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| 908 NewsNALC Branch 908AFL-CIO**PO Box 1223**Blackwood, NJ 08012 | Bill Revak Branch 908South Jersey Letter Carriers

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**Presidents Report**

 Welcome back everyone. I hope everybody got through these dog days of summer in one piece and can now look to some cooler weather going forward. When we left in June, we were still without a new contract, and lo and behold we are still waiting on one! We thought after we returned home from the National Convention in Boston, we would have something good to report. Not to be. This is the oddest negotiation process I have ever been involved with in my 44 years with this company. Our union is not giving us anything other than a stall tactic with regards to the timeline of a new agreement. We were supposed to be scheduling an arbitration hearing, but that hasn’t happened, which I still can’t grasp! There has to be something more in play here that we aren’t being told. The National Convention was the most divided I have ever seen in this union, which has to be one of the hold ups in getting something done. I hope by the time we meet in September we will have something to report, but I am not holding my breath. I won’t speak anymore on this until we meet. The convention, despite some of the divisiveness, had our Branch receive two 1st place awards. The first one was for the Best Organized branch among branches with 700-999 members. For the record, we only have 9 career carriers who aren’t members, which we will once again show in next month’s newsletter. This is just so everyone knows those carriers who you may work next to and are being selfish by taking everything the union has fought for over the years but doesn’t believe they should be part of! For the life of me, I just don’t understand how you can work in the same building with all your brothers and sisters and take the same benefits the union worked so hard for, and not want to be a part of the fraternity! The second award was for the Highest Percentage (37.04%) of Members Contributing to The Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) which Ozzie Leckie runs for our branch. Way to go Oz! We will have the Plaques to show everyone at the meeting. I won’t go into details in the newsletter about what happened at the convention, but will give a detailed report, along with those delegates who faithfully attended workshops every day, at our general membership meeting, including the charges against our National President, that were voted on at the convention. Next, we have been in talks with Clementon Branch 4623 about a possible merger with them, and we will begin by discussing a resolution at this month’s meeting. With all the news about an S&DC being opened in Bellmawr possibly sometime next year, and many offices from the area slated to be moved into the new building, there are many issues that may start to surface, and Clementon being one of those offices, may be affected. Please come out to hear the resolution and any questions you may have while we consider this. The next news that came out this summer is the TIAREAP has been dissolved. For those unfamiliar with this, it is the route inspection and evaluation process we have been involved with for the last 2 years. It appears the postal service wants to go back to their original ways on conducting route inspections, which never ends up good for them. We shall see, but there are talks that when we do get a new contract, there may be some sort of joint inspection process as part of it. Until then, we are back to the M-39 way of doing route inspections. Stay tuned. Also, the HERO platform, (HIPP) that drew so much attention last year, has now been officially retired! Amazing how after we found they were falsifying everyone’s heat records, and we started to grieve this, they decided instead of giving employees this much needed training platform, where they really didn’t want to give carriers the time on the clock to do the training, why not just say it’s no longer mandated, and can be done voluntarily off the clock if employees elect to take the courses. This is the biggest weasel move I have seen in a long time. This shows they couldn’t care less about the safety of our craft! Just so everyone knows, if you find your manager has falsified any of your records in the past or going forward, please let us know so we can address this through the grievance procedure and the O.I.G. It is still illegal to change clock rings and falsify! Please stay vigilant. Also, the Annual Leave Carryover of 520 hours, for Leave year 2025 has been extended, and is now good until next year, unless it becomes part of a new agreement. I have a lot of other things to address and will fill everyone in with all the rest of the things that you may be interested in at this month’s meeting. Hopefully, I can tell everyone about our new contract. See you at this month’s meeting. **Gary DiGiacomo – President**

**EVP’S FYI**

Since our last newsletter prior to the summer, a lot has happened. I first hope everyone made it safely through the record temperatures this summer. As well the unprecedented number of working hours each of you had to endure, due to the lack of staff. We are still currently without a contract; we keep being told it is just about completed. Hopefully this is true and will be resolved before my next article in October, and ready to be voted on for ratification by then. The NALC held their bi-annual National Convention in Boston from August 5th through the 9th. I have attended these since 2008, and this is by far the most compelling one I have ever attended. For the first time ever, the National President had to give his defense on charges filed against him. The Executive Board found him guilty of only one of the charges. An appeal was then filed, and the membership was heard and forced the National to hear the charges and vote on his fate as National President, this was a first in NALC history. The membership upheld the Executive Boards decisions after two days of the case being heard. Like the decision or not it was democracy at its best. Our Branch was well represented there, everyone was required to attend two classes plus the general membership meetings daily. I will say everyone excelled and attended more than required, we went to classes starting at 7:30 A.M. through 5:30 P.M. every day. We learned a lot and will be presenting the membership with reports at our general membership meetings, plus various other things to help the branch and our members. We will elaborate on this more at the meetings. Please come out and ask questions, we are here for you. I personally could not be prouder of the delegates that attended, hours after each day we continued to discuss things we learned and how to help us all improve and keep growing as a branch. Lastly TIAREAP (Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process 2022-2023) M-01983, was extended and has expired. Management will be conducting unilateral in-person inspections starting this September. This will lead to a lot of turmoil and grievances being filed. As a branch we will be conducting training for our stewards and any offices being inspected. We will be prepared to fight this process to exhaustion. Looks like the first round of inspections will not affect our branch, but no doubt the next round will be coming our way. Our stewards are fantastic and well prepared for this and will defend your rights. I am extremely confident in them. Always remember their bad day is not yours, they have a responsibility to follow the rules. I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings and speaking to anyone with any questions. Stay Strong, Strength in Numbers. **Executive Vice President Shawn McBride (856)649-9317**

 **Comments From the VP**

 Welcome back brothers and sisters. I hope everyone had a safe and pleasant summer. In August, Branch 908 delegates attended the 73rd National Convention in Boston. This was the most interesting convention that I have ever attended. This was not the usual rubber stamp of convention business as has been the norm at the most recent conventions. A big moment during this convention was the delegates voted to have the appeals of the Article 10 charges against President Renfro be heard by the convention delegates. Another big moment of the convention was our very own living legend, Tom Barnett, was recognized with a standing ovation by the convention delegates for his long and loyal service to the NALC. The biggest disappointment was the only update on the contract is that President Renfro says that we are close to a contract. I for one am tired of hearing that line. Over here at the Camden, aka Shit Hole, Annex the new postmaster, Balvinder Singh- Minhas, allegedly put his hands on a steward from Branch 540 during a cca meeting. We all know if one of us put our hands on someone from management we would have been immediately walked out of the building and put on emergency placement pending removal, however at this time we do not know what penalty if any is going to be applied to the postmaster. I would like to ask all our members, active and retired, and especially our CCA’S to please take the time to get involved with the union. Remember, brothers and sisters, you are the union. Come out to a meeting, grab a bite to eat and have a beverage of your choice, meet carriers from other offices and see how your elected officers are managing your dues money. 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**

**Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, September 18th @ 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 11th** @ **7:30** and **8pm** respectively.

**Attendance Prize Now at $150**

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.

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

Hello everyone. Hope you all had a great, safe, enjoyable summer. So many hot subjects coming up in the next few months I hope you can find an hour every month to attend the Br. 908 general meetings. The first of these topics is the Penalty free enrollment period for Medicare Part B eligible annuitants. This came to an end on September 1, 2024. I hope you took advantage of this free offer. After this point any enrollment other than when you are eligible you will be assessed a late fee of 10% of your premium annually. More will be discussed at the meeting. At this month's meeting I'll be going over a lot of information from my Health Benefit Training at the convention in Boston. Information to be covered concerns the new Postal Service Health Benefit Program. Everyone, whether active or retired, will be required to make some changes this open season so you won't want to miss this. This year's open season will run from Monday-to-Monday November 11, 2024 – December 9, 2024. To keep up on everything happening with the PSHB visit https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/pshb/ and at <https://www.keepingposted.org/> I encourage everyone to try and attend the next few meetings with all the changes taking place. Next general meeting will be Wednesday September 18th at 8 PM in the union hall. As always, the Bill Revak Br.908 SJ Letter Carriers continues to have an optical account setup which is available to all members of the branch in good standing. This account affords you a once a year $20 reimbursement for optical expenses for the member, or eligible dependent. One per member/dependent for $20 annually. To receive your reimbursement simply mail me a paper copy of your expenses with your name, office/retired to me at George Greeenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Also, please should you ever have any questions on HBP, MBA, FMLA, or Optical reimbursements, always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Hope to see you all at the meeting. Take care and be safe, brothers and sisters. - **George Greenwood, HBR**

**Ozzie’s Corner**

      MANAGEMENT DROPPED THE BALL ON THIS!!(Part 1) In late February of this year, I was appointed the Lead Chairman of the Safety Team in Camden. Over the last year, we have had many new faces carrying the mail and even in some instances many of these new faces have become regular employees. On July 10th, I received a phone call from a Camden Carrier that hit close to home for me. The carrier asked me, “Did Carrier 93003 reach out and call you?" I replied, "No". Immediately, the carrier informed me that Carrier 93003 was involved in an attempted robbery in Westville. The area where the crime took place is normally quiet with beautiful homes on the waterfront. However, the unthinkable happened. Two masked individuals walked up on the carrier (who by the way has been carrying mail for less than 2 years) and demanded his arrow keys. During the alleged encounter, the assailants didn't show a weapon of any sort. Ironically, Carrier 93003 just had his vehicle keys on him and his satchel. Within seconds after the demands, Carrier 93003 was sucker punched and fell to the ground. The criminals grabbed his mailbag (which was completely empty), ran down the street and drove away. As I'm writing this article on August 28th, Westville Police Department doesn't have any leads except it was a vehicle with Pennsylvania plates. Sadly, a carrier was robbed in Vineland the very next day. As far as these 2 perpetrators go, you are gutless, pathetic cowards!! Instead of earning a living the right way.... YOU GAVE UP AS MEN IN LIFE! Newsflash "Keystone Criminals", at the end of the day you walked away with nothing from us! My last dying wish is that these two pieces of garbage are apprehended and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I will conclude this article in October's newsletter.  In other news, I want to thank this summer's LCPF contributors: **Rick Bacon**, **Greg Brown**, **David Hogate**, **Zach Maranzano**, **Shawn McBride** (increase adjustment), **Loretta Morris, John Prelas, Greg Solly, Hafeez Spriddle, Rich Travers** and **Angel Velilla**. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me 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.)*

**HOPS FOR HOPE**

**SAVE THE DATE! MDA FUNDRAISER AT THE DOUBLE NICKEL BREWERY SUN. OCT. 13th, 2-5pm $25 We’re also looking for items/gift baskets for the silent auction see your steward for tickets and info or call/text April @ 856-885-1451 or Jason @ 856-503-5007**

**Merger Resolution**

**Please be advised that there will be a Merger Resolution read at this month’s General Membership Meeting regarding Clementon Branch 4623’s possible merger with our branch.**

Visit our website for more branch info and check out our photo page while there.

**nalcbranch908.com**

**Branch Attorneys**

**Uliase & Uliase**

**106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035**

**(856) 310-9002**