

July 2, 2022

Fellow members-

It's July already; where the heck is this year going?

We held a Branch Union Meeting at the Palace Restaurant this past Tuesday. If you were not there, which most of you were not, I will run over a few items of interest. If you have questions, stop on in and ask away.

Submitted for your approval, here are the highlights from my portion minus the breakfast that those who actually attended the meeting enjoyed while I rambled on. 1) The Union has been successful in increasing our jobs in the local associate offices. Allentown and Bethlehem have gained PTF positions and both Hazleton and Pottsville have had PTF positions made into full time regular positions; getting people to accept these jobs has proven more difficult than actually attaining the positions. 2) Scanning and swiping needs to improve...as if I haven't written or spoken those words before. These are two of the easiest ways to justify creating and maintaining jobs that we have, yet so many people seem so disinterested in following through on such relatively easy and important parts of our jobs. 3) Report bosses who suck and who treat employees inappropriately. We need statements in writing to pursue these allegations. 4) Rotations need to be followed. 5) Keep your address of record updated on liteblue and make sure to give the Union any disciplinary letters that you receive because we do not receive them from management. 6) Fight designations of AWOL on your paystubs and virtual timecards. AWOL is time for which no call/no show, not because they don't feel like giving you LWOP or because you are out of leave. Also, don't let them take your A/L or sick leave when you request LWOP. 7) Write witness statements about clerks and supervisors performing our work. 8) The Lehigh Valley will be taking care of processing its own job bids and conversions. Philly HR has been stripped of the responsibility, a responsibility that they never lived up to and, frankly just monumentally screwed up. 9) That being said, we are still extremely short from our staffing complement number. 10) Ten people will be converted on 7/16/22. 11) Join the Facebook group to stay in the loop.

President John Gibson gave a rundown of items from around the Local and updated everyone about the CBA negotiations and some of the items that will be on the table for discussions. He also spoke about the upcoming Convention, the expiration of Covid MOU's, and PMG DeJoy's ten year plan. He also spoke about steward training, member events, the PAC, and our revenue/representations strength.

Treasurer Mike Rembelinsky offered a clear and positive financial status and outlook for the Local, with the one big expense of the year being the jackets that were ordered and should be arriving soon.

The next set of job bids will go up on 7/9/22 and it will once again be a manual job bid process. Bids will close at 11:59PM on 7/19/22 and the jobs will take effect on 7/30/22.

The Lehigh Valley/Scranton Picnic will be held Sunday, August 28th. There is currently a poll in the Facebook group to determine the final entrée and the second salad, another reason to join the group.

James DeVore is the new chief shop steward on Tour 3 and Michael Cortez will be a steward for Tour 3, as well. Congratulations and welcome.

I was remiss when I did not recognize and thank Luis Anaya for his contributions as a Tour 1 steward and Tour 1 chief shop steward prior to his resigning as a steward. The Union and its members thank him for his years of service. I'm sorry for that glaring omission from previous posts; I was probably too busy making cracks about a certain former Mail Handler who is currently taking up space, I mean doing wonderful things like bird watching, as a transportation supervisor.

I'd also like to thank Jennifer Dempsey for her work as a steward. She butted heads with management on more than one occasion and penned quite a few grievances that resulted in monetary payouts. Regrettably, Jenni has stepped down as a Tour 1 steward, but I thank her for her tenacity and service.

Finally, I want to recognize two Mail Handlers who are, as Snagglepuss would say, "exiting stage left".

Al Gordon came here from Philly years ago and I have enjoyed getting to know him. It's been fun listening to his stories, especially ones that have to do with incompetent management, working in Philly, and certain former Mail Handlers/supervisors that worked here...and stories that have all of those elements combined. Al is a conscientious worker that has a great sense of humor and tells it like it is, which are fantastic attributes to possess. Al will be retiring at the end of this month. We wish him good health, good luck, and good times in the years ahead. Thanks for your service and enjoy your retirement!! Congratulations!

When I first started here, one of the people that trained me was Harvey George. I was assigned to work on the dock and Harvey showed me the ropes when it came to unloading trucks, running the dumper on the dock, doing bedloads, sorting Wall Street Journals, and breaking down mail. Harvey also taught me about break times, smoke breaks, utilization of annual and sick leave, work standards, how to deal with some of our fellow employees, and ultimately how to deal with management when they mess with us. Needless to say, I was the last employee that Harvey was ever asked to train because I absorbed a lot of that knowledge like a sponge, was deemed "the worst PTF ever", became a steward, and ultimately came to occupy my current position. Harvey would fight with anybody (management, Union, or coworker alike) if he felt he was right, and that's what made him a great option as a steward once Joy Carlino retired as the Tour 3 Steward. He reluctantly accepted the position and has excelled at it. I thank Harvey for his service to the country, the customers, the Union, and for his help and friendship. We wish Harvey good luck and good health as his next chapter begins. He will be missed...except maybe by management. Congratulations!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean

