

908 News

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

South Jersey Letter Carriers

Atco, Bellmawr, Blackwood, Bridgeton, Clayton, Deptford, 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, West Berlin, Westville, Williamstown, Woodbury, Woodstown

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Bellmawr, NJ
08031

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Newsletter Com: Powell, Mendel, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com November 2010

Presidents Report

Brothers and sisters, it is time for us to stop protecting incompetent managers and start to expose them for the money they are costing the postal service. I am tired of hearing how we are losing money with the blame being cast at the craft for all the problems the service is incurring. I will begin to name names of the managers who are costing this district thousands and thousands of dollars by their managing or lack thereof. When incompetent managers start trying to destroy people's livelihoods for no good reason, this is when they have to be identified!

I have tried to go through the proper chain of command to get these managers to do the right thing, but it has been to no avail. With this being said I will start with the first manager who is costing this district tons of money. His name is **Daryl Toombs**, and he is the O.I.C. of the Marlton Post office. It appears **Mr. Toombs** isn't satisfied losing thousands of dollars in Article 7 and Article 8 grievances, he has now began to try and hurt one of our own sisters through a ridiculous stance concerning a vehicle accident! He put the carrier out on Emergency Placement, without pay, as a result of an accident. He has since lost this case as a result of a Step B decision from the DRT. He has to pay her 7 weeks back pay all the while paying out unnecessary overtime to his employees to cover her absence. I tried to intervene early on in this process to get management to do the right thing, but had no luck from the local management or the POOM, who agreed with this improper discipline, which I believe was a total disgrace. The union tried to save the postal service the time and money but they have a different agenda when it comes to managing. They don't care how much money they waste, which is why someone above needs to look at the managers in this district. If they can't see a losing case that isn't worth pursuing, then someone needs to look at who is calling the shots.

This case doesn't end here! You would think after seeing there was no case to put this sister out for this offense they would do the right thing to correct any driving deficiencies so she could get back to her normal duties. Not **Mr. Toombs!** He has decided she now needs to be removed from the postal service! I am not sure what he thinks for, but I have tried reaching out to him and his superiors, but have been ignored, to at least get them to reconsider this ridiculous stance. I hope someone in a higher authority starts looking at these managers and puts them where they belong, which is definitely not running post offices!

If I appear angry, you're damn right I am. These people are the problem and I will start exposing them every time it is warranted until someone takes notice and deals with these managers

Gary DiGiacomo- President

Next Meeting – November 17

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, November 17, 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 at 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 meets at **7:30 p.m.** and the Executive Board meet at **8 p.m.** The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on **Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 and 8 p.m.** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now Stands At \$225

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, October 20, 2010, Louis L. Kammer**, a retiree, 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.

Grievance Log Step B Decisions

Marlton- Management **did not** have just cause to place grievant in an Emergency Placement, Off Duty Status. As a remedy the Emergency Placement Notice shall be rescinded and the grievant returned to duty immediately. The grievant will be paid for all lost wages and benefits (**approximately 7 weeks back pay plus missed overtime opportunities**) for this improper action by the Marlton management.

Marlton- Management was in violation of Article 28.3 when they issued grievant a Letter of Demand for \$1660.60 for damage to a Postal vehicle. As a remedy the Letter of demand shall be rescinded.

Trustee Report

Brothers and Sisters, At this month's meeting we will be chancing off a **turkey** for Thanksgiving. For the benefit of our Branch members, the Branch has two attorneys on retainer, **Hal Crass whose offices are located in Woodbury and handles all legal issues (856-845-7900)**, and **Tom and Carol Uliase who handle OWCP and Dept of Labor issues their office is located in Haddon Heights (856-310-9002).** The Branch attorneys provide an one hour free initial consultation.

Any member interested in reviewing the Branch bills and receipts is welcome to come to the Branch Trustee meeting held at the Union Hall at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. For anyone interested, there are men and women uniforms at the hall. Also any shop steward who needs the use of the branch copier or branch computer, please contact me at 609-932-9913, I will meet you and give you access to the office. This will save us all expenses on union work. **Fred Simpkins is in charge of the sick and welfare fund he can be reached at 609-226-8889. For supplies or mutual benefits contact Shawn McBride at 856-649-9317.**

James Comuso, Sr., Chairman of Trustees

NALC HEALTH BENEFITS

Don't forget **OPEN SEASON** is **November 8, through December 13** for Health Benefits. Also check out **Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program** eligible members may enroll, at www.BENEFEDS.COM or call 1-877-888-3337. Retirees can call 1-800-332-9798

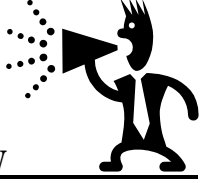
HBR Fred Mendel

Branch President and Vice President Cell Phone Numbers

President- Gary DiGiacomo - 856-906-2838

Vice- President- Steve Rutkowski- 856-906-2026

Veterans Day - November 11 Thank A Vet



ATTENTION

Branch 908's first annual "Volunteers for Veterans Program" will be kicking off this month. This program is designed to supplement the everyday needs of our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. It came to my attention that volunteer donations and supplies to our overseas troops were at all-time lows. I have compiled a list of bare necessities that troops use on an everyday basis, but are not supplied by our government. This list will be distributed to each shop steward on November 10th. He or she will be instructed to hand out this list of supplies to each member in their office. I am asking each member when shopping to purchase one of these inexpensive items. The items will be placed in a union-provided box which will be collected on December 15th at our annual Christmas meeting. Carriers from Gloucester City will pick up the boxes on December 16th and mail them from the Gloucester Post Office. The Union will provide all postage and supplies for this project. If we are successful we should be putting over 1000 pounds of comfort items in our deserving troops hands. This program is simple, easy, cheap, patriotic, and the essence of holiday giving. Please give to the people who have given to us all! Questions, problems, or comments please contact **Steve Lipski** at (856) 430-0398.

Dates to Remember 2011

January 9-January 11 - NJ Merged Annual Training Seminar
February 27-March 1 – Region 12 Annual Training Seminar
March 22-March 24 – NJ State Congressional Breakfast
April 9 – Branch Retiree Banquet
June 26-June 28 – NJ State Convention

Branch Children's Christmas Party

The Annual Branch Children's Christmas party will be held on **December 5, 2010 at the union hall from 1:00 to 3:00**. For more info contact Trustee **Donna Villec** at **856-287-6215**.

4th Annual Branch Banquet- April 9, 2011

The **4th Annual Branch 908 Banquet** will be held on **April 9, 2011 from 7:00 – 11:00pm** at **Nicolosi's Catering, 1 Hessian Ave. Woodbury, NJ**. This is a great night to eat, drink, dance and socialize with good friends and especially to honor those carriers 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 9, 2011** contact Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 908Recordingsec@comcast.net. Those being honored will receive one free ticket to the banquet. All other Branch members, family and friends are encouraged to attend at a cost of **\$20pp**. **Current Branch retirees will receive one ticket at half price (\$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: _____

(Please print)

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

Total Number Attending:

Amount of remittance enclosed:

Send to PO Box 375, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 by March 31, 2011. 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 9 please contact the Branch Recording Secretary, Mike Powell at 856-287-8768 or 908Recordingsec@comcast.net.

Nominations for 2011 Shop Steward of the Year

The Shop Steward of the Year Award will be awarded at the Branch retiree's banquet. Please use the form below and return by March 31, 2011. 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 2011, 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 2011 NALC Branch 908 Steward of the Year because _____

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

USPS Wage, Benefit Proposal: An Insult to Postal Workers

Contract negotiations took a dramatic turn today as postal management presented its economic proposal, which would establish employees' wages and benefits for the next Collective Bargaining Agreement. Notwithstanding my expectation that management would seek to restrain costs, I was surprised to receive a USPS proposal that would destroy 20 years of progress.

Postmaster General Potter has said he intends to protect current employees by "grandfathering" their wages, and imposing lower pay and benefits on future employees. Management's wage proposal reflects that objective: It would severely reduce the pay and benefits of employees hired after the signing of a new agreement, and would make postal jobs substantially less desirable.

Management's proposal is just one step in the bargaining process, which requires additional intense negotiations — but it is not a good starting point.

Upon receipt of the proposal, I informed USPS negotiators that it is an insult to all postal employees who have dedicated their working lives to maintaining the best postal system in the world. There is zero possibility that the union will agree to wage cuts. We hope that as bargaining proceeds, management will join us and engage in serious dialogue about the terms and conditions of a new contract. We have come too far to consider revisiting the past.

William Burrus, President APWU

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

