June 28, 2015

Members,

This past Friday we had a Branch Union Meeting, which was attended by Local President/Eastern Region Vice President John Gibson and Local 308 Treasurer Mike Mohan. President Gibson spoke about the state of affairs here at Lehigh Valley and the problems that have arisen recently. He also talked about the Scranton consolidation, which as of now is postponed until April of 2016. He said that District had changed the number of employees needed at Scranton from 5 to 17. He also talked about the possibility of converting MHA to full time regular status. John then went on to talk about the need for all of us to reach out and contact our local senators and representatives to let them know how we feel about they should vote on issues like the service standards and postal reform. There will be a contractual raise this year of 2.5% for MHAs and 1% for regulars. Once again, thanks to the tandem of John and Mike and our executive board there will be no increase to our dues. He also stressed the importance of submitting ideas for the next round of collective bargaining. President Gibson has been named to the panel that will help negotiate our next contract, so any suggestions my members submit will be getting forwarded to someone who will have a hands-on experience in this round of bargaining. John also spoke about the various ways of disseminating information throughout the Local.

Treasurer Mike Mohan went over all the financial records of our Local. As has been the case for the past several years, we are in real good shape. We are almost completely out from under the debt that prior administrations had created by not paying taxes and by lining their own pockets. John and Mike have really turned this Union around and deserve a ton of credit for their work and dedication. Our facility has only 4 non-member regulars and 1 non-member MHA who is past their 90/120 day non-representation period. The most important thing to remember about our Local being on financially stable ground is the mantra that “Revenue equals representation”.

I will be trying to put together an outing for Mail Handlers and families. Right now the idea is an Ironpigs game. I’m also looking into an amusement park outing. I will post something in the near future.

I am posting a list of the job numbers for people to swipe over to when they are moved. This helps us to keep track of how long people are doing jobs and how many people are needed. It helps management too, but it makes our case many times also.

If 204Bs are used on the holiday when people are forced in…it WILL be grieved for 50% additional pay for anyone who works on that day. It is a violation of the contract and our LMOU. Management has already been warned several times by a couple different reps, including me.

Our snow grievance won its hurdle at Step 4 and will be heading to arbitration. This most likely will not occur until September or October.

The A/L book remains misguidedly closed. I am working on several different angles to remedy this situation. Grievances are being filed every time someone is denied a day of leave, in addition to the other ways that I am trying to fix this injustice.

Please continue to ask to see shop stewards when you witness violations or when you feel aggrieved.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean