

# 908 News

NALC Branch 908  
AFL-CIO  
PO Box 1223  
Blackwood, NJ  
08012

## 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  
Requested



BUY AMERICAN - BUY UNION

Newsletter Com: Spence, Lipski, Powell    Ph: 906-2838    Fax: 227-0516    www.nalcbranch908.com    May 2023

### Presidents Report

I would like to thank the membership for approving our by-laws we submitted at last month's meeting. We believe these additions and changes will make us a much stronger branch going forward. With that being said, I am making the following appointments for the remainder of this term, which ends this December. **Executive Vice-President** will be **Shawn McBride**, our chief steward and assistant recording secretary out of our Deptford office. Our new **Recording Secretary**, replacing retiring recording secretary **Norm Spence**, will be **April Litty**, our current Trustee out of our Deptford office. The next appointment will be our new **Assistant Treasurer**, **Jim Comuso**, who is our current Trustee Chairman, also out of our Deptford office. Replacing **Jim Comuso** as the new **Trustee Chairman**, will be **Jim Boyle**, our current Trustee, out of the Stratford office. The final appointment as of now, for the vacant Trustee position, will be **Jason Dempster**, a steward out of our Atco office. These new positions will become effective **May 1, 2023**.

Next, we have our **Food Drive** approaching on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**, and we have good news to report this year. We will be getting paper bags to distribute to our customers this year thanks to the generosity of AAA who has stepped up to help feed the nation. Please make sure everyone distributes the cards and bags when instructed, so we can have a banner year in food donations. This is a joint effort, so there shouldn't be any issues with getting the food picked up. If anyone has a manager tell them differently, please let me know ASAP, and I will report them to the district. I ask everyone to help out on the docks when carriers get off the street, so we can make this a smooth process. I know there are always some carriers who despise doing the food drive, but shame on them for thinking this way. This is a good program we started over 25 years ago, and when you hear how the food banks show their gratitude, it is all worthwhile. Please go the extra mile this day so we can make this a success.

Next, I want to update those PTF's who were at Step AA and had their pay miscalculated last April. It took a year, but the NALC has prevailed once again in fighting for our members. Those changes are now ready to be implemented beginning PP-9, which is Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Any back pay which they may be due will be tentatively paid on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Just so you can figure out how much you may be owed, here is the breakdown. The Postal Service incorrect calculation showed PTF's currently at Step AA are being underpaid \$1.25 for each overtime hour worked, \$1.67 for each penalty hour worked, and \$0.21 for each hour of Sunday Premium worked. If this affects you, there may be a nice retro adjustment coming your way.

Next, I am happy to report those grievances we filed for secondary address mail not in delivery sequence order in DPS trays has been resolved in our favor. Thanks to a recent decision out of the Moorestown arbitration case, with the same issue, our National Business Agent, **Brian Thompson**, has gotten management to apply this decision to all of our cases with this same issue. For those not familiar, management over the past years has stopped pulling out all those businesses and apartment complexes mail out of the DPS trays, and made carriers perform the casing issues out on the street. This settlement will give us back-office time, which management doesn't want to do. Hopefully, they will do the right thing and respect this

settlement, although I see us having to address this in the future. Let's face the facts; they don't want us in the office at all, so for them to start doing this like they used to will not be easy for them to swallow. They have been given 90 days from April 14, 2023, to get this fixed. Time will tell.

Lastly, I want to take this time to give a final shout out to our retiring Recording Secretary, **Norm Spence**. Norm, has been a true union man for as long as I have known him. He was the glue that held many of our issues in check by his handling a lot of membership concerns, especially when he had to constantly contact our National to get things corrected. He was one of the smartest guys I have been associated with, and will be deeply missed. He was the first to start our website some 25 years ago. He put our branch on the map, as all other branches throughout the country went to our website for information. He was always there when we needed him to do whatever we asked, and always had the membership come first. I want to wish him and his lovely wife Trudy, a long and healthy retirement as they head to Myrtle Beach South Carolina. We are also going to miss Trudy and her sugar fixes she always supplied us at our conventions and rap sessions. I can say he has left our branch in a good position going forward, and has helped our new Recording Secretary, **April Litty**, with all the tools she will need to carry on. Enjoy retirement.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

### Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 8 pm**, 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 pm**, and the Shop Stewards @ **8 pm**. The next meeting of the Executive Board and Shop Stewards will be on **Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

### Attendance Prize Now at \$125

Had he been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Zachary Savage** a member out of the **Woodbury** Office would have been the recipient of the **\$100** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$125** 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

I would like to congratulate all our retirees who were honored at our Annual Retiree and Award Banquet held at Elizabeth's Ballroom in Gloucester City on April 15. Those retirees in attendance were **Felix Bocchicchio** (Mt. Ephraim), **Anthony Cristella** (Blackwood), **Karen Moss** (Blackwood), **Thomas McCabe** (Deptford), **Wayne Sheltman** (Riverton), **Norm Spence** (Pennsville), also the following retirees were unable to attend, **Gay Lynn Brandt** (Atco), **Dan Benevento** (Sewell), **Mike Porter** (Voorhees), **John Martin** (Deptford), **Pam Goslin** (Pennsville), **Lori Simmerman** (Bridgeton). I would like to thank the following members for donating their time to help with the banquet **Phil Haas**, **Ozzie Lecky**, **April Litty**, **Shawn McBride**, **Gary** and **Nancy DiGiacomo**, **Yvonne Gonzales**, and DJ **Jake "the Snake" Evison**. Next year the banquet will

be held on **April 13**, so be sure to save the date. It is important to remember, when you do retire, you must sign form 1189 to remain a member of the NALC. Form 1189 authorizes the (OPM) Office of Personnel Management to deduct union dues from your annuity. Branch 908 dues for a retiree are \$1 a month. I want to encourage all our active members, retired members and CCAs to try to attend our monthly meetings. **Knowledge is Power!** It is not only your chance to get valuable information on things happening in the Branch but more importantly to ask questions or voice your concerns to your elected officers. You can also grab a bite to eat, have a beverage of your choice and meet and mingle with new and old friends. 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 Mike Powell – Vice – President**

### **Branch Scholarship Drawing**

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

### **Branch Picnic**

The Annual Branch picnic at Clementon Park and Splash World will be held on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Park hours are from 11am to 6 pm. The park is closed to the general public on this day and will be open only to our union and 1 or 2 other businesses. **There will be no rain date.** The buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, wings, hoagie tray, baked beans, potato salad, potato chips, pickles, frozen dessert, soda and beer.

Tickets are \$25 per person (children 36" and under are free), tickets include admission to both parks and free parking. All tickets must be bought in advance; there will be **No Tickets Sold at the Gate.**

Clementon Park requires a headcount so that they can properly staff the park. Therefore, **all tickets must be purchased by August 12, 2023 – no exception!**

Tickets can be purchased by **check or money order only, no cash,** at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch or from a Branch Officer or your Shop Steward. You can also mail a self-addressed stamped envelope with a check or money order made out to "Branch 908" to Phil Haas, 112 Park Ave., Gloucester, NJ 08030. Contact Phil Haas with any questions or for more info: 609-868-3285.

### **New Branch Mailing Address**

Due to the retirement of **Norm Spence** as the Branch Recording Secretary, it has become necessary to change the Branch's mailing address from PO Box 150, Pennsville, NJ 08070 to PO Box 1223, Blackwood, NJ 08012. Please use this address from now on for all Branch correspondences.

### **By-Law Amendments Passed Unanimously**

The proposed amendments to the Branch By-Laws that were published in last month's newsletter were read and voted upon at the regular meeting of the Branch on **April 19<sup>th</sup>**. They were all unanimously passed.

### **New Gold Cards and Lapel Pins Awarded**

Last month we were proud to present the following awards:

**Vincent Catroppa** (Blackwood) – Gold Card (50-years)

**Charles Layden** (Blackwood) - Gold Card (50-years)

**Ernest Viehweg** (Glassboro) – 55 Year Pin

**Robert Zurlo** (Somerdale) – 60 Year Pin

**Rodman "Jack" Geisler** (Woodbury) – 70 Year Plaque and Pin

**We thank these Brothers for their many years of service.**

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

Hello sisters, and brothers. Hope you're all well. Moving into springtime had me thinking how so many folks try to rush into their "Summer Beach Body". Well, I'm not so sure about beach bodies, but I am sure of this, as a member of NALCHBP you can get into great shape with a little help from the NALCHBP.

Much of that can be found at <https://www.nalchbp.org/member-mail>. In here you can find a program called "Real Appeal". Real Appeal on Rally Coach™ is a proven online weight management program. It's available to you and eligible family members at no additional cost as part of your health plan benefits. The program offers members and dependents 1. Online Convenience- Set goals, track your meals and activity, stream expert-led workouts, and access hundreds of recipes. 2. Personalized Support- Communicate 1:1 with an online coach to discuss your specific health goals and circumstances. 3. Motivational Resources- Join live sessions with a community of members to learn practical tips for meal prepping, cooking meals with fewer calories, and more. 4. Daily Healthy Habits to Reach Your Goals. Follow the link noted above to find out more about this, and many other programs offered by your Health Benefit Plan. Again that's <https://www.nalchbp.org/member-mail>.

Did you know with the life insurance through the USPS your children lose any value in their life insurance coverage at age 22? Would you like to protect your children better? Try the NALC Mutual Benefit Assoc. Plan Paid Up in 20 Years MBA Whole Life Insurance. Paid Up in 20 Years MBA Whole Life Insurance is a limited-payment life insurance policy especially suited to letter carriers who want to insure their young children. It lets you build up cash for your children's future. Whether you choose \$10,000, \$15,000, \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$100,000 worth of coverage, you pay premiums for 20 years. In the event of the insured's death, MBA20 Pay Whole Life will pay survivors the full amount of the policy. After the 20 years, you may keep the coverage at no cost, or surrender your policy for its cash value. If you choose to keep the policy in force, your cash value will continue to build up at current dividend rates. You may borrow against or surrender your plan any time. Premiums may be paid once a year, 12 times a year or biweekly under the payroll deduction agreement. More information at <https://www.nalc.org/member-benefits/mutual-benefit-association>

Optical Reimbursements. Any member in good standing send me a paper copy of your optical expense receipt with your name, address, and office/retired, and Branch 908 will reimburse you one \$20 payment per year. Send receipt to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Stay safe folks. Hope to see you soon.

**George Greenwood, HBR**

### **Ozzie's Corner**

What a night to remember!! The night I'm referring to was our 1<sup>st</sup> ever CCA/PTF Night on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a total of 40 CCAs and PTFs show up for the forum. Everyone that I had the pleasure of talking to who attended said that they enjoyed the meeting and they appreciated getting valuable information about being a City Letter Carrier. I want to thank the following Executive Board Officers for their involvement in the event: President **Gary DiGiacomo** (for the open remarks), Special Presentations: **Mike Powell, Shawn McBride** and **George Greenwood**. Also, **April Litty** and **Phil Haas** (assistance at the sign in desk). I want to thank fellow officers **Pete DeSimone, Mike Graff** and **Norm Spence**. In addition, I want to thank Shop Stewards and Active Members: **Jason Dempster, Frank Ingemi, Allen Muff, Jim Powers** and **Carmen Zambrano**. Finally, I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors: **Orlando Alicea, Alfonzo Davis Jr., Staci Dupont, Rita Germanio, Sarah Grant, LeRoy Huster, Ralph Lindsay, James O'Brien, Rakesh Patel, John Phy Jr., Tom Saia, Nick Schalalbeo Jr., Tom Sparks III** and **Micah Wyckoff**.

My phone number is **(856) 220-8658** to reach me for any matters in the branch. I hope to see you all at May 17<sup>th</sup>'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 Attorneys**

**Uliase & Uliase**

**106 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035**

**(856) 310-9002**