|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |
| nalclogo |  | nalcenvelop | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |
| **Newsletter Com: Litty, Lipski, Powell Ph: 906-2838 Fax: 227-0516 www.nalcbranch908.com June 2024** | | | |

**Presidents Report**

As we head into the summer months, this will be our last newsletter until September. We are still waiting on a new contract, and there has been no movement on this front, which seems very strange to me. The National has been very slow in getting us information, which leads me to believe this case is far from getting to a hearing. There are many rumors out there as to why there is a delay, but I refuse to get caught up into that mill and will continue to let this play out. Hopefully, by our final meeting this month I will have something to report, but I am not holding my breath. Next, on to a very important issue I need for everyone to look at is the help our former Branch President and current Financial Secretary, Steve Lipski is facing and needs. For those who aren’t aware, brother Lipski has been dealing with a major health issue where he has lost one leg and is trying to get himself better to be able to return home. He is in a rehab facility where he has been for the last 2 months, while trying to get himself to the point of getting released. The next problem he is facing is modifying his entire house to make it wheelchair accessible. His wife Janet has set up a GoFundMe page to help defray the costs. She is also accepting donations by cash or check, which can be sent to her directly at 218 Orlando Ave, Gloucester, NJ 08030. You can also send your donation to my address as well and I will see his family gets it. So far, his bathroom has been refurbished, and he is waiting to get a stair lift installed as well. The donations so far have really helped in getting these modifications completed and the more we can help the faster he will be able to return home. Thank you all in advance for your help. The family really appreciates your generosity. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Next, it appears the TIERAP process may be ending, since it expired on May31st, and no extension was signed off on. I know there are a lot of naysayers about this entire evaluation process, but the fact is we at least have an eye over management’s shoulder while they perform route adjustments with input on what occurs. I am hopeful there will be some sort of joint route evaluation process in the new contract since we really need to be a part of an evaluation process of routes or we will be back to the past when we filed grievances for violations that were a cause of many headaches and tons of union time. Stay tuned for the latest. Next, it appears our district is back trying to shove the DEEMS DESIRED List down our throats once again. Since we have a shortage of employees in some places, and management gets a bonus for saving hours on sick leave usage, they have resurrected this nonsense again. We have numerous decisions already that state they can’t unilaterally place employees on this made-up list but must follow the guidelines of ELM section 513.364. Just because we have holidays in the upcoming months does not mean management can place the entire installation on the “DEEM DESIRED” list. If you are put in this situation, please contact your steward to file the proper grievance to stop this improper practice. I am not sure who made this call, but I have an idea who did it, and they know darn well it’s not proper! Let’s stop them again before the summer vacations start and they think they will get away with this without impunity! Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their great participation and success in this year’s Food Drive. This year we broke totals in South Jersey with over 265, 000 pounds of food collected. Just to put that into perspective, that equals

317, 888 meals for those residents in need. The food bank thanks everyone wholeheartedly for your help. In our offices in Atlantic County, Hammonton and Egg Harbor City, they collected 13,935 pounds to help their food bank. Well, done everyone. Hope to see everyone at our Shrimp and Wing fest at this month’s meeting. **Gary DiGiacomo – President**

**Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Branch will be held on **Wednesday, June 19th @ 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, June `12th** @ **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, May 15th,** **Paul Wolfrom Jr,** a member out of the Riverton Office, would have been the recipient of the **$125** attendance prize. The prize now increases to **$150** and will increase **$25** per meeting, up to a maximum of **$250**, until a member in attendance has their name drawn.

**Executive Vice President**

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a great summer. I hope you all enjoy it and take time to relax and enjoy the summer. Family and friends are important to help you focus on the real important things in life. Management will be asking a lot from us as usual during Prime-Time. Please be aware of what they are asking of you, if you are a Full-Time carrier and not on the OTDL then notify management if you feel that you can’t do a pivot. Once you notify management if they still instruct you to do the pivot that can’t be done in 8 hours, then please notify your steward so they can file an article 8 violation grievance. For all carriers, we are starting into prime-time season now. The term pivot will be used daily I’m sure, it is your responsibility to determine your day, work safe and be mindful of the heat. You are not obligated to run around just to make their made-up times. Management cannot set your pace; know your rights, they are there to protect you not them. please notify your Shop Steward if you need any guidance with dealing with pivots. We have great Stewards they are prepared to fight this if it occurs. Please be mindful of the heat and take breaks as needed to cool down if feeling fatigued. OSHA has a Heat Index App; it gives you the Feels Like-Precautions to record on your PS Form 3996. This is a great tool to utilize in the heat, also shows why you could need to take extra breaks depending on how you feel in the heat. This is available on all your App stores in your phones and the App is free to download and use. Don’t be fearful of filling out a PS Form3996 and don’t be fearful of putting explanations such as the heat and possible need for more breaks, you will never be fired for fulfilling your reporting obligations and doing your job. These are all tips to deescalate stress and not to create more stress in the job. Dealing with the heat and long hours of the summer days is taxing enough, you do not need extra stress, so it’s best to limit the amount of stress as much as possible. I really hope we pack the house for the June meeting, it’s our last one until September. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible and will be available for any questions you may have. Always remember their bad day is not yours, they also have a responsibility to follow the rules. **Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.**

**Stay Strong,** **Strength in Numbers**. **Executive Vice President Shawn McBride (856)649-9317**

**Comments From the VP**

I want to wish all our regular and retired carriers and their families, a happy, fun filled, and safe summer. I also want to give all our shop stewards a big Thank You!! for doing an excellent job representing our members. I would also like to ask all our members, active and retired, and especially our CCAs to please take the time to get involved with the union. Remember, brothers and sisters, You are the Union! I want to extend a shout out to our members for the excellent job you all did for this year’s food drive and to Mike Graff for the excellent job he did as our food drive coordinator. I want to remind everyone that the summer months are fast approaching which means we all need to be hydrated. Also, remember to put on some sunscreen, wear sunglasses and a hat to protect your skin from the sun’s ultraviolet rays. On another note, I want to bring to the attention of all our members, that former Branch President Steve Lipski needs our help. For those older members of the branch, I do not have to explain the kind of person Steve is and what he has meant to this branch. For our younger members that do not know Steve very well, he came up through the ranks of our branch and became/is still a stalwart of our branch. He was our Branch President for many years and his crisp to the point articles in the Postal Record are infamous. I have served with Steve for many years as an officer and steward of this branch and he is not only my friend and union brother, but brothers and sisters, he is also your friend and union brother. Steve can always be counted on to help any branch 908 brother or sister when a crisis occurs. Steve recently had one of his legs amputated and needs to have his house made wheelchair accessible. If any member would like to donate to help Steve and his family make his house wheelchair accessible you can send a check made out to Janet Lipski and mail to 218 Orlando Ave. Gloucester City, NJ 08030. If any member has any questions or wants to donate in another way contact VP Mike Powell. I hope to see everyone at this month’s meeting for our usual shrimp and wings fest. 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! **(856)-906-2026 or** [**908vp@comcast.net**](mailto:908vp@comcast.net)  **Mike Powell – Vice – President**

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

Hello everyone. Hope all is well. I have a few quick things here for the summer for you all. The most important is heat injury/illness. Remember safety first is your call, and please do what is needed for your own safety. Comfort stops, fluids, shade, air conditioning, and whatever it takes to be safe, and healthy. Also download the OSHA heat. These apps are a great source of information for everything you need to stay safe. Coming very soon (next open season for health benefits) will be the all-new Postal Service Health Benefits Program. PSHB is a separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and will be administered by OPM. The PSHB Program’s coverage of postal employees and annuitants (as well as covered family members and survivors) will be effective Jan. 1, 2025. The Postal Service released these fact sheets for employees and annuitants with more information on the PSHB Program. For anyone who would like to start researching now follow this link for both active and retired carriers **https://www.nalchbp.org/news/pshb-factsheets** Everyone will have to choose, even if you are not planning to change, during the next open season so plan accordingly. Optical reimbursements always continue throughout the summer months. If you are a member in good standing of Bill Revak Br.908 and have not yet requested your annual reimbursement for optical expenses for $20 please send me a paper copy of your expense with your name, address, and office/retire to me at George Greenwood, 1083 Chews Landing Rd., Laurel Springs, NJ 08021. Any questions or concerns always feel free to give me a call at **856-304-8665.** Brothers and sisters please be safe over the summer months, and throughout the year. Hope to see you at the June monthly meeting. Take care and have a great summer. - **George Greenwood, HBR**

**Ozzie’s Corner**

On April 16th, The Senate Committee On Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted a hearing on Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The hearing covered different topics from his "Delivery For America" plan. Before each Senator started asking DeJoy questions, each one of them had on record a date they sent a letter/ notice asking for information about a specific case in their state. What was extremely disappointing was the vague and, in some cases, "ignorant attention to detail reaction" by The Postmaster General. One of the new S&D centers in Atlanta has shown a significant drop in on-time delivery since it opened. Senator Gary Peters stated the percentage in delivery is around 36%. Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff told Mr. Dejoy because of the implementation of the S&D centers in Atlanta, the people he is representing are struggling. Because of the delayed service, Sen. Ossoff said: "I have constituents who can't pay their mortgage or rent, I have constituents that haven't received their prescriptions, I have businesses who can't ship products or receive supplies". Sen. Ossoff then asked: "Did you read my letter I sent you on March 14th"? Mr. DeJoy's response was, "I haven't read your letter". Senator Jacky Rosen(Nevada) questioned the transportation aspect of The D.F.A. plan. Under the plan, a postal plant in Reno will have all the processed mail transferred to a plant in Sacramento, CA. The only road that runs in between these two cities is called The Donner Pass. The Donner Pass is known for closures every year due to high winds, treacherous snow and dangerous wildfires. Sen. Rosen asked: "Mr. DeJoy yes or no do you happen to know the days per year on average The Donner Pass is closed due to extreme weather conditions"? Dejoy responded and said: "Why would I know that"! I kid you not!! A man who claims he has a plan for us, for the organization, showed me one thing. Mr. DeJoy presented himself as unprepared. No reports, no data, no strategic plans, nothing. The meeting concluded with Chairman Peters requesting information and analysis on the plan moving forward. Whether we like it or not, we will see what happens. To watch the hearing in its entirety go to [hsgac.senate.gov/hearings](http://hsgac.senate.gov/hearings) In other news, I want to thank **Joe Townsend**(Gloucester City, Retiree) for contributing to LCPF. **(856) 220-8658** to contact me regarding any matters in our branch. I want to wish you a happy summer and be safe. **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 deductable 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.)*

**MDA Raffle**

Last chance to purchase tickets 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 will be sold up until the drawing and are available through your shop steward or you can call/text **April Litty** @ **856-885-1451** All proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**Branch Scholarship**

The winner of this year’s Branch Scholarship is **Vaseam Jackson**, child of Stratford carrier **Serrena Irby**. The alternate is **Kimberly Powers** daughter of **Jim Powers** out of the Vorhees Office. The winner of the Scholarship will receive a fund of $2000.00 ($500.00 a year for four years). 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 8th**. Park hours are from 11am to 6 pm. Food will be served between 2 pm and 4 pm.

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 16, 2024 – 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.

**No Meetings For the Summer**

Just a reminder that there will be no regular monthly Branch meetings or Shop Steward meetings in July or August. There will also not be a newsletter published during this period. We will return to our normal schedule in September.

**Branch Attorneys**

**Uliase & Uliase**

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

**(856) 310-9002**