

Fellow members,

Thank you to those who came out to the retirement breakfast last month. It was nice to catch up with some of our retirees from this year and years past. A total of 14 people were in attendance.

A reminder, the next Union Meeting is Tuesday, December 12th at 10AM. See the postings for more information and stop in the Union office to sign up so that we have a headcount.

Everyone may have heard about the Function 1 Scheduler that is being used by management to absolutely just ruin the business and the service that we provide to customers. It is upper mismanagement's tool to try and say that every building is overstaffed. So far we have been the beneficiary of the numbers-crunchers, but that luck may change and I just want everyone to be prepared and know that any attempt to downsize or displace our employees will be met with swift and strong resistance from this Union at the branch, local, and national level. Unfortunately, some of our brothers and sisters at other facilities will be impacted by the disillusioned proposals of the alternatively-employed rocket scientists and brain surgeons that feed numbers into a computer in Megan's D.C. laboratory to try and prove how negligible and unnecessary our jobs are. Hopefully, in the coming months management will realize how ill-advised and counterproductive their darling F-1 scheduler is and reverse course on their abolishments, reversions, and excessing ideas and restore timely and efficient service back to the customers. The only problem with that scenario is that it requires common sense, and that is a gift that has not been bestowed on many of the people who make decisions for the USPS.

With the holidays approaching and business going through the roof in this peak time of the season, let's put a few things into view. This is going to be an extremely busy and hectic time around the plant, especially since every Christmas seems to be management's first one. Please, stay alert and safe. Whether you are a pedestrian or a powered equipment operator; be aware of your surroundings. There will be a lot of new faces and a ton of clutter around the building; don't be the cause or victim of an accident. Also, be prepared to work long hours and that the holiday list will probably be a bit lengthy to start because Thanksgiving didn't turn out quite so well, not to mention the fact that we are already in over our head here as a result of machine breakdowns and being short-handed.

The Plant Manager would like to know what we could do to improve morale and pride in our work. My first suggestion was that the supervisory staff here needs to be more knowledgeable about the jobs and work and less confrontational with the employees. It would also help if management would not blatantly violate our rights on a daily basis. We, the craft employees, know our jobs and we need to continue to be productive and get the mail out in order to keep this building off of the radar and opened. Do not misconstrue that last sentence to mean that we should have to tolerate harassment, hostility, or the complete disregard for our contract. I simply think that we all know our jobs and we should all perform our jobs no matter how inefficient or aggravating management is. If we follow the rules, then we are always right. If you have any other suggestions, please pass them on to me.

Management's relentless attack on our craft and our contract cannot go unchallenged or unopposed and we all must do our part to make sure that they are held accountable when they violate their end of the CBA. It was an agreement entered into by both parties. Make sure to be writing witness statements when you get harassed, when you get moved out of your area in violation of seniority, when you see clerks doing our work, when you see bosses doing our work, or when you see any other violation of our National Agreement. Be active. Protect your job by filing grievances and not letting someone else do it. Protect your future by protecting your job. Protect your voice and your rights by having the Union file a grievance. Protect our plant by getting the mail out and especially by scanning even when management tells you that it's not important.

Please keep Tour 1 Mail Handler Ed Bezpietka in your thoughts as he recovers in the hospital.

There are 15 new MHAs on the work floor now during the busiest time of year and probably with an inappropriate amount of training. Please help our newest members get acclimated with the madhouse that is the USPS, especially at Christmas.

I'd like to take this time to recognize Tour 3 Chief Shop Steward Joy Carlino as she gets ready to retire at the end of this month. Joy is a stalwart in defense of the contract and an absolute bulldog and pain in management's arse when it comes to fighting for employees in the grievance process. Please be sure to thank her for her service to the Union and to wish her the best as she sets sail into retirement. She surely will be missed on Tour 3 by many people, none of whom carry radios.

Finally, if you are forced in on a holiday make sure to keep an eye on the bulletin boards and Facebook after the holiday posting to see if there are any changes to the posting. History shows that we can negotiate the number of people forced in down.

I wish all of you a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. Have a safe holiday season.

Stay UNITED, Stay STRONG-

Sean