

February 28, 2021

Fellow Members-

First off for this posting, let's congratulate Mail Handlers Bruce Rasely and Claudio Martinez who were both recognized this week for their 50 years of service and dedication. Congratulations and thank you, guys!!

As two members are honored for their years of service, we also have 25 new full-time regulars who are just beginning their careers. On March 13th, the top twenty-five MHAs will be converted into regulars. The MHAs have had the opportunity to preference jobs from the residual job bids and some unassigned regular positions that were created. The UAR positions are mirror images of jobs that should be created and posted in upcoming bid rounds. Unfortunately, management has already informed me that the bids probably will not make the March 19th posting, as was initially thought; no surprise there though. The Union also feels that some of this conversion process was mishandled and we will be filing and have filed the appropriate grievances in regards to those perceived transgressions. I will be meeting with all of the converts to talk to them about the differences once they become regulars. Congratulations to all of those being converted!

To try and clean up after the wreck that the plant manager formerly known as Bruno left in his wake, there is a new (old) annex that is open to handle the parcel post/NMO volume. The "Easter Annex" as we will call it is slated to be open for two months, but as we know these things sometimes last longer than expected.

There are still grievances being adjudicated from the unmitigated disaster that was the Bruno tenure here in the Valley; so if you wrote witness statements during that period, be on the lookout for some money.

Management is already revving up the discipline machine for attendance infractions stemming from the previous few months. Attendance reviews and PDIs are being conducted and I'm sure little labor relations' hands are eagerly and busily typing letters for some employees who management has just been chomping at the bit to cite when liberal leave ends. Don't say that you weren't warned though. For those of you who actually read my monthly prattling, you know that I've been warning about the attendance related push that would be coming and you also know that for seven years I have preached that there is no gray area with attendance. You are either here or you

aren't, so there is only so much the Union can do for you. You need to help yourself in order for us to help you. Unscheduled absences are still unscheduled even with a doctor's note or a tow truck receipt or a picture of three feet of snow in your street. If you get called in for a PDI, don't forget to ask for a shop steward. If you receive a letter of discipline in person or in the mail, make sure to get it to a Union representative within 14 days. Most importantly, show up for work and work safely.

There is legislation in Congress to bring back the stipulations of the FFCRA with some enhancements, but we all know how long Congress takes to act on things, except for their recesses or impeachments, but I digress. There is also legislation to try and repeal the ridiculous prefunding burden that is on the USPS, too. Let's see if the Congress can right one of their wrongs. Now is a good time to mention the Political Action Committee (PAC). You can contribute to it through payroll deductions or by sending a payment. I think that there's about four people left in here that do it, but we need more. The PAC gives to candidates of all parties who support Postal Reform legislation and workers' rights. It is just another way of trying to protect our jobs, our rights, and the Service's sustainability.

Besides the attendance discipline warnings, I don't ever get tired of beating this drum either...SCANNING, SWIPING, and STATEMENTS. Especially with all of the unassigned regulars and MHAs that we have, swiping over to operation numbers is so very, very important. Please make sure to do it every time that you switch work areas. Statements help to prove our cases in grievances against supervisors working and for clerks performing our jobs; and you can get a little extra cash. More work equals more jobs, equals more conversions, so it is in every Mail Handlers' best interest to protect the work and our jobs. Scanning is also a huge piece in the work and jobs puzzle. Scans show how much mail is arriving and departing, as well as when and where the work is being done. It also provides a service to the customers who we serve. Help protect the jobs that we have and to assist in possibly getting more jobs created.

Masks are still to be worn in the building for the protection of each employee and their families. In other facilities, they have started walking people out of the buildings for not properly wearing their masks or face shields. Let's not have any of those instances here, because it would be a tough case to win. Don't take your chances with the virus or the discipline. No matter what our personal feelings are about them, it is a Postal policy that they are enforcing and the Union supports any measures that will keep our members and their families/friends safe.

The Picnic has been scheduled at the Bethlehem Township Community Center Pavilion once again. The caterer and caricature artist have been booked. It is the same caterer that we have always had; thankfully they did not go under during the pandemic, as was first thought. We have a new caricature artist and from what I've seen he does a good job and even does color sketches. The Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 28th and I hope the weather and the CDC cooperate so that it can take place this year. I think that we can all use some outside relaxing, gathering, and unwinding after the past 12 months.

Finally, congratulations to APWU member Nancy Sherbrick on her retirement. Nancy was a steady and dependable worker, staunch pro-Union force, and a vocal opposition of management's stupidity, which can rear its ugly head all too often. Congratulations and enjoy!

Show up and stay safe.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean

