

February 22, 2015

Members-

First off I'd like to recognize the retirement of Del Grosenick. A card will be available this week for signing and we will start a collection, too. I will give more details about a breakfast for him once it is finalized.

The overtime is flowing like water around here, and while that is good for some people, it can also become overwhelming to others. If you feel like you are being forced to work too much overtime, then take your name off of the ODL list and just sign the daily list which is posted by the time clock. We have been utilizing that list every day also.

The people who are being really beat on by the overtime are our MHA's. Yes they are considered supplemental workforce but they are bargaining unit employees with rights and they are also human beings. Twelve hours a day and six days a week gets tiresome and is unhealthy, especially when it's not of your own volition. I am working to try and minimize the beating that the MHAs are taking, but as it is with every single thing in this building...it is a slow process. Well, unless it is something that management wants their way.

I know it can be really stressful and depressing in this place sometimes, but know that I am showing up every day and fighting for what is right and ours contractually. My stewards are also putting in the time. We are going to blow away any grievance record formally held by this branch of the Union. We aren't going to do it just because we want to though...we are going to do it because management can't stop themselves from screwing up and violating our rights. No matter how much stress you are under though; do not take it out on your fellow workers or in a hostile manner. There are proper channels to go through to have our voices and disputes heard. I say it every newsletter and I will continue to say it. ASK TO SEE A STEWARD!!! I'm not the only steward; if you listen to management I have about a hundred stewards. Make management take you and a steward off of the work floor. They are screwing things up so make your voice heard and do it the proper way. It will take time, which can be frustrating, but eventually our grievances will be heard and in most cases we are right and will be paid. Maybe one day they will even realize how much money they waste on grievances, instead of just doing things right and treating people fairly in the first place. Don't hold your breath on that though. Management has already informed me that because of the shortage of Mail Handlers, which can be traced directly to their poor decisions, they will be utilizing bosses and clerks to perform some Mail Handler duties. If you see this occurring, PLEASE write a statement describing the work being performed, who was doing it, and the times they were performing the work. Then ask to see a shop steward and give them your statement so that they can write a grievance up. Do not let our jobs slip away from us and do not let anyone think it is ok for anyone but Mail Handlers to do our work. It's not often, if ever, that you see management performing clerk jobs or telling Mail Handlers to case flats or run DBCS machines. That's because they get hammered with grievances if they even think about it. It's about time that we get the same respect!! Again, ask to see a steward and file the grievance.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*