

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



Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com November 2021

Presidents Report

I would like to take this time to thank the membership for their support in voting me, and the entire Board of Officers, to another two-year term at last month's meeting to represent the Bill Revak Branch 908 members. Once again, in these trying times I pledge to do what I have always done, which is to fight for everyone's rights and make this branch a successful and respected branch throughout this union. With that said, with all the new employees continuing to come on board, it is very important that you take an active role in seeing how your union, locally and nationally works, and that starts by regularly attending our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. It was nice to see such a huge turnout at last month's meeting, and I hope this trend continues going forward. Next, we held our retirees banquet last month, and although it was held in the fall this year, due to COVID from the past year, it was a great night for all those who attended. I would like to thank our congressman from the first district, **Donald Norcross**, who graciously showed up to speak to those in attendance, which was a pleasant surprise for all of us. He just didn't say a few words and leave, but stayed for a while and talked with everyone. Thanks again congressman. Next, as we head into our busy season, I would like to prepare our newer employees on a few things. There will be managers who will try and pressure you to make your normal route times every day in the coming months, even though your parcel numbers will increase tenfold. Please remember that if your route averages 30 packages a day and you are now delivering a 100 or more, your street time will increase by a whole lot! Don't be fooled by your manager stating your mail volume is down, so it is wash. That is the oldest ploy going, so don't be intimidated to put in a 3996 for the additional time you think you may need. Remember, you determine how much time your route will need, not the DOIS program or PET program, etc. they will come around with. I have once again been notified that some carriers are not taking comfort stops on the street, but are doing things they shouldn't be doing, and you know what I am referring to. Please take the time to go a clean and comfortable place to take your comfort stop, because you are allowed to do that, and can go wherever you feel comfortable. Don't allow your manager to force you to go to a place that is not in your comfort zone. Also, with clocks going back an hour for daylight savings, we will all be facing the situation of working in the dark. Please remember that darkness by itself is not a safety issue, but if you cannot make a delivery in the dark safely, please do not attempt to deliver the mail. Make sure you notify your manager that you couldn't make that delivery because it was unsafe. I always get call this time of the year where carriers brought back the entire back portion of their route because it was too dark to deliver. I tell everyone that if you must dismount park and loop deliveries in order to deliver it safely, then that's how you must deliver it. Unless your manager tells you differently, please do what you must to deliver the mail safely. Of course, this will take you longer and you can put that on your 3996 as well. In continuing to keep everyone updated on our raises, the next COLA now stands at **\$208.00** with no end in sight. The retirees COLA will be **5.9%** in January, which again is a record for those retired.

For those who retired during the year, your COLA will be prorated from the month you retired, so unless you retired last December, your COLA will be different than those who have been retired for over a year. Also, this November 20th, everyone will see another **1.3%** raise in their salary, so the money just keeps building. I hope to see everyone at this month's meeting and please feel free to bring any of your issues or concerns to the meeting. Stay safe and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, November 17th @ 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 10th @ 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, October 20th, Anthony Sposto**, a retired gold card member out of the Blackwood Office 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 would like to thank the members of Branch 908 for all your support and having the confidence in me to serve another term as your Vice- President. I would like to wish the retirees that were honored at the retiree banquet held on October 10th all the best in their retirement. Veterans Day is November 11, and I want to thank all the Veterans of our great branch for their service. Also, please remember to thank your steward. Our stewards are second to none and work countless hours fighting to defend your rights. I want to remind all our members that Branch 908 will be participating in an Angel Tree for under privileged children. Contact Vice President, Mike Powell, if you are interested in taking a kid this year. Over here at the Camden, aka Hell Hole-Shit Hole, Annex management continues to harass, use fake numbers, and use discipline to intimidate. Things will never change here until this building is condemned and shut down for the filthy, unfit shit hole that it is. I could go on and on, but I want to finish on a more positive note. First, I want to recognize our 2 Voma's, Mike Marchionne and Doug Smith for the excellent job they do every day for all the carriers working here at the shit hole. Thank you!! Mike and Doug. Second, I want to congratulate all the Officers and Stewards who were nominated without opposition and declared Elected to their respective positions for the 2022-23 term. Finally, I want to wish all our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. 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, Be Safe and God Bless**

Mike Powell – Vice – President

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello brothers, and sisters. Open season is here. It runs from Monday November 8, through Monday December 13. This is your chance to enroll, or change your current HBP, Vision, and Dental plans. All plans can be compared at OPM.gov. Below are the premium rates for all career active, and retired carriers for the various NALC plans. Notice **DO NOT** enroll in High Self plus One if it's for you, and 1 dependent. Just go with family as it is cheaper. Any questions please call me...856-304-8665

NALC HBP Option	Enrollment Code	2022 Employee Pays Bi-weekly	2022 Retiree Pays Monthly
High Self	321	98.28	212.94
High Self & Family	322	202.02	437.71
High Self Plus One	323	234.35	507.76
CDHP Self	324	54.64	118.38
CDHP Self & Family	325	128.18	277.73
CDHP Self Plus One	326	120.54	261.17
Value Self	KM1	44.84	97.16
Value Self & Family	KM2	105.25	228.04
Value Self Plus One	KM3	98.92	214.34

Optical reimbursements...please mail a paper copy of your optical expense with your name, address, and office/retired on it to me at...George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

EVERY BLUE-COLLAR UNION JOB HAS 1! The question you are probably asking at this point is what Ozzie? The answer is a political and legislative action plan. I recently did some research on 3 major unions: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) and The United Steelworkers (USW). I will cover 1 in this month's article and the last 2 in December's Newsletter. Founded in 1934, The TWU currently has 150,000 members in occupations that cover the airlines, railroads, transit, etc. The political action The TWU conducts is called COPE (Committee on Political Education). Just like LCPF: A. COPE does not and cannot use members' dues for political activism. B. COPE is used to educate and inform candidates at all levels of government who support the TWU, regardless of party affiliation. C. COPE has a payroll contribution deduction program (similar to Postalease with your paycheck allotment). In addition, active members who don't wish to use a COPE program payroll deduction, can do a 1x annual contribution. Retirees in the TWU are encouraged to do 1x contributions too.

Before I forget, any member who wishes to do a 1x to our pact, you can by making your payment out to the following: The Letter Carrier Political Fund or LCPF. The 1x payment can be made with a check or money order. Therefore, political contributions made out to Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers or NALC Branch 908 cannot be accepted.

On October 10th, we had our branch retirement banquet in Gloucester City at Elizabeth's Ballroom. The keynote Speaker was Congressman Donald Norcross. Among his many subjects he touched on, he first and foremost thanked all City Letter Carriers for the outstanding job they have done and continue to do since day 1 of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, he emphasized that in order for the Postal Service to start a better path to financial success, it starts with slashing the problematic Pre-funding mandate. Time and time again, Congressman Norcross continues to have our backs supporting hard working men and women in the Garden State.

Finally, I want to thank November's LCPF contributors: **Balvinder "Bobby" Banipal, Alfonzo "Bud" Davis, Louise Goldson, James "Trent" Jones, Chandravad "Chuck" Patel, Angela Seserko, Anthony Scardino and Kevin String.**

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.)*

Turkey Give Away

Trustee Chairman **Jim Comuso** has once again donated a turkey in memory of former Trustee Chairman **Jack Bittner**. Come out to the **November 17th** meeting for a chance to win!

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 26-21 - Week 1 (Dec. 4, 2021) and ends Pay Period 01-22 - Week 2 (Dec. 31, 2021).

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 2022 – 2023 year term of Office:

Branch Officers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Gary DiGiacomo |
| Vice President | Mike Powell |
| Recording Secretary | Norm Spence |
| Treasurer | Tom Barnett |
| Financial Secretary | Steve Lipski |
| Asst. Recording Sec. | Shawn McBride |
| Trustee Chairman | Jim Comuso |
| Trustee | Jim Boyle |
| Trustee | Mike Graff |
| Trustee | April Litty |
| Trustee | Pete DeSimone |
| Health Benefits Officer | George Greenwood |
| Housing Chairman | Steve Elias |
| Sgt At Arms | Phil Haas |
| LCPF Chairman | Ozzie Lecky |

Shop Stewards

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Atco | Jason Dempster |
| Bridgeton | Andrew Marcoionni |
| Camden Annex | Mike Powell |
| Gibbstown | Walt Grossmick |
| Hammonton | Frank Ingemi |
| Pennsville | Norm Spence |
| Sewell | Allen Muff |
| Somerdale | Jim Boyle |
| Voorhees | James Powers |
| Williamstown | Jeff Ferry |
| Woodbury (3) | Shawn McBride |
| | Jim Comuso |
| | Mike Graff |

Convention Delegates

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Gary DiGiacomo | Mike Powell | Paul Fowler |
| Steve Elias | Norm Spence | Steve Lipski |
| George Greenwood | Phil Haas | Brian Stackhouse |
| Jim Livingston | Jim Boyle | Jim Comuso |
| Juan Santiago | Ozzie Lecky | Shawn McBride |
| Jason Dempster | April Litty | Ryan Schmidt |
| Allen Muff | Tom Barnett | |

Secret Mail Ballot Election Will Be Held For the Following Position

Marlton Shop Steward

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Matthew Bulzak | Erik Gossette |
|-----------------------|----------------------|

Mailing and Return Of Branch Election Ballots

The Branch Election Committee mailed branch election ballots out on **Monday, November 1st** for completion and return to the Election Committee by **Saturday, December 4th**. The Election Committee, at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, December 15th** will announce the results of the election. Any eligible member (**only active Marlton carriers will receive a ballot**) who has not received an election ballot, or is missing any part of the ballot, should contact the Branch Election Committee Chairperson, **Eric Dare** at **(856) 371-1913**. (If no answer leave message). The Election Committee will count the ballots on **Sunday, Dec. 5th** at **10am** at the Union Hall. Candidates are welcome to observe.

Branch Attorneys

- Uliase & Uliase**
106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
(856) 310-9002

Kid's Christmas Party – December 5