

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

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, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, 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, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com February 2015

Presidents Report

We are in the CDRAAP process full force, so get yourself ready to discuss your route with the team when they come into your office. They will be going over all of your route information taken directly from your timecard and the workload reports. You should be prepared to explain the numbers your routes are being evaluated at and any numbers you may believe are not accurate. If you think your numbers are not correct you must be prepared to let the team members know so they can go back and look to see if there were any data integrity issues. Remember, they are not looking at any data issues unless we bring it to their attention. You know your route better than anyone does, so if the numbers do not jive, do not be afraid to communicate it to the team. This is the best way for us to get a fair evaluation, so do not let it slip by. More than likely, your route was probably messed with, since this district was notorious for changing clock rings! I would advise you to ask to see your TACS reports from the selected weeks, it cannot hurt. For the record, as of this writing, we have had a few offices evaluated, and the numbers look good as these offices are showing 8 hours or more on their assignments. It is yet to be determined how the process will handle these offices. If they really want to make it work, they will leave the offices that are in compliance alone and not look to rip them apart for no real reason. Time will tell and I will keep everyone abreast of the results. The next issue we are confronting is management trying to hold carriers accountable for missing scans on delivery confirmation packages. I have been told the district wants blood from us if we have a failure. They believe if we cannot scan everything, we should be looking for a new job! I kid you not! They are holding all managers accountable for not disciplining us for alleged failures. The problem with this rationale is their DMS (Delivery Management System) program. This is the GPS program that tracks our every move and identifies the packages that are sorted to our routes. The one problem they refuse to acknowledge is it is a computer program that has some bugs in it. They think if a package shows up not scanned or has no stop the clock scan on it; the carrier missed it and must be disciplined! They are going nuts with this. The problem I have uncovered is the packages probably were not sorted to the route or went to some other office or arrived after the carrier hit the street. There are numerous reasons why packages appear to be missed but in reality are not. Management needs to take a deep breath, step back, and try working with us instead of always accusing us of being criminals! Let us be real about this. We all understand the importance of scanning in today's environment and want to make it successful going forward. How about asking us our input on how to make it work and I bet we will be successful. One last item, I have appointed Ozzie Lecky as our new COLCPE chairman. I would like to thank Ozzie for showing the interest in doing this tough job. He has big shoes to fill in replacing long time chairman Norm Task. I know Ozzie will be a great asset to the branch. Be ready to be contacted by him to ask for your support in being a COLCPE giver and an E-activist. See you at this month's meeting!

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Attendance Prize Now At \$50

Had she attended the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, January 21 18**, a member from our Deptford Office would have been the recipient of the **\$25** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Next Meeting

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

Trustee Report

Brothers and sisters, the Branch Trustees did a full and complete audit of the Branch Optical Fund on January 22 2015 at 7 30 pm, at the union hall. The fund had no issues and everything was in order. To all members, if anyone has any questions concerning your money or how it is spent. Please feel free to contact me at 609-932-9913, and I will answer your concerns. Branch Officers and Shop Stewards will be attending Region 12 rap and training sessions in Atlantic City on February 23 and 24th 2015. If anyone in the membership has anything you would like us to ask, or have an issue you need addressed please write it down and give it to your steward. We will do our best to get it answered. Next, the branch social is April 18 from 7-11 pm at Kelley Ann ballroom in Gloucester City. Tickets are \$20.00 and includes all the food and drinks you can handle. In addition, our very own Jake, the snake, Evison, from our Deptford Office will be the DJ for the evening. Contact your steward or recording secretary Mike Powell for tickets. Save the date September 13th 2015 from 11 am to 7 pm, that is the branch picnic at Clementon Lake Park. Also, the branch needs more donations of new and used uniforms for men and women. The most popular sizes are medium and large. Any retiree that does not drive anymore or does not drive at night and needs ride to the banquet to and back home please contact me ASAP.

James Comuso Sr Chairman Trustees

Issa's Portrait to be Replaced with Photos of Postal Workers

House committee rooms are typically adorned with portraits of former chairmen. However, former Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa's portrait will be stashed away in a conference room, away from public view. In an interview at the annual Republican legislative retreat, incoming House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz of Utah said he wants to be "inspired by the people we serve, not former committee chairmen." He said he and the committee's top Democrat, Elijah Cummings of Maryland, chose photos of **postal workers and other everyday Americans**. Good riddance Issa !

PROUD TO BE UNION

Health Benefits

Open season is over, but CCA's make note: If there is a change in your status, you get a 30-day mini open season to make changes in your health care. All members of the NALC HBP any questions you have regarding the plans coverage, or changes can be answered by visiting <http://www.nalchbp.org/>, or by calling 1-888-636-6252. It is not too late, and it is free for plan members to get influenza pneumococcal, and seasonal flu vaccines at more than 52,000 local NALC Preferred and NALC Care Select pharmacies (including more than 7000 CVS Pharmacies and Longs Drugs stores). Go to <http://www.nalchbp.org/> to find a participating pharmacy near you. NALC Br. 908 offers all dues paying members a one per year per family \$20 reimbursement for optical expenses. Submit your claim to me at

**George Greenwood HBR
1083 Chews Landing Rd.
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**

Any questions regarding HBP or optical reimbursements call 856-346-1177

**Camden Annex
Formal A**

Westville- 7-Day Suspension- Attendance- Rescinded

Informal A

Bellmawr – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance- Rescinded

Bellmawr – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance- Time Served- Rescinded

Gloucester – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance- Reduced to 3 months

Gloucester – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance/ Failure to follow Instructions- Rescinded

Gloucester – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance/ Failure to follow Instructions- Time served/ Rescinded

Haddon Hts – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance/ Failure to follow Instructions- Time served/ Rescinded

Haddon Hts – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance - Time served/ Rescinded

Haddon Hts – Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance – Reduced to 3 months

Westville - Letter of Warning – Unsatisfactory Job Performance - Rescinded

Westville - Letter of Warning – Attendance - Reduced to 3 months

Tips and Snippets

Rumor has it that a supervisor at the Camden Annex was using another supervisors ID to falsify clock rings. This matter is currently under investigation.

Speaking of the Annex we have not had a fire drill in over a year. Time to give OSHA a call.

To retain NALC membership, retiring members must sign a Form 1189 (Dues Check-off Provision).Article 2, Section 1(e) of the [NALC Constitution](#) establishes this requirement:“A Form 1189 (Dues Check-off Provision) must be signed by all retiring members within the NALC who wish to retain their membership in said organization, effective October 1, 1982.”The Form 1189 authorizes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to deduct union dues from retiree annuities.

Following the Jan. 16 release of the December 2014 Consumer Price Index (CPI), the accumulation toward the fifth cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for letter carriers under the 2011-2016 National Agreement was \$0 annually.

8th Annual Branch Banquet-April 18th

The 8th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 18th, 2015 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. Gloucester City N.J. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and especially to honor those members who have retired in the past year as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards. If you have retired since the last banquet or you will retire before April 18th contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 908recordingsec@comcast.net. All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20pp. The cost for current Branch retirees is \$10. Tickets may be picked up from Branch Recording Secretary Mike Powell at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030.

Name: _____
Print
Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()
Total number attending _____
Total remittance \$ _____

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by April 10th, 2015. Members of the Branch who have retired since our last Banquet will be honored and presented with tokens of our appreciation. If you have retired since the last Banquet or you will retire before April 18th, 2015, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comcast.net.

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree’s Banquet. Simply write on a piece of paper the following information: Name of Steward being nominated, Office, Person making nomination (must be from Steward Office), and statement including accomplishments, knowledge of contract, ability to deal with co- workers and management, and dedication to the NALC and 908. All submissions must be received by March 31st, 2015. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

**Branch 908 Steward Of The Year Nomination
Form**

Name of Steward being Nominated: _____
Office: _____ Person Making
Nomination: _____

Please write a brief statement as to why you feel this person should be the Branch 908 Steward of the Year for 2015, including accomplishments, knowledge of the contract, ability to deal with co-workers, management, communication skills, and dedication to the NALC and 908. In other words, what makes this person special? Use additional pages if necessary.)

I believe _____ should be the 2015 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

**Branch 908 Steward of the Year PO Box 375
Gloucester City NJ, 08030**