

*January 18, 2016*

Members-

I'd like to start by recognizing and congratulating Frank Goss and Ronald Reese on their retirements. I'm currently working on planning a breakfast for Frank and will post details as soon as they are finalized. I am still collecting donations for both of them, so see me if you wish to contribute.

I'd also like to congratulate Bruce Rasely and Claudio Martinez on their 45 years of service.

Here's a little summary of 2015 for you all. We set a record for grievances with over 400 of them being filed. We converted 17 MHAs to full time regular, which is second only to Harrisburg in the Local 308 jurisdiction. Del Grosenick, Dennis Johnson, Chuck DeCarlo, JR Peterson, Sam Baum, and Teresa Colon all retired. Keith Hamlett left us to become a carrier and Rich Koch left us suddenly. We also gained two employees from other facilities, Mike Shearer and Joe Bonavita. Judging by the grievances we gained a whole bunch of clerk craft employees, too. The Plant Manager forced in on the two biggest holidays of the year, although no regulars wound up being forced in for Christmas.

And now on to the New Year...it started with forcing in on New Year's Day even though there were 204Bs being used which is a violation of our contract and has been grieved for all three tours. Congrats to Mail Handler Tony Bryant, who will be returning to duty after winning his arbitration. We also have an arbitration coming up on Leap Day for the snow storm of two years ago. That means that we should have a resolution to that grievance around the end of March finally.

I am still working on a winter event for our branch. I will be contacting halls this week about holding a dinner dance, which will most likely occur in March. You should have received your vacation bidding forms by now. If you have any questions please feel free to ask myself or one of my stewards. MHAs may also participate in the bidding for prime vacation weeks and have been counted in the percentage.

I will be submitting a list of grievances from last year that went unpaid to the Plant Manager in an attempt to get them all paid since Monica Mitchell was detailed and never finished paying all of the grievances that she signed off on.

If you notice any money missing out of your pay as a result of having called off during Christmas or New Year's please bring it to my attention so that we can grieve it.

I want to remind you all that if you are being taken into the office, you need to ask for a shop steward because a boss will not just provide one and a steward can't impose it. YOU must request one. Also, if you see a violation of our contractual rights then PLEASE ask to see a shop steward. Management has two hours to get you one. Give the steward your witness slip or statement so that they can file a grievance. Be thorough in your descriptions; list the date, times, who was doing the violating, what they were doing, and where they were doing it for however long. The better your statement means the better our case.

Protect our work, protect your job.

*Stay United, Stay Strong-*

*Sean*