

Fellow Members-

We start this month's rambling with congratulations for Martha Cortez who happily retired earlier this month. We wish Martha health and happiness for the rest of her days.

The Bowling Event is being held March 7th at the Town & Country Lanes again this year. It's a great deal and a lot of fun that, as usual, is FREE to members!! You have until March 3rd to stop in and sign up in the Union Office or call Barb at Union headquarters. See the flyers on the Union board.

You should have received your ballot to vote for or against our new CBA. You have until March 22nd to return your vote. I read through it and I think it is definitely worth ratifying. My only wish would be that it was a longer term, but we will take what is there. I think our negotiating team did a commendable job. The Agreement contains raises, COLA's, and the ever-important no-layoff clause. If you need more proof of why we need a Union and a reason to pay dues, check the back of the book and look at the proposals that the USPS people would enforce on us if there wasn't a Union to push back.

The results of the recent Local 308 elections are posted. Congratulations to all of the winners and I look forward to working with them on the Local Council for the betterment of this Local. The Swearing-In/Dinner-Dance Event will be held on March 14th. Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information. As with all member events in Local 308, the event is FREE for members to attend. See the flyer and contact Barb at Union Headquarters if you are interested in going.

Please look at and carefully read the 3971's that you sign!!! Management is handing out slips that say that you are requesting AWOL; do not sign these!! Only sign slips that actually show what kind of leave you want to use. If the slips that they hand you do not indicate the proper leave requested then rip them up, throw them away, and fill out your own slips for the types of leave that you request. Management cannot dictate what the kind of leave that you take. Unfortunately, when you sign off on an inaccurate slip, it makes our fight quite a bit tougher when you want to file because you have an AWOL on your record or because you wanted to use LWOP on a day that they had you sign a slip for A/L. Be cognizant of management's trickery.

While we are discussing and discrediting management a bit, let me say a couple things. You need to remember that they are not your friends and most of them are out to just keep their own rears safe from the fire. Don't fall for the, "I really don't want to do this to you" or "This is coming from above me" lines. If they had a spine to stand up for the employee or really cared about the employee, then they would do it. Now, I'm not painting all of the supervisors with the same brush because there are some in here who will do the right thing, for a while, but then when push comes to shove they will eventually save their own hide. Know this though, to any management person outside of this building, you are definitely just a number or a job slot. What your medical maladies are or any issues/events going on in your life don't matter a bit to them; it would only matter if it was happening in their lives.

Also, there has been a recent rash of supervisors acting in very unprofessional ways. This is anything new, but finally there are people getting sick enough of it that they are finally reporting it to the Union so that we can file on it. If you are a victim of any of the abusive, harassing, or unprofessional behavior please make sure to ask to see a shop steward and write a statement so that a grievance can be filed.

Finally, please make sure to read the bulletin boards, to check out the Facebook, to look at the websites, and to tell other people to also do so, so that you can stay up to date as to what is going on within your Union and with changes in the facility. Some people missed vacation sign-ups and other events that they then asked me for details on. I do enjoy writing these pieces, but the "creative writing", as Mike Ryan used to call it, is not just for my amusement and my desire to bash management. It is also to share information and important items with the membership in order to keep us all more informed.

If you have any questions or problems, be sure to ask to see a shop steward and talk to them. We have so many capable stewards and if they have a problem answering your issue then they have resources in this office and beyond that can help.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean

