

# 908 News

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

## Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers

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### Presidents Report

Welcome back everyone. Hopefully, everyone made it safely through this hot summer, and look forward to some cooler weather going forward. The best news we got since we last talked in June, was this month's next COLA raise all career carriers will get in September, with one more cost of living increase to go for this contract. The raise is **\$2455.00**. This equates to a **\$1.18 per hour**. Retirees COLA now stands at **8.9%** with two more months to go. For the record, the sixth COLA alone is at least a **3.8%** pay increase for each step in the career pay schedules. The five previous COLA's paid under the 2019-2023 National Agreement have resulted in total pay increases for each step in the career pay schedules of at least **6.2%**. The result is at least a **10%** increase so far during this contract from COLA increases alone. We still have a **1.3%** contractual raise in November along with the new Step **P** being added to the pay chart as well which will add another **\$444.00** to the salary of a top carrier. We had our national Convention in Chicago in August that we sent delegates. We will have reports from those delegates at this month's meeting. Some highlights from the convention I want to tell you about is our current national president Fred Rolando, is stepping down. Unfortunately, there will be an election for that position, as Brian Renfroe will have to try and beat Dave Noble for that position. You may ask why I say unfortunately? For those who have been around as long as I have, I will explain at this month's meeting. Next, as I have been telling everyone for months about the next generation of route evaluations, the time is here. It appears we will have our Sewell installation first up for evaluations and adjustments. I just want to remind everyone in every office to start paying attention to how you perform your route each day. The time you show on the street is the time you will be evaluated on. If you extend your lunch or breaks the system can track that. If you deviate from your route that also can be tracked. Please stop taking short cuts that may affect your route time because when they come and look at your office the time you take on your route, minus deductions that aren't proper, will be your time. There will be no arguing about times, since you did the route in the time it shows. This is the future of route evaluations with all the technology the postal service is investing in. The good thing is we are a part of the process, but that could end at any time. Please start doing your job like you are being counted every day or face the consequences of a longer route. I hate to be so blunt, but this is the future! Also, all those carriers who feel the need to work off the clock before you clock in must stop this practice immediately. I am getting word from your fellow carriers about certain carriers coming in and working on their routes for free! I am instructing all stewards to start filing grievances for those carriers who are working off the clock with the knowledge of your supervisors and get you paid for the work you are performing. Shame on those managers who are allowing this practice to occur. I guess the only way to stop this is to make them pay! Another issue we had this summer dealt with some managers who were not paying carriers COP for being out with COVID-19. I am not sure who was giving these orders, but they were not proper. We are grieving those issues for the carriers involved and the Business Agent has been notified as well. Hopefully, these issues will not be an issue going forward. If you have an issue, please let your steward

know so he can contact me for help getting it resolved. Next, we had stewards filing grievances for routes that had secondary mail not in DPS order included in DPS trays. As of now, all of these cases are scheduled for arbitration unless there is a settlement prior to a hearing. If you have this issue in your office and the steward has not interviewed you on this violation, please make sure he is aware of it so he can include you in this grievance. The reason we need all offices to file a grievance is in case of a national settlement. If you don't grieve it, you will not be part of any possible monetary settlement. One last item everyone should be paying attention to is the postal services plan to start consolidating large installations into mega centers. It appears the first wave will happen in our area in Southeastern Pennsylvania. It looks like a number of offices in southeast Pa. will be going into one mega building in Philadelphia. It's just a matter of time when it will come to our side, since this is the will of the PMG. The one thing it will do is add travel times to routes, which in turn will create more carrier jobs, but the PMG says the savings in transportation will be well worth the tradeoff. Should be interesting. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> @ 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, September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Attendance Prize Now at \$175

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Joseph Santangelo** a retired Gold Card member out of the Blackwood Office would have been the recipient of the **\$150** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$175** 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

Welcome back Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone had a safe and fun summer. Staffing issues continue to be a problem not only locally, but nationally as well. Sunday delivery is the main reason that many of the CCA's quit. We could solve the staffing issue by doing away with Sunday delivery. We just do not need it. Another issue is the conversion of CCA's to PTF's. These conversions are supposed to help with staffing issues. So why in the hell are these brothers and sisters being subjected to a second probationary period when they get converted, and to make matters worse they have no protection from the union if they are separated during the probationary period. These CCA's should be advised that they do not have to accept the conversion therefore by-passing the second probationary period. Our leaders at the National level should also consider reimbursing, any CCA or PTF that is separated during their probation, the union dues that were collected during the probationary period. On a good note, the most recent COLA adjustment was \$2455

which will be effective on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. We also have the branch picnic coming up on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> which is always an enjoyable time. I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCA's 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 member, CCA or retired member needs my aid 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 Sisters and Brothers. Welcome back. Summer is winding down, and general meetings are starting up. As I've recently returned from the national convention I'll be presenting and sharing with you over the months to come much of the new, and old knowledge I've gained in my classes regarding health benefits, mutual benefits, and FMLA. With limited space in the newsletter, this information I will disseminate at the regular monthly branch meetings over a few months period. Please come out and learn as knowledge is power.

Just a reminder for all the long-time members, and more so for the new, the Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers local union has an Optical Reimbursement account set up for you. Any member in good standing is entitled to one per year \$20 reimbursement for any optical expense you may incur. In order to receive your reimbursement, send me a paper copy of your bill with your name, address, and office/retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Also always feel free to give me a call with any questions, or concerns you have regarding HBP, MBA, or FMLA at 856-304-8665. Hope to see you in September.

- George Greenwood, HBR

### Ozzie's Corner

On August 8th to the 12th, the NALC had their 72nd Biennial Convention in Chicago. On Tuesday (August 9th), one of the workshops I attended titled: "Legislative and Political Organizing" was facilitated by Cliff "Eddie" Davidson (Assistant to Pres. Rolando, Administrative Affairs). The class primarily concentrated on two subjects. First, the NALC's Legislative and Political network through mobilization. Second, the delegates were updated on important Legislative and Political agendas/goals the NALC is looking to get started on or finish. However, this information took place during the last 30 minutes of the 90-minute seminar. The first hour was for national Letter Carrier Political Fund awards and to all of our surprise...we did it again!! Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers picked up a 2020 (Cancelled National Convention, Honolulu, HI) and 2022 award for Letter Carrier Political Fund contribution percentage (Branch Member Size, 500-999 Members). In 2020 and 2022, Branch 908 placed third with percentages of (18%) and (19%) respectively. Since 2018 (Detroit, National Convention, 21%, 3rd Place), Branch 908 continues to set a top level of excellence when it comes to our national PAC picking up three straight national convention trophies. I want to personally take this time to thank each and every member in this great branch for making this a phenomenal branch accomplishment. Whether you contributed to the fund in your postal paycheck, bank account, annuity or otherwise, you were part of this hard-working recognition. Also, I want to equally thank all of the members in this branch for their continued trust and support in me heading our Legislative and Political Department.

In other news, President Joe Biden that same week (August 10th) signed into law The Inflation Reduction Act Of 2022. Among the many labor and climate friendly highlights in the bill, one is a huge gold star for Letter Carriers and The Postal Service. The bill supports electric vehicle purchases by the government agency and other government investments to create domestic markets for Made-In-America clean products.

As a reminder, I will have a more detailed convention report at September 21st's meeting and in October's newsletter I will resume my report on our sister postal union PACs.

Finally, I want to thank our latest LCPF contributors: **Tom Barnett** (Increase Adjustment), **Felix Bocchicchio**, **Boyd "Bud" Burrows**, **Stacia Cheeseman** (Increase Adjustment), **Richard Carapucci**, **Don Caswell**, **James Comuso Sr.**, **Steve Elias**, **Charles Foley**, **Keisha George**, **George Greenwood**, **James Hiltwine**, **Rick Hurst**, **Joe Laluk**, **Delores McClellan**,

**Pasquale "Pat" Penza, Mike Rofrano, Ryan Schmidt, Stephanie Vittorini and Deshaun Wilson.** Please feel free to contact me at (856) 220-8658 for any matters in our branch.

**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.)*

### Resolution To National Convention Approved

The resolution that Branch 908 submitted to the National Convention in Chicago was recommended for approval by the NALC Executive Council and then approved by the convention delegates. The resolution stated:

**The NALC negotiate with Labor Secretary Welsh and the Office of Workers Compensation Programs to provide a viable way for NALC members to formally continue their Union membership while receiving Workers Compensation.**

### Trustee Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters, welcome back from the summer! Hopefully yours was excellent! I'd like to report that on June 2, 2022, the Trustees and I did a complete audit of all branch accounts. Including sick and welfare and optical accounts. All your moneys are accounted for and being used as within the branch rules and the approved budget that you members approved! The branch CDs are doing well! And the branch building fund is earning 3% guaranteed! Thank you,

**James Comuso Sr, Chief Trustee**

### Blood Drive – Friday September 9

American Legion Post 100 (our Union Hall) is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Union Hall, 502 Colonial Ave, West Deptford, NJ 08096 from 1 – 6 PM. Please come out and donate if you can.

### Hops For Hope

The Branch is hosting a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) at the Double Nickel Brewery on **Sunday, Oct. 9 from 3 – 6 PM.** See Trustee **April Litty** for more info and tickets.

### Next Generation Delivery Vehicle



Delegates to the National Convention in Chicago had the opportunity to inspect the prototype of the new NGDV (Newt Generation Delivery Vehicle). While the low vehicle clearance may be an issue that needs to be resolved, there are many positives to the new vehicle. It's air conditioned, has 360 degrees of camera views, has a side door to enter the cargo area and is plenty tall enough to stand up and walk around in. The NGDVs are expected to start rolling out in 2023. Unfortunately, the last of the LLVs are not expected to be retired until 2032.



### Branch Attorneys

**Uliase & Uliase**

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