

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
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08070

Bill Revak Branch 908 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

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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com April 2023

Presidents Report

As we head into the spring, our negotiations for a new contract will start to get serious in the month of May. Last month, many of your officers and stewards attended our Region 12 seminar in Atlantic City, where new National President, **Brian Renfroe**, addressed the attendees on what the NALC's plan is going forward with contract negotiations and many other issues that are of concern for the members. I discussed many of those items at last month's meeting but will briefly discuss some here for those unable to attend. I would like to give a shout out to a lot of those new members who came out last month, along with those retirees and active members who made the meeting. It was nice to see our numbers at meetings rising. I hope this continues. Speaking of our seminar in AC, President Renfroe laid out a detailed report on what our union will be looking to accomplish this round, which I will highlight here. He did ask that everything we discuss in our meetings be kept in house and not on social media, since this could hamper our negotiations. He stated if things leak out, he would have to keep our positions quiet so as not to hurt our bargaining position. I will not go into our strategy in this or future newsletters, but will keep everyone updated at our meetings. One major issue he did address, which is quite revealing, dealt with our participation in the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF.) He stated out of our 280 thousand members, only 30 thousand members donate to this fund. That means over 250 thousand don't give to this PAC. Our branch is doing quite well, but we need more of our members to start helping out, since this is extremely important for us to get our issues heard in Congress. Let's face it, in DC, money talks and BS walks. He said he understands many members don't want to give, but maybe they really don't understand why we need this. We have a lot of legislation that needs to get to the floors of both houses, and by having money to give to those who support us, we can get this done. It doesn't matter what your affiliation is, our money goes to both parties who support our plight. For instance, the Social Security Fairness Act (S-597) has finally made it to the floor of the Senate for the first time. We now have 36 bi-partisan co-sponsors, and with everyone's help, we could possibly get the Offset and Windfall elimination bills repealed for all those affected. This is just one bill your money can go to. Please think about giving to this fund and talk to our LCPF officer **Ozzie Lecky** for all the latest info. Next, he mentioned we are looking to establish an all-career workforce along with higher starting wages, since the non-career force is no longer viable. He stated something must be done to address the high cost of uniforms and the safety of our carriers who are dealing with issues on the street in some areas of the country. He stated the route evaluation program will probably continue as well. He is trying to get the 520-hour annual leave carryover to become permanent. He stated the new S&DC buildings are coming, but not as fast as you may be hearing from your managers. Don't listen to them, he will notify us when dates are imminent. He recommended that everyone register on ECOMP, which we have been saying since it started. If you aren't aware of how to do this, please talk to your steward or any officer for assistance. Those are some of the main issues he spoke of. Next, I have been getting calls from members who are telling me we have **carriers working off the clock again**. I am not sure why anyone would want to work for free, and why managers would

allow this to occur, but if it is happening, which I know it is, it must stop. We are going to begin filing grievances for those carriers working off the clock, so managers **BEWARE!** You are not helping your office by working off the clock. All you are doing is showing less time for routes, and that will get routes taken out of your office or routes added to. Please don't be intimidated to do this, or tell me you have to get done to go to another job, etc. Take the time you need each day and stop thinking you are doing anyone any favors by working off the clock. Lastly, we have three by-laws in this month's newsletter we will be discussing and voting on at this month's meeting, so please read them and come to the meeting to discuss them. Thanks, and I hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, April 19th @ 8 pm**, 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 pm**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 pm**. The next meeting of the Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, April 12th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$100

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, March 15th**, **Ben Bowman** a member out of the **Pennsville** Office would have been the recipient of the **\$75** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$100** 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

The branch banquet will be held on **April 15th** at Elizabeth Ballroom located at Highland Blvd and Sylvan Ave in Gloucester City 08030 from 7pm-11pm. Tickets are \$20 for active members and \$10 for retirees and includes 4-hour open bar, buffet, DJ and door prizes. Come on out and have a good time and help celebrate the branches most recent retirees. Contact VP Mike Powell at (856) -906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net or your shop steward for tickets. Now for some juicy tidbits. I was informed by a reputable source that about a week ago, that a 204-b here at the Camden, a.k.a. shit-hole, Annex tried to steal a dog while doing a street observation. I was told that they were videoed by a ring doorbell. The resident confronted him and took the dog. One would think the 204-b would be removed from their duties as a 204-b, or even removed from the Postal Service. So far, I do not think anything has happened to the 204-b, but mark my words if it were a carrier, they would be facing a removal. It seems that the new norm here at the shit-hole is a supervisor conducts a PDI. The PDI answers are handed over to another supervisor, who then issues a disciplinary letter using the name of the supervisor who conducted the PDI. It gets better. If the second supervisor does not have time to compose the discipline, it is handed off to the closing supervisor to compose the discipline. That's the new norm here at the shit-hole. This process resulted in one of our OJI instructors being issued a Letter of Warning for an alleged stationary event. Imagine that, someone training a new hire gets

issued discipline. You cannot make this stuff up. Again, these type of actions by management only escalates the hostile environment here at the shit-hole. I hope to see all our CCA's and PTF's at our CCA / PTF night coming up on April 4. I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCAs to try to attend our monthly meetings. It is not only your chance to get valuable information on things happening in the Branch but more importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. You can also grab a bite to eat, have a beverage of your choice and meet and mingle with new and old friends. 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

Annual Branch Banquet – April 15, 2023

Last chance for tickets. The **16th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7 – 11pm** at Elizabeth's Ballroom located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City N.J. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance, and socialize with good friends and specially to honor those members who have retired in the past year as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards.

The following Branch members have retired in 2022:

Gay Lynn Brandt – Atco

Daniel Benevento III – Sewell

Wayne Sheltman – Riverton

John Martin – Woodbury

Thomas McCabe – Woodbury

Mike Porter – Voorhees

Lori Simmerman – Bridgeton

Felix Bocchicchio – Mt Ephraim

Anthony Cristella – Blackwood

Norm Spence – Pennsville

Pam Goslin – Pennsville

Karen Moss – Blackwood

Easter Ham Drawing Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 15th**, **Ryan Schmidt**, a carrier out of the Pennsville office, won the Easter Ham, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 17th**. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the Branch web site, or you can contact Trustee **Jim Boyle**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Jim by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full-time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

The following proposed amendments to the Branch By-Laws were read at the regular meeting of the Branch on **March 15th**. They will be opened for discussion and voted upon at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **April 19th**:

Article 4: Section 1:

Currently Reads:

The elected officers of the Branch, in ranking order, shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Trustees' Chairperson, four (4) Trustees, Health Benefits-MBA-NSBA Representative, Sgt. At Arms, Housing Chairperson and a Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) Officer.

Proposed Change:

The elected officers of the Branch, in ranking order, shall be the President, **Executive Vice President**, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, **Assistant Treasurer**, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Trustees' Chairperson, four (4) Trustees, Health Benefits-MBA-NSBA Representative, Sgt. At Arms, Housing Chairperson and a Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) Officer.

Article 4: Section 4:

Currently Reads:

The Branch Executive Board shall consist of Branch President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, The Chairman of Trustees, The Trustees, Health Benefits Officer, Housing Chairman, Sergeant at Arms and Letter Carrier Political Fund Officer.

Proposed Change:

The Branch Executive Board shall consist of Branch President, **Executive Vice President**, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, **Assistant Treasurer**, Financial Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, The Chairman of Trustees, The Trustees, Health Benefits Officer, Housing Chairman, Sergeant at Arms and Letter Carrier Political Fund Officer.

Article 5: Section 1:

Currently Reads:

Nominations for the election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates shall be called for at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on the third Wednesday in October. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership, held as soon as possible after nominations in October. All Officers and Shop Stewards shall be elected to a term of two (2) years.

Proposed Change:

Nominations for the election of Branch Officers, Shop Stewards, and Convention Delegates shall be called for at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on the third Wednesday in October. Elections shall be by secret mail ballot of the eligible Branch membership, held as soon as possible after nominations in October. All Officers and Shop Stewards shall be elected to a term of **three (3)** years.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Optical Reimbursements: Any member in good standing send me a paper copy of your optical expense receipt with your name, address, and office/retired, and Branch 908 will reimburse you one \$20 payment per year. Send receipt to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Stay safe folks. Hope to see you soon.

George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

As I reported at the March 15th general meeting, The Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597) was reintroduced in the Senate by Senators (D-OH) Sherrod Brown and Susan Collins (R-ME). Earlier this year on January 9th, at the start of the 118th Congressional term, the bill was introduced in the House. Garret Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) were the pair of legislators. S.597 has 2 parts that are critical and need to be addressed, The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and The Government Pension Offset (GPO). Under The WEP and GPO are parts of The Social Security guidelines that unfairly cut or drop The Social Security benefit to millions federal beneficiaries. Civil Service Retirement System Letter Carriers are vastly impacted under these provisions. On March 13th, we had our Region 12 Training Rap Session. During The General Session, Kori Blalock Keller (NALC's Chief of Staff and Head Lobbyist) addressed the delegates and assured them that passing this significant legislation is a top priority for our members. As of March 26th, there are 36 co-sponsors on the bill (including Sens. Booker and Menendez).

I want to thank April's LCPF contributors: Retirees: **Phil Haas** (Current Sgt. Of Arms, Westville), **John Lowery Jr.** (Woodstown), **Patrick McLaughlin** (Westville), **William Morris** (Salem), **Joann Paul** (P&DC) and Active Member **Zach Trucksess** (Haddon Heights, Increase Adjustment). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me anytime.

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.)*

Branch Attorneys

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