

June 26, 2016

Members-

My first announcement of this posting is that we will be holding a Lehigh Valley Mail Handler Union picnic on Sunday September 25th at the Bethlehem Township Community Center Pavilion #1. It will be free to current and retired members and guests will be charged a nominal fee. Mark the date on your calendar and look for more information to be passed on as it becomes available.

Secondly, in case you haven't heard, we have a new plant manager. Jeff Hotchkiss has taken over for Christine Goughler. Mr. Hotchkiss has already started making changes that he felt were needed. I have met with him several times in an attempt to keep the rights and well-being of the Mail Handler craft in focus as the changes come to fruition. His goal is to improve this facility and let's be honest; there is definitely room for improvement upon the work environment and production of the past three years. It will be interesting to see if the grievance load gets reduced now under a new administration in management. We still need to clean up some of the ones that are left over from the past though before we can track the change.

The new PM's first moves were to start and align the start times of jobs to the operational windows that he sees being more beneficial to our ability of clearing the mail in a timely manner. I will be monitoring any changes to jobs and start times to make sure that all are done in a contractually sound way.

There are currently 24 jobs up for manual bid as a result of Mr. Hotchkiss moving AI operations to Tour 2 and combined with the vacated jobs from last round. Manual bidding will conclude at 11:59PM on July 5th. Bid cards and copies of the jobs are available in the Union office. Completed bid cards should be placed in the green box by the time clocks outside the supervisors' office.

Grievance money payouts from old grievances should be starting to surface in paychecks as labor relations has taken over trying to catch up on some of the long overdue remedies from previously settled grievances.

I'm happy to announce that we have two new Mail Handler stewards. Chelsea Laudenslager and Ryan Barna completed introductory training at 308 Headquarters in Philadelphia on June 2nd. Chelsea will be a regular steward on Tour 3 and Joy Carlino will now be the chief shop steward on Tour 3. Ryan will be an alternate steward on Tour 1

for the time being. Local President John Gibson, who assisted in the training, said that both stewards were very active participants in the training.

With jobs now being shifted to Tour 2, I will be taking a look at the A/L limits for the tours.

Now let me try to sum up the Branch Meeting from Friday in a Cliff Notes version for everyone who did not attend. Everyone ate breakfast prior to the meeting starting. President Gibson turned the floor over to me to kickoff the meeting. I spoke about the new PM, the abolishment of the middle shift AI positions, the job posting, the new shop stewards, the grievance payouts, and the no lunch policy. President Gibson then spoke. He stated that negotiations for our new contract have been extended and that even though our contract expired, its terms and conditions still are in effect until a new CBA can be agreed upon. The bidding that is taking place now will count towards the next contract's bid count. He then updated us on RI-399 grievances that are in the system. He then reminded how important it is for all members to contribute to the PAC especially in this election year. The Union does not use our dues to support politicians and the Union does not support one political party over another. The PAC fund is used to support any politicians who support our agenda, no matter their affiliation. He also stressed the importance of voting. He then covered the topics of the exigent rate increase termination, conventions, shop steward training, an administration update, and the information that any residual jobs should be grieved in order to make MHAs regulars in accordance with the vacancy MOU. John also let us know that he and other reps will be revisiting Reading in order to build a stronger case and reclaim jobs that we feel are rightfully ours in that facility. He stated that an arbitrator gave us a bad decision, as this certain arbitrator is notorious for doing, on a grievance stemming from the Reading closure. Both President Gibson and Treasurer Mike Mohan talked about how fiscally stable our Local has become and the "revenue equals representation". Mike gave us a complete financial report and kept us updated on the bookkeeping so that we all stay informed. There were various questions that were answered about topics such as retirement COLAs and t-shirts with pockets. The meeting was adjourned. All who attended the meeting were added to my list for the holiday gift certificate raffle.

The final topic I have for all of you is about the no lunch policy. The new plant manager was going to take it away from the Mail Handlers due to an abuse of the privilege. After discussions with me and much deliberation, he has decided to keep it in place under the conditions by which it was initially agreed to. Those conditions are that employees will fill out a 3189 (change of schedule) on a monthly basis requesting the no lunch. Upon being granted the no lunch, employees will adhere to an 8 hour schedule

which includes two fifteen minute breaks. Jeff has made it clear that if the privilege is abused by taking elongated breaks then he will then begin taking it away from the employees who don't live up to their end of the agreement. If you wish to keep your "no lunch", I advise you to stick to the rules. They were the parameters that were agreed to so we should abide by them. There are means by which management can take away this policy.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns about anything contained in this posting, anything that occurred at the meeting, or anything that catches your attention from the work floor please feel free to contact me or one of my stewards. Hopefully with the turnover in the front office there can be peace in the Valley.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean