

February 18, 2023

Members-

Let's kick this posting off with by reminding you of two important votes that need to get out in the very near future. Firstly, the election for PA State Rep on the Local Executive Board needs to be received in Philly by Wednesday 2/22. If you have not already cast your vote, please be sure to do so. If you have any questions on who to vote for then please see me.

The other big vote is for the ratification of the new Contract. You should have received the materials outlining the changes to the National Agreement and a ballot with two envelopes. Please read the posting on the bulletin board and make an informed decision about voting for this CBA. I will tell you this though; you really DO NOT want to leave a contract up to an arbitrator. This Agreement, while maybe not getting us everything we want, did not see us giving anything up. If you put it in the hands of an arbitrator, there will be concessions and then we are stuck with them. Please talk to me if you have any questions prior to voting.

Saturday 2/25 is the Penguins outing. We had a less than overwhelming response on this event, but I did receive some feedback that I will pass on. I'll let you know how it all turns out.

Full-time regulars who have job bids need to do their job bids and only be moved in proper accordance with the CBA and LMOU, which is by juniority. The "management" seniority list and job bids are still screwed up, but local management is still working with us in trying to fix it. Due to another "Trailer Failure", we had job postings for eReassign delayed and almost missed out on conversions; however, we were able to escalate the issue nationally and as a result there will be five conversions on 2/25. "Trailer Failures", as I have coined them, are numerous and far-reaching, but we are staying vigilant to combat and correct them. Congratulations to all of those being converted!

There is a posting about an upcoming retirement seminar for March 13th. Please see the bulletin board and call to reserve your spot. They are good to attend even if you aren't that close to retiring just to start planning your future and what to do with your TSP.

As many have noticed, Mail Handlers are now starting to sweep at the APBS. This Union has been filing grievances for many years about the matter and it is still yet to

be settled once and for all, but in our eyes management is finally starting to line up the work assignments as they should be according to the craft determination. There will be more meetings about this before it is finalized and we will update you when there is a resolve.

Management is curtailing the overtime, as they do around this time every year, and people are absolutely losing their freaking minds over it. I think everyone got so used to the unlimited overtime and short staffing of the COVID era that now it seems to be a greater stress. Keep this in mind though, historically mail volume and overtime has always slowed from February until May. Please silence the panic alarms and remember that one of management's goals is always to minimize the OT. If everything is properly staffed, then OT shouldn't be through the roof but everyone got acclimated to it being that way for a few years here. Now we are starting to right our staffing short-comings and management is cracking down on attendance (and again, mail volume has declined). That being said, if clerks or supervisors are doing our work then please be sure to write a statement about it, because someone is being deprived of overtime that could be doing that work instead of a supervisors, clerk, or any other non-Mail Handler.

Lately, there has been a rash of harassment and bullying issues and I'm going to cut right to the chase about this. Grow the F up! This isn't high school and we are all here to do a job and go home with a paycheck. If you don't like someone, stay away from them. If you have a run-in with someone, then bring it to somebody in management or the Union's attention. If you feel threatened, report it. I don't like this behavior whether it is from management towards one of my members or by a craft employee to a craft employee. There is supposed to be a zero tolerance policy and that goes for everyone. I get that everyone has issues now and then, but to take them out on your fellow worker or to be bullying, threatening, or harassing a coworker is BS. I've repeatedly stated it in this space to treat others how you would like to be treated...but we all know that few people read bulletin board posts. I'm not saying that anyone has to invite their coworkers over to Thanksgiving dinner, but coexist in the same space for the time that you need to perform your job duties and then go home. Nobody knows what other people are going through. Everyone deserves to be treated fairly, equitably, and with dignity and respect; it's what we demand from management and it's the least that we could ask of each other.

Finally, retired member John Bozik passed away last week. John retired before some of our current members were even born, but I stayed in touch with him over the years. John was one of the first people I met when I started here and his locker was in the same corner as mine. I used to take break at the end of the day with him and Harold

Stoneback and a few others when I was a PTF and worked the old sack sorter. John was the epitome of a good Mail Handler. He was punctual, regimented, dedicated, and had a great work ethic. He was also considerate, approachable, kind, and funny. He was a Vietnam-veteran Marine who would rarely let on about that, but occasionally would tell a story or two. He loved bulldogs, Corvettes, Jeeps, physical fitness, and busting chops on the down low. For the few of us that are still around that worked with him, nobody ever has had an unkind or derogatory word to mutter about him because there were none that could be said. John will be missed. Rest in peace, John.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean