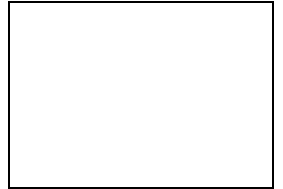


908 News

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
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BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION



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

Presidents Report

It looks like the cash just keeps flowing into everyone's paycheck, as our latest COLA has just been announced, and it stands at **\$1331.00**, which equates to **\$.64** cents an hour. This next raise will show up in your March paychecks. This is the 5th of seven COLA's that are part of this agreement. If anyone is counting, the total amount of these raises is now at **\$4035.00**, which breaks all records, with two more to go. Based on how this economy is reeling, I see no reason why these raises won't surpass the five-thousand-dollar mark by the time they end. Also, the retirees next COLA now stands at **2.9%**. Next, as our COVID cases are starting to drop immensely, the memo's we have had in place for last the last 2 years are still active and have been extended to April 8th. It is finally nice to see we are starting to get back to some kind of normalcy and hopefully we will see many of the restrictions be lifted for good. We can't be complacent however, and it's always good to be making sure we all do the right things when we can. Next, we are having our Retirees banquet again this year and it is fast approaching. It will be **April 2nd** this year, and we will be honoring a lot of new retirees. Check the newsletter for those we will be honoring. I hope you come out this year and help us celebrate those new honorees. It is a great time for a reasonable cost. Next, I know some of you are seeing managers walking routes, but this is nothing official, and is only done for management's satisfaction. It appears the POOM is forcing managers to walk with carriers who aren't making their office numbers. The problem with this style of harassment means nothing to us and can't be used for anything. Just remember, one day counts do nothing to affect your route and the numbers they use when they count you are useless. Please don't be fooled by managers saying you are not making your office numbers. If management really wants to get a true picture of a route, they need to do a full 6-day count. Just so you know, there will not be any unilateral formal inspections coming as the national parties are working on a joint process for the next rounds of inspections. Next, if you haven't heard, the Postal Service Reform Act has passed the House and heads to the Senate for confirmation. Hopefully, by the time you read this the Bill will be passed. Just so you are aware, this bill, when passed, won't go into effect until 2025. Read LCPF chairman Ozzie Lecky's report for all the details. Next, for those PTF's we have on board, I wanted to update you on an issue our National Union is addressing on your behalf. It appears the postal service was miscalculating their method of calculating overtime pay, Sunday premium pay, general wage increases, and COLA adjustments in Step AA. I won't get into all the details, but the bottom line is this; You should be getting **\$29.82** at the overtime rate, but they are paying you **\$28.67** an hour. For the Sunday premium rate, you should be getting an additional **\$4.97** an hour but they are paying you **\$4.78**. For those of you who this affects, you don't have to do anything. As our leaders are working to get this fixed. Hopefully, it will get resolved quickly and you will get back pay for the money you were screwed out of. I will keep you updated on the progress of these talks. Also, this year we have an unusual occurrence in that we have **27 pay periods instead of the usual 26**. What this means to everyone is that you will earn an additional pay period's

worth of leave. Depending on your category, it will be either 4,6, or 8 hours. CCA's are credited with 1 hour for every 20 hours they spend in a pay status during each biweekly pay period. It will end on January 13, 2023. I am letting everyone know in case you are in a use or lose category. The leave carryover limit will not go up because of this, so make sure you adjust accordingly. Lastly, we will be attending our Region 12 training seminar this month in Atlantic City and I will have the latest information to share with you at this month's meeting as our National President Fred Rolando and Executive Vice-President Brian Renfroe will address the membership. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting. Stay safe.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

Next Meeting

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

Attendance Prize Now at \$75

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, February 16th, Earl Breslin** a retired member out of the Wenonah Office would have been the recipient of the **\$50** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$75** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

Comments From the VP

Well, it seems that this dreaded Covid-19 pandemic is finally starting to take a downward trend. With that being said, it reminds me of a letter I sent to our National Officers a while back. In that letter I suggested that all offices that were part of a DUO be put back in their original locations. Think about it for a minute, the fewer people in a space the less chance of contracting the Covid -19 virus. It makes perfect sense since all the offices that were part of any DUO are still open to the public for business. The bottom line is it would not only protect us against contracting Covid-19 in the future, it would save the Postal Service a lot of money. I never did receive a response from the National Union concerning the above matter, even though I am a dues paying member in good standing. However, I will bring the question to floor at the rap session coming up on March 14th. Stay tuned for an update. In other matters I want to remind everyone that our Annual Branch Retiree and Awards Banquet will be held on April 2nd. Contact me or your Shop Steward for tickets and info. 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

Easter Ham Drawing

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday March 16th**, there will be a drawing for an Easter Ham, donated by branch retiree **Joe Foreman**, in honor of former Branch COLCPE Chairman **Norm Task**.

Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical

Hello Brothers and Sisters. Couldn't we all use a little help finding ways to make staying healthy more affordable? That's the idea behind the NALC Health Benefit Plan Healthy Rewards Member Savings Program. You can save up to 40 percent on products and services to encourage and promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles, including:

- Vision and hearing care discounts such as laser vision correction procedures and discounts on eyeglasses, prescription sunglasses and vision exams
- Low-cost fitness center memberships at more than 10,000 locations around the country
- Yoga accessories and fitness gear through online discounts.
- High Option Members find out more at nalchbp.org or by calling 800-870-3470
- CDHP and Value Option members can access the Healthy Rewards Program by calling 855-511-1893 or visit mycigna.com.

After years of red tape NALC Mutual Benefits is now offering Individual Disability Income for all active letter carriers. The policies range in benefits, and length at a very reasonable price, and cover you both on, and off the clock. To find out more visit <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association...> or call (202) 638-4318, Monday thru Friday—8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Optical reimbursements...To receive your \$20 once a year, one per member reimbursement send me a paper copy of your expense to George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.....always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665 for any questions regarding the above. Hope to see at the next meeting. Be safe all.

- **George Greenwood, HBR**

Ozzie's Corner

ALL TIME 908 HIGH!! If you haven't checked February's Postal Record (The LCPF Edition), starting at the bottom of page 58 and going over to page 59 lists all of our members (active and retired) who contributed to our national pac in 2021. If you recall last year for our year 2020 campaign, we missed our 200-member contribution goal by 1(199). In 2021, we completely shattered the 200-goal threshold with 214 contributors (**ALL TIME BRANCH HIGH PER CAPITA**). Furthermore, we hit a new branch yearly contribution percentage (**28.3%**). For fun, I crunched the total of the 214 and did a membership breakdown for every category. 151 of our 2021 contributions came from Active Members (71%), 52 of our contributions came from our Retirees (24%) and 11 came from our Life Members (50 Years or more of union membership, 5%). In 2019 and 2020 our percentages were 26.8 and 27.1 respectively. However, we jumped a full whole percent last year and it is because of one reason and one reason alone, the members in this branch. I want to personally thank every member of 908 who gave to LCPF in 2021. The commitment each one of you pledges every week, month and year donating to our union's political fund is the reason why we are winning every legislative battle that has to do with City Letter Carriers. Even though we still have more work to do, please take the time and enjoy our phenomenal branch victory!

Speaking of a victory, we won the first legislative part of HR 3076 (The Postal Service Reform Act) on February 8th. In an overwhelming vote of 342 to 92 in the House of Representatives, we are one step closer to winning three key battles in this bill. Immediately 2 days later (February 10th), The NALC broadcast on their homepage online at NALC.ORG a Senator Action Alert. Members across our country are urged to call 1-844-959-1425 and leave a message on the Senator's voicemail and/or by speaking with one of the Senator's staff representatives. What you can say is this, "Hello, my name is (blank). I am a Letter Carrier for (blank years or I am retired from The Postal Service) and I urge you to please vote yes on HR 3076". If you feel extra informative, tell them HR 3076 does 3 things: eliminate the pre-funding mandate, make 6 day delivery permanent and maximize Medicare for Postal Employees. In New Jersey, our 2 Senators are Cory Booker and Robert Menendez who you will contact. The 1st or 2nd week in

March is when the most important bill to date will be brought to the senate floor and we must take action and do our daily lobbying. 60 votes is all we need and then we can say goodbye to this 16 year Postal Service financial burden (The Mandate).

Finally, I want to thank March's LCPF contributor's: **Jennie Feyt** (Atco), **Phil Haas** (current Sgt. Of Arms, Westville), **John Lowery Jr.** (Woodstown), **Loretta Morris** (Gibbstown) and **William Morris** (Salem)..all Retirees! As a reminder I can be reached at (856) 220-8658 for any matters, questions or issues in our branch. I hope to see you all at the March 16th meeting.

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.)*

Newest Gold Card Members

Per the NALC Constitution: when a member reaches 50 years of membership in the NALC, he/she shall be given a Life Membership Card of Gold which shall entitle him/her to all privileges of membership in the NALC without the payment of dues. It is our honor to recognize **George Jackson**, retiree from the Sewell office and **James Serock**, retiree from the Woodbury office for their years of service.

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on **May 18th**. 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.

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):

Fred Budesá – Blackwood
Robert Hassan – Williamstown
Charles Foley – Hammonton
Kathy Williams – Woodbury
Arthur Spencer – Blackwood
Allan Abiertas – Maple Shade
Frank Gambone – Woodbury
Robert Rieger Jr – Mt Ephraim
Michael Reed – Williamstown
Michael Riopel – District Office
Vance Shepherd – Woodbury
Joseph Townsend – Gloucester
Cleveland Belin – Gibbstown
Elizabeth Wasenda – Riverton
Dennis Schafhauser – Voorhees

John Feldman – Woodbury
Chuck Patel – Westville
Andy Dealy – Woodbury
Jeffrey Breyer – Woodbury
John Dunbar – Sewell
Louis Evans III – Stratford
Timothy King – Gloucester
John Gragilla - Voorhees
Joseph Sloan – Gloucester
Kenneth Rieger – Marlton
George Sexton – Stratford
Albert DiSipio - Stratford
Paul Hajduk – Blackwood
Larry Mullin – Pennsville
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

**106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
(856) 310-9002**