### **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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Newsletter Com: Powell, Comuso, Lipski Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com November 2011

### **Presidents Report**

Hopefully everyone has gotten their petitions from their Shop Stewards to get signatures to help save Six Day Delivery. All Stewards were asked to give each member one sheet and have them gather 10 signatures to ensure our Branch has done our part to get 10 times as many signatures as our Branch membership. We should be sending in 5000 signatures based on our number of active members. Hopefully, everyone has done their part, because our job depends on this endeavor to keep Six **Day Delivery**. We will be sending our National Leaders in Washington our petitions by November 14<sup>th</sup> so they can present them to the Super Committee by November 23<sup>rd</sup> when they submit their recommendations to Congress, which we hope will help make them continue to maintain six-day mail delivery. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation in this most important matter. By now every Carrier should have received their resource guide in the mail. It has come to my attention that some members may not have received one. If you have not received one, please let me know so that I get one for you. Also, please don't use it as a coaster, open it up and read it! There is a lot of valuable information for you to use against management. The National spared no expense to educate its members, so the least you can do is take a look to see what your rights are and how you can protect yourself from those pain in the ass managers. We know who you are and if you keep up your crap we will expose you once again! Another thing that has surfaced in our District is the appearance of the Headquarters Film Company. That is the name I have given them since they are here filming Carriers in selected Offices. The first Office to be "hit" was my office in Blackwood. They also went into Voorhees. The reason they are there we are not sure of, but my belief is it has to do with our work methods in the Office and the time associated with all of our Office functions. I am sure they will be using this data in our upcoming Contract Negotiations to try and squeeze us some more, but time will tell what this whole fiasco is really about. The amazing thing to me is how much money this is costing the Postal Service. You have 6 to 7 retired managers who are in four different sections of the country for a 3 week stint of filming. They are being paid a nice salary along with lodging and travel expenses to perform this unnecessary task. How can Mr. Donohoe have the audacity to sit there and complain about us losing money when he allows this nonsense to go on? He has got to be the biggest hypocrite alive. The National is aware and is in the process of filing a National level grievance and we will also be filing appropriate grievances as well. One last item to mention is many of those residual vacancies are beginning to be filled. Those offices who have them should expect to have these new employees in by the time you read this newsletter. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting. Gary DiGiacomo, President

### **Attendance Prize Now Stands at \$225**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on Wednesday, October 19th, A.R. Danley, formerly of our Marlton Office would have been the recipient of the \$200 attendance prize. However, he has passed away and was removed from our rolls in pp 17 of 2009. We will draw 2 names this month. 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.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on Wednesday, November 16<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 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 at 7:30 p.m., and the Executive Board at 8 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Officers and Executive Board will be on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 and 8 p.m. respectively.

### **Grievance Log Pre-Arbitration Settlement**

<u>Voorhees-</u> TE worked in wrong unit on more than an occasional basis. As a remedy 9 carriers will receive \$1537.20 divided amongst themselves.

### **Grievance Log-Step B Decisions**

<u>Paulsboro-</u> Management violated Article 10 of the National Agreement when they denied grievant his request for annual leave as per the (LMOU). As a remedy the grievant will be provided the opportunity to take 6 hours of annual leave at his discretion

<u>Wenonah</u>- Management violated Article 10 and section 513.361 of the ELM, when they required the grievant to obtain medical documentation when he called in sick for one day. As a remedy the grievant shall be reimbursed for the \$25 co-pay necessary to obtain this documentation.

### **Grievance Log-Step A Decisions**

**Bellmawr-** Letter of Warning dated 5/9/11 for failure to follow instructions reduced to 4 months and removed from file on 9/9/11

**<u>Bellmawr-</u>** Letter of Warning dated 5/12/11 for failure to follow instructions reduced to 3 months and removed from file on 8/12/11

**Bellmawr-** Letter of Warning dated 8/2/11 for failure to follow instructions will be removed from file in 4 months on 12/2/11 **Bellmawr-** Letter of Warning dated 8/3/11 for failure to follow instructions, unsatisfactory work performance, and failure to be regular in attendance will be removed from file in 4 months on 12/3/11

<u>Glassboro-</u> Management violated Article 8 of the National Agreement when they did not keep the overtime equitable for the  $2^{nd}$  quarter. As a remedy the grievant will be paid 14 hours of overtime as a settlement.

<u>Sewell-</u> Management violated Article 7 when they had a rural carrier deliver city carrier assignment. As a remedy 6 carriers will be paid 4 hours each.

<u>Westville-</u> Management did not have just cause to issue grievant a 14-day suspension. As a remedy the suspension will be rescinded and removed from grievant's file.

<u>Westville-</u>7-Day suspension will be reduced to a Letter of Warning which shall be removed from grievant's file on March 1, 2012.

<u>Westville-</u> Letter of Warning dated 8-16-11 issued to grievant will be reduced to an official discussion.

Westville- Management violated Article 8 of the National Agreement when they required a non-OTDL carrier to work overtime when an OTDL carrier was available. As a remedy, the OTDL carrier will be paid 1.5 hours at the penalty time rate.

### **Merger Notification**

This is Official Notification that Branch 6487 out of Gibbsboro, N.J. has requested to merge with our Branch (908). Their Membership has voted to merge with our Branch and this notice serves to Officially notify the Membership that a merger vote will take place at the Regular Membership meeting on November 16, 2011. If anyone has any questions or concerns about this merger they are to bring their concerns to the General Membership Meeting.

### Nominated Without Opposition & Declared Elected

The following Branch Officers and Shop Stewards were nominated without opposition and declared Elected to their respective positions for the 2012 - 2013 year term of Office:

### **Branch Officers**

President Gary DiGiacomo
Vice President Steve Rutkowski
Recording Secretary Mike Powell
Treasurer Tom Barnett
Financial Secretary
Trustee Chairman Jim Comuso

### **Shop Stewards**

George Greenwood Atco Bellmawr Mike Powell Blackwood Joe Rynkiewicz Bridgeton **Don Connelly** Glassboro Jake Harlet Gloucester Steve Lipski Frank Ingemi Hammonton Mantua Bill Gore Marlton **Pete DeSimone** National Park Jim Comuso Paulsboro **Loretta Morris Penns Grove** Norm Spence Steve Rutkowski Pitman Jim Livingston Riverton Anthony Montenero Sewell Stratford Fred Simpkins Swedesboro Chris Biernacki Voorhees **Mike Porter** Westville Phil Haas **Jeff Ferry** Williamstown

Woodbury Shawn McBride and

Joe Walder

## Secret Mail Ballot Election Will Be Held For the Following Positions

**Assistant Recording Secretary** 

Norm Spence

Ed Friel

**Health Benefits Officer** 

Bill Gore George Greenwood

Vince Castagna

**Housing Chairman** 

Dawn Cain Joe Walder

Sgt. At Arms

Phil Haas Jim Livingston

Trustees (4 to be elected)

Mike DiGiacomo Jim Boyle Donna Villec Frank Ingemi

Shawn McBride

Magnolia Shop Steward

Al Disipio Michael Dorisio

## Write In Choice For Shop Steward For The Following Offices

Clayton Gibbstown
Haddon Heights Maple Shade
Pennsville Salem
Wenonah Woodstown

#### Remember our Vets- Veterans Day November 11

### **Convention Delegates (16 to be compensated)**

Tom Barnett Jim Comuso Steve Rutkowski Jim Boyle **April Litty** Donna Villec James Hiltwine Norm Spence Mike Powell Joe Walder Gary DiGiacomo Tom Walsh Steve Lipski **Phil Haas** Frank Ingemi **Bill Gore** 

Jim Livingston George Greenwood Norm Task Shawn McBride

Vince Castagna

### **Mailing and Return Of Branch Election Ballots**

Branch election ballots were mailed out by the Branch Election Committee on **Wednesday, November 2nd** for completion and return to the Election Committee by **Wednesday, December 14th**. The results of the election will be announced by the Election Committee at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, December 21st**. Any eligible member who has not received an election ballot, or received the wrong ballot, should contact the Branch Election Committee Chairperson, **Deb Amaranto at (856) 332-4238**.( If no answer leave message) .The Election Committee will begin counting the ballots on **Thurs, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the Union Hall. Candidates are welcome to observe.

### **Trustees Report**

This is the official notification that the Branch Trustees and I did our semi annual audit of the Branches' main checking account. We are pleased to inform the Branch that there were no problems or errors found. The NALC offers its members many benefits. One of them is the MBA or Mutual Benefit Association. Its services include, but are not limited to, IRA's both regular and Roth IRA's, all kinds of life insurance, and hospitalization that is paid directly to the member. Please contact Trustee Shawn McBride at 856-649-9317, for any questions about these services. Elections are underway, to all members please exercise your Democratic rights and vote. That is what this Country and this Union stand for, one man one vote, and your vote can always make the difference. Now some reminders, Kid's Christmas party December 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm-3pm, Retirees banquet April 14, 2012, and in September Clementon Lake Park Picnic. Please keep these dates in mind; they are a benefit of your Union Dues. Happy Thanksgiving, from my family to all of yours.

James Comuso, Chairman Trustees

### **Children's Christmas Party**

The annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **December 11<sup>th</sup>**, **from 1pm-3pm** at the Union Hall. Anyone interested in helping or has any questions can contact Trustee Donna Villec at **856-332-4238** 

### **Annual Jack Bittner Turkey Giveaway**

As is our Holiday tradition for Thanksgiving, we will chance off a turkey at the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The turkey is donated by Jim Comuso, Trustee Chairman

### Health Benefits Plan Open Season: November 14 through December 12, 2011

# Happy Thanksgiving From the Branch Officers and Stewards



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