

Fellow members-

Leading off we recognize and congratulate Tour 2 APPS Group Leader Tony Miller on his impending retirement. This is Tony's last week as the train heads rapidly towards the retirement station. We wish Tony good health and good luck as he ventures off into the sunset and begins a life without having to come to the Post Office every day. Congratulations, good luck, and see you at the Picnic!

Speaking of the Picnic, it is shaping up to be one of our biggest ever. I guess everyone is just itching to get out of the house! It is rumored that National President Paul Hogrogian may even be showing up; so far his schedule is clear but that is subject to change. Please make sure to stop in the office or email me to RSVP so that we have enough food.

The Parcel Annex opened last night. It is currently only opened on Tours 1 and 2, but that will be changing once transportation (read Rob Young) gets their act together and has enough trips scheduled to get mail back and forth between the facilities. There are still a few other minor glitches that need to be worked out like a time clock, scanners, some AC, dock lights and oh yeah personnel to staff the place with. This annex idea must have just snuck up on management, so please excuse their deficiencies.

On Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be converting 30 MHA's to full time regular career status. Congratulations to all of them and good luck with your 90 day probations! The newly converted FTR's have selected UAR schedules until they are awarded bid jobs.

As a result of the conversions and new complement, we will be posting a huge job bid round August 6<sup>th</sup>. There should be 58 jobs up for bid, barring a HR nightmare mishap like we have become accustomed to. There will be 41 new jobs, the 16 vacancies created from last rounds bids, and Tony Miller's bid being posted as a result of his retirement. Please read the PAA comments on the jobs carefully when bidding because there are quite a few jobs that will now be placed in the Parcel Annex. The Annex is considered part of this building and bidding will occur just as if you are in this building. If you bid a job there, then that is where you report to work starting 8/28 and your job from here will go up for bid next round. I will make sure that bid sheets and postings are posted in that building also.

With the conversions and subsequent lack of flexible workforce, I expect a large uptick in the amount of grievances. I expect that there will be bosses performing work, clerks performing our work, and most likely some rules violations when it comes to administering overtime. I have already heard the scuttle that some supervisors are talking about forcing OT on new converts. We all know that this is not the way that it works; there are still ODL's and contractual guidelines. If any of these CBA violations are happening and you witness them or are affected by them, please make sure to ask to see a Union rep and write a statement. Don't forfeit your rights!

Finally, there are two birthday announcements. Firstly, Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Dave LaDuca! As we celebrate this milestone birthday, we recognize him as a steady keystone of the building on nightshift and someone who may have outworked Rob Young, if Rob Young had actually performed the amount of work that he claims. We also wish a Happy Birthday this week to my beautiful wife, Teresa Craig! She is off for her non-scheduled days on her actual birthday, so just wish her happy birthday all week!!

Don't forget to RSVP for the Picnic and the Union Meeting!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*

