

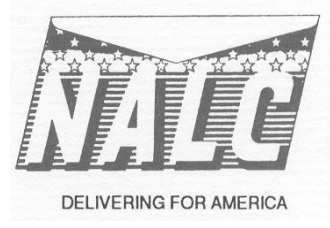
908 News
NALC Branch 908
AFL-CIO
PO Box 1223
Blackwood, NJ
08012

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
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Newsletter Com: Litty, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com March 2024

Presidents Report

I still have nothing to report on our next contract, as our National refuses to give us anything new other than the continued stall of we are waiting to select a neutral arbitrator. It has now been going on 3 months since our national president stated we would have an arbitrator in a week! The membership is entitled to know why we are being kept in the dark for such a long time. We will be attending our Region 12 training seminar this month, where our national president is expected to attend, so I would expect there will be something positive to report at this month's meeting. Next, it was nice to see many new faces and old ones attending last month's meeting, which gives me a great feeling that members are now starting to see the importance of getting involved in the union. They got to hear brother Ozzie Lecky give his leadership presentation on by-laws and the constitution of the NALC, and how our union is regulated by these rules and regulations. Next, last month I mentioned the postal service was doing a facility review on the South Jersey P&DC, but we have just been notified the Vineland facility will become the first installation in our area to be converted to one of these supercenters effective September 7, 2024. I don't know what offices will possibly be going in there, if any, but as soon as I hear I will let everyone know. Next, it appears management is starting to focus on stationary events on our craft, but once again I will reiterate to everyone management cannot use any covert actions when checking on carriers' performance. If management wants to discuss any of these issues with you, please ask them if what they ask you could possibly lead to discipline? If the answer is yes, please request to speak to your steward immediately. Management, as we all know, can be very lazy when it comes to doing street observations. Please don't buy into their nonsense when they start questioning you what you are doing on the street. You are out there working, period! Another concern I have to mention to everyone is when you are issued discipline. I have said this many times and will continue to address it as we continue to hire many new carriers. If you are given any type of discipline, please don't ignore it and throw it to the side. You need to notify your steward **ASAP**. Please sign for the discipline, so we know you were issued it. You are not admitting any kind of guilt by signing for it. This lets us know you were actually issued it. We have some managers who will just put a letter in your file without anyone's knowledge. Your signature protects you from this unscrupulous manager. Finally, branch financial secretary, Steve Lipski, has submitted an article that I believe is a must read for everyone, especially those newer carriers, which may not know the history of where we came from, and have become. Hope to see the trend continue this month with the increased attendance at our meeting.

Gary DiGiacomo – President

TILL DEATH DO US PART

We live in a world that catapults by us at breakneck speed; never stopping to revel in the past only lunging toward the future. That famous quote from George Santayana was never more apt than today. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Nothing screams the bloody history of the labor movement more than this statement and should serve as a warning to all union activists: Till Death Do Us Part.

The Chicago Teamsters strike of 1905, which lasted 105 days, was one of the most violent labor strikes. Casualties totaled 21 killed, over 400 seriously injured and 1100 Brothers & Sisters arrested. Although not exclusive to this strike, this event brought the advent of the Strikebreaking firms. James Farley and Pearl Bergoff established strikebreaking as a national business. Farley allegedly commanded an army of forty thousand men ready to do his bidding. It was widely known that Farley kept "Captains" in all large cities who could send a cavalry of strikebreakers into a strike with a few hours' notice. They were armed to the teeth with clubs and guns. Strikebreaking became a bloody and life-threatening occupation. However, the strikebreakers ironically became upset with the level of pay and living conditions during the strike. The men complained of being loaded like cattle and forced to eat spoiled meat. Men were suffering from malaria and cholera, sleeping in cots a few inches apart and fed food a starving dog wouldn't eat. Strikebreakers finally realized why strikers needed a union.

One of the most influential strikes was the Pullman Railroad strike of 1893. After George Pullman laid off hundreds of employees and cut wages by 30% for the rag tag employees who were left, Pullman workers walked out in May of 1894. On July 2nd Federal troops were dispatched to Illinois to halt the strike. With the arrival of Federal troops, the Pullman strike turned bloody. On July 7th National Guardsmen fired into a mob killing as many as 30 and wounding many others. Federal troops were recalled from Chicago on July 20 and Congress subsequently enacted a federal holiday for a Monday in September called "Labor Day".

These strikes were just the tip of the iceberg in the evolution of organized labor. To chronologize the entire maturation of the labor movement would take volumes of text to give it its just due. To give up the power of airing your grievances as a brotherhood as opposed to an individual, let's take a look at our own work stoppage 50 years ago. Employees of the US Postal Department grew frustrated after years of low pay, long hours and very few raises. Many employees resorted to signing up for welfare because of the pittance of wages they were paid. Although it was illegal for federal employees to strike, in March of 1970 that's just what they did. What started as a strike in New York City became the longest-ever walkout by federal government employees. Because of the brave men and women of the Postal Department the right to bargain collectively was born as was the United States Postal Service and a strong and vibrant National Association of Letter Carriers!

As today's labor activists it is very important not to forget or ignore the past. The lessons learned from our predecessors are valuable lessons indeed! Lessons on where we have come from and how we got our Union. We must learn from the past until the mantra "Till Death Do Us Part" is a product of Labor Law and not excepted as the norm!

Where we have come from and the distance we have travelled to get where we are today are invaluable lessons to say the least.

Steve Lipski-Financial Secretary

Comments from the VP

Make plans now to attend our Annual Branch Banquet. Saturday, April 13, 2024, 7– 11pm. The following members will be honored this year. Richard F Bergbauer, Hammonton, John R Bobo, Marlton, LeeAnn Boschetto, Pennsville, Nadine Casella, Swedesboro, Ann Freshcolon, Sewell, Edward M Herda, Stratford, Joy E Melita, Williamstown, Valerie Murphy, Williamstown, John J Prelas, Deptford, Jack J Scott Jr, Hammonton, John J Sharkey, Sewell, Andrew J Steen, Deptford, and Thomas E Zaremba, Deptford. Come out and enjoy good company, food, drink, and music!!! Tickets are \$20 for members and guests, \$10 for Branch retirees. Contact VP Mike Powell at (856)-906-2026 or 908vp@comcast.net or your shop steward for tickets. 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

Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, March 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, March 13th @ 7:30 and 8pm** respectively.

Attendance Prize Now at \$25

On **Wednesday February 21st** at the regular monthly meeting, **Didra Willis** a member out of the Egg Harbor City Office, would have been the recipient of the **\$25** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **\$50** and will increase **\$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **\$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

NALC Health Benefit Plan, Mutual Benefits, FMLA

Hello sisters and brothers. Springtime is upon us. That brings us new life, growth, and change every year so why not make some changes. Mutual Benefits (MBA) can help you with that with so many life insurance policies, savings opportunities, and disabilities plans. All MBA products offer very competitive rates and returns. See all of what the NALC MBA has available for you, and your family at www.nalc.org under member benefits. The Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for penalty free enrollment into Medicare Part “B” for eligible annuitants/employees is beginning April 1st and running until mid-September. Anyone eligible for this enrollment will receive notification by mail advising you of such. This is a onetime penalty free enrollment so if you're eligible to enroll it will save you a 10% per year late penalty on your Medicare Part “B” premium. Everything should be explained in your notice by mail, but always feel free to call me anytime should you have any questions. Don't miss your opportunity. CCA's being converted to career status you too have a special enrollment period for your health, dental, and vision benefits. From the date you were converted, you have 60 days to enroll in a FEHBP plan. You should have received a package of information in the mail that included a brochure listing the available plans and their cost. For one of the best HBP out there go to nalchbp.org. to see detailed brochures on the NALC HBP. All members in good standing of Bill Revak Br. 908 SJ Letter Carriers are entitled to one yearly reimbursement of \$20 for optical expenses. This is available for any member, or qualified dependent, and is one per household. To receive your reimbursement simply send me a paper copy of your expenses with your name, address, and office/retired to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions on any of the above always feel free to give me a call anytime at 856-304-8665. Take care and be safe all. See you at the next meeting.

George Greenwood, HBR

Branch Scholarship Drawing

We will be drawing the winner of this year's Branch Scholarship at the regular monthly meeting on May 15th. The winner of the scholarship will receive a fund of \$2,000.00 (\$500 a year for four years). Applications are available at every monthly meeting, on the Branch website, or you can contact Trustee Chairman Jim Boyle. All previous winners that receive scholarship payments must submit any updated information to Jim by the May meeting. This would include where the students will be attending in the fall semester. Remember all winners must be full-time student. If you have any questions, contact **Jim Boyle at 856-952-6107**

Ham Drawing

There will be a Ham given away to a member in attendance at our March 20th general meeting, donated by **Joe Foreman** retiree out of Marlton, in honor of **Norm Task** former Branch COLCPE chairman.

MDA Raffle

Tickets are on sale for the MDA raffle. First prize is a 55' 4k UHD Roku TV, Second place \$200 gift card, third place \$100 gift card. The Drawing will be held at the June 19th regular monthly meeting. Tickets are \$5 and are available through your shop steward or you can call/text **April Litty @ 856-885-1451** All proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

877-521-4272

The USPS has a new number for employees “seeking guidance on what actions to take in the event of an incident of alleged harassment.... Harassment may include offensive or derogatory comments, names, or slurs; engaging in negative stereotyping; circulating or displaying inappropriate graphic materials; and engaging in physical or verbal threats, intimidation, or humiliating actions.”

Dates to Remember

Region 12 RAP session 3/10-3/13
Retirement dinner 4/13
Scholarship drawing 5/15
MDA raffle drawing 6/19
National Convention 8/5-8/8
Branch picnic 9/8
Hops for Hope Oct. TBD

Non-Dues-Paying Members

Walter Lyons-Hammonton
Tyrone Johnson-Riverton
Nicole West-Stratford
Mark Robinson-Swedesboro
Luis Luna-Williamstown
Dawayne Sanders-Williamstown
Lawrence Trimmer-Woodbury
Paul Heil-Woodbury



Branch Attorneys

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