

Fellow Members-

My first order of business is to thank all of you who participated in the Miller-Keystone Blood Drive that we hosted here on August 16th. We will be hosting another one of these in the future and hopefully we will get an even bigger turnout. Thank you again for your participation!

Next up, the Picnic is Saturday, September 9th from 1-7PM. Remember to call Barb and let her know how many people you are bringing. You can also RSVP directly to me and I will contact Barb, if necessary. Local President John Gibson will be in attendance and I also believe Vice President Chris Lee will be attending. We are looking to make this year even bigger and better than last year and we have already lined up some new activities. This year there will be face painting, a caricature artist, and maybe even a special appearance by our National President Paul Hogrogian, plus you may even get to see John and I attempt to play beach volleyball again. Remember, it's free to all current and retired members...guests are \$15 each and children under 6 are free. Food, beverages, prizes, caricatures, face painting, and games are all included in the 2nd annual event. Food will be served from 2-6. Bring a guest and/or your family and stop on by. See the posters for more details.

The "accelerated bid process" is drawing to a close. Please make sure to have your bid packets turned in to a steward by Tuesday night, August 29th. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

I met with management today about the Labor Day holiday scheduling. It looks like Monday will be the only day where people are forced in. As always, if you submit a request to work after the list is posted, please be sure that the Union receives a copy. Once again this holiday we are taking on Harrisburg's mail so that they can do work on machines; that is the reason that people will be getting forced in.

Recently management has been cutting back on the overtime somewhat, but in some of the instances it has led to clerks and/or supervisors performing our work. As should always be the case, if you see a clerk or a supervisor doing any Mail Handler work; write a witness statement. Tour 3 Chief Steward Joy Carlino has developed a witness form for you to fill in the details, so it is even easier to write a good witness statement for our grievance file. Help us to protect our work and protect your job!!

There is a great article by our National Secretary-Treasurer Tim Dwyer in the latest Mail Handler Magazine that you should have received this week. It talks about all of the reasons that you have to be a member of the Union and all of the things that the Union fights for you at every level. We currently only have three non-members, which is a great percentage but let's try and get everyone to realize the benefits of joining our organization.

Management will be holding training for operating powered equipment. If you are interested in getting your license for a forklift, mule, walkie-rider, or power jacks please fill out a buck slip and give a copy to the Union and management. I will be sure that you get put on the list for class.

Get those bids in and sign up for the Picnic!!!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean