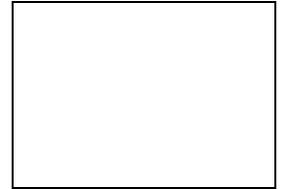


908 News

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, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown



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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com March 2016

Presidents Report

We just returned from our annual regional training seminar in Atlantic City, and not only picked up some valuable information that the stewards will bring back to their members, but also got to hear the latest news from our National President, **Fred Rolando**.

President **Rolando** spoke for a good 3 hours to the union representatives from region 12 and covered a wide variety of topics that is awaiting the membership in the upcoming year.

He spoke of our opening of contract negotiations with the postal service and was very hopeful the new leadership will understand the valuable contributions our craft is contributing to the profitability of the service and hopes they will recognize this and give a fair contract offer to our craft and not take the approach of the last regime who wanted to sell off our rights and benefits. If they don't want to negotiate in good faith, he stated we are prepared to take our case before an arbitrator if that's what it takes to get us a fair contract.

Speaking of contracts, if you weren't aware the rural carriers have agreed in principle to a new agreement, which President **Rolando** stated was a contract that fit their craft, but wasn't anything that our craft would be interesting in being a part of. Their agreement calls for another type of non-career workforce that primarily will be working on Saturday, Sundays and holidays! The new title is ARC or Assistant Rural Carrier. I am not sure why their craft would try and allow another category of employees, but as president **Rolando** stated, this contract may be good for them but is surely not something we want to be a part of. It's a shame this craft didn't hook up with us years ago when we asked them to consider joining us!

The next issue he discussed was the upcoming elections this year and how we all must be vigilant in getting the right people elected that support our plight. He stated the national has about 10% of the membership signed up in the Letter Carrier Political Fund, which he would love to increase, since we use that money to help get the people we need to help our cause get elected. Our branch is currently around 15% contributors, which is at an all-time high, thanks to our LCPF chairman **Ozzie Lecky**. Expect to be contacted by **Ozzie** asking you sign up as an LCPF contributor and an E-activist like the 115 brothers and sisters of this branch who currently give to the fund, as noted in the February edition of the postal record. If you have questions on the importance of giving, he will be happy to explain it to you. Please give him the courtesy of hearing him out when he calls.

He also talked of the issues with CCA's and the importance of training younger members to be able to take over for this aging union. In order for this union to continue to be the union it has always been, it needs to groom our newer employees so they can continue to carry the torch when the older officers decide to step down. It is a lot easier to step down when you know you have someone you know is prepared to take over without missing a beat. That is why he stated the CCA's will be a big item that will be addressed in this year's contract negotiations. He hopes to strengthen all of those memos that have been agreed upon and seek a stronger wage structure. All it takes is a willing partner! Time will tell, but he promised to do everything in his power along with the national officers to negotiate a contract that is good for the members and the postal service. Hope to see you at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, March 16th @ 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, March 9th 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$75

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday February 17th, Kathleen Ward**, a member out of the Marlton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$50** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$75** 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 noticed last month that there was a lot of back slapping and kudos given to management because they made a decision to curtail operations during the recent blizzard. Well, that's what they get paid the big bucks to do, make decisions and the decision to curtail operations was a no brainer. I do have some kudos to offer to Management for the following achievements. Kudos to management for not having a fire drill at the Camden Annex since last June. Kudos to management for not having an in house drill, in the past year and a half, in case of an outside emergency such as a terrorist attack. Kudos to management for allowing CCA'S to throw away mail, particularly Red Plums, so they can make their street times. Kudos to management for not having any safety meetings or stand-up safety talks. Kudos to management for not having a defibrillator in the Camden Annex, a building with close to 200 employees. As you can see management is really earning their money with all the above Kudos. Before I forget, a real big Kudos to management for cancelling a fire drill that was scheduled, by the safety team, for a day in January. The fire drill was cancelled because the Supervisors were on a conference call with the poom and because we had a lot of mail volume. I cannot imagine what the minions would do if we had a real fire. Before I end this article I would like to give some kudos where kudos are due. A big kudos to two carriers who were overlooked a few weeks ago at an award ceremony at the Camden Annex. **Mike Rofrano**, a member of Branch 908 for 36 years, and Mike Marchionne, a member of Branch 540 for 31 years. Both carriers have done an outstanding job as carriers and union members.

Proud to be Union

Mike Powell - Vice President

60 Year Member

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **February 17**, we were honored to present Branch retiree and Gold Card member **Bill Revak** a lapel pin honoring his **60 years** as a member of the NALC. As well as being a Past President of the Branch, Bill is truly the founding father of Branch 908. Congratulations and Thank You for all you've done! We look forward to presenting you with your 65 year pin!

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA

Spring is here. That usually means a time of change, and rebirth. Maybe it's time to look at the NALC Mutual Benefit Assoc. to make some changes. Maybe added life insurance? Hospital plus? How about retirement savings? CCA's should give serious consideration of the Retirement Savings offered through MBA. Present rates are at 4.5 %, and all funds are fully transferable to the Thrift Savings Plan once converted to career.

With open season in the distant rear view mirror keep in mind changes can still be made to your health benefits, but only for life changing events, or conversion to career. Should any of these events take place you have 60 days from the date of the event to make any changes. CCA's being converted take a good look at what the NALC HBP has to offer you. Great plan. Quality medical care while maintaining a comprehensive benefit package. We pride ourselves in offering excellent benefits with affordable premiums. All present HBP members keep an eye on the mail for your 2015 IRS Form 1095-B for tax purposes.

Any recently hired CCA's please don't forget you have 60 days from date of hire to opt into the USPS Non Career Health Plan, or enter into the Open Market with the Affordable care Act. Everyone is required by law (Affordable Care Act) to be insured on your own, or someone's plan. Anyone not covered can be fined, so don't forget **60 days**.

Optical reimbursements please send a copy of your receipt with your name, address, and office/retired to me at:

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

Any questions feel free to give me a call at **856-346-1177**.

Have a safe happy spring.

George Greenwood – Health Benefits Officer

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, its March already, where does the time go? Speaking of time, the new Board of Trustees and myself did a complete audit of the branches Main checking account, Sick and Welfare, Optical and Death Benefit Funds. This was done on Jan 28th at 7:30pm at the Union Hall. There were no issues found with any of the accounts.

I recently went to Colleens Catering/Kelly Ann Ballroom, in Gloucester City, it is under new ownership and is being completely renovated. The new owners promised we will be very happy with the changes and will do everything they can to make our time on **April 16th** an excellent one. Tickets are only 20.00 per person, this includes all food and drinks all night, also we will have **Jake Evison** as DJ for the evening.

Finally, Trustee **Jim Boyle** would like to inform the membership that coming up in May at the regular meeting, we will have the scholarship drawing. Any member with a family member in college or starting college, please contact Trustee **Jim Boyle** for the form to enter the drawing. His number is **856-952-6107**. The scholarship form can also be downloaded from the Branch web site.

James Comuso Sr – Trustee Chairman

Ozzie's Corner

Happy March Branch 908 family, The LCPF had two contributions this month from **Shalin Dave** and **Howard M. Foxwell Jr.** The Letter Carrier Political Fund was designed by the NALC to do one purpose, to keep our craft as Letter Carriers in place. As Branch 908 LCPF Chairman, all active and retired members are urged to donate just \$1 per paycheck. The LCPF is a sound investment in our postal career, you won't miss the dollar and without a doubt, it's worth it. In Solidarity,

Ozzie Lecky - Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman

Phillies Ticket Chances

Once again the Branch is raising money for NALC's National charity, **MDA** by selling chances for a pair of tickets for the **Philadelphia Phillies** Sunday Game Plan (lower level seats). Tickets are \$2 each and can be obtained from your Shop Steward. The winning ticket will be drawn on April 6, 2016.

Acting Supervisors – 204b

Management must provide the Union at the local level a copy of the PS Form 1723, Notice of Assignment showing the beginning and ending dates and times of the assignment. A separate PS Form 1723 must be used for each detail. A single detail may not be broken on multiple PS Form 1723s for the purpose of using a 204b on overtime in lieu of a bargaining unit employee.

Article 41.1.A.2 of the National Agreement provides that: Letter carriers temporarily detailed to a supervisory position

(204b) may not bid on vacant Letter Carrier Craft duty assignments. However, they may voluntarily terminate the 204b detail and return to the Letter Carrier craft. Upon return to the craft position, they may exercise their right to bid on vacant positions.

The duty assignment of a full-time carrier detailed to a supervisory position in excess of four months shall be declared vacant and shall be posted in accordance with Article 41.1.A.2. Upon return to the craft, the carrier will become an unassigned regular. A letter carrier temporarily detailed to a supervisory position will not be returned to the craft solely to circumvent the provisions of Section 1.A.2.

9th Annual Branch Banquet-April 16th

The **9th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 16, 2016** from **7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Colleens Catering** located at **Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City NJ**. 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 16** contact Branch Vice President, **Mike Powell** at 908vp@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 Vice President **Mike Powell** at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to Branch Banquet 136 New Jersey Road Brooklawn, NJ 08030.

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 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.

In Memoriam

Peter C. Dombrovski, on February 18, 2016, age 69, Branch member who retired out of the Salem Post Office.

Thanks Branch 908

I would like to thank all of my Branch 908 Brothers and Sisters who reached out to me after my father passed away on February 14th. The flowers, cards, phone calls and e-mails from my extended Union family made this difficult time a little easier to get through. Being there for each other in times of need is a wonderful example of Unionism. Thanks again.

Norm Spence – Recording Secretary

Dates To Remember

April 16 – Branch Banquet
April 20 – 22 – New Jersey State Congressional Conference
August 15 – 19 – National Convention
September 25 – 27 – New Jersey State Training Seminar

