

August 17, 2023

Fellow members-

First off is a reminder that the Picnic is set for Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. Please see the postings on the bulletin boards and RSVP in the Union office and @npmhu308.org.

The next COLA has been announced and it amounts to \$0.47 per hour for all Table 1 Mail Handlers and top step Table 2 Mail Handlers. The amount of course decreases proportionally for the remaining steps on Table 2 of the pay scales down to a \$0.28/hour increase for Step AA. The COLA takes effect in PP 19 which begins on 8/26.

The Contractual Retro-pay from our CBA being signed will also be coming in PP19/23. You should see an adjustment for the back-pay in your check on 9/15.

Speaking of payments, if you were eligible for the APBS settlement money, you will be receiving that money in this week's paycheck. If you do not receive your settlement, please let me know. So far I have heard of a few people that did not receive it. Again, thank the stewards (especially Floyd) for their tenacity and hard work for staying the course on this case that dragged on for years and resulted in free money for the majority of you. Now, at least one of you has the extra money that you need to order that new Harry Potter Lego set. Enjoy!

Rumors continue to swirl about the plans for our building. Please wait until something concrete is announced before making decisions that could affect your job. Check with your Union reps about the possible moves and fact-check anything that you hear. If your stewards don't have an answer, they will ask me. If I don't have an answer, I will ask further up the chain of command. Just because someone says it or reads it or repeats it, it doesn't make it a fact.

As I was writing this, I got called into the Plant Manager's office for a meeting. Effective 9/2, we will no longer be cancelling or processing collection letters and flats on Saturdays and some holidays. The South Dock will consolidate and cross-dock that mail to be worked in Harrisburg. Mondays through Fridays, we will be running business

as usual, with the exception that there will be less holdouts in the dispatch area and the mail will be getting jackpotted for Harrisburg. We are currently not looking at any reduction in personnel or bids. The sky is not falling.

When I started here all those years ago, I usually sat at a lunch table with Hildo Miranda, Mike Loschiavo, Ed Bezpietka, Del Grosenick, and Bob Szmitkowski. There were always a ton of stories and a lot of laughs. Those guys helped introduce me to the USPS. Ed, who is current MH Mike Bezpietka's father, passed away suddenly recently. Ed was a quiet guy who worked way too many hours. He was a conscientious worker and always pleasant. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike and the rest of the family. Rest in peace, Eddie.

People move on and time passes by, but we should never forget the moments from along the way that get us to where we are today. Please be kind and remember that we are all in this together here and nobody knows what anyone else is going through. This is a job, we are all humans...remember to treat others the way that you want to be treated, ALWAYS.

Bids close August 20<sup>th</sup>. (Manual bids close 8/18)

Finally, sign up for the Picnic in the Union office.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*

