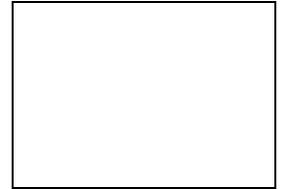


# 908 News

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    November 2017

## Presidents Report

This month I will give you an update on the issues you have been asking about since we discovered time-card fraud in a couple of our installations, specifically Elmer and Pennsville. I have been patiently waiting an answer from the District Manager, who stated most tersely in an e-mail response to me when I questioned him on the status of his investigation. He responded to me on October 4, which was 2 weeks after our meeting, which I thought was sufficient time to come to a decision, where he stated he was still investigating the issue and was offended that I would think he was dropping the issue. Well, a phone call or e-mail to me saying that would have been nice, but I guess I am not on his level to expect a response on such a serious matter. Anyway, after receiving his response, I told everyone I would give them a little more time to finish their investigation, even though we provided them with everything they needed. Well, it has been 4 weeks since I contacted him, and no one has contacted me in regards to this situation, which leads me to the only conclusion one could come to. They have allowed this manager to continue his career, even though he committed fraud by stealing money from CCA and career employees. This tells me the postal service will allow its managers to take whatever means possible to get the numbers for the "doctor!" They can sit there in their little rooms and say they have taken measures to correct this situation, but if that is the case, why is this guy running the Penns Grove Post office. This man should have been removed; just like a craft employee would have been had they committed a similar offense. We work for the biggest bunch of hypocrites. I guess the saying rank has its privileges is true in this district. For the record, this branch will not let this situation get lost in the shuffle. Our National Union has been notified, and if need be, we will take it outside the postal service if justice isn't served. This is by no means a threat to anyone involved, but a promise to get the bad apples out of this organization one way or another. Maybe the DM should stop worrying about the "vital few" numbers and concentrate on keeping his house clean. The carrier craft is not the problem sir! I will let everyone know when I finally get a response.

The next item I need to address concerns the treatment of one of our veteran carriers out of Deptford. Remember how I spoke of the vital few nonsense this district is so hot on. Well, they targeted our brother in Deptford, even though he has over 35 years of service and over 1600 hours of sick leave, just because they say he can't make their base numbers. It gets even better. They sent him home in early October on paid administrative leave pending a fitness for duty exam. Now this carrier has a few ailments like all of us who have worked for this long period of time, but this district decided they needed to find a way to kick him out to the curb. They brought in a slew of managers and the POOM to observe him in the office. Now you tell me this isn't a time wasting practice. Hey, it's OK for them to waste money, but God forbid the real workers need a few extra minutes to get the job done. This brother comes to work all the time, but they would rather sit him home then have him come in and do his job. He went to the postal doctor and passed his fitness for duty but that wasn't good enough. He then went to his own doctor for additional documentation and was cleared as well. Bottom line here is management is discriminating against an Air Force veteran who is 58 years old but can't give them their bogus numbers. The entire district knows who we are talking about and should be ashamed of this disgraceful

behavior. The brother got 30 days paid vacation because the district thought they could get him removed from his letter carrier position. How did that idiotic plan work out for you? I am sure the DM won't pursue the guilty players here because he was the leader of this travesty. Stay tuned for a lot more nonsense coming your way. In the fight.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 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, November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

## Attendance Prize Now at \$225

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Karen Moss**, a member out of the Blackwood Office would have been the recipient of the \$200 attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$225** 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

First, I would like to wish all our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. I reported last month that the Mail Handlers Union had won \$7000 in grievances for management doing craft work, well I was informed by a reliable source that the number is \$17, 000, sorry for the typo. Daylight savings time ended on November 5, which means some of us will be working in the dark. I want to remind everyone that if management instructs you to finish your assignment in the dark then try to follow that instruction until you feel that an unsafe condition exists. You, the carrier, are the one that makes that determination. If you determine the conditions are unsafe then inform your supervisor that you will be returning to the office. We deserve and have the right to a safe working environment as provided under article 14 of our National Agreement. Now to the **Camden Annex aka the Hell Hole**. Haddon Heights and Gloucester are currently undergoing the route inspection process because they have auxiliary routes. This process as far as I know is to adjust the routes to as close to 8 hrs. as possible. However, from what I have learned so far from this inspection process is that if your route does not need to be added to but in fact needs something taken off to get to 8 hrs. then they cancel the inspection. Yes, that's just what they did to our Haddon Heights Office they cancelled the inspection 3 days into the inspection because some **MINION** from the district didn't like the fact that the numbers showed the routes in Heights were going to need cuts not additions to their routes. Now, how do these **dishonorable actions** affect us you might ask. Well, they contribute to the very things I have been saying in article after article about this deplorable **Hell Hole, Harassment, Fake Numbers, Intimidation, Low Morale etc.** I did find it interesting that a member of the route inspection team has been found by our shop steward in Elmer to have been deleting time from carrier's clock rings on more than a few occasions. I will

definitely have to go over the 1838's that he did during the inspections with a fine-tooth comb. Gloucester is undergoing inspections as I write this article will have an update on their results next month. **Proud to be union.**

**Mike Powell - Vice President**

### **Angel Tree for Under Privileged Children**

The Branch will again be participating in the Angel Tree. Last year we supported 20 children. The way it works is, tags are placed on the tree representing these children's wishes. Donors pick a tag from the tree and then shop for the gift/gifts for the child selected. If any member is interested in being a donor or has any questions, contact Vice -President Mike Powell @ 856-906-2026. **If you believe every child deserves a Merry Christmas, please help!**

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

It's here! Open season. Nov.13 through Dec.11. Don't miss your chance to enroll, change, or cancel health benefit plans. Check out the best in the business....NALC Health Benefit Plan at nalchbp.org. To compare all plans, and pricing go to opm.gov. See for yourself the NALC plan is highly comprehensive, competitive pricing, and it's owned and operated by us all. CCA's I would highly suggest, and recommend you read the letter from Pres. Fred Rolando regarding health benefits. You'll find the letter at nalchbp.org.

Open season is a great time to also think about tomorrow today. See what MBA has to offer regarding life insurance, retirement savings, and hospital plus. Always good to be ready for the unexpected. Go to nalc.org, and click on Member Benefits to see all that is available for you.

Just a reminder Flu season is here. All NALC HBP members can get free flu shots at participating locations. To find locations go to nalc.org, and click on flu shots. Also for all High option members get your health assessment completed before 2017 comes to an end, and receive your free gift for filing (up to 2 for each family).

Don't miss out. Send your optical claims in for a \$20 reimbursement before the end of the year. One claim per family/member per year. Please send a copy of your receipt, office/retired to me at; George Greenwood, HBR...1083 Chews Landing Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021...Any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call...856-304-8665...Be safe all.

**- George Greenwood, HBR**

### **Ozzie's Corner**

At October's general membership meeting, I discussed the 2017-2018 Postal budget proposal to the members in attendance that evening. The highlights in the proposal shouldn't be taken lightly. The cuts and threats in this memo are totally real. I will give 4 points in this article and 4 in next month's newsletter. Point 1, the administration wants to raise federal employee's pension contributions by up to 6.45% of their pay over the next 6 years (costing active Letter Carriers up to \$3600 per year). Point 2, COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments) for current and future retirees under FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) would be removed. Point 3, COLAs for CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System) would be reduced to 0.5% each year for annuitants. Point 4, pension benefits for new retirees under CSRS and FERS would be reduced by basing the annuities on an employee's highest average pay over 5 years (high5) instead of over 3 years (high3). As you digest half of what you just read, this is why our national union has The Letter Carrier Political Fund. This national pact is in place for 1 thing and 1 thing alone, to destroy idiotic ideology like this. One dollar per pay period is all it takes to protect all the keys in this broad spectrum, I can be reached anytime for Legislative assistance or questions about LCPF at (856) 220-8658. Finally, I want to thank Ivan Borden (Pennsville Office) for being this month's LCPF contributor. Happy Thanksgiving and see you all at November'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.)*

**The Branch Officers and Stewards wish all the Members and their Families a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

### **Trustee Report**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is turkey month already. Which means it is time for the annual Jack Bittner free turkey drawing at the November regular monthly meeting. The only requirement is that you must be present to win. Jack Bittner was a lifelong member of the branch, and was Chief Trustee for many years before his passing in 2007. As current Chief Trustee, I honor Jack with this little token for all his hard work for our branch. Next month we have the kids Christmas party on December 10th from 1 to 3 pm at the hall. Free food, gifts and pictures with Santa! Bring your kids or grandkids out for a good time. Thank You

**Jim Comuso - Chairman of the Board Trustees**

### **Penalty Overtime Exclusion**

As referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the National Agreement between the NALC and the USPS, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins Pay Period 25-17-Week 2 (Dec. 2, 2017) and ends Pay Period 01-18-Week 1 (Dec. 29, 2017).

### **Nominated Without Opposition & Declared Elected**

The following Branch Officers and Shop Stewards were nominated without opposition and declared Elected to their respective positions for the 2018 – 2019 year term of Office:

#### **Branch Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary DiGiacomo</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mike Powell</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Norm Spence</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Tom Barnett</b>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Steve Lipski</b>
<b>Asst. Recording Sec.</b>	<b>Shawn McBride</b>
<b>Trustee Chairman</b>	<b>Jim Comuso</b>
<b>Health Benefits Officer</b>	<b>George Greenwood</b>
<b>Housing Chairman</b>	<b>Joe Walder</b>
<b>Sgt At Arms</b>	<b>Phil Haas</b>

#### **Shop Stewards**

<b>Atco</b>	<b>Jason Dempster</b>
<b>Blackwood</b>	<b>Erik Dare</b>
<b>Bridgeton</b>	<b>Andrew Marcoionni</b>
<b>Camden Annex</b>	<b>Mike Powell</b>
<b>Gibbstown</b>	<b>Loretta Morris</b>
<b>Hammonton</b>	<b>Frank Ingemi</b>
<b>Maple Shade</b>	<b>Bill Maffei</b>
<b>Marlton</b>	<b>Pete DeSimone</b>
<b>Pennsville</b>	<b>Norm Spence</b>
<b>Riverton</b>	<b>Shari Owen</b>
<b>Somerdale</b>	<b>Jim Boyle</b>
<b>Swedesboro</b>	<b>Dave Jacobs</b>
<b>Voorhees</b>	<b>Tim O'Hara</b>
<b>Williamstown</b>	<b>Jeff Ferry</b>
<b>Woodbury (3)</b>	<b>Shawn McBride</b>
	<b>Jim Comuso</b>
	<b>Mike Graff</b>

### **Secret Mail Ballot Election Will Be Held For the Following Positions**

#### **Trustees (4)**

<b>Mike Graff</b>	<b>April Litty</b>	<b>Jim Boyle</b>
<b>Pete DeSimone</b>		<b>Jim Livingston</b>

#### **Convention Delegates (18 to be compensated)**

<b>Norm Spence</b>	<b>Ryan Schmidt</b>	<b>Gary DiGiacomo</b>
<b>Mike Graff</b>	<b>Tom Walsh</b>	<b>George Greenwood</b>
<b>Tom Barnett</b>	<b>Steve Lipski</b>	<b>Mike Powell</b>
<b>April Litty</b>	<b>Joe Walder</b>	<b>Ozzy Lecky</b>
<b>Jim Serock</b>	<b>Jim Boyle</b>	<b>Shawn McBride</b>
<b>Shari Owen</b>	<b>Jim Comuso</b>	<b>Jim Livingston</b>
<b>Phil Haas</b>	<b>Frank Ingemi</b>	<b>Jason Dempster</b>

### **Mailing and Return Of Branch Election Ballots**

The Branch Election Committee mailed branch election ballots out on **Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** for completion and return to the Election Committee by **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. The Election Committee, at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** will announce the results of the election. Any eligible member who has not received an election ballot, or is missing any part of the ballot, should contact the Branch Election Committee Chairperson, **Bill Gore** at **(856) 371-4880**. (If no answer leave message). The Election Committee will begin counting the ballots on **Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** at **10am** at the Union Hall. Candidates are welcome to observe.