

# 908 News

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

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Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell    Ph: 906-2838    Fax: 227-0516    www.nalcbranch908.com    May 2021

### Presidents Report

Thanks to the membership for their overwhelming support and unanimous vote at last month's meeting, our branch will now be called the **Bill Revak Branch 908** South Jersey Letter Carriers. Our national union has given the OK to rename our branch, so in the future, we will now have Bill at the top of our local's name. I would like to thank all those retirees who reached out to me while we were in the midst of considering this change, who thought it was a great idea and a title well deserved.

We had our first union meeting in over a year at our hall in Woodbury, and it felt good to be back home. It was nice to see a nice turnout and some new faces attend the meeting. Please start passing the news we are back home and try to attend the meetings going forward.

The new pay scale has started in everyone's checks as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, and it is nice to see the raises we have all been patiently waiting finally show up. It appears the back pay for everyone will show up in July, so keep an eye out for that as well. Speaking of raises, so far everyone has accumulated **\$562.00** for the next COLA, which still has 4 months more to go. Based on the way this economy is going, this will probably be one of the bigger COLA raises we will have seen in some time. This is why we can never give up the COLA in negotiations, not only for the current workforce, but our retirees depend on these raises to keep up with inflation as well.

It looks like we are finally getting some guidance from OPM on the **American Rescue Plan Act- Emergency Federal Employee Leave** for our workers. As of this writing, we were good till May 7<sup>th</sup>. I just received the paperwork from the postal service, and it goes into detail about how we can use this leave going forward. You should be getting stand up talks on what needs to be done in order to qualify for this leave. I won't go into detail here but will explain it more thoroughly at this month's meeting. Just so you know, you will be required to sign off on a few different forms to show you qualify to use this leave. You will also be signing a form that states this leave is being granted on a conditional basis, subject to the availability of monies in the EFEL fund. What this is telling me is the fund is probably getting low on monies and won't be here for long. I am giving everyone a heads up in case you are planning on taking advantage of this leave. I will update everyone as I get more detailed information going forward.

As I mentioned last month, we are now in the process of doing local negotiations for your office. Your stewards can fill you in on the progress if you are actually doing any wholesale changes. It appears our locals are in great shape from the last round of negotiations, but there are some offices who need to do a little tweaking on some minor details. If you aren't aware of what is contained in your LMOU, please ask your steward to show you, since it affects the way your office operates. Many of our newer carriers aren't aware of what an LMOU is, so it behooves you to learn what it is and how it may affect you.

We still haven't gotten all of our new CCA's on our roster yet, but we are seeing them come on board slowly. Don't panic if you aren't being charged yet, we have your forms, but the National is very slow in processing them.

One other thing that continues to bother me, and I must address, is how many of our members can work side by side with another carrier who is not a dues paying member, and continue to embrace them as a brother or sister! This union was created to protect and defend its members, and work hard for good pay and

benefits. This has been done and continues to be done, but there are those who continue to leech off the majority, and for the life of me, I can't comprehend it! Please talk to those in your office who aren't members, your stewards know who they are, and ask them to join, so we can have the strongest union possible. We have saved those non-union members jobs time and time again, but they still spit in our face by not joining. They may have their reasons, but in this day and age, I see no reason if you are a letter carrier, why you are not with us. Please reconsider your ideology and walk with us going forward. There is strength in numbers. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President  
856-906-2838

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, May 19<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, May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Attendance Prize Now at \$225

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, John Bobo**, a carrier out of the Marlton Office would have been the recipient of the **\$200** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$225** 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

Finally, it seems like we are finally turning the corner on Covid-19. Venues in the next few weeks are supposedly going to open to maximum capacities which hopefully will bring us all a sense of normalcy. The carriers here at the **Camden, A.K.A. Shit Hole, Annex** should once again all have an 8am or earlier start time. As I have stated in many previous articles, the morale here at the **Shit Hole** is at an all-time low. We now have the minions in charge of this **Shit Hole** giving carriers 3-hour pieces and with a straight face telling them that they have an hour or more of down time. I kid you not. The biggest problem I see is that all the forced overtime is becoming common place and that in my opinion is very dangerous. Management cannot understand why there are so many sick calls. HELLO, is there anybody in there? You have been forcing carriers to work 10 or more hours every day for over a year. In other matters, I want to remind our members that the branch scholarship will be drawn at the regular membership meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to submit a form for the drawing. The scholarship is available for the children, grandchildren, stepchildren (Living with member), and adopted children of active or retired members. You can print the form and get more info from the branch website. The tv and plaque I am donating in honor of **Joe Walder** should be in place for the June meeting. Lastly, I want to thank all our brothers and sisters who have risked their health to deliver for the American people during this pandemic. As I have said before **YOU ALL ARE HEROES!!!** I will continue to say this

till this pandemic is over. 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**

### **Health Benefits, MBA, FMLA, Optical**

Hello folks. Hope you're all well. I just received the new brochures, and applications for all the Mutual Benefit Retirement savings for carriers, family members, and CCA's. CCA's this is a great way to have some retirement funds put away until you are converted to career status, then simply transfer the funds into your federal Thrift Savings account. Save now for your future. Grab some brochures, and applications at the next monthly meeting. You'll be glad you did.

As we begin to slowly open things up during this pandemic some things are still difficult to maneuver. One thing that is not is your health care. Doctor visits using NALCHBP Telehealth are easy, and they are a covered benefit under your NALC Health Benefit Plan. Sign up today so you can visit with a doctor in minutes the next time you're ill. Go to NALCTELEHEALTH.ORG or download the free mobile app to sign up.

Any member of The Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers in good standing is entitled to one per year per member/or dependent \$20 reimbursement for optical expenses. To receive yours mail me a paper copy of your optical receipt with your name, office/retired to: George Greenwood 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 080212. Any questions always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Be safe all.

**George Greenwood, HBR**

### **Ozzie's Corner**

On April 2nd, I spoke with Mary Cruz (Con. Donald Norcross's District Director). I wanted to do a follow up call with her to see: A. Did she get the important letter and packet information I dropped off at the Cherry Hill office on March 1<sup>st</sup> (explained in last month's newsletter article) and B. When will Con. Norcross co-sponsor the 4 HR (House Resolution) bills. Mrs. Cruz stated she did receive Branch 908's paperwork and added that Con. Norcross will co-sponsor (sign on and support) all 4 bills by the end of April. On April 27th, I checked the House Resolution tracker on Congress.gov. As expected, Con. Norcross co-sponsored HR 47 (Opposing Postal Privatization) and HR 114 (Six-Day Delivery) on April 21st and co-sponsored HR 119 (Service Standards) on April 26th. HR 109 (Door Delivery) is the only bill the Congressman has yet to sign and support. However, in previous congressional terms, Con. Norcross has signed and supported Door Delivery. Therefore, we expect Con. Norcross will do the same in the 117th congressional term. On April 28th, I will reach out to Mrs. Cruz for another follow up and once I get an answer on HR 109, I will report back to the branch as soon as possible.

Next, the PRO ACT (Protecting the Right to Organize), HR 842 passed in Congress and is now sitting on the Senate floor. Remember, all the bill needs is 60 votes to make it official!

In other news, 3 nominees for the USPS Board of Governors recently were nominated. Anton Hajjar, Amber McReynolds and Ron Stroman were the nominees. Since June 2020, this has been a problematic process trying to fill the remaining vacancies on the board. The board currently has 6 Governors that make up 9 for the full board. The Board of Governors directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service, directs and controls its expenditures, reviews its practices, conducts long-range planning, approves officer compensation, sets policies on postal matters, and lastly and the most important, they select the Postmaster General. In March 2021, our U.S. Legislators grilled Louis DeJoy (current PMG) on everything from A to Z in the congressional "hot seat" (delaying of mail in Summer 2020, future and vision of The Postal Service, etc.) and yet if you paid close attention to his responses, he came off very defensive and arrogant. The NALC and APWU (American Postal Workers Union) fully back and support these 3 nominees. Hopefully when these 3 get voted on, the board directs Mr. DeJoy to clean out his desk, conduct and escort him out the door and approve his pink slip.

Lastly, I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors: **Felix Bocchicchio** (Mt. Ephraim), **Greg Brown** (Haddon Heights), **Jim Glielmi** (Stratford), **Charles Miller** (Marlton), **Marc Wysocki** (Marlton). Retirees: **Jesse Casares** (Woodbury), **Don Caswell** (Woodbury) and **David Hogate** (Elmer). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me for any matters in our branch. I hope to see you all at May 19th's meeting.

### **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 **May 19<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.

### **By-Law Amendment Passed Unanimously**

The following proposed amendment to the Branch By-Laws was unanimously passed by the members present and voting at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **April 21<sup>st</sup>**.

#### **Article 1: Section 1:**

##### **Currently Reads:**

This Branch shall be known as, The South Jersey Letter Carriers, Branch 908, National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO, Woodbury, New Jersey.

##### **Proposed Change:**

To amend Art. 1 Section 1: Delete and Replace  
Whereas: The founding father of Branch 908, Bill Revak, passed away Feb 6, 2021

And

Whereas: Bill was Branch President for over 30 years:

Let it be resolved that Article 1: Section 1: shall read:

**This Branch shall be known as Bill Revak Branch 908 South Jersey Letter Carriers.**

### **65 Year Member**

In April we were honored to present Branch retiree and Gold Card member **Howard Foxwell** a lapel pin honoring his **65 years** as a member of the NALC! Congratulations and Thank You for all you've done! We look forward to presenting you with your 70-year pin!



## **LETTER CARRIERS' DONOR DRIVE**

National Partners



Please donate what you can to a food bank in your community.

1. Go to [nalc.org/food](http://nalc.org/food)
2. Select your state
3. Choose a food bank in your area
4. Make a contribution

It's that easy. All collections stay in the local community.

#NALC #stampouthunger #donordrive #lettercarriers #heroesdelivering