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| 908 NewsNALC Branch 908AFL-CIO **PO Box 1223** Blackwood, NJ 08012 | Bill Revak Branch 908South 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 |
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| **Newsletter Com: Litty, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com December 2023** | | | |

**Presidents Report**

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New year.** As of this writing, we are still waiting to hear on a new contract. It appears we may head to interest arbitration as the parties are stuck on the economic portion of the new agreement and also the non -career workforce. We are taking the position that if the postal service wants to consider keeping a non-career workforce, the pay must change dramatically. This kind of reminds me of past negotiations, when the postal service throws out there how much money they lost in the past year, to get us to relent on asking for any substantial pay increases. This rhetoric isn’t new, but just another ploy in sabotaging our way of getting a fair agreement. As you see, the postal service isn’t stopping their push in opening those new S&DC buildings, so don’t tell us there isn’t money in the budget to reward the hardest working members of this organization. Without the NALC guiding these incompetent people, this organization would have folded a long time ago. We just want our fair share, and for PMG DeJoy, to not want that, says a lot of where his mindset is. Hopefully, he will stop the stalling, and do the right thing and finish off this process.

Next, we are hitting the peak time, and parcels are way up, thanks to UPS not being able to handle the workload as they did in past years. This is good for us, and we welcome all the additional revenue.

Next, the district is trying to crack down on attendance, as we see a ridiculous number of carriers getting PDI’s and disciplined for minimal absences. Once again, management is not doing their job when it comes to addressing those carriers who are absent from work. Instead of following the guidelines of the E.L.M. they are just doing things the way the POOMS are directing them to do. We see they want everyone to come to work, but intimidating carriers by threatening to write them up or not pay them, isn’t the way to handle these situations. Follow the contract, and we won’t have such a major disagreement in handling these cases.

Next, I have been getting inundated with calls from retirees about this new silver script plan the NALC has put them in to. I won’t go into detail here, but I will happily speak to anyone who has concerns about this. Just so you know, this isn’t something that will hurt anyone, but hopefully, save retirees some money on prescription drugs.

Lastly, we are finishing up tallying the votes on our trustee and convention delegates elections and will have the results at this month’s meeting. Please come out and enjoy our shrimp and wing fest at this month’s general membership meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

**Gary DiGiacomo – President**

**Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, December 20th @ 8 pm**, at the American Legion Hall, 502 Colonial Ave. 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, December 13th** @ **7:30** and **8pm** respectively.

**Attendance Prize Now at $250**

Had she been in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 16th,** **Tamera Borgesi**, a member out of the Sewell Office would have been the recipient of the **$225** attendance prize. **The prize now increases to $250 and will be won by a member in attendance at the December 20th meeting!**

**EVP’S FYI**

A constant issue is Carriers who don’t take breaks or lunches. What I would like to point out is the money you lose when you choose to do this. Based on $36.20/hour (top step) skip 1 break lose $6.03, skip 2 breaks lose $12.06. Skip lunch lost $18.10. Skip lunch/2 breaks lost $30.16 a day. Add that up weekly $150.80 lost. Add it up monthly $603.20 lost. Annually $7,238.40 lost, 25-year career lost $180,960.00. I don’t know about you, but I can find a lot to do with that amount of money, one thing for sure is not donating to this company. For anyone who reads this please pass this information on to others. The NALC has worked hard to negotiate and fight for your rights such as this, so please be safe, take your rest breaks and meal breaks you sure have earned it. Also, for anyone who reads this and says I ask for no lunch, your lunch is automatically deducted so highly doubtful they go in and fix that. If you have any questions on this, please reach out to me. I will be more than happy to explain. Always remember their bad day is not yours, they also have a responsibility to follow the rules. **Stay Strong,** **Strength in Numbers**. **Executive Vice President Shawn McBride (856)649-9317**

**Comments from the VP**

The Holiday Season is upon us and since it is that time of year to be Joyous and Happy, I will not be addressing any of the numerous issues at the deplorable Camden Annex, aka “Shit Hole”, this month. I want to wish all our active and retired members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. I would like to take this time to thank all our members for electing me to another term as Vice -President. It has been a privilege to serve the membership not only as Vice-President, but as shop steward at the Camden, aka shithole. Next, seven years ago I got our branch involved in a program for underprivileged children called the Angel Tree. Tags are placed on the tree representing these children’s Christmas wishes. Donors pick a tag from the tree and shop for the perfect gift for the child selected. I want to thank the following members and their families for selecting a tag this year, Bobby Olszewski and AJ Rybicki (Bellmawr Office), Bill Kyser, Rico Jackson, and Zach Truckess (Haddon Heights}, Ozzie Lecky and Steve Elias (Westville), Mike Powell and retiree Joe Sloan (Gloucester) Joe Powell retiree (Mt Ephraim) and John Andrioli and Mike Johnson Camden. If any active member, Cca or retired member needs my assistance on any issue please contact me any time 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**

**Turkey Drawing Winner**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Branch on **Wednesday, November 15th, Mary Ellen McGuire**, a member out of our Marlton Office was the winner of the Annual **Jack Bittner** Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to Assistant Treasurer **Jim Comuso** for donating this year’s turkey.

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

Hello brothers and sisters. Hope you all had a great happy safe Thanksgiving. Well Open Season for Health, Dental, Vision, FSA has ended as of Mon. Dec. 11. Any changes beyond this point can only be made in the case of a (QLE) Qualifying Life Event, i.e., birth of child, marriage/divorce, career status change, etc... for a full description of QLEs go to opm.gov. A huge event for 2024 is coming this April 1st for retirees who did not choose Medicare Part B when eligible. Mark it on your calendar because this will be a 4 ½ month period when you can opt into Medicare Part B WITHOUT paying the 10%, per year penalty. I will continue to talk about this because like open season it will come and go before you know it. Feel free to give me a call anytime for questions on this in advance. Optical Account-The Bill Revak Br. 908 SJ Letter Carrier has set aside an optical account. This account entitles all members, in good standing, to a once a year $20 reimbursement for optical expenses. To receive your annual reimbursement send me a paper copy of your expenses with your name, address, and office/retired on it to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions on anything regarding HBP, MBA, FMLA, or in any way I can answer your questions please always feel free to give me a call at 856-304-8665. Be safe everyone. Hope to see you soon.

**- George Greenwood**, HBR

**Ozzie’s Corner**

Over the last year, I have fielded a handful of questions about what is "Medicare Integration" under The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. The following is a 3-part breakdown of this topic and will conclude in February's Newsletter. Last year, The Postal Service Reform Act was signed into law in April 2022. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has been working together with The Postal Service to implement a new program called The Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) program. The PSHB is a different and separate system in The Federal Employees Health Benefits program. January 1, 2025, is the date The PSHB starts and OPM will be directly overseeing it. During the 2024 open season period (11/11/24 to 12/9/24), postal employees are required to select a health insurance plan under the new PSHB plan. However, if the employee doesn't choose a PSHB plan, you will be enrolled in a plan similar automatically. In January's article, I will discuss the dates to enroll in Medicare Part B and Medicare Part B Exceptions. In other news, I want to thank this month's LCPF contributors**: Jim** **Glielmi** (Stratford), **Mike Kavchok** (Gibbstown), **Roland Kelm** (Bellmawr), **Ang Seserko** (Gloucester City), **Joe Sloan** (Gloucester City, Retiree) and **Kevin O'Brien** (Pennsville, Increase Adjustment). My phone number is (856) 220-8658 to reach me for any matters in our branch. I want to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

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.)*

**Branch Elections**

All election ballots must be returned by Sat. December 9 to be tallied by the election committee. If anyone has not received a ballot please contact the Branch Election Committee Chairperson, Joe Foreman @ 856-784-3341 ASAP. Please be sure to place your ballot in the secret envelope and then in the return envelope with your name printed and signed on the outside in order for your vote to count. Results will be announced at the December 20th meeting. The following members were nominated for convention delegate but are ineligible to be compensated. Because of an oversight by the election committee, they were left off the ballot. They can still attend the 2024 convention as a delegate, not compensated, if they wish to attend. **Stacia Cheeseman, Chad Hubler,** and **John Phy**

**Proposed 2024 Branch Budget**

The proposed 2024 Branch Budget, which has been approved by the Executive Board, was presented for the review and consideration of the membership in attendance at the regular monthly meeting on November 15th. The proposed budget will be open for review, discussion, consideration, and vote at the regular monthly Branch meeting on December 20th.

**Penalty Overtime Exclusion**

As referenced in Article 8, Sections 4 and 5 of the National Agreement between the NALC and the USPS, the December period during which penalty overtime regulations are not applicable consists of four consecutive service weeks. This year, the December period begins **12/2/23 and ends 12/29/23.**

**Hops For Hope** I would like to recognize and send a special thank you to our outside Donors for our MDA fundraiser, their generosity helped make the event a success.

**Philadelphia Phillies Morey’s Piers and beachfront water park Chick-fil-A of Gloucester Twp. Wawa James Hargreaves/Anderson General Contractors Westville Steve Beideman/Beideman’s Texaco Westville Mark Haber/ Integrity Plumbing Westville Joe Rizzari/Broadway Auto Sales Westville Anthony Serano/South Jersey Wholesale Trudy & Orlando Rivera/Rivera hot sauce Royal Farms Gourmet Gift Baskets Jim Auletto/Auletto Caterers Deptford**

**Kid’s Christmas Party Santa is coming!** There will also be food, crafts, and games. Sunday December 10, 12-3pm @ the American Legion 502 Colonial Ave, Woodbury. Any questions contact April Litty 856-885-1451

***The Officers and Shop Stewards of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to personally wish You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!***

**Branch Attorneys**

**Uliase & Uliase**

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