

# 908 News

NALC Branch 908  
AFL-CIO  
PO Box 150  
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## Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers

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### Presidents Report

I would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.** In keeping everyone updated on our latest raises, our COLA now stands at **\$124.00** or **6 cents** an hour with 3 months remaining for our last of 7 COLA's. Retirees COLA stands at **0.4%** for the first month. Before you know it, we will begin negotiating for another contract early next year, as this contract expires in September of 2023. Hopefully, we will do just as well on our next negotiations. We will have new leadership on board for this next round and I am extremely confident there won't be any hiccups on the change in our officers. This union is well prepared when there is a change, so not to worry.

As I mentioned last month, the district was instructing carriers to swipe to 737 when delivering packages on their own routes, which we told them was a violation of Article 41, but they could care less. I guess word got out we were grieving this instruction, so the brain trust decided to do it another way, which again is a violation. They are now having carriers swipe their parcel delivery to an X-Route or static route to again deprive their routes of the parcel volume and the time it takes to deliver them! The funny thing I noticed was last year I looked back, and they tried the same nonsense. For the life of me I can't understand their reasoning. This time we are grieving these violations, so hopefully we can get them to stop or go back and fix this and get them to pay monetarily for the blatant violation of the contract.

Next, I want to remind those carriers who have amassed more than 520 hours of Annual Leave, they must get under that number by next year. If you retire or are planning to retire next year you can get a terminal leave paycheck for up to 520 hours. Speaking of retirees, I have noticed a few of our recent retirees have not decided to stay in the union for the **\$1.00** a month dues charge. I am not sure why after being a dues paying member their entire career, they would let this great opportunity pass by. There are so many perks you get by staying a part of the NALC, makes no sense to me. Please consider staying a member when you retire and take advantage of all the NALC has to offer.

The next thing I want to make everyone aware of is the process that is in place when you get injured on the job. If by chance you are involved in an accident or get injured. Please contact your manager immediately to report it and then contact your steward or branch officer as well for guidance. We have a lot of new supervisors out there who are just not prepared to handle these situations, which can lead to delays in getting treatment and getting you paid. Remember the old saying, 'If you don't know your rights you don't have any.'

Another item I want to share with the membership deals with a new shop steward guide the NALC has updated and put on the members only site of the website. I recommend everyone, not just stewards, access this information, as it has enormous amount of information for you to use in protecting yourself on the job. If you think you may want to get involved in becoming a shop steward, take a look at the guide and see if you have what it takes to be steward. We are always looking for the next generation of contract enforcers.

Lastly, I want to give everyone a few reminders in the month of December. Penalty Overtime exclusion period is from 12/3 thru 12/30. Everything else stays the same with regard to the overtime desired list. Some managers think there is no overtime list in December, so don't be fooled by this. Please be safe out there as you begin delivering the enormous number of parcels that are expected this year. We will once again have our shrimp

and wings fest at this month's meeting and will have a winner of the **\$250.00** attendance prize. The only way to win is to be in attendance, so the odds are good this one time of year. I promise to make this meeting as short and sweet as possible, as I always try to do at this meeting. We have enough crap to deal with all year, so this one time is a great way to relax and have good food and drink and hang together before the final push to the new year. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 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, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Attendance Prize Now at \$250

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Eric Renninger**, a member out of the Williamstown Office would have been the recipient of the **\$225** attendance prize. **The prize now increases to \$250 and will be won by a member in attendance at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting!**

### Comments From the VP

I want to wish all our Branch 908 members (regular, retired, CCAs) and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year. I want to thank the following carriers and their families for sponsoring a child from the Angel Tree for under privileged children. From our **Bellmawr Office: Bob Olszewski, AJ Rybicki; Haddon Heights, Bill Kyser, Rico Jackson and Robert Rieger** (retired), **Mt. Ephraim: Joe Powell** (retired); **Westville: Steve Elias, and Ozzie Lecky; Gloucester: VP- Mike Powell, Joe Sloan** (retired); **Deptford: Tom Barnett** (retired). One retiree requested to be anonymous. Again, a big thank you to all of you!!! I have a few items to address. Please work professionally and take your lunch and breaks. This leads me to my next item, the 3996. 1. Verbally inform your supervisor when you believe you cannot complete your route in 8 hrs. **Sections 131.41 and 131.42 of M-41.** 2. Request and fill out form 3996. **Section 122.33 of M-39.** 3. Keep your cool and do not argue. Tell your supervisor that you will do your best and ask for a copy of the 3996. **The M-39 section 122.33 requires supervisors to provide you with a copy if you request it.** All you must do is your best: work professionally. 4. Do not make decisions. Carriers get paid to deliver mail. Supervisors get paid to make decisions. If you feel you cannot make your approved time, call your supervisor, and ask what he would like you to do. **Ex. Bring mail back or finish the route.** Also, remember during the Christmas period you only have to put the letter **J** for your reason on the 3996. It is Christmas time and that means plenty of parcels and forced overtime. I am sure that many are working more than the 12- and 60-hour limits. Most carriers are worn out by the time Christmas Day gets here, and management does not make it any easier with their false numbers and harassment. I would like to take this time to thank all our members, especially here at the

Camden, Shit Hole, Annex, for all your demanding work each day of the year. I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCAs to try to attend our December meeting. 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 (shrimp and wings for December meeting), 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](mailto:908vp@comcast.net)**. **Proud to be Union. We are in this together, Be Safe and God Bless**

**Mike Powell – Vice – President**

### **Turkey Drawing Winner**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**, **Joshua Spratt**, a member out of our Pennsville Office was the winner of the Annual Jack Bittner Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to Branch Trustee Chairman **Jim Comuso** for donating this year's turkey.

### **Branch Banquet – April 15, 2023**

Save the date, **Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7 – 11pm**. Make plans now to attend our annual Branch Banquet. More info to follow.

### **Proposed 2023 Branch Budget**

The proposed 2023 Branch Budget, which has been approved by the Executive Board, was presented for the review and consideration of the membership in attendance at the regular monthly meeting on **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration, and vote at the regular monthly Branch meeting on **December 21<sup>st</sup>**. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of **\$272,856.00** for **2023**.

### **Penalty Overtime Exclusion**

As referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the National Agreement between the NALC and the USPS, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins **Pay Period 26-22 - (Dec. 3, 2022) and ends Pay Period 01-23 - (Dec. 30, 2022)**.

### **Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical**

Hello brothers and sisters, and Happy Holidays to you all. Open season closing deadline for FEHB, and FEDVIP is **Monday December 12**. Any changes after this date are only available for a Qualifying Life Event. If you're planning on change the deadline is almost here. For details on the NALC HBP follow this link <https://www.nalchbp.org/>

For retirees the NALC Health Benefit Plan offers enhanced benefits for annuitants enrolled in the High Option Plan with Medicare Parts A and B as their primary coverage. If you are included in this category, then you are eligible to opt into the new NALC High Option Plan – Aetna Medicare Advantage. Along with almost identical coverage as high option you also get a supplemental dental, and vision (don't cancel your current dental and vision), and also a \$75 monthly reduction in your Medicare Part B Premium. You are still in the FEHBP if you choose to switch to the advantage plan. For more information visit <https://www.nalchbp.org/>

If you haven't put in for your 2022 Optical Expense Reimbursement yet I must have your paper copy no later than Saturday, December 31, 2022. Any request I receive after this date will go towards your 2023 reimbursement. Send a paper copy of your expense with name, address, and office/retired to me at: George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Any questions on NALC Health Benefit Plan, Mutual Benefits, or FMLA always feel free to contact me at 856-304-8665. Hope to see you all at our next meeting. Be safe, and again Happy Holidays.

- George Greenwood, HBR

### **Ozzie's Corner**

A little over a year and a half ago, NALC Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers was renamed. The new name of our local union was changed to Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers. For any of you guys and gals who are asking the million-dollar question right now, who is Bill Revak? Bill Revak was the founding father of our local union. In 1970, Bro. Revak and other union members took part in The Great Postal Strike. Bro. Revak led our local union's charge in fighting for

better working conditions, pay and benefits. Just like other members who were on strike in their local branches across the country at that time, Bro. Revak wanted Letter Carriers to have a voice at the bargaining table and a right to negotiate. Eventually, the hard work and sacrifices daily by Bro. Revak and all others on the picket line paid off when collective bargaining was established in our union. Decade after decade leading up to his passing on February 6, 2021, Bro. Revak served in the highest regard in our local branch as a mentor, teacher and union advocate. Through his actions, Bro. Revak believed in not only fighting the contractual issues that affect Letter Carriers, but he equally understood the importance in contributing to COLCPE (which is now The Letter Carrier Political Fund). I will never forget the words he said to me during a one-on-one conversation a few years ago we had about LCPF. Bro. Revak said, "it's important and it matters". Important, that is the word that stands out for me when I think of Bill Revak. The importance of how Bro. Revak and the rest of the members played during that time period is unforgettable. Because of the higher wages, improved working conditions and better benefits we have today as City Letter Carriers we owe a debt of gratitude to Bro. Revak. Bro. Revak was the first, one and only conduit in our branch. Bro. Revak's legacy he has left on this branch will never be forgotten. For more info on Bill Revak, please go to our website at [nalcbranch908.com](http://nalcbranch908.com). When you get to the home page, scroll down and click on the "In Memory of Bill Revak" icon to read his bio.

In other news and it's good news for us, all 3 of our Congressmen who represent the 33 offices in our union won their seats back in November's election. In District 1, Donald Norcross (D, 62.3%) defeated Claire Gustafson (R, 35.2%), in the Second Congressional District, Jeff Van Drew (R, 59.1%) won easily over Tim Alexander (D, 39.7%) and in a close District 3 race, Andy Kim (D, 55.9%) got past Bob Healey (R, 43.2%). Since the start of the 117th Congressional term, Norcross, Van Drew and Kim have been strong supporters in postal reform. In addition, each of these members in Congress believes once the pre-funding mandate was done away with earlier this year and signed into law, The Postal Service is on a better financial footing path.

Finally, I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors: **Jim Glielmi** (Stratford), **Rose Greene** (Gibbstown), **Brad Moore** (Pennsville), **Josh Spratt** (Pennsville), **Mike Fitzgerald** (Retiree, Woodbury) and **Rodman Jack Geisler** (Life Member, Woodbury). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 and email is [opleckyjr@gmail.com](mailto:opleckyjr@gmail.com) to reach me for any matters in our branch. I want to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

#### **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.)*

***The Officers and Shop Stewards of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to personally wish You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!***



#### **Branch Attorneys**

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