

Members-

Things have seemingly quieted down here a considerable bit in the past two weeks. There are changes taking place and I can't say that I have seen any changes that negatively have impacted the Union or the Service. I will reserve judgment until there is more to go on.

We are almost at our full complement of MHAs, although we are still short 3-5 full time regular positions. New jobs have been posted, including some newly retooled jobs that now feature weekends off. It also appears that the mandatory 12 hours/day, 6 days/week beating that the MHAs were taking is going to cool off for a little. The new schedule actually features MHAs receiving 2 days off this week.

I have posted an updated seniority list on the bulletin boards and online.

Please submit any contract suggestions to one of our shop stewards or myself so that they can be submitted before the September 30th deadline. We have received a few so far. Remember this is OUR contract so let's let our voices be heard on what we think should be included. You have a chance to truly be part of the process. Knowing that President Gibson is on the contract negotiating committee should make you feel a sense of confidence that all of your suggestions will be read and considered before the negotiations begin.

When Plant Manager (A) Tony Mandik returns we will be meeting to determine the number of positions where we are short. This may or may not lead to new jobs being created or the shifting of jobs as people bid off of them, as was the case with the Tour 1 AI job that became a Tour 2 HSTS job.

I want to remind everyone to keep asking for stewards when you feel a grievance exists. Also, it is very important to remember that stewards only have 14 days from the date when they were reasonably expected to learn of an infraction to file a grievance on the violation. Please get us your statements as soon as possible.

Let's hope that a new day has truly dawned around here and that we will be able to just get back to doing our jobs like we are capable of doing them. Hopefully, with the additional staffing, too, some of the stress will be alleviated off of all of the Mail Handlers. Then we can all just safely, efficiently, and effectively just move the mail in a timely fashion in a harassment-free work environment.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean