

July 24, 2015

The beatings WILL NOT continue until morale improves!!!

As you all may know, Plant Manager Goughler has been placed on a detail. I have already had an impromptu labor-management meeting with Plant Manager (A) Anton Mandik and we have already made some strides in the good faith effort of trying to get this plant back on track from some of the misguided decisions that had been made. This Union, like PM Mandik, wishes to keep this facility and its employees gainfully employed for years to come. I will be meeting again next week with the management team in an effort to aid in aligning this plant to succeed in the future. I spoke with District Manager Jim Drummer and he assured me that there will be changes and that they will be looking at and trying to correct our staffing issues here. After only three hours there has been more cooperation and meaningful two-way discussion between the two parties than there had been in the past 16 months. I assured Plant Manager Mandik that the Mail Handlers will continue to do their jobs effectively and conscientiously. We all want to sustain the jobs we have and to grow our business for the future, but we want it to happen in a hostility and harassment free workplace.

The incidental leave books have been reopened.

Congratulations are in order for a couple of things. First of all, congrats to Teresa Colon who retired effective 6/30. Best wishes for the future to her. Pictures from JR's and Sam's retirement lunch have been posted on the website. Check them out. Congratulations are also in order for the 8 MHAs who were converted to full-time regular on 7/11. There should be more conversions in the future and my hope is that it isn't too far off.

After speaking with President Gibson, we will not be doing the Iron Pigs outing. The only dates that the Iron Pigs had remaining for our group clashed with some of our schedules.

A grievance was filed for management using 204Bs on 7/4 when they forced Mail Handlers in. We have far surpassed our grievance total from last year and that number will just keep growing, although maybe at a slower rate now.

Finally, I'd like to close on this note. Christine may be gone, and who knows for how long, but the damage she did to the morale, the bids, the efficiency, and the psyche around here still lingers and will need some time to be repaired. The attitude of it's better to be feared than respected and it's better to dictate than to confer and compromise is hopefully a story of days gone by. I'm open to giving everyone a fair chance, so let's see how operations under a new regime proceed. As Mail Handlers, and as a Union, we should put our best foot forward and do our part to show that we were never the problem here. While doing that though, we should remain firm in our resolve to stand up for our rights when we feel that they are violated. Management and the Union will not always see eye to eye, but we both still have jobs to do and working together to accomplish the movement of the mail in an efficient and timely manner is all of our responsibilities. Let's make sure that they do their jobs the right way, but let's also make sure that we are doing the right thing too. There are still some bosses in here that think that they know OUR contract better than us. Please, always ask for a shop steward if you think discipline may arise from an interview and also ask to see a shop steward if you think that a grievance exists.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean