

908 News

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

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
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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com January 2018

Presidents Report

Happy New Year everyone. As we head into the New Year, I want to once again give a huge shout out to all the carriers who did another fantastic job delivering all those packages again this holiday season. Remember, without you guys and girls, this company would never survive. I must say this year seemed to be much smoother in getting the job done as compared to last year, as many of the offices had carriers reporting in early to get all those packages delivered. Whoever made the call in the district to actually allow our carriers to be able to get the job done, should be applauded. I know we have a large number of CCA's this year, but that never stopped the district from fighting the numbers and trying to squeeze every ounce of blood from the employees. Once again, great job as always in doing your job to get our customers their packages in this hectic time.

There are a few items I need to address as we head into the new year. First, I have been informed by numerous members that we are once again seeing many carriers, and you know who I am talking about, working off the clock. For those of you who aren't aware, the contract states in Article 41.3. K. "Supervisors shall not require, nor permit, employees to work off the clock." For the life of me, I cannot understand why anyone would want to work for free! I know there are a lot of new employees who are guilty of this practice, but there are also a number of regular carriers who are doing it as well. I am not sure if you understand the ramifications of what you are doing. By working off the clock you are tainting the routes numbers and could possibly hurt the routes evaluation when management starts looking at the data, which they will be doing this year. Secondly, if you get hurt, you risk not being covered since technically you are off the clock. Do you think your manager will back you up if that occurs? Doubtful, since they shouldn't have allowed you on the floor in the first place to work and could get in big trouble. Please, if you have been doing this stop, and for those who are turning a blind eye to this please shoot me a text if you feel you don't want to get involved because of possible retribution. I will see we get this resolved immediately and I will keep your name out of it.

The next item we will be dealing with are the route adjustments a few of our offices have recently completed. Management has used COR to adjust these routes, and it appears they have overburdened many of the routes. Starting this month, the routes will need to show if these adjustments are accurate or way off. I ask all those carriers affected to do your routes the way they were adjusted and do your routes as if you were being inspected. Management is required to come back in 60 days to check on their adjustments. If they are way off they must adjust the route to as near 8 hours as possible or we will file the appropriate grievances to have the entire inspection thrown out. It is up to you to show whether the adjustment was proper. We also have a few offices scheduled for spring inspections as well. I ask everyone to start doing your route professionally each day and take all the time you are entitled to take. Skipping breaks, comfort stops and lunches reduces the time of your route and will dramatically affect its representative time. In order for us to hold management accountable, we need your help as well.

Lastly, we are still waiting on the District manager and the eastern area representatives to address our concerns over the time-card fraud issues. Once again, I ask any carrier who is being told not to swipe their time card at any time during their time working, to let your steward or a branch officer know so we can address this awful situation that is before us. As of this

writing I haven't heard anything, but hopefully by our next meeting I will have some news to report.

As a reminder, our Business Agent, **Dave Napadano** will be installing the officers at our January meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, January 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, January 10th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Winner!

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday December 20th, Fred Simpkins**, a member out of our Stratford Office won the \$250 attendance prize. The prize now stands at \$25 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

Happy New Year to all our active and retired members and their families! I would like to thank the members of Branch 908 for having the confidence in me to serve as your Vice - President for the term of 2018-2019.

I recommend that everyone start the New Year off by checking their Personnel file for mistakes and for discipline that should have been removed. The Postal Service, in compliance with OPM, has gotten rid of the paper versions of the OPF (Official Personnel File), the files are all digital now and you can view your file from your home computer. Go to the eOPF website at <https://eopf.usps.gov/eOPF/jsp/essLogin.jsp>. Once there, you will need your EIN (Employee Identification Number), this is the number on your pay stub, and your USPS PIN number (the same one you use for Postal EASE). If you forget your PIN, call 1-877-477-3273 and follow the prompts to have a new PIN mailed to you. Once you log in you can view and print anything in your file. If you find something that should not be there, contact your Shop Steward. Did anyone recently receive in the mail a Thank You card from the minions of the Area and District Leadership Team? I did, and it asks that you accept their thanks for making the Postal Service so successful. Well, I for one, will not accept their Thank You and as far as I'm concerned, they can stick their Thank You card where the sun doesn't shine. I will share a few of the reasons, (of the very many that I have), why I feel this way. The District in my opinion has supported and has/is encouraging time clock fraud. Look no further than the Elmer, Pennsville, and Gibbstown Offices where it has recently been uncovered and brought to their attention by our shop steward, yet the perpetrators go unpunished. Here at the **Camden, (a.k.a. The Hell Hole) Annex**, the minions of the Area and District encourage bullying, false numbers, intimidation and harassment, especially against the CCAs. I could go on and on, but I will not, but I will convey through this article my genuine and heartfelt personal **Thank You** to all our brothers and sisters who delivered in the dark and bitter cold, the

many Christmas cards and record-breaking parcels, during the busy holiday season. Brothers and Sisters, you are the backbone of the Postal Service and I again sincerely **Thank You!** Finally, Assistant Recording Secretary, Shawn McBride, has proposed some ideas tailored specifically for the benefit our CCAs and hopefully they will be implemented soon. In the meantime, the branch would like to invite all our CCAs to come to a branch meeting and get involved. We need and want your input on the problems that face CCAs. If any active 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

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Happy New Year. Start the new year off right with some life changes for tomorrow today. Check out the various life, hospital plus, and savings plans available to you through the NALC Mutual Benefit Association (MBA). At nalc.org under member benefits, you can find much information, rates, and contact numbers to invest into your future today, or simply call 1-800-424-5184, or 202-638-4318 for more information.

Also with the New Year ringing in I'd like to remind everyone that it would be very beneficial to you to fill out, and maintain a copy of a HIPAA form. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 allows you to name an authorized individual to access, and discuss any HBP claims, inquiries, etc on your behalf should the need arise. The form can be downloaded, and printed at nalchbp.org, or call 888-636-NALC (6252).

Open season came to a close so any changes in health benefits from this point on can only be made for a Life Changing event (marriage, birth, etc), or a change in career status. Anyone covered by the NALC Health Benefit Plan I strongly urge you to read the December issue of the postal record page 44 for the many changes in all NALC HBP's, or go to nalchbp.org to read the various improved policy changes.

Optical reimbursements for 2018 have begun. Anyone with a claim for the One per member per year \$20 reimbursement please send a copy of your optical receipt with your name and office/retired on it to me @ George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.....Any questions feel free to call me at 856-304-8665....Happy New Year all. Be safe. George...

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

In 2017, we had a year of change and growth branch wide, state wide and nationally. First, I want to personally thank all of the officers and stewards who helped me sign up our members to the LCPF. In addition, I want to thank each and every brother and sister who joined in the fight and contributed to our national pact. In December, we had **Ashley Andrews** (Maple Shade), **Felix Bocchicchio** and **Clarence Covington** (Mt. Ephraim), **Richard Murphy** (Marlton) and **Lisa Owens** (Blackwood) close out our year and give to the LCPF. Compared to 2016, we improved as a branch from 172 to 180 contributors by year end. In May down in Washington D.C., we had all 12 congressional representatives sign on to our 3 major HR bills. By the way, that was the 1st time that ever happened in our state and New Jersey was the second state this year to have all our postal platforms be on board legislatively. Later into the fall, we finally got our national contract ratified for 3.5years. Also since November, we had 2 major contractual wage increases. As we closed out the year, we have a proposed Postal Budget that has picked up steam, but not conversation on the senate floor. Finally, the NALC just announced that our E-activist account is now discontinued. National wants our members to use our smart phones to download the NALC app to receive Letter Carrier info instead of receiving the email. 2017 has been a year indeed to remember. As we go into 2018, I want to wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous new year. I hope to see you all at January 17th's meeting.

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.)*

11th Annual Branch Banquet-April 14

The 11th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 14th, 2018 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. in Gloucester City, NJ. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and 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 14th contact Branch Vice-President, Mike Powell @ 856-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net. All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20 pp. The cost for current Branch retirees is \$10. Tickets may be picked up from Branch Vice- President, Mike Powell at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with check or Money order made out to NALC Branch 908 by March 24th

Name: _____
Print

Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()

Total number attending _____

Total remittance \$ _____

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the annual Branch 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 Branch 908. All submissions must be received by March 31st, 2018. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

2018 Branch Budget Approved

Those in attendance and eligible to vote at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on **December 20th** unanimously approved the Branch 2018 Budget. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of the Branch at **\$222,947.00** for 2018.

Branch Election Results

Trustee

Mike Graff (251)*
April Litty (239)*
Jim Boyle (254)*
Pete DeSimone (224)*
Jim Livingston (129)

Convention Delegates

Norm Spence (244)*
Ryan Schmidt (164)
Gary DiGiacomo (216)*
Mike Graff (216)*
George Greenwood (218)*
Tom Walsh (214)*
Tom Barnett (227)*
Steve Lipski (243)*
Mike Powell (251)*
April Litty (226)*
Joe Walder (219)*
Ozzy Lecky (223)*
Jim Serock (189)*
Shawn McBride (236)*
Jim Boyle (235)*
Shari Owen (171)
Jim Comuso (211)*
Jim Livingston (199)*
Phil Haas (214)*
Jason Dempster (163)
Frank Ingemi (175)*

**Denotes Winner*

Dates To Remember

February 26 – 28 – Region 12 Rap Session (Bally's)
April 14 – Branch Banquet
July 16 – 20 – National Convention (Detroit)