

April 24, 2021

Fellow Members-

Twenty-four jobs were posted yesterday and will be up for bid until closing on May 2nd. Twenty-two (22) of these jobs are newly created positions as a result of the nationally negotiated agreement to increase staffing. I encourage all unassigned regulars to bid because if jobs go "no-bid" then there is a chance that you can be forced into that job. If there's a job, tour, or days off that you prefer, then bid it; don't listen to what other people say that they are bidding because they may be bluffing or they may screw up, it's happened many times. Make sure that you have your bids in correctly because HR has already told me that there will not be another do-over even though it occurred last round; that was the last time it will be allowed, especially because we are now under a new HR group. If you need assistance bidding, come see a steward.

Even though people are getting vaccinated, it does not change the Postal policy mandating that masks be worn in the facility. Please continue to adhere to the policies until changes are announced.

People being vaccinated can use the EFEL in order to get the vaccine if it can't be scheduled during non-work hours. You can also request EFEL if you have reactions to the vaccine. Please see a shop steward to ask about these leave types and how to request them.

We are now lumped into the same district as Philadelphia and it has quickly become apparent that we will become their dumping site when they can't keep up with volume. This happened the last time that we were under the Philly district too. This is good news for Lehigh, though, because more workload should equate to more work hours, which theoretically could lead to more jobs. After all of these years though, we do realize that logic, reason, and common sense don't always factor into decision making in the USPS. Do your part though to make the Valley look good and to get the mail out. The "S" words that I always emphasize come into play again...Show up, Swipe, Scan, and Sign Statements. The jobs that you save could be your own and the job that you help create may be one that you really want to bid.

After reading the OIG report from the investigation into delayed mail here, I have a couple of thoughts. One, how was Chris Bruno's name not dragged through the mud

repeatedly in the report? And two, we needed a study and report to determine that management here could use some training?

Anyway, I was told by management this week that production and overall performance here has improved dramatically since our current plant manager's arrival. Let's keep that up and hope that we stay off of everybody higher up's radar for a while. Let's also hope that during this executive shake-up in the next month that we don't wind up with some disgruntled former district manager as our new plant manager. The floor and docks are starting to look a little over-run with mail, but hopefully we can work through and keep doing what we do. Thank you all for the work that you put in every day and for showing up. I might as well say it if management won't.

As you may have noticed, PIT operators wearing vests has become an option. It was a pretty ridiculous concept from the beginning, but I'm sure somebody was awarded a green belt or some other accolade for it. They have moved on and so have we.

Plans for the picnic on August 28th continue to be made and I have even started looking into ideas for our winter event. Hopefully, the pandemic will begin to fade into our rearview mirrors and we can get back to some semblance of normalcy, whatever that may be. I'm hesitant to schedule a branch meeting yet, but I'm hoping that by November we can get one scheduled.

The next few months should prove interesting as the hierarchy of the PO is restructured and redistricted. I'm sure that there will be changes as the organization implements new measures to supposedly promote better efficiency and better productivity. Stay in touch while there are no meetings by reading the bulletin boards, checking out the NPMHU and Local 308 websites, and joining the Lehigh Valley Branch Facebook page. I'm trying to go on the FB page more often now in an attempt to keep things updated.

Transportation supervisor Rob Young tried telling me this week that he is still the best Mail Handler in the building, but the fact is that he never was. He is currently the best dues payer in finance number 41-4585 though and he also has the classiest candy dish in transportation.

Finally, I'd like to thank Shandra Fallen for her service as a shop steward. Shandra has decided to step away from the position, but during her tenure as a steward she represented the membership well and many people benefited from grievances penned by her. Luis Anaya will now be the chief shop steward on Tour 1 and he will be getting assistance from James DeVore and the soon-to-be trained Josh Snyder.

Stay safe and stay well-

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean