

908 News

NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 150
Pennsville, NJ
08070

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Barrington, Bellmawr, Berlin, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, Gibbsboro, Gibbstown, Glassboro, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Palmyra, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton, Salem, Sewell, Somerdale, Stratford, Swedesboro, Voorhees, Wenonah, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown



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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski

Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com January 2016

Presidents Report

Happy New Year everyone. I hope everyone made it through this hectic mailing season in one piece. We saw a record number of packages this year, and I can say for the first time in a long time, I applaud this district for the way they allowed their managers to get the job done. They brought in carriers before their tour to deliver the enormous amount of parcels that came in to all the stations. It isn't that often I throw out compliments to the managers of this district, but when it is deserved I will acknowledge it, even though most times they don't acknowledge our hard work. Once again, great job carriers on the hard work you put in to get the job done.

As we head into the New Year we will be faced with many more issues going forward, such as a new contract, many new CCA's coming on board, a national presidential election and many other things. It is very important for all of you who haven't signed up as an **e-activist** to do so ASAP. It is free and is a valuable tool to help keep abreast of all that is happening in Washington concerning your job.

Another item I would like to address is you have a few new officers taking over this term. You have **April Litty** and **Michael Graff** as new trustees. You have a change of duties for previous officers as well. **Shawn McBride** takes over as Assistant Recording Secretary, **Norm Spence** as Recording Secretary and **Michael Powell** as Vice-President.

I would like to acknowledge two of your former officers who served this branch for the last 10 years. **Mike DiGiacomo** who was trustee for 10 years, thanks Mick for all you did in help running the branch. Also former Vice-President **Steve Rutkowski** decided to step down this term and I would like to thank him for all he did in representing the rights of all the members of this branch. Steve was our OWCP representative as well as an area steward and also handled all of the education for new stewards, was the Food drive Coordinator along with many other hats I called on him to wear. Steve always put the members concerns first and foremost and was always willing to do anything I asked him to do. Thanks again Steve for all your hard work and passion to do whatever it took to protect the membership.

One last item I must mention has to do with one of our carriers in the Deptford Installation. This carrier was DUO'd into Deptford a few years ago from National Park, where he was lucky to make a couple thousand dollars a year in overtime off his route, never on his route. Well, he has blown the top off this move by management by making an unheard of \$97,846.44 this year carrying mail **on his own route!** That has to be a record nationwide, as I challenge any carrier out there to show me you made more money carrying mail on your own route. For the record, he also received daily assistance on his route to get back in 10 hours, which makes this a 100K assignment! So now do you think it was a good idea to DUO this office into Deptford?

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, January 20 @ 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 Shop Steward meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Board of Officers meet @ **7:30 p.m.**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers

and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, January 13 @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Comments from the VP

Happy New Year to all our active and retired members and their families! First, I would like to thank the members of Branch 908 for having the confidence in me to serve as your Vice-President. I would also like to congratulate the officers and stewards that were elected by the membership to serve this term (2016-2017). As we begin the New Year, I ask our members to keep a few things in mind. This is an election year and there are a number of issues, both Postal-related and not, that will affect letter carriers and their families. It is very important that you get informed where the candidates running for office stand on these issues. One way to get informed is by becoming an e-activist. It does not cost anything and from time to time you will receive emails from the NALC Legislative Department with information on bills and such that affect Postal Employees, etc. For more info, please contact Letter Carrier Political Fund Chairman, **Ozzie Lecky**. I would also like to remind all our active members to serve their routes in a safe and professional manner. Do not be bullied by management and their projections to run thru your route. Take your lunch and breaks and take the time that is necessary to complete your route safely. On a lighter note, I would like to thank branch member **Mike Rofrano** and his son Zach for installing the TV downstairs in the Union Hall. Finally, if any active or retired member needs my assistance on any issue please contact me anytime at **(856)-287-8768** or 908vp@comcast.net.

Proud to be Union

Mike Powell- Vice President

New Branch Mailing Address

Due to the recent election of **Norm Spence** as the Branch Recording Secretary, it has become necessary to change the Branch's mailing address from **PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030** to **PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070**. Please use this address from now on for all Branch correspondences.

2016 Leave Year

The **2015** leave year ends on **January 8, 2016**, pay period 1-2016. The **2016** leave year will begin on **January 9, 2016**, pay period 2-2016. **Employees will lose any annual leave that exceeds the 440-hour limit if it is not used by January 8, 2016.**

Attendance Prize Winner

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday December 16th**, **Bill Dougherty**, a member out of our Williamstown 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.

2016 Branch Budget Approved

Those in attendance and eligible to vote at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch held on **December 16th** unanimously approved the Branch 2016 Budget. The budget estimates the receipt and expenditures of the Branch at \$323,345 for 2016.

Children's Christmas Party

I would like to thank the following people for helping me make the Children's Christmas party a success this year! My wife **Christine** and daughters **Elizabeth** and **Victoria**. **Mike Powell** and his significant other **Mary Ann**, **Jason Dempster**, **Joe Walder**, **Loretta** and **Rebecca Morris**, **Bill Revak**, **Tom Barnett** and **Phil Haas**. My wife and I had a lot of fun hosting the party this year and are already looking forward to making next year's party even better for the children of Branch 908!

Thanks again to everyone for all your support!

Pete DeSimone - Trustee

Health Benefits

Happy New Year. 2016 is off and running. Are you ready for the future? Act now while fresh in your mind. Mutual Benefit Association offers all members various Life Insurance, Hospital Plus, and Retirement Savings. Go to nalc.org under member benefits to find all that MBA offers you.

The NALC Health Benefit Plan has released its new formulary drug listing for 2016. Very important for those who by doctor order can only take brand name medicines. The list can be found at nalchbp.org. Under quick links.

Newly converted CCA's eligible for health benefits might want to keep the following information close by. Is the Union provided an opportunity to discuss health insurance, Pursuant to JCAM Article 17.6, when a CCA becomes a career employee? Yes, the union will be provided time to address the NALC Health Benefit Plans that are available to career employees. Should you want time to discuss plan options request it from management, and see your Steward.

For Optical reimbursement (one per year per family \$20) send a copy of your receipt with your name, address, and what office you work in, or retired from on it to: **George Greenwood, HBR, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021**. Any questions call me at 856-346-1177.

Everyone please be safe out there, and have a Healthy prosperous New Year.

George Greenwood, HBR

Ozzie's Corner

Happy 2016 908 Family, we had 2 contributors for the month of January to the LCPF, **Nick Acevedo** and **Lonna Jablonsky**. The LCPF is designed to help protect letter carrier's jobs by keeping all factors of our craft in place such as door to door and 6 day delivery. In Branch 908, every active and retired member is urged to give a dollar every pay period. My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you need to contact me and my email address is opleckyjr@gmail.com.

In Solidarity, **Ozzie Lecky, Letter Carrier Political Fund**

Branch Election Results

Trustee:

Jim Boyle – 224*

April Litty – 223*

Pete DeSimone – 213*

Mike Graff – 183*

Steve Rutkowski – 129

Mike DiGiacomo – 123

Paul Poniatowski – 93

Jim Livingston – 61

Shop Steward Gibbstown:

Loretta Morris – 9*

Edward Rieger – 6

Shop Steward Sewell:

Chris Bainbridge – 9*

Rosalyn Glasco – 6

*Denotes Winner

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, Happy New Year. As always we hope that the New Year will be better than the previous year. As a result of the Branch election, we have some new trustees. I want to welcome **April Litty** and **Mike Graff** to the board. As chairman of the board of trustees, it is my privilege to assign duties for each trustee. Taking over for **Mike DiGiacomo** will be **Pete DeSimone**, he will be in charge of the sick and welfare fund and accounts. Pete's number is 609-680-3129. Trustee **April Litty** will be in charge of the Children's Christmas party and handle the branch photography. April's number is 856-885-1451. Trustee **Jim Boyle** will be in charge of the Branch Scholarship fund and Branch supplies. Jim's number is 856-952-6107. Finally, Trustee **Mike Graff** will be in charge of the Death Benefit fund and keeping a current list of all Branch assets. Mike's number is 856-979-7713. I want to say congrats to

former trustee **Shawn McBride**, who has been elected to Branch Assistant Recording Secretary. Shawn, along with **Mike DiGiacomo** will be missed on the board. The kids Christmas party was a great success thanks to Trustee **Pete DeSimone** and his helpers, they did another great job and everyone had a good time. Moving on to the Branch Social and Retiree Dinner, which is on **April 16, 2016**, held at Colleen's Catering in Gloucester City, NJ. Tickets are \$20.00 pp including an open bar, an all night buffet, and music from our very own **Jake Evison** from Deptford as the dj. It's a great time, please make time to attend. Finally, to all new hires, the Branch has free new and used uniforms at the union hall. Please contact me if interested, 609-932-9913.

James Comuso Sr, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Annual Branch Banquet - April 16

The **9th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 16, 2016** from **7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Colleens Catering located at Highland Blvd. & Sylvan Ave., Gloucester City NJ**. 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 16** contact Branch Vice President, **Mike Powell** at 908vp@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 Vice President **Mike Powell** at any Branch Meeting, or by mailing the form below with checks made out to NALC Branch 908, to Branch Banquet 136 New Jersey Road Brooklawn, NJ 08030.

Name: _____ Print
Check One: Honoree () Retiree () Other ()
Total number attending _____
Total remittance \$ _____

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, 2016. The winner will be selected by the Awards Committee and kept confidential until the presentation at the Banquet.

Grievance Log

Step B Decisions

Williamstown- Management **did not** have just cause to issue grievant a 7-Day suspension for Unsatisfactory Job Performance/Failure To Follow Instructions Failure to work in a safe manner when he reported an industrial accident while delivering his route. As a remedy, the 7-Day Suspension shall be reduced to a discussion.

Hammonton- Management violated the provisions of the M-39 Section 271g when they did perform a special inspection as was warranted. As a remedy, management will perform a special inspection on CR 6 within 30 days of this decision and pay the grievant **\$100.00** as compensation for the delay in addressing this issue.

Dates To Remember

February 22 – 23 – Region 12 Rap Session

April 16 – Branch Banquet

April 20 – 22 - New Jersey State Congressional Conference

August 15 – 19 – National Convention

