

# 908 News

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

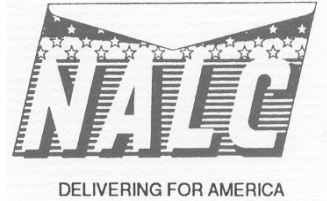
Atco, Barrington, Bellmawr, Berlin, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, Egg Harbor City, Gibbsboro, Gibbstown, Glassboro, Glendora, Gloucester, Haddon Hts., Hammonton, Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Maple Shade, Marlton, Mt. Ephraim, National Park, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pitman, Riverton,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



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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell    Ph: 906-2838    Fax: 227-0516    www.nalcbranch908.com    June 2020

## Presidents Report

As we head into the summer, it appears the pandemic is starting to ease on everyone, which is a good thing, as we are all ready to get back to a somewhat normalcy in our lives and in the workplace. We probably won't be having a general membership meeting this month but will hopefully be able to get back to normal meetings come September. Please check our website to see if things change between now and June 17<sup>th</sup>. If we can't have a meeting, we will have a welcome back meeting in September with our usual June meeting foods of shrimp, wings and whatever else we can come up with.

On to the latest information about our jobs. First, it appears we will begin our arbitration hearings for a new contract in the months of September, October and November, since our May-July dates had to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expect to get a decision sometime in the new year. Next, last month I stated there was a decision on the consolidated casing initiative that is still running terribly in our Marlton office, and I have some very interesting news to disclose to everyone. When they published the results in the April postal record on all the offices in the country who were involved in this disastrous initiative, it appeared our Marlton office was considered one of the better performing offices based on projected time as compared to actual time. Now you have to understand the postal service is the one who supplies the data, so you know what that could possibly mean! As soon as I heard that, I knew something wasn't meeting the smell test. I knew for a fact the carriers were working much more hours than this data suggested, so there had to be a smoking gun. After doing a thorough investigation of the data from back in November and December, we were able to spot right away there was some major data integrity issues. The major falsifying issue we uncovered first was management went in and put all carriers on 737 time while delivering their own parcels during these months. We found over 700 hours of lost time that should have gone to the routes but got put in that infamous 737 code where managers have routinely put time when they were trying to hide routes real time. The funny thing in this case is management stated they always do this when carriers are delivering their own parcels! I am not sure where they learned that trick, but no carrier should ever be put on 737 when delivering parcels for their own assignment. This is a major data integrity issue, and I can see why they beat their projected time. You take away 2 hours or so a day from each route and of course you will beat your projections! The next thing we found was each route was not given their actual numbers, since the casers never swiped to the routes they cased. How can they project a time of a route without the proper data being inputted? We found all routes were never given any office time credit as their numbers always showed zero hours of actual office time. We found the auxiliary route was never counted in the equation on 108 days from September through May. There are many more time manipulations we uncovered that we are in the midst of grieving. I have notified our National leaders of these concerns, so hopefully, they will be reconsidering making Marlton a site for this disaster. I hope other offices throughout the country are looking into this as well, because I can't imagine it is just our office where they are trying to cheat us of real numbers. Anytime we allow the postal service to handle the data, we are sure they will try and screw us. I hope by September this test will be gone and Marlton can get back to being a normal functioning office. Stay tuned.

Lastly, it is nice or maybe not, to see the packages have been out of control these last few months, since the mail volume has been extremely light due to the pandemic. We could surely use this injection of revenue considering the financial situation the postal service finds itself in at this time. Next, if you haven't heard, we have a new Postmaster General by the name of Louis DeJoy. Hopefully, he will take his position with an open mind and not be swayed by politics. We can only hope. Lastly, I want to give everyone a huge thank you for staying strong and supportive during this hectic time, as I know it has been a very challenging time to be a letter carrier. I appreciate everything you do every day. Hoping everyone remains healthy this summer, and please stay safe so we can all get back together in September.

- Gary DiGiacomo – President  
856-906-2838

## Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will (*possibly*) be held on **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 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, June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively. **Please check the Branch website [nalcbranch908.com](http://nalcbranch908.com) to confirm if the meeting is on before traveling to the hall.**

## Comments From the VP

I want to thank all our brothers and sisters of this great branch for all your hard work during this pandemic. You are appreciated more than you know. You all are heroes on the front line because you put your personal health on the line to make sure that the mail, medicine and packages are delivered every day. Yes, working during this pandemic is causing a great deal of stress. I am out here with you on the front line and know how stressful it can be. Again, I want to thank all of you out on the front line for your service and please be safe. Hopefully by September we will be able to have a regular meeting. 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**. Proud to be Union. We are in this together, Be Safe and God Bless

Mike Powell – Vice - President

## Attendance Prize Stands at \$75

Since the **April and May** regular monthly meetings of the Branch had to be cancelled, the prize still stands at **\$75** 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. With everything being about COVID-19 presently let's change the subject to some nicer thoughts. Your children. The NALC Health Benefit Plan, and Cigna have come together to develop a checklist all about your children's health. Use this checklist to stay in the know about your child's health. Bring it with you to your child's next

appointment. Your pediatrician or family practitioner will provide you with recommendations for vaccinations, etc... and help make sure your child stays up to date. Record the details here, like current and future test dates, results, and any questions you need answered. The checklist can be found and printed out at <https://www.nalchbp.org/> under routine immunizations. Any CCA's converting to career status I strongly urge you to consider the NALC HBP for all your needs. The HBP is a nonprofit low cost, great coverage health benefits plan owned by you/union.

Still no word on the Mutual Benefits Disability Policies, or their release date. In the meantime, checkout all the life insurance, and savings plans offered through the MBA. Insurance plans offered by the MBA are designed to give NALC members, and their families the best possible protection for the lowest cost. Visit <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association> to see what's offered.

NALC Br. 908 Optical reimbursement: Branch 908 has an account set up to reimburse one \$20 per year, per member, or family dependent for incurred optical expenses. To receive reimbursement send me a paper copy of your expense with your name, address, and office/retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions on any of the above feel free to give me a call anytime at 856-304-8665. Be safe all...

- George Greenwood, HBR

### Ozzie's Corner

On May 7th I was present for a Region 12 Legislative Webinar hosted by **Marc Ashmon** (NALC Northeast LPO). Besides of course getting our members to contribute to our pac (The Letter Carrier Political Fund), the other current agenda our national union is pushing right now is the ACTION NEEDED caption on the website. When you go to NALC.ORG and click on the webpage, a red box comes up saying: ACTION NEEDED: Congress must strengthen and protect the postal service during the COVID-19 crisis (click here to find your Senators and Representative). Since day 1 of this horrific pandemic, the brothers and sisters of this great union across the country have sacrificed their life and the lives of others being on the front lines delivering the mail. The NALC is fully aware of the great and immeasurable job City Letter Carriers are doing during this difficult time; therefore, the national union is asking for a financial relief package for not only the Postal Service, but for Letter Carriers as well. Examples of possible proposed financial relief packages are a 1x high hazard payment per carrier or a separate federal employee stimulus. The process to do the ACTION exercise takes less than 2 minutes, here are the steps:

Once you click on the ACTION box, the heading "Support USPS In Next Emergency Stimulus" will appear.

Step A: Go to the rectangle box on the bottom of the right on that page and follow the instructions typing your name and zip code (1st initial of your 1st name, last name fully spelled, both in lower case letters and zip code of the town you live in).

Step B: Click on the Go! blue box, if you are successful, on the right-hand corner up top on the next page will show your profile (name and address). If your profile doesn't appear, you will see in Step A up top above the rectangle box on the right in red: Invalid User Account or Password. Next you go to Step C.

Step C: Click on blue words Register Here right under the rectangle log in box

Step D: Once you do that, Register New Account will appear up top on the screen, follow the directions and put in all your info required, at the very bottom in the Login Information box, put in your info and click the blue submit button, if successful the next page that appears is your profile at the top on the right (name and address), if not, click on the Register Here link again and put in all your info

Step E: If Step D. is successful, on the home page at the bottom on the left is a blue box saying Take Action, click on that and you'll come to a page saying Message Recipients and right underneath is a Congressman or woman and 2 Senators with an email automatically checked next to their names

Step F: Scroll down the page and you will see a box with my name and district/state. Put in your name, town or city and state

Step G: Scroll down the page afterwards and you will see 2 Senators with a topic rectangle box under their names, click on each box and you will get a list of selections. Put in Postal Service in each one and then put in a good phone number

Step H: Click the blue Go! button and your confirmation will appear on the next page: Thank you for making your voice heard! In addition, under that caption it shows the emailed letter going to the politician's email.

My phone number is (856) 220-8658 if you have trouble logging in or if you need me to do the emailed letter for you, all I need is your first and last name, address and good phone number. The bottom line is every member (active and retired) needs to do this to let those in Congress know how valuable the Post Office is and even more so how important Letter Carriers are in today's society. Finally, I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors: **Lawrence Adair** (Woodbury) and **Anastasia Windish** (Marlton). In addition, I want to thank **Pete DeSimone** (Marlton/Voorhees Shop Steward) for his special assistance with LCPF.

### **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.)*

### Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. **(If the meeting is cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions, the drawing will still take place at the hall on June 17<sup>th</sup>)** The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of \$2000.00 (\$500.00 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the Branch web site, or you can contact Trustee **Jim Boyle**. All previous winners that still receive Scholarship payments must submit any updated info to Jim by the May monthly meeting. This would include the student's current college and where he or she will be attending in the upcoming fall semester. Remember all students must be a full-time student. All payments for the upcoming fall semester will be sent to the colleges in June. If you have any questions, Trustee **Jim Boyle** can be contacted by phone at 856-952-6107.

### No Meetings For the Summer

Just a reminder that there will be no regular monthly Branch meetings or Shop Steward meetings in July or August. There will also not be a newsletter published during this period. We will return to our normal schedule in September.

### New Postmaster General Is an Expert Job-Killer

- Joe Piette, *labornotes.org*

Much of the criticism of new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has centered on his \$2 million in contributions to the Trump campaign and other Republican causes since 2016. DeJoy is in charge of fundraising for the Republican National Convention in Charlotte.

These facts are cause for worry, but postal workers should be even more alarmed at his 35 years' experience in labor analytics—the art of eliminating as many jobs as possible. His company has a terrible labor record, rife with red flags including sexual harassment, discrimination, speedup, workplace injuries, excessive use of temps, misclassifying workers as independent contractors, and inadequate sick leave during the current pandemic.

DeJoy, whose term begins June 15, is only the fifth postmaster general since 1971 not to come from within the U.S. Postal Service bureaucracy.

DeJoy's New Breed Logistics (before it merged with XPO) was a contractor to the USPS for more than 25 years, "supplying the organization with logistics support for multiple processing facilities," the USPS announcement revealed.

XPO Logistics does extensive business with the Postal Service (\$57 million in 2017), potentially putting DeJoy in the position of overseeing decisions that affect his personal financial interests. He served terms as XPO's CEO and board member before retiring in 2018; the company continues to rent warehouse space from him, and he and his wife own between \$25 million and \$50 million in XPO stock.

The funding that the postal board of governors is asking from Congress includes \$25 billion for "modernization." What might DeJoy's version of modernization look like? Take a look at the website of XPO: "Our focus is on robotics, autonomous vehicles, automated sortation systems, drones and other cutting-edge technologies that speed goods through the supply chain....

For the full article, go to: <https://labornotes.org/blogs/2020/05/new-postmaster-general-expert-job-killer>