

908 News

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



Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com February 2022

Presidents Report

I would like to take this time to thank our Business Agent, **Brian Thompson** for coming out to last month's meeting and formally installing all the officers for the next term of office. Moving on to the business at hand, it appears we are having a hard time getting people back to work after being out for COVID. The district will not allow carriers to return to work, even after they have been cleared to return by their doctor. They are stating the OHNA nurse must clear them first. We don't have a problem with this position, but the nurse is not contacting our people to get them cleared. This leads to us having to file a grievance for administrative leave for our members until they get cleared by the nurse. The district is taking a position of not paying our people while they wait to get cleared! This is the most backward handling of this situation. Can anyone remember when management would break our stones to get back to work immediately regardless of being cleared by your doctor? I do, and this thinking makes no sense to me. We have carriers ready to return, and offices that are in desperate need of bodies, but since the nurse won't clear them, they have to sit home and wait for that call. If anyone is having this issue, please let me know so I can elevate it the business agent for a resolve. The next issue that has been resolved concerns management instructing carriers to swipe to 737 when delivering parcels destined for a regular carrier's route. The DRT agreed with us that this practice is not proper and has instructed management to cease and desist in this directive. If you run into this situation in the future, please let you steward know so we can address it immediately. Another situation we are seeing surface again deals with **Rural Carriers** delivering mail on our side. Just so everyone is aware, **Rural Carriers are not allowed on our side EVER!** Please don't allow them to take our work, regardless of whether you are not on the overtime list or not. If this occurring in your office, please let me know so we can stop it. Another item I brought up at our last meeting dealt with carriers who have been out of work due to COVID. We are urging everyone to go to www.ecomp.dol.gov to register and file a claim if you have been out of work due to COVID. This will protect you in the future and you may be eligible for C.O.P. if you missed time due to COVID. If you need any help with this, please feel free to contact me directly. I have directions I can email you to guide you through the process. Also, you probably been made aware the vaccine mandate has been denied by the Supreme Court in businesses over 100 employees. It appears this mandate will not be happening in the postal service, which was worrisome, in that it could have crippled all of our jobs. Hopefully, this won't become an issue in the future. Next, our latest **COLA is now at \$957.00 or \$0.46** an hour with 1 month to go. The **retiree's COLA is now at 2.1%**. Just so you know, you will receive your next raise after the release of the January COLA which comes in February. You will see your raise in your paycheck in March. Lastly, I have just been notified that coming in February, the Postal Service has updated their onboarding process for new employees. This will allow new employees access to LiteBlue prior to their effective date, by receiving their temporary password and PIN by way of an encrypted email. This will give all new employees access to many features on LiteBlue. This

was a major issue for new employees when they had trouble getting an EIN number. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President
856-906-2838

Next Meeting

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

Attendance Prize Now at \$50

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday January 19th, Robert Gaff** a member out of the Gloucester Office would have been the recipient of the **\$25** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello brothers and sisters. Time to start the new year off right. Get paid for your health. The NALC Health Benefit Plan wants to reward you for reaching your health and wellness goals! You can now earn valuable health savings to use toward eligible medical expenses. You are only eligible to receive one reward amount per person, per program or wellness activity, per calendar year. See the Wellness Incentive Programs section in our brochure for guidelines and details @ www.nalchbp.org

FOR HIGH OPTION MEMBERS;

- Your Health First Disease Management Program - \$50
- Healthy Pregnancies, Healthy Babies® Program - \$50
- Quit for Life® Tobacco Cessation Program - \$50
- Annual biometric screening - \$50
- Health Assessment - \$30
- Annual influenza vaccine - \$10
- Annual pneumococcal vaccine - \$10

FOR CONSUMER DRIVEN, and VALUE OPTION MEMBERS;

- Your Health First Disease Management Program - \$30
- Healthy Pregnancies, Healthy Babies® Program - \$30
- Tobacco Cessation Program - \$30
- Annual biometric screening - \$30
- Health Assessment - \$20
- Annual influenza vaccine - \$5
- Annual pneumococcal vaccine - \$5

For optical expense reimbursements (one \$20 per year per member/dependent) send a paper copy of your expense receipt to George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021....Any questions feel free anytime to give me a call @ 856-304-8665. Everyone Be safe...Be healthy.

- George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

It's not just the Congressmen and Congresswomen in the state of New Jersey that have our backs! Since 2006 serving the Garden State as one of our Senators, Robert Menendez has shown to be a staunch advocate of City Letter Carriers. The first time I met Senator Menendez was at our annual Congressional State

meeting in Washington, D.C. back in April 2018. The New Jersey State Association of Letter Carriers arranged with The Senator and his staff for him to stop by and say a few words about the Postal Service and our jobs in particular. First, The Senator said: "Privatizing the Post Office would damage society as a whole". Furthermore, The Senator stated: "Whether it's a birthday card from your grandmother or a very important package, the customer looks forward to getting that special piece of personal mail everyday". After leaving the meeting that day, I said to myself, "Now that is a man who totally gets it!" What impressed me the most about Senator Menendez was he was down to earth with a clear, cut agenda. The men and women who are employed by The United States Postal Service are hardworking, dedicated and valuable members in today's day and age. On October 23, 2020, I received another supportive confirmation on why Senator Menendez continues to be the City Letter Carriers friend in office. After sending an emailed letter to his office on City Letter Carrier issues (supporting 6 Day Delivery, opposing Privatization, addressing the elimination of the Pre-Funding Mandate), The Senator reached out and answered all of my questions and concerns. Number 1: The Senator believed removing Mail Sorting Machines and Blue Collection Boxes would be detrimental to The Postal Service because it would disrupt the quality of service the customer would receive (running late trips with transportation, delaying mail, etc). In addition, The Senator made it clear that millions upon millions of Americans rely on City Letter Carriers to deliver their medications, bills, paychecks, and mail-in-ballots. Number 2: The Senator is a strong supporter of allowing the Postal Service to remain an independent establishment of the Federal Government. The Senator held true to this statement because he co-sponsored S. Res. 99 (opposing Privatization). Number 3: The Senator is not a big fan of the Pre-Funding mandate, and he showed his displeasure by being a champion for the NALC on the USPS Fairness Act. Finally, December 2021, The Senator reached out to show support in expanding The Postal Service through Postal Banking. The Senator explains this important added service would include check cashing, savings accounts, ATM access and even small dollar loans. Senator Menendez replied: "It's about giving all Americans the opportunity whether you are unbanked and/or underbanked". Among his committee assignments in the Senate, Senator Menendez is the senior member on The Banking Committee and The Finance Committee. The Banking Committee oversees issues related to banking, securities and financial markets. The Finance Committee covers issues in health insurance including Medicare and Medicaid. As you process all of the information I just shared with you about Senator Menendez...it makes total sense that he "totally gets it and us as Letter Carriers" because not only is he a fighter for our core issues, but the duties and responsibilities he practices as a Federal Legislator are shown in the same regard. On behalf of all of us from Bill Revak South Jersey Letter Carriers Branch 908, thank you Senator Menendez for your continued loyalty, unionism and fighting spirit representing the hard-working City Letter Carriers in the Garden State.

In Other News, I want to thank February's LCPF contributors: newly elected Shop Stewards, **Matt Bulzak** (Marlton) and **Jim Powers** (Voorhees), increase adjustments from **Walt Grossmick** (newly elected Shop Steward, Gibbstown), **Eric Rieger** (Gibbstown) and **Carmen Zambrano** (Voorhees) and Retirees: **Al DiSipio** (Stratford) and **Jeff Breyer** (Woodbury). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me for any issues or questions in our branch.

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 Results

Pre- Arbitration Settlement

Marlton - Grievant to receive a lump sum payment of \$3750.00 for management not allowing grievant to return to work after his doctor cleared him to return.

Step B Decisions

Stratford - Management violated Article 11 of the National Agreement, specifically #13 of the Local Memorandum of

Understanding when they did not post a volunteer list to work the Veterans Day Holiday. As a remedy, **2 carriers shall be compensated 8 hours at the regular straight time rate** for the lost work opportunity.

Stratford - Management was in violation of the National Agreement when time associated with the delivery of parcels destined for addresses serviced by the regular route assignments was coded as **737** rather than the regular street time code of **721** on 5 different routes. **As a remedy**, management is directed to cease and desist, and additionally, data from the dates in question should not be used for any route analysis unless the parties mutually agree.

Williamstown - Management did not have just cause to issue the grievant a Letter of Warning for Failure to Meet the Attendance Requirements of Your Position. As a remedy, the **L.O.W. is rescinded and expunged.**

Hammonton - Management did not have just cause to issue the grievant a 14-Day Suspension for Improper Conduct/Failure to Follow Instructions. As a remedy, the 14-day Suspension will be reduced to a Letter of Warning to remain in grievant's file for a period of 3 months from date of issue.

Voorhees - Management violated Article 41, Section 1.C of the national Agreement by not allowing grievant to start his new position after being awarded the successful bid of a vacant route. As a remedy, the grievant will receive a one-time lump sum-payment of \$50.00. Management is reminded of their obligation to place successful bidders in their bid position within 15 days of posting the successful bidder.

Bridgeton - The Letter of Warning issued to grievant for, "Failure to maintain Regular Attendance" is reduced to an Official Discussion.

Annual Branch Banquet – April 2

The 15th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on **April 2, 2022**, from 7:00 – 11:00pm 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 2021 as well as those who have been selected to receive Branch Awards. The following members will be honored this year (if you retired in 2021 and your name is not listed below, contact VP Mike Powell):

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fred Budesá – Blackwood | John Feldman – Woodbury |
| Robert Hassan – Williamstown | Chuck Patel – Westville |
| Charles Foley – Hammonton | Andy Dealy – Woodbury |
| Kathy Williams – Woodbury | Jeffrey Breyer – Woodbury |
| Arthur Spencer – Blackwood | John Dunbar – Sewell |
| Allan Abiertas – Maple Shade | Louis Evans III – Stratford |
| Frank Gambone – Woodbury | Timothy King – Gloucester |
| Robert Rieger Jr – Mt Ephraim | John Gragilla - Voorhees |
| Michael Reed – Williamstown | Joseph Sloan – Gloucester |
| Michael Riopel – District Office | Kenneth Rieger – Marlton |
| Vance Shepherd – Woodbury | George Sexton – Stratford |
| Joseph Townsend – Gloucester | Albert DiSipio – Stratford |
| Cleveland Belin – Gibbstown | Paul Hajduk – Blackwood |
| Elizabeth Wasenda – Riverton | Larry Mullin – Pennsville |
| Dennis Schafhauser – Voorhees | Lawrence Seitz – Pennsville |
| Darryl Wilson – Marlton | |

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 a check or Money order made out to NALC Branch 908 by March 20th to 136 New Jersey Rd. Brooklawn, NJ 08030.



Branch Attorneys

Uliase & Uliase

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