

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 375
Gloucester City,
NJ 08030

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Bellmawr, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, Gibbstown,
Glassboro, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia,
Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, National Park, Paulsboro, Penns Grove,
Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford,
Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury,
Woodstown

Prsrt First Class
Postage Paid
Permit # 967
Bellmawr, NJ
08031

Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com December 2012

Presidents Report

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season as we head into what could be our busiest season in a long time, which is a good thing. There are a few things you need to keep focused on during this next month, along with delivering these thousands of packages. First is the issue of what the lame duck congress will do with postal reform. If you signed up as an e-activist, you received an e-mail from President Rolando stating what is happening behind closed doors, which is not good for us. He has asked us to call our representatives in the House and Senate to oppose any type of legislation this year. If you have not called yet, please continue to call your reps and ask them to oppose any legislation on postal reform until the New Year. The number to call is (202) 224-3121. We must stop this back-room deal before it gets attached to must-pass legislation, such as the "fiscal cliff" law or the Hurricane Sandy relief bill." If anything happens before our meeting, I will let your Stewards know. Secondly, our negotiations are still progressing on trying to get a new contract, and from what I have been told, it is possible we will hear something in January. I hope that we do, so we can move on and fix a company that is doing just fine in spite of our negative Postmaster General. Another issue we are dealing with is our offices being DUO'd into other installations. I stated last month that I would report on this waste, but being the Holiday Season, I decided to try to stay positive and let it continue to evolve before making my opinion heard. One last thing to remember is you will hear those from the district who will say that since the mail volume is decreasing the increased parcels should make up for the less delivery time needed! The problem with their rationale is we have 10 times as many parcels and scan able packages than normal, and they are clueless as to what mail we actually are delivering. We are delivering more advertisements than we have had in a long time. There may be some of our smaller offices who have "no mail" but that is not the case in our larger offices. Just remember your parcels and accountable mail are not captured in DOIS, therefore, you are not given the delivery time for those two functions. For those offices that have managers who continue to manage with DOIS, and not their brain, you know who you are and so do we, make sure you fill out your 3996, and determine what you need to complete your assignment. We are all professional enough to figure out the time needed to deliver our routes with these parcels. Also, remember on the form 3996 when requesting a reason for your needed time, just put in there the **letter j**, this section states we need no reason during the Christmas season! Have a Safe and Healthy New Year, and hope to see you at the Christmas meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Guaranteed Winner December 19th

Had he attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday November 21, John Desant**, a retired member out of the, Glassboro Office would have won the \$100 attendance prize. The prize now increases to \$125 and will be given away at our general membership meeting on Wednesday, December 19th.

Dates to Remember 2012

Holiday Raffle and Branch Christmas Meeting- 12/19

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 19th @ 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 Branch Board of Officers and Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.** The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Executive Board @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, December 12th, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Trustee Report

At the regular Branch meeting on December 19th, the drawing for the 42-inch flat screen TV with a home theater entertainment system will be held. Tickets are only \$3 and it is for a good cause. The proceeds go toward the Branch Benefits we offer our members such as the Optical Fund, Sick and Welfare Fund, Clementon Park Picnic, Retiree's Banquet, etc. Contact trustee Shawn McBride for more details at 856-649-9317. The Branch has purchased a Blue Ray player, which will be chanced off sometime in the New Year. This is a fundraiser for MDA, which is the NALC's charity of choice, so please support it. Trustee Donna Villec will be handling this fundraiser. Later this month the Branch Retiree Banquet tickets will go on sale. They are \$20 per person. It will include an open bar, with top shelf liquor, beer, an updated food menu along with our very own Jake Evison as DJ. Therefore, save the date, it is April 13th from 7-11 See Jim Comuso or Mike Powell for tickets. It promises to be a great time. Finally, I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from my family to yours.

JamesComuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Health Benefits

The end of the year is coming fast. If you have an optical claim, please mail it to me no later than Saturday December, 29 in order to be processed for this year. Better yet, come to our regular December meeting and give it to me in person. Send all claims to George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions or problems with the NALC Health Benefit Plan contact me by phone at 856-346-1177. **Drug Recall** On Nov. 9, 2012, Ranbaxy Laboratories announced a voluntary **retail level recall** of multiple lots of Atorvastatin, the generic version of Lipitor® that were distributed between September 25, 2012 and October 26, 2012. Atorvastatin is prescribed in combination with diet and exercise to lower elevated levels of cholesterol and to decrease the risk of associated cardiac events. The recall includes Ranbaxy Atorvastatin 10 mg, 20 mg, and 40 mg tablets. It does not include the 80 mg tablets. To learn more about the Atorvastatin recall visit www.ranbaxyusa.com. Plan members who have questions about their Atorvastatin prescriptions should speak with their local CVS pharmacist or call CVS Caremark at 1-800-933-NALC (6252) Have a great Holiday Season, and be safe.

George Greenwood -HBO

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 11.6 of the National Agreement and item 13 of the Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) when they did not follow the holiday scheduling procedures for the Columbus Day holiday. As a remedy the grievant will receive an additional premium of **50 percent** of the base salary straight time rate for the improper scheduling.

Gibbstown- Management violated Article 5 of the National Agreement when they instructed carriers to stop a casual conversation when the conversation between the two was not interfering with their work and was not inappropriate or disruptive. As a remedy management is instructed to cease and desist! (This is a disgrace that we had to file this grievance, which tells you something about what is going on in this office!)

Marlton- Management violated Article 19 and 41 of the National Agreement, Section 243.6 and 242.122 of the M-39 and section 911.2 of the M-41 by failing to properly review the adjustments made to route 31 in Marlton on June 30, 2012 and make further route adjustments needed to achieve a route as near 8 hours daily work as possible. As a remedy management is instructed to make necessary adjustments to make route 31 as near 8 hours as possible within **30 days** of the parties' receipt of this decision.

Voorhees- Management violated Article 41.1A.2 of the National Agreement when they did not post for bid the duty assignment (CR4320) of a carrier who was temporarily detailed to a supervisory position in excess of 4 months. As a remedy management is directed to post duty assignment CR 4320 for bid during the next bidding cycle

Gloucester (Camden Annex) - Management violated Article 28 of the National Agreement when they issued the grievant a Letter of Demand. As a remedy the Letter of Demand will be rescinded.

Informal A

Haddon Hts. (Camden Annex) - Letter of Warning issued for Failure to Work in a Safe Manner/Unsatisfactory work performance. Reduced to time served (2 weeks) and rescinded.

Misguided Compromise Proposal Misses The Mark

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) has proposed an alarming idea to allow the U.S. Postal Service to end Saturday mail delivery service but retain package delivery service on that day. "While I'm sure Senator Lieberman's intentions are good, his proposal completely ignores the 2006 congressional mandate to pre-fund 75 years' worth of future retiree health benefits and to do so within just 10 years," NALC President Fredric Rolando said.

Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Following the release Nov. 15 of the October 2012 Consumer Price Index (CPI), the accumulation toward the **2014** retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is **0.5 percent**. Meanwhile, the **2013** retiree COLA will be **1.7 percent** under both the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), following the release of the September Consumer Price Index (CPI) on Oct. 16.

Annual Christmas Meeting December 19th

As is our tradition, we will have shrimp and wings. Come out and enjoy!

Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch will hold its **First Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on December 19, 2012. The Branch will be raffling off a 42-Inch RCA TV, which also includes a Home Theatre Pkg. See your Steward for tickets, which cost \$3.00. Contact Trustee Shawn McBride @ (856)-649-9317 with any questions.

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

PROUD TO BE UNION

Turkey Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 21st, April Litty**, a carrier out of our Deptford Office was the winner of the **Annual Jack Bittner Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway**. Thanks to Branch Trustee Chairman **Jim Comuso** for donating this year's turkey.

Fund Raiser

The Branch would like to express their deepest sympathy to Tony Pasquale and his family for the loss of their daughter Autumn. Tony is a former Clayton Carrier and a Branch 908 member. To help aid the Pasquale Family and to show our support I will be running a gift-card fundraiser for the next two months. Stewards will be canvassing their Offices asking for gift cards to help the Pasquale family. In December, at our Christmas meeting all gift cards will be collected and passed on to the family. Brothers and Sisters in Tony's time of unimaginable and unfathomable tragedy your thoughts, prayers and generosity is greatly needed.

Steve Lipski

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 26-12-Week 1 (Dec. 1, 2012) and ends Pay Period 01-13-Week 2 (Dec. 28, 2012).

Attention

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Or send changes to Mike Powell, Recording Secretary at: P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 or 908Recordingsec@comcast.net.

Name: _____
Current Address: _____ _____
New Address: _____ _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____
Post Office: _____

The Officers and Shop Stewards of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to personally wish You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

