still are enduring to this day. On a positive note, as things stand now, we should be able to have our Retiree Banquet on Sunday October 10 at Elizabeth's Ballroom in Gloucester City. I will contact all retirees with their info and tickets for the banquet shortly. If any active, CCA, 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. With summer coming on I just wanted to remind you of a couple things. Protect yourself! First would be skin safety. Three tips for protecting your skin would be wear sunscreen of at least spf15 both UVA and UVB protection. Stay in the shade as much as possible and wear appropriate clothes coverings. Get annual exams. Examine yourself for changes of your skin and visit a dermatologist at least annually.

The second is hydration. Don't become a victim of heat exhaustion/heat stroke. Hydrate! The Mayo clinic suggest the

following. About 15.5 cups (3.7 liters/one US gallon) of fluids a day for men. About 11.5 cups (2.7 liters/3/4 US Gallon) of fluids a day for women. You also need to replenish your electrolytes. The easiest way to do that is drink a sport drink. For years I purchased Gatorade, and others in bulk powder, or concentrate form. The cost works out to approximately \$2.50 per gallon bulk powder, or 1 Gallon concentrate which works out to about \$3.50 per gallon. Bulk prices can be found at many internet sites.

Lastly all optical reimbursements continue throughout the summer so if you have one send your paper receipt with your name, address, and office/retired to me. Mail to George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Also feel free throughout the summer to give me a call with any questions/concerns regarding any of the above (856)304-8665. Take care all. Have a great summer, and be safe.

George Greenwood, HBR

Branch Scholarship Winner

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Ryan DiGiacomo**, son of Branch President **Gary DiGiacomo**. The alternate is **Taylor Norton**, daughter of **Dan Norton** 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.

Ozzie's Corner

On May 19th at our general meeting, I had good news to report from Con. Donald Norcross's office. Con. Norcross on May 4th co-sponsored (signed and supported) the last of the 4 major House Resolution Bills: HR 109 (Door Delivery). In the state of New Jersey, Con. Norcross is one of 3 Congressman in the 12 Congressional Districts to co-sponsor our 4 major House Resolution Bills in the 117th Congressional term (Door Delivery, Opposing Postal Privatization, Six-Day Delivery and Service Standards). On May 6th, I contacted Mary Cruz (Con. Norcross' District Director) and told her to tell The Congressman thank you on behalf of all of us Letter Carriers (active and retired) in South Jersey. By the way, the other 2 Congressman that are on all 4 bills are Andy Kim (D-District 3) and Chris Smith (R-District 4).

Next, please pay close attention to these 2 pairs of 4 numbers, HR 3076 and S 1720. The Postal Service Reform Act Of 2021 is the name of this new bill introduced in both the House and Senate on May 13th. The Postal Service Reform Act has 3 key details: A. Repealing the mandate to prefund retiree health. B. A correct way to integrate Medicare for postal employees. C. Six-Day mail delivery permanently with special writing included in the statement. The NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) urges all members (active and retired) to contact your Federal Legislators (your Congressman and Senator) by phone in the town you live in or on our national website at: NALC.ORG. First, scroll down the page until you see The Government Affairs Heading and under it click on Legislative Activities. Next, click on the Legislative Action Center on the top right of this page (words are in red). Finally, read and put in your info on the Home Page at the far right in the box and look for the words: TAKE ACTION (click on TAKE ACTION twice and the emailed letter is sent). The emailed letter you are sending, tells your lawmakers in full detail to please support The Postal Service Reform Act. Remember, before COVID-19 struck us and turned our life and the way we lived it upside down, we were on our way to correcting the pre-funding mandate (mid to late 2019). Therefore, I strongly urge all of us to make this a top priority and contact the men and women who represent New Jersey. In addition, if you need my assistance in any way doing the ACTION Exercise, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In other news, Anton Hajjar was confirmed on May 28th by the Senate as the final member to The Postal Board of Governors. Among his many credentials, he is the former General Counsel of the APWU (American Postal Workers Union) and is a staunch advocate for workers' rights. Once again, this is a huge victory for the NALC and postal employees. For all of our sakes, Mr. DeJoy (Current PMG) needs to start walking a straight line and understand the influence and impact on this move!

Finally, I want to thank June's LCPF contributors: **Delores McClellan** (Maple Shade), **Rodel "Leo" Pagaduan** (Stratford), **John Prelas** (Woodbury), **Greg Solly** (Haddon Heights), **Joe Townsend** (Gloucester City) and Retiree: **John Blazie**

(Bridgeton). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me in our branch. I hope to see you all for shrimp and wings at June 16th's 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.)*

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.

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 2022 thru 2023 shall take place at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**. 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, Letter Carrier Political Fund Officer, Shop Stewards (19) 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).

Branch By-Laws Being Updated

After the branch membership voted to change the name of our Branch to honor founding father **Bill Revak**, we had to follow specific guidelines from National which included sending a copy of our current By-Laws to Washington to be reviewed by the NALC Committee of Laws. The committee approved the Branch name change but also found that we have several items in our By-Laws that conflict with the National Constitution. The Branch By-Law committee is currently working on making the changes to ensure our Branch conforms with the National Constitution. Most of the changes are simply changing the language and the membership will not notice any change in the way the Branch is run. We are still fine tuning the By-Laws and will inform the membership when we are in full compliance and if there are any changes that you may notice.

Thanks Branch 908

To all the members of the **Bill Revak** Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers. We would like to thank you for the honor of renaming your Branch 908. My father and mother would be so honored and humble. We are so grateful and proud.

- Marie, Geri and Bill Jr. Revak

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