

Fellow members-

My first point of order is to remind everyone about the Union Picnic that will take place on Saturday, September 9th. The picnic is free to all members and retired members. Guests will be charged a nominal fee. Posters will be hung up shortly with more information.

I want to wish good luck to Desmond John who has moved on to pursue other callings in life. We wish him good health and a life of happiness for him and his family in all of his pursuits.

Jobs were posted today. This round of bidding is all manual. Do not bid via the phone or the internet, those bids will not count. Yellow bid cards can be obtained either in the Union office or in the supervisors' office. Remember to sign and date your bid sheet or else it will not count. Place completed bid cards in the blue box on the wall outside of the Union offices.

If you haven't done it already, please sign up for the blood drive today. Management has been lax in giving service talks about the drive; nevertheless it is a very important event. Both Unions are fully supporting this event and we would like to see a large turnout. You should fill out a slip, which are available in the Union offices or on the table outside the safety office, and deposit the slip in the box by the safety office. You will be assigned a time during your shift on Wednesday to go and donate. This will be an on-the-clock donation, but it cannot occur on early or late overtime. Miller-Keystone will be here on all three shifts, so everyone can give. Please donate and help save lives.

Everyone should start being more aware of their attendance. Management will be looking to crack down on unscheduled absences. The hardest thing for the Union to fight is attendance discipline. There really isn't a lot of gray area when it comes to this. You are either at work or you aren't. We can and will fight for you, but at least give us some ammunition with which to win that fight.

Finally, starting on August 19th, we will be having what will be referred to as an "accelerated bid process". All Mail Handlers will receive a packet with every Mail Handler job listed in it. Each Mail Handler will number the jobs in the order that they prefer them. If that job is vacant or becomes vacant during this process, then the

senior Mail Handler will be awarded the job. This is NOT a reorg, rebid, or expedited bid. Nobody can take your job or bump you out of it. Nobody is losing their job or having it abolished. In the coming two weeks, I will be coming to every tour and speaking with every Mail Handler to explain the process further and to answer any questions that anyone may have. The purpose of doing this accelerated bid is to fill all of the jobs and then see what residuals there are. Once the residuals are identified, there can be conversions and once there are conversions then we will finally get up to our full Mail Handler complement. Although this will be a mildly confusing process, there is no need for panic or hysteria because it really will benefit the craft and if you have any questions or concerns you can always email or call me.

Remember the picnic and the blood drive!!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean