908 News

NALC Branch 908 AFL-CIO PO Box 375 Gloucester City, NJ 08030

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com January 2013

Presidents Report

Happy New Year everyone! I would like to commend everyone on their excellent job this Holiday season in delivering our record number of parcels. Our Amazon pilot was a complete success, as we delivered 99.9% of their packages. Great job in understanding the importance of this endeavor. What still boggles my mind is how we still had some "A-Hole" managers out there harassing our members with DOIS during this period. "REALLY?" Our carriers were trying their best to get the packages delivered fighting darkness and all the other elements, but we still saw some managers pushing DOIS down their throat! The good managers understood there was no way to project street times in this time when there were 5 times as many packages as SPLY, even though their POOMS tried to tighten the noose around their necks. I applaud those offices that had smart managers, and are embarrassed by those offices that had "clowns" running their office. We know who you are, and will continue to monitor your actions going forward. You guys and gals are pathetic. On to some good news to report for our PTF's. As of December 29^{th,} we began to see many of our PTF's converted to regular carriers in offices that had residual Q-1 vacancies. I know it has been a long time coming for many of our PTF's who had to sit idly by while vacant assignments were being held for excessed employees due to Article 12. Well, the perseverance has finally paid off and we are getting all of our PTF's converted. Thanks to the many clerks taking the buy-out and the new TE memo, it looks like we can now get back to business as usual and get promotions when we have openings. Congratulation to all PTF's who are now regulars. If you are in an office with residual vacancies and have PTF's who have not been converted please let your steward know so we can find out the reason why there has not been a conversion. The next item I would like to report on is the financial state of your branch. Thanks to the Trustees and Treasurer, and specifically head Trustee Chairman Jim Comuso, who has made sure your monies are being spent economically and properly, we our financially strong in an environment that is shaky. There had been a downward spiral in our membership over the last year or so, but that now seems to have leveled off and I expect the numbers to rise with the recent influx of TE's. I hope that with a new agreement there will be a provision to get our TE's the first crack at being hired in the career workforce when the need to hire arises. If you attend the monthly meetings, you can see where all of your money goes and how it is used to keep this Branch running. I ask everyone to attend the meetings to see how our Branch functions and what your Officers do. We will be voting on this year's budget at the start of the meeting this month, so if you would like to see where our monies go and have a question on any of our items in our budget, please attend and voice your opinion. Just remember, this is your union, and we are just holding down the fort for the future officers and members. The next issue we are waiting on, and the most important, is our new contract. As I stated at the December meeting, we are hoping to get news on a new agreement sometime this month. I hope that I will have some news at our regular meeting later this month. Lastly, as I write this month's article we have appeared to escape being included in any legislation to fix the postal service during the lame-duck session of Congress. That does not mean we can rest, but means we have time to mobilize our efforts for the fight this coming year on making sure we get our leaders to do the right thing. That being said, I would like to thank all those members who have

signed up as an **E-Activist** and have signed up as a **GIMME 5 for COLCPE** during the past year. We are starting to increase our membership totals in both these categories and I ask you to once again consider being a part of this most important part of your union duties. We are the strongest when we are all together. Regardless of your political affiliations, we all need to be in this together if we want this institution to survive going forward. Thanks all for your support.

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday, January 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 Branch Board of Officers and Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ 7:30 p.m., and the Executive Board @ 8 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 and 8 p.m. respectively.

The NALC Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccine Administration Network

The NALC Health Benefit Plan offers influenza, pneumococcal and seasonal flu vaccines to NALC Health Benefit Plan members and their eligible dependents at NO COST when the NALC Health Benefit Plan is the primary payer for medical expenses

The NALC Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccine Administration Network is comprised of more than 51,000 local NALC Preferred and NALC Care Select pharmacies (including more than 7,000 CVS Pharmacies and Longs Drugs stores) pharmacies. When administered by a pharmacist at a participating pharmacy, the following vaccines are available free of charge:

- Injectable Seasonal Flu Vaccine
- Intranasal Seasonal Flu Vaccine (FluMist®) & Intradermal Flu Vaccine
- Injectable Seasonal Flu High Dose (Fluzone® High Dose) Vaccine
- Adult Pneumococcal Vaccine
- Pediatric Pneumococcal Vaccine"

To find a pharmacy near you that participates in the NALC Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccine Administration Network, visit http://pharmacyshots.com/vaccine_network_01.pdf , or you can call CVS Caremark Customer Care at 1-800-933-NALC (6252).

Don't forget recall on Atorvastatin. For details Call your pharmacist, or contact the NALC health plan at 1-888-636-NALC(6252). All Optical claims please send to George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Have a Safe, Healthy New Year.

George Greenwood -HBO

Phone Numbers to Remember

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838 Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. First, I would like to thank Trustee Shawn McBride (with the help from Recording Secretary Mike Powell) for an outstanding job with the Branch's first Holiday Raffle. We sold 663 chances @ \$3 each, for a total of \$1988.00. The TV cost \$505.00, for a net gain of \$1483.00, which was deposited in the Branch's main checking account. The funds will be used to improve some of the following Branch functions, Branch Retiree Banquet, Branch Picnic, just to name a few. The Officers of the Branch want to thank all the members for supporting this drive. The Branch will be having a Holiday fundraiser each year around the Christmas Holiday. Any member with questions concerning the fundraiser can contact Chief Trustee James Comuso. Next, I want to remind everyone that the Branch Retirees Banquet Tickets are on sale now. The cost is\$ 20.00 per ticket, \$ 10 per ticket for retired members. The date is April 13 from 7-11 pm. In addition, will be held at Kellyann Ballroom in Gloucester City. See your Steward, Mike Powell, or Jim Comuso for tickets. The Branch Picnic at Clementon Lake Park will be held on Sunday September 8, 2013 please save the date. Branch Trustee Donna Villec did a nice job with the Branch Kids Christmas Party. This year the party will be held on December 8 at the Union Hall from 1-3 pm. The Branch has new and used clean uniforms at the Union Hall. The Branch also offers a Sick and Welfare Fund, Death Benefit Fund and we have 2 Branch Attorneys on retainer. Please take advantage of these benefits.

James Comuso, Sr. Trustee Chairman

Proposed 2013 Branch Budget

The proposed 2013 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 December 19th. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration and voted on at the regular monthly Branch meeting on January 17th. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of \$281,357 for 2013.

6th Annual Branch Banquet-April 13th, 2013

The 6th Annual Branch 908 Banquet will be held on April 13, 2013 from 7:00 – 11:00pm at Kelly Ann Ballroom Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave. Gloucester City N.J. 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 13, 2013 contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 908recordingsec@comcast.net. All Branch Members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$20pp. The cost for current Branch retires is \$10. Tickets may be picked up from Branch Recording Secretary Mike Powell at any Branch

Meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030.

Name:	(Please	print)
Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()
Total Num	ber	Attending:
Amount of remittance enclosed:		

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by March 31, 2013. Members of the Branch who have retired since our last Banquet will be honored and presented with tokens of our appreciation. If you have retired since the last Banquet or you will retire before April 13, 2013, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comcast.net.

PROUD TO BE UNION

Nominations for Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch Retiree's Banquet. There is a nomination form below or 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 28, 2013. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

Name of Steward being Nominated:
Office:
Person Making Nomination:
Please write a brief statement as to why you feel this person
should be the Branch 908 Steward of the Year for 2013,
including accomplishments, knowledge of the contract, ability
to deal with co-workers, management, communication skills,
and dedication to the NALC and 908. In other words, what
makes this person special? (Use additional pages if
necessary.) I belive
should be the 2013 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year
because:

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Marlton - Management has failed to maintain an atmosphere which assures mutual respect as required by section 115.4 of the M-39. As a remedy, management is instructed to cease and desist this style of managing.

<u>Haddon Heights (Camden Annex)</u> - Management <u>did not</u> have just cause to place the grievant in an off-duty without pay status on October 15, 2012 under the provisions of Article 16.7 of the national agreement. As a remedy, the grievant shall be compensated for the lost work that resulted from this improper action

Haddon Heights (Camden Annex) - Management had cause to take corrective action against grievant for Unsatisfactory Job Performance/Failure to Follow Instructions and Failure to Work in a Safe Manner. However, a 14 day Suspension was **not** the appropriate degree of discipline based on the grievant's prior record, the nature of the charges and fact circumstances of this case. As a remedy, the 14 day Suspension shall be reduced to a Letter of Warning.

We Had A Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday December 19th**, **John Wilson**, a retired member out of our Deptford (Woodbury)Office won the \$125 attendance prize. The prize now stands at \$25 and will increase \$25 per meeting,

up to a maximum of \$250, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch held its **First Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on December 19, 2012. The winner of the 42-Inch RCA TV, which also included a Home Theatre Pkg., was Bernadette Parncutt, a member in our Marlton Office. Congratulations Bern, ENJOY!