

June 6, 2020

Fellow Members-

Let's start by recognizing now-retired Mail Handler Wilfredo Rivera. Willie retired recently and we wish him well on the next leg of his journey. We thank him for his service and membership, and we hope for his continued good health. Good luck and enjoy!

Next up, if you are taking off using COVID19 leave to quarantine yourself, or to care for a family member, or for childcare issues, then you should be calling Cecilia Gonella at 610-882-3293 to make sure that you are being put in for the right leave. If you can schedule it in advance then do so using a 3971, but if you have to call in then do so on the usual call-in number but also call Cecilia too. Too often pays are being screwed up because people aren't making it clear what they want or fill out 3971s and then the wrong thing is being put in because other bosses are also putting codes in.

The next set of job bids are slated to go up on June 19<sup>th</sup> and close on June 29<sup>th</sup>. They should wind up being effective on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Employees on the APPS, APBS, HSTS, and AI/AFSM are reminded that ergonomic rotations were established and are in effect to help prevent repetitive motion injuries to the workers. Please make sure to be following the established rotations and if there are problems with the rotation, please be sure to bring it to a shop steward's attention. These rotations are not just for regulars or for certain tours; they are for all Mail Handlers. Nobody deserves to suffer a work related injury.

The NPMHU National Convention that was scheduled for August 11-16 in Denver, CO has been postponed until March of next year.

This week our local counties enter the yellow phase of reopening. With this phase, hopefully we can get back to some sense of normalcy and a return to work and life as we used to know. I fully expect the social distancing and face mask measures to stay in place in the PO for a while and I ask that we all continue to be vigilant in our attempts to ward off this virus. Show up for work, stay a safe distance apart, wear your mask or face shield, and practice good hygiene for everybody's sakes including your own. If you are sick then stay home, again, for the sake of everyone and their families. We are not out of the woods yet, but we still have a job to do and an income to make; let's be smart and safe while doing it.

This weekend the new Post Master General takes over; let's see where that takes us. I am sure that there will be changes, the questions will just be how drastic and how bad.

Management at the district level had instituted this policy of not allowing Mail Handlers to work their second non-scheduled day. This is a violation of the Contract. Of course, the people who decided this are all passing the buck and stating that it wasn't them now that it's time to start paying the piper for the grievances. Even when told the right course of action, some people stick to their thick-headed and wrong decisions but then don't want to be accountable when their poor choices are proven as such. Too many managers want the pay but not the accountability and hopefully they are the first ones that the new PMG sends packing. If it were a former USPS employee as PMG then there's no doubt that the offender in this case would just be transferred, but maybe since the new head honcho is an outsider then there is at least a chance that he will "hand" her a pink slip.

Mail Processing Assistants (MPAs) are not Mail Handlers and should not be performing Mail Handler jobs. Management seems to be utilizing these employees as if they were MHAs when they are clerk craft employees and are hired to supplement the clerk craft during the COVID19 crisis. The NPMHU signed a LMOU to hire extra MHAs if there is a need for supplemental workers. Management has failed to hire MHAs and instead continues to bring on MPAs and use them as Mail Handlers. This violation needs to be grieved daily; if you see someone who is a MPA doing our work then write a statement. Protect our jobs!

We are on a record pace for filing grievances here. If management's willful and ignorant neglect for the CBA continues, we will annihilate our record of 473 grievances set back in 2016 during the Christine Era here in the Lehigh Valley.

As of now, the Picnic is still scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>. We will see how things continue to play out in the coming months.

Finally, as I have said many times over the past years but it deserves repeating, we all need to respect each other and treat each other the way that we wish to be treated. That should not just be a Union ideology; it should be the human ideology. We are brothers and sisters in this workplace, in this Union, in this country, and in this life. We were all created equal and when our time here on Earth is done, we will all turn to dust. Racism has no place in the workplace, or in the world for that matter. It is not a Democrat or Republican mindset, but a mental defect of evil proportions that should

not and cannot be accepted or tolerated anywhere. Let's make sure that we are taking care of each other and looking out for each other, not just within these walls but in our lives outside of here too.

Stay safe!!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*