

# 908 News

NALC Branch 908  
AFL-CIO  
PO Box 150  
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## Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers

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### Presidents Report

As we head into the summer months, I want to highlight a few things to look for until we come back in September. First, and foremost, our latest **COLA now stands at \$1269.00 or 61 cents an hour**, with 3 months remaining. The raises will become effective after the release of the July numbers in August. Expect to see those raises in early September. Our retirees COLA now stands at **6%**, with 5 months remaining in their calculations. Speaking of retirees, **effective immediately**, you will now have to link your OPM account with a new login.gov account. You must first create a new account on the login.gov website. You will then go on the OPM website and link your current account with the new one. This will eliminate you having to put in your CSA number anymore. It was very easy to do, so I suggest you go online and set up your new account. Next, we finally had our annual food drive this year, and by all accounts it was a huge success. The food bank was extremely happy with the amount of food collected, even though the weather was lousy, and many offices didn't have bags. I would like to thank all of you who helped out this year, and hopefully next year will be back to our normal numbers. Next, the NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to two new Memo's, that only affects CCA's in our portion of the Camden Annex at this time. The Memo states the Postal Service will convert all CCA's to Part-Time Flexible (PTF) career status as soon as administratively practicable. These memos are a start to help with the staffing issues that have become a problem throughout the country. The other memo, which doesn't affect any of our offices, converts all CCA's to Part-time flexible and PTF's to regular. At this time none of our offices meet the criteria in the new agreement. Hopefully, this is just a start to eliminate the supplemental workforce and make everyone a career employee. Keep looking to the national website this summer for any updates. Next, I mentioned the Union has been working on a new joint route inspection process and it is now officially getting ready to roll out. The new teams are in the midst of being trained on how this will work, and it appears the first round of offices to be inspected will be announced in July for a possible fall inspection. The one good piece of news are the team leaders we will have to represent us on these inspections. Our own **Shawn McBride**, our chief steward, Formal Step A Rep, and assistant recording secretary, out of Deptford, has been appointed by our National Business Agent **Brian Thompson**, along with Cherry Hill Branch president **Bill Phillips**, to head the south jersey district team for the NALC. I feel very confident in these two appointments to represent the members. Next, we will be sending delegates to our national convention in Chicago in August, and I am sure they will have the latest information on what will be next up for us, as we will begin negotiating for a new contract, etc. The delegates will report at our September meeting what they found to be relevant for everyone they learned at the convention. Another branch event to look forward to besides our annual picnic at **Clementon Lake Park** on **September 11th**, is our MDA event, **Hops for Hope**, our chairwoman, **April Litty** has planned for on **October 9th** at the **Double Nickel Brewery** from 3-6 pm. Tickets will be limited, so get yours early for a good night for a good cause. More information will be forthcoming in September. Also, the TSP is updating its interface in June. They are creating an App and also

giving everyone an opportunity to invest in mutual funds. Check the website for more information on the latest updates to this platform. Lastly, we will be once again having our shrimp and wing fest at this month's meeting to welcome the summer break. Hope to see everyone there for a relaxing night of food and drink. Remember to stay hydrated and be extremely careful when working in the heat this summer. Try giving those newer CCA's some pointers on how to handle the heat, as those newer employees may not know what to expect and how to get through it. Thanks again for all you do and continue to do to make this a great union to be associated with.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 15th @ 8 pm**, 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 pm**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 pm**. The next meeting of the Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, June 8th @ 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 18th**, **Balvinder Banipal** a member out of the Voorhees 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

This month I have a few things I would like everyone to keep in mind over the summer months, First stay hydrated. If you need to take extra breaks because of the heat, then take them and notify management that you needed them. Everyone should also download the OSHA Heat App it has some very useful information.

The next thing I would like to mention is the staffing issue. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought we were all in the same union working under the same contract. Then why is it that our national has made a deal M-01986 that makes 22 installations an all-career workforce. What about the rest of us? Why not fight to make all installations an all-career workforce, why were some installations left out of this agreement, and left to continue to suffer being forced to work overtime because of staffing issues? The next item is the start time change made in the **Camden, a.k.a. Shit Hole, Annex**. The new moron in charge has decided that it's better to start at 830 am in the summer so that everyone will be working during the most dangerous part of day. I believe this is the same minion that got run out of our Williamstown Office, which makes perfect sense, because all the rejects get sent to the **Shit Hole**. The next item concerns Dignity and Respect. We all should be treated with dignity and respect, which is why I said in last month's article we need to have each other's backs. If anyone is harassed about how fast they are walking or the supervisor is screaming on the work room that everyone should be pulling down in 45 minutes, even though we have 23 minutes of allied time in the morning, should see their steward to file a

grievance. Why file the grievance you might ask? So that we can have a paper trail of grievances against the minions that are habitual offenders. Then we just might get them removed from their particular office. Speaking of Dignity and Respect we have the honor over here at the **Camden, Shit Hole, Annex**, of having a few postmasters that were removed from their offices for Dignity and Respect grievances. Like I said they send all the dead weight here to the **Camden, Shit Hole, Annex**. Which brings me to the mail counts they perform with no notice. If any carrier from this day on has their mail counted with or without proper notice, then you should request to verify the count. The carrier should verify every piece of mail that was counted, including DPS, and dog warning cards. Also, one day walks are just that a one-day walk, they are not an inspection of your route. Basically, a one-day walk does not mean shit. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and I hope to see everyone at this month's meeting for our usual shrimp and wings. 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.**

**We are in this together.**

**Mike Powell – Vice – President**

### **Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical**

Hello folks. Hope everyone is well. Summer is upon us so what do we talk about? **Heat-Related Illness!** Heat-related illnesses are preventable. Obviously, the biggest problem for letter carriers is hydration. To combat dehydration start drinking fluids containing salts, and minerals at least one hour before going into the heat and continue to hydrate throughout the day. Throughout my career I purchased Gatorade in bulk powder form. This saves you anywhere from 50-75% off retail prices. Your health, and wellbeing is more than worth one dollar a gallon.

Bulk powders are available at all major online retailers, and Gatorade's own page. For all the signs and symptoms, treatment, and prevention go to: <https://www.osha.gov/heat>

Time for another controversial subject. CCA's and Continuation of Pay (COP). Are you entitled? Are you eligible? How are you paid? How much are you paid? Are you being refused? The answer to this can be found at <https://www.dol.gov> look under FECA Bulletins. FECA Bulletin No. 13-03. Don't be denied your rights! Again, there is criteria to be met for qualifying, but don't take someone's word. Find out the facts.

The Bill Revak Branch 908 Optical reimbursements continue year-round so if you should have an expense over the summer months please remember: It is one \$20 reimbursement per member per year which can be for the member or qualified dependent. Simply mail me a paper copy of your expense with your name, address, and office/retired to **George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**. Please have a safe healthy summer. Always feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or problems by giving me a call at **856-304-8665**. Have a great summer all.

- **George Greenwood, HBR**

### **Ozzie's Corner**

OUR SISTER POSTAL UNIONS HAVE IT TOO!! What I'm referring to is a PAC (Political Action Committee). In November and December 2021, I talked about the top Blue-Collar Unions in the country that have PACS, now I'll be focusing closer to home talking about our 3 other postal unions. The 3 unions are The National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU), The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA). We will look at 1 union in this month's article and the other 2 unions when we meet back up in September.

Established in 1912, The National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) has roughly 50,000 members through 36 local branches in our country. The definition of a Mail Handler is a person who loads, unloads, prepares, sorts and containerizes mail for delivery for the United States Postal Service. Just like The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF), The NPMHU's PAC cannot be used with union dues, therefore it is strictly voluntary. Just like LCPF, The NPMHU has 1 main goal through this fund, to build and establish relationships with the men and women in Congress. With the relationship factor it is done in 2 accounts, supporting a new political candidate and re-electing a previous politician that is looking to serve another term in office. The mission for the PAC is stated on their national website and I quote:" The PAC contributes to campaigns of candidates for and incumbents of Congress who repeatedly demonstrate concern for working people and for (the) aims and objectives of The NPMHU and the entire trade union

movement". Just like LCPF, you can contribute as a member 2 ways to the PAC. One way is through Postalease (bi-weekly postal check allotment) and the other way is doing a 1x or occasional payment (check or money order). Another form of payment The NPMHU accepts is a credit card (Not like LCPF). Mastercard and Visa are the only 2 cards allowed under the PAC.

On May 19th, I had the pleasure of participating and volunteering in a phone bank with New Jersey Congressional District Candidate Andy Kim. Prior to the May 19th event, I received new and interesting information about the area in New Jersey (District 3) Con. Kim is seeking after for June's Primary Election. Liz Gallagher (Con. Andy Kim's Campaign Manager) told me that District 3 has been readjusted with new territory. Mrs. Gallagher stated that under Con. Kim's previous terms, he served in 2 primary counties: Burlington and Ocean. However, the new political landscape for District 3 covers the following: no Ocean County, all of Burlington County (except Maple Shade and Palmyra), the western part of Monmouth County (towns such as Freehold Borough, Freehold Township, Marlboro) and parts of Mercer County (towns such as East Windsor, Hamilton and Robbinsville). Remember, please cast your vote in June's Primary Election and support pro-letter carrier candidates (your job, benefits and pension depend on it!). Finally, I want to thank June's LCPF Contributors: **Jim Comuso Sr.** (Woodbury, Trustee Chairman), **John Prelas** (Woodbury), **Greg Solly** (Haddon Heights), Retirees: **Jesse Casares** (Woodbury), **David Hogate** (Elmer) and **Joe Townsend** (Gloucester City). My phone number is **(856) 220-8658** to reach me for any matters in our branch. I want to wish you and your family a safe and happy summer.

**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.)*

### **Branch Scholarship Winner**

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Emma Larame**, daughter of retired Blackwood carrier **Walter Schaffer**. The alternate is **William Lazarus Rizor Mossgrove**, stepson of **Angela Seserko** 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.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup>**. Park hours are from 11am to 6 pm. Food will be served between 2 pm and 4 pm. The buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$20 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.**

Clementon Park requires a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, **all tickets must be purchased by August 31, 2022 – no exception!**

Tickets can be purchased by **check or money order only, no cash**, at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch 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.

### **Branch Attorneys**

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