

908 News

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

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, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Runnemede, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

Prsrt First Class
Postage Paid
Permit # 967
Bellmawr, NJ
08031

Return Service
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



Newsletter Com: Powell, Lipski, Spence Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com January 2015

Presidents Report

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone made it through the Christmas season in one piece! I would have to say we handled more packages than we ever had to deal with in the past. I would like to congratulate you on the job you did delivering in the most professional manner, despite being harassed by many local managers. That's right, we had many offices whose managers continued to issue discipline during this most hectic time of the year. Just one year, I would like these imbeciles to get out of our way and let us do what we are paid to do, deliver the mail. With all of the hundreds of packages each route was delivering on a daily basis, you would think they would try working with us instead of trying to frustrate us in doing our job by accusing us of missing scans! Really! Do they really believe we intentionally missed scans? This wasn't every office, but it was the majority of offices who continually pushed the blame on the POOM for forcing the issues of discipline! Whoever is to blame is irrelevant. These people take the pride out of our job by their nonsensical ideas on how to get the job done. I am glad it is over, but I am sure the problems are only just beginning going forward. Next, we will begin to see offices being evaluated under the new CDRAAP process, so keep your eyes open for your office being looked at. The stewards were told if your office is on the list. More than likely you are on it. Please make sure you continue to monitor the workload status report that should be posted daily in your office. Now that we have seen how the new scanners work, it was amazing how much easier they made it scanning all those additional packages. Just a reminder to everyone, these scanners can track your daily movements so please start doing your route like you are on inspection every day. I know a lot of carriers don't want to hear this, but it is in your best interest to start doing your job by the book. I can guarantee if you do your job as if you are on inspection each day, we will see a decline in accidents and injuries. I say this because how many people were ever involved in an injury or vehicle accident when you were being inspected? None that I am aware of! Think about it! I also guarantee your route will be a lot longer than it is now, since many carriers take a lot of unnecessary short cuts to save time. Management doesn't care about saving time when you put yourself in harm's way, they will be the first to try and discipline you for being unsafe! Be safe and work in a professional manner. You will have a lot less stress by working this way, and the stress will now shift to management because you are doing your job correctly. We are still working on resolving a violence in the workplace issue in our Deptford/Woodbury installation. Hopefully, this situation will be resolved shortly and I will inform the membership how it all went down. One last item I must mention is former branch president and current financial secretary, Steve Lipski, has officially retired from working for the post office. Congratulations Steve, enjoy your retirement from carrying, you deserve it!

Gary DiGiacomo- President

We Had A Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday December 17th**, **Charles Green**, a member out of our Deptford Office won the **\$250** 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.

Next Meeting

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

Trustee Report

Brothers and sisters, it is going to be a cold winter so bundle up. Hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year. By law changes are coming, keep an eye out for them in April. Speaking of April, on the 18th the annual branch awards and social banquet for retirees is from 7-11 pm at Gloucester City's very own Kelly Ann Ballroom. It includes everything all for \$20 pp, cannot beat the deal. To all members please remember that the branch has many other benefits for you. They include the sick and welfare fund, death benefit fund and optical fund. In addition, we have a college fund, that once a year some lucky member's child or grandchild wins \$2000 towards college. Please take advantage of them. Let us not forget the free uniforms at the hall. Anyone that needs them please contact me. Moreover, anyone who wants to donate to our supply, please bring them to a meeting or contact me. 609-932-9913 and finally keep a look out for details on the annual branch picnic in September.

James Comuso, Chairman Board of Trustees

Branch 908 Holiday Raffle

The Branch held its **3rd Annual Holiday Raffle** at the Regular Membership Meeting on December 17th. The winner of the 50-Inch RCA TV, which also included a Home Theatre Pkg. and tablet, was Reggie Harris, a member in our Bridgeton Office. Congratulations Reggie, Enjoy!

Start The New Year Off Right!

Check your personnel file! Some carriers have probably never seen their file. I would recommend that everyone check their file at least once a year for mistakes and for disciplines that should have been removed. The Postal Service, in compliance with OPM, has gotten rid of the paper versions of the OPF (Official Personnel File), the files are all digital now and you can view your file from your home computer. Go to the eOPF website at <https://eopf.usps.gov/eOPF/jsp/essLogin.jsp>. Once there, you will need your EIN (Employee Identification Number), this is the number on your pay stub, and your USPS PIN number (the same one you use for Postal EASE). If you forget your PIN, call 1-877-477-3273 and follow the prompts to have a new PIN mailed to you. Once you log in you can view and print anything in your file. If you find something that should not be there, contact your Shop Steward.

Michael Powell, Recording Secretary

Health Benefits

Whether your needs are for general information or specific medical and claims questions, **the NALC Plan is here for you!** To service your call better, please have your Plan ID number and claimant information readily available when you place your call. Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Health Benefit Plan 1-703-729-4677

Customer Service 1-888-636-6252

Durable Medical Equipment 1-888-636-6252

Fraud Hot Line 1-888-636-6252

Smoking Cessation Program 1-866-784-8454

7 days a week, 24 hours a day

24-hour Nurse Line 1-877-220-6252

Mental health & substance abuse 1-877-468-1016

Recorded Information 1-888-636-6252

Solutions for Caregivers 1-877-468-1016

Sunday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 3 a.m. EST Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 a.m. EST

Weight Management Program 1-855-948-8255

Monday thru Friday EST

PPO Locator Service 1-877-220-6252

Inpatient Hospital Precertification 1-877-220-6252 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Outpatient Radiology/ Imaging Services Precertification 1-877-220-6252 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

CignaPlus SavingsSM Discount Dental Program 1-877-521-0244 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cigna LIFESOURCE Transplant Program 1-800-668-9682 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Prescription Drug Program 1-800-933-NALC

Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central time

Alere™ Health Management 1-866-270-2202

Call the NALC Consumer Driven Plan or Value Option Plan

- For more information about the NALC Health Benefit CDHP and Value Option or to locate a CDHP or Value Option Cigna HealthCare OAP network provider, please call Cigna HealthCare at 1-855-511-1893.
- Questions regarding prescription drugs? Please call CVS Caremark for the NALC Health Benefit CDHP and Value Option Plans at 1-800-933-NALC (6252) 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week.

George Greenwood, HBO

8th Annual Branch Banquet-April 18th

The **8th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 18th, 2015** 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 18th** 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 retirees 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: _____
Print

Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()

Total number attending _____

Total remittance \$ _____

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by April 10th, 2015. 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 18th, 2015, please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell @ 856-287-8768 or 908recordingsec@comcast.net.**

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.

Branch 908 Steward Of The Year Nomination Form

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 2015, 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 believe _____ should be the 2015 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

**Branch 908 Steward of the Year PO Box 375
Gloucester City NJ, 08030**

Kids Christmas Party

The kids Christmas Party was a great success this year. I would like to thank the following Victoria and Elizabeth DeSimone, Dawn and Lauren Cain, Bernadette Parncutt & daughters Bernadette and Nicole, Joe Walder, Phil Haas, Loretta and Rebecca Morris, Bill Revak, Tom Barnett, Mike Powell and my lovely wife Christine. A big thank you to everyone.

Pete DeSimone

2015 Branch Budget Approved

Those in attendance and eligible to vote at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on **December 17th** unanimously approved the Branch 2015 Budget. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of the Branch at \$322,462 for 2015.

Attention

Please remember to give any changes of address to your **Steward** so that you can continue to receive the Branch Newsletter and other important information. Alternatively, send changes to **Mike Powell, Recording Secretary P.O. Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, or 908recordingsec@comcast.net**

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Post Office: _____