

April 17, 2015

Fellow Members-

Let's kick this letter off right away by saying that management is completely out of control when it comes to violating our contractual rights. They told me that they were going to take measures to get the mail out and I informed them that I would be filing the appropriate grievances. We are swamped in here with grievances as clerks, supervisors, and acting supervisors continue to do Mail Handler jobs on a daily/nightly basis. Every single day I walk in to the office and have witness statements lying on my desk. Keep them coming!!! Management will have to answer for these violations and pay for them. The part that is hysterical is that some management members have had the gall to tell me that the Union is filing too many grievances! My simple response was for them to stop violating the contract and the grievances will stop. It's an easy fix, but as I have noticed-the simplest solutions seem to avoid the least complex minds. As of now, this office has already filed half the grievances that we did all of last year when we set a record for grievances. I would encourage all of the members that if you see a boss or a clerk doing our work then write a statement. Not only does it put a little money in your pocket, but it also may save jobs.

One side effect of the mismanagement of this facility is not only the amount of grievances being filed, but also the fact that membership in the Union is been on the rise. We recently had a few more people join and we are now down to 7 non-members. I like to think that the uptick in membership is a reflection on the job being done by the Union, but I also know that the management in the USPS is also the best thing for my business. More members equals more of us to fight the constant abuse of our rights, and more of us with eyes on the violations on the work floor, and more strength in the fight against the persistent degrading of our jobs. Thank you to those who have signed up thus far and I hope that in the future we can impress the importance of the Union on the current non-members.

On a related note, I'd like for all the members to realize that we are a UNION. I'm not asking you to necessarily like your fellow coworkers but let's treat our fellow Mail Handlers civilly. We are all here to do our job and get paid. I've been known to be a jerk on many occasions, but I'm trying to limit those situations, when warranted, to my dealings with management now. I ask that you remember that your fellow Mail Handlers are not the enemy. Your fellow Mail Handlers are not the ones violating your rights and disregarding the contract. Before you ever bad mouth a fellow member to management or degrade their job, just remember that management loves it when we don't get along with each other and the thing management loves even more is when we do their job for them by diming out people doing wrong or not doing enough work. Let's be a Union and show our strength against management...not each other. Every job in here is important...especially in these turbulent times. Don't let the exhaustion from working too many hours or the annoyance from bosses harassing you spill over into how you treat the craft employees. If something is going wrong, ask to see a shop steward. Management has two hours to get you one or to set up an appointment for your next tour. They try to circumvent this right all of the time...but that is an additional grievance so keep track of the time.

Thank you to those who brought in their postal pulse surveys in for a trip to the shredder.

I regret to inform you all that my attempt at trying to bring together a winter event fell short of the goal. Part of the reason is we got a bit of a late jump on it. Another part of the reason is I became tied up with too much other stuff going on here. The final reason was some bad communication between the Phantoms and us. I will take a better run at a winter event for next year.

President Gibson was here for a Labor-Management Meeting on 4/2. The topic of discussion was the supervisors and clerks performing Mail Handler jobs. John and I are putting together a package to send to the District about the understaffing issues here. After the meeting, John and I walked the floor to connect with the members on any issues.

As of right now the agreement between management and the Union pertaining to MHAs getting to leave after 8 hours on the day before their drop day is on hold until the mandatory OT ends. We will continue trying to find ways to alleviate the exhaustion caused by these excessive and mandated hours.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean