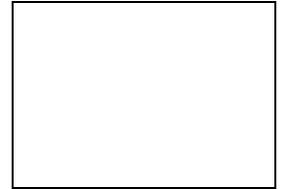


908 News

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 June 2018

Presidents Report

As we head into the summer months, I want to go over a few things, since this will be our last newsletter until September. I am not sure if you have been paying attention to the news lately, but President Trump has issued 3 Executive orders with regards to government employees, and the NALC is closely monitoring these orders to see if they affect the postal service. My opinion is they don't and shouldn't affect our jobs, but you never know what can happen when you have people in charge who aren't educated on our job or just don't care how the postal service operates without any taxpayer funds. The constant misrepresentation of how the postal service operates is really concerning to me in that no matter how much we reinforce our facts to those in charge, it seems to be constantly ignored. I ask everyone to stay engaged with what is going on in Washington by downloading the NALC app and to check it daily for any important updates. A lot of things can happen when we let our guards down, especially in the summer when a lot of us are on vacation. Our leaders are on top of it and will let us know if we will need to take any action to stop any of these issues from happening.

Next, the issue of time-card tampering is still being looked at. The District Manager has once again gone on record of stating he will not tolerate this method of managing as he reiterated in his May 22, 2018 memorandum. He states he is disturbed by the number of incidents that continue to be brought to his attention involving time manipulation. It appears the APWU also has found managers manipulating times in their craft as well. The DM has tried reaching out to managers to report these violations without repercussions for doing so, but no one has stepped forward! This doesn't surprise me and shouldn't surprise him. This practice has been going on for years, and I am not that naive to believe he wasn't aware of this either. Regardless, if he is really serious, and wants us to believe he wants this to stop, I suggest he remove the guilty parties from their duties immediately. Once this happens, this practice will cease if managers know they can lose their job. Talk is cheap, but actions speak louder than words. Until someone is held accountable by losing their job, this will never end and we will never stop looking until this is accomplished. I once again ask all employees to watch your hours and don't allow managers to talk you into clocking in early or do any manipulations. If you find this happening please drop me a line, I will keep it confidential while I do an investigation.

Next, the summer months bring many challenges to our newer carriers, especially learning how to deal with the heat. I ask all new CCAs to talk to the experienced carriers and get their tips on how to cope with the extreme heat you will be facing. Hydration is the best way to prepare for you working in the heat. Please take the time to drink plenty of fluids the night before, it will help you cope with those hot days ahead. We don't want anyone to suffer heat exhaustion or worse. If you feel any of the symptoms, please report them to your manager immediately. If your manager doesn't respond to your request please contact your steward or me directly for assistance. We don't want to happen what happened last year in one of our offices when a manager ignored a carrier's request for help.

Next, the route inspection adjustments in a few of our offices have appeared to be corrected. It appears the district will be putting back some of the routes in our offices that were originally taken out. Hopefully, this will occur as I have been

told this is going to happen. I will update you in September as to the progress of the adjustments.

Lastly, we will be attending our National Convention in July in Detroit. There are a few changes in our National Officers positions, as many are retiring. Stay tuned for updates on the changes at our National level. I will also update everyone on all news we get from the convention as well in September.

Have a safe summer and hope to see you at this month's meeting and enjoy the shrimp and wings as is our ritual before we break for the summer.

- Gary DiGiacomo - President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 20th @ 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, June 13th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$150

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday May 16th, Samantha Figueroa**, a member out of the Maple Shade Office would have been the recipient of the **\$125** attendance prize. 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.

Comments from the VP

I want to wish all our regular and retired carriers and their families, a happy, fun filled, and safe summer. I also want to give all our shop stewards a big **Thank You!!** for doing a great job representing our members. I would also like to ask all our members, active and retired, and especially our CCAs 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. I have been hesitant to mention the Camden, aka Hell Hole, Annex recently because it's such a depressing place to talk about. However, I would like to address safety at the **Hell Hole**. I was accused by the Poom, Terri Dean, of harassing and bullying other carriers in the **Hell Hole** to resign from the safety captain program, which is not true. I will set the record straight for all to read. I, as an officer of Branch 908 asked our members that are currently housed in the **Camden, aka Hell Hole, Annex** to voluntarily resign from the safety captain program that existed here at the **Hell Hole** before this new Safety Ambassador Program was initiated. I made it clear to all our members that it was totally voluntary to resign, and I explained the reasons why we should not participate in the unilateral program called the Safety Ambassador Program. As a matter of fact, safety is so important here at the **Hell Hole** that every safety meeting scheduled for the last 3 months was cancelled for one ridiculous reason or another. I will report that Ozzie Lecky and myself have resigned from being safety captains. I will continue to rail against this program because in my opinion it's a way to have craft employees, whether they are

a carrier, clerk, or mail handler to be **RATS**. 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

Branch Scholarship Winner

The winner of this year's Branch Scholarship is **Greg Couse**, grandson of **Joe Walder**, retiree out of the Woodbury Office. The alternate is **Michael Bocchicchio**, son of **Felix Bocchicchio** out of the Mt. Ephraim Office. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). The winner should contact Trustee **Jim Boyle** ASAP with his school information. If you have any questions, Trustee **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

William C. Doherty Scholarship Winner

Congratulations goes out to one of our members granddaughters, who has been chosen as winner of one of the five scholarships awarded each year by the National Association of Letter Carriers. This year's winner of the William C. Doherty Scholarship of \$4000.00 per year for four years goes to **Lacie R. Porch**, granddaughter of retired carrier **Rose Burke**. Lacie attended CCTS and will attend Rutgers Camden to pursue a medical career. It is great to see one of our own awarded this great honor. Way to go Lacie and good luck in your future endeavors.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

ALERT: Phone Scam Warning - All members of the NALC HBP: There have been reports of scammers claiming they are with Cigna and the Coordination Health Program. They are telling would-be victims to call the Coordination Health Program back at (844) 293-9867. **DO NOT** call this number back! We have verified with Cigna that this number is not affiliated with Cigna. Scammers at this number are luring victims into giving away their personal information. Please beware and if you have questions or concerns please call the NALC Health Benefit Plan's Special Investigation Unit at 1-888-636-NALC (6252).

Quick reminder for all those enrolled in the NALC HBP High Option. Every year fill out the health assessment survey. Doing this not only draws up a nice plan of action to improve your overall health, but also entitles you to one of three free gifts offered. Be it the fitbit activity tracker, discount dental card, or the reimbursement of some co-pays, it pays to fill this out in the form of better health, and a free gift.

Any questions give me a call at 856-304-8665. If I don't know an answer I'll find it for you. Have a great summer. Be safe.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

I finally have acquired vote by mail ballot applications covering all 5 counties in our union. I want to thank Nicole Nestopoulos (Vote by Mail Outreach Coordinator, Camden County) for assisting me in this matter. As I explained awhile back, voting by mail is a great way to help those who can't physically go out and cast their vote. The process is hassle free and there is no postage to cover. The senior citizens, disabled and shut-ins are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity during elections because when you send your ballot in the mail, that vote counts. In addition, you are supporting Letter Carrier jobs because we will collect your application and ballot as outgoing mail. I will have the applications at the June meeting.

Finally, I want to thank our 2 newest LCPF contributors: **Cleveland Belin** and **Mike Rofrano**. Remember, contributing to the LCPF costs as little as \$1 per pay period and it's a sound investment for active and retired carriers. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 for any legislative matters in our branch. I want to wish you all a safe, happy and prosperous summer and see you all for shrimp and wings June 20th. 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.)*

Grievance Log

Step B Decision

Hammonton - Management violated Article 41.2.B.4 of the National Agreement by not allowing the grievant to work the OPT assignment on CR 18 beginning on March 31, 2018. As a remedy, the grievant shall be compensated for the 8 hours he would have worked, which comes to **\$134.24** in a lump sum payment.

Hammonton - Management violated Article 7, specifically the Memorandum of Understanding (M-01870) when they didn't pay the CCA higher level pay when she was assigned to a vacant Carrier Technician Assignment. As a remedy, the grievant will receive a lump sum payment in the amount of **\$56.54**.

Hammonton - Management violated Article 7, specifically the Memorandum of Understanding (M-01870) when they didn't pay the CCA higher level pay when she was assigned to a vacant Carrier Technician Assignment. As a remedy, the grievant will receive a lump sum payment in the amount of **\$17.29**

Stratford - Management was found to have altered MODS codes and used improper documentation to delete/disallow time in TACS. Management is instructed to cease and desist. In addition, the 5 grievants involved will be paid at the appropriate rate for these violations, which totals approximately **1.5** hours at the overtime/penalty time rate.

Stratford - Management was found to have altered MODS codes and used improper documentation to delete/disallow time in TACS. Management is instructed to cease and desist. In addition, the grievant involved will be paid at the appropriate rate for these violation, which totals approximately **.50** hours at the regular rate.

Williamstown - Management violated Article 15 and 19 of the National Agreement because they failed to comply with a DRT settlement for a prior grievance settlement. The DRT has resolved this grievance by ruling all FT carriers who were not already properly compensated will be paid an additional 50% premium for hours worked from 4:00pm to 4:30pm for working out of schedule premium.

Branch Picnic

The Annual Branch picnic at Clementon Park and Splash World will be held on Sunday, September 9th. Park hours are from 11am to 7 pm. Food will be served between noon and 5 pm. The 5 hour buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$15 per person (children 36" and under are free), tickets include admission to both parks and free parking. All tickets must be bought in advance; there will be **No Tickets Sold at the Gate**.

The park is not open to the general public this day, only to a couple groups. They require a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, all tickets must be purchased by August 25, 2018.

Tickets can be purchased at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on June 20th or from a Branch Officer or your Shop Steward. You can also mail a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check or money order made out to "Branch 908" to Phil Haas, 112 Park Ave., Gloucester, NJ 08030. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or for more info: 609-868-3285.

Trustee Report

On May 24, 2018 your branch trustees and myself performed a 3 hour complete audit of the branch's main checking account, covering all branch accounts and CDs also covering and comparing branch budget vs. expenditures. We are pleased to inform that thanks to the hard work of all your branch line officers, we are under budget and the branch is extremely financially sound. If any member in good standing would like to see the audit process, or the books that were audited please contact me.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the branch members for your cards, flowers and prayers after the passing of my mother on April 28th. I have had right hip surgery on May 30th and will be recovering at home. I am available by phone or email or stop by my house. My duties as your chief trustee will not be affected... and no I am not retiring I would not want to disappoint my management team in Deptford or the USPS .

- James Comuso Sr - Trustee Chairman