

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
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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 March 2023

Presidents Report

We finally got one last raise from this contract, and it was the final COLA of \$208.00, which carriers will see effective March 11th. You have to say we did extremely well during this last contract, and hopefully, we will continue to see pay increases going forward in our next agreement. Speaking of our next contract, negotiations have begun effective February 22nd, with our new National President, Brian Renfroe, opening up talks with the Postal Service. You can view his video opening remarks on the NALC website to see where he is focused on getting the best agreement for all carriers. I believe we are in good hands with our new regime of union officers, as they have been trained by some of the best officers we have ever had. We will also see if the postmaster general is serious in working with us to get his 10-year plan to become a reality. He needs to work with us if he wants this to succeed. We will know very shortly where his head actually is. Stay tuned. Next, I want to let everyone know how important it is to know your rights about your job. It appears management has once again taken a position of trying to eliminate, or drastically reduce, the times carriers take during their contractual allowed comfort stops while out on the street. Just so everyone knows, this isn't a new fight, but it seems every time we are in a route evaluation process, comfort stops are the first item management tries to attack. I am going to constantly repeat to everyone that you are allowed "reasonable" time on the street to take comfort stops. Please make sure you take these comfort stops as you need them. For those who aren't aware how this impacts your route, the time you take for comfort stops is built into your street time when they evaluate your route. If you don't take them, you will not get credit for them. This is very important for everyone understand when the team comes to your office looking at your route. The next item I want to explain to everyone is where you take your lunch and breaks. You must identify these spots in your route book on your 1564. The times you take them may be different each day, but identify when you take them on a normal day. Next, we will be going to arbitration this month on the secondary mail in the DPS. I'm expecting to get a favorable decision, as this has been successful in all of our cases our national has taken to the hearing. This will be a huge win because it will give our routes some much needed office time. This is one case management is cringing about. We all know how much they want to get us out of the office as fast as possible. This will give a lot of caseable mail back to those routes who fight it every day out on the street. Let's hope we prevail. Another grievance we filed in many of our offices dealt with the package delivery during the year where management created x-routes or static routes and didn't give routes the credit for their parcels. We have won every one of those grievances, and management is instructed to stop this practice and give routes credit for their parcels. If your office continues to try and do this, please let me or your steward know so we can start asking for punitive damages going forward. Another thing I want to keep everyone abreast of is the creation of these new supercenters the postmaster general is looking to get rolling. There is a rumor that central jersey is going to be the first one in our state to get one. It should be very interesting to see how this plays out, so keep your eyes open for these buildings to start popping up! Lastly, the NALC is

updating the Letter Carrier Resource Guide, which will be available shortly through the member only portal on the NALC website. If you haven't registered yet, please do, so when they are available you can get a free copy mailed directly to your home. This guide is the best piece of literature the NALC has to offer its members. It has everything you need to know about your job and your rights and anything you can think of. Our union spares no expense when it comes to educating its members, so get yourself registered to get one. I will have more info to share at this month's meeting as we will be attending our region 12 training seminar in AC this month, where President Renfroe will be addressing the membership on the latest information. Hope to see you at this months' meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

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

Attendance Prize Now at \$75

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, February 15th, Nicholas Zerno** a member out of the Camden Carrier Annex would have been the recipient of the **\$50** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$75** 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 was meandering today about how lucky our branch is to have our young members stepping up and getting involved with the branch. We currently are sending one of our up-and-coming stars to Formal A training. As I have said in the past, I consider our stewards to be second to none. On another note, make plans now to attend our annual Branch Banquet on **Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7 – 11pm**. Tickets are \$20 for members and guests, \$10 for Branch retirees. Contact VP Mike Powell at (856)-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net or your shop steward for tickets. Unfortunately, the minions over here at the aka, shit-hole, have decided to amp up discipline on attendance and alleged stationary events. This of course escalates the already hostile environment that has existed here at the shit-hole since our 908 brother and sisters have been here. I hope to see all our CCAs and PTFs at our CCA / PTF night coming up on **April 4**. I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCAs to try to attend our monthly meetings. It is not only your chance to get valuable information on things happening in the Branch but more importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. You can also grab a bite to eat, have a beverage of your choice and meet and mingle with new and old friends. 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

Annual Branch Banquet – April 15, 2023

Start planning to attend now. The **16th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7 – 11pm** at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City N.J. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and specially to honor those members who have retired in the past year as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards.

The following Branch members have retired in 2022:

Gay Lynn Brandt – Atco
Daniel Benevento III – Sewell
Wayne Sheltman – Riverton
John Martin – Woodbury
Thomas McCabe – Woodbury
Mike Porter – Voorhees
Lori Simmerman – Bridgeton
Felix Bocchicchio – Mt Ephraim
Anthony Cristella – Blackwood
Norm Spence – Pennsville
Pam Goslin – Pennsville
Karen Moss – Blackwood

If you retired during 2022 and your name is not listed above, contact Vice President Mike Powell at **(856) 906-2026** or **908vp@comcast.net**.

Easter Ham Drawing

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 15th**, there will be a drawing for an Easter Ham, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 17th**. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the Branch web site, or you can contact Trustee **Jim Boyle**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Jim by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full-time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello everyone. Hope all's well. HBP high option members if you haven't done so already, then don't forget to **Take Your Health Assessment for the new year**. Complete your Health Assessment, or retake it at any time, to track your progress, and earn incentive awards by completing goals that help you make healthy decisions. Find out more at <https://www.nalchbp.org/>. Attention all CCA's do you know the NALC has it's own health insurance designed specifically for letter carriers? Not only that, but we also own it. That brothers, and sisters makes it affordable, comprehensive, and a huge network of providers, and facilities. When you convert to career status and need to choose a health benefit plan for you, and your family, then take a good look at our health benefit plan. Everything you need in one plan. For more details go to <https://www.nalchbp.org/>. One of the most popular policies through NALC MBA (Mutual Benefits Association) is the Individual Disability Income. Working for the USPS you are covered by workers compensation for on-the-job injuries/illness, but there is no disability insurance should something happen away from work. You can protect yourself with very decent policies, at a very low cost with MBA Individual Disability Income. For more information on pricing, and benefit payments please visit <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits>

Optical Expense Claims: Should you have an optical expense NALC Br. 908 offers any member in good standing one \$20 per year reimbursement. To receive your reimbursement please send a paper copy of your optical expense with your name, address, and office/retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions on NALCHBP, MBA, or FMLA always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Brothers and Sisters be safe, be healthy...hope to see you all at the next meeting.

George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

Congratulations 908!! In February's Postal Record (The LCPF edition) we broke a new branch record in 2 categories, branch percentage and branch per capita. Found on page 66 of The Postal Record; Branch 908 end the year at 29.6% for the year 2022. The 29.6% was the second straight year eclipsing over 28% (28.3%: 2021) and the third straight year over 27% (27.1%: 2020). The Garden State is always represented well when it comes to contributing to our national PAC (Political Action Committee) and it was well represented again by branches up and down the coast in New Jersey. Among the branches that had a contribution percentage over 20% were Cherry Hill/Haddonfield: Branch 769 (31.6%), Cranford: Branch 754 (39.13%), Elizabeth: Branch 67 (20.19%), Freehold: Branch 924 (23.12%), Jersey City: Branch 42 (21.39%), Linden: Branch 2876 (43.42%) and Scotch Plains: Branch 4102 (35.71%). The branch membership in these locals vary considerably, therefore the smaller your membership of people and the more of them you have who contribute= a higher percentage in your branch. In Branch 908 the 29.6% at the time was calculated by us having a total of 771 members (Active, Retired and Gold Card) at the end of 2022. The new per capita we hit was 228 contributors. In 2022, Branch 908 had a goal of reaching 225 members giving to The Letter Carrier Political Fund, so by simple math we crushed our mark by 3. By accomplishing this historic local victory, we reached the 200 level the second straight year (214: 2021). I want to take this moment and recognition to thank each and every member in Branch 908 for making this happen. The selfless and voluntary attitude every member has in contributing to our fight as City Letter Carriers continues to astonish me and makes me equally proud to continue to fight as the Legislative Leader for Branch 908.

Speaking of numbers, On January 30th I received an important letter in the mail from newly elected National President Brian Renfroe. Among the topics he addressed in his January 12th dated mailing, was our national LCPF percentage. Out of 290,000 total members, 10% contribute to LCPF. I don't know what is more shocking and disappointing, that nearly 30,000 members give or the 260,000 who don't! We must continue to stay together and united when it comes contributing to LCPF. To me, you start at home. Local Branch Presidents across the country need to start appointing (if they haven't already) LCPF Coordinators in place to get the ground running on this. In addition, established LCPF workers from other neighboring branches and LPOs (NALC's Legislative and Political Organizers) need to fully train, teach and mentor these committed individuals who want to learn the Legislative and Political aspects of our union. The process would take time, but our national numbers I guarantee if put in place with this idea would trend in the higher direction.

Finally, our CCA/PTF night is around the corner on **Tuesday April 4th, 7:30pm to 9:30pm**. Any CCAs or PTFs who plan on attending (newly hired/promoted or current) please contact me asap if you plan on attending so I can get a head count.

I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors: **Al DiSipio** (Retiree, Stratford), **Philip Eller** (Retiree, Pennsville) and **Tom Spearman** (Haddon Heights). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me. I look forward to speaking to you all soon.

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.)*



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