

November 2, 2023

Fellow Members-

Here is the first posting for the month of November, but as news gets released from the USPS about their plans for this facility, I would expect more frequent updates being posted. I will not address or entertain every rumor that swirls on the floor or every notion that the sky is falling, but I will try to release and address factual, or what is being sold as factual, information.

FACT: The building is not closing. No information that has been conveyed at any point in the process from anyone at any level has suggested that we are closing.

FACT: The USPS has announced that the Lehigh Valley P&DC is being repurposed as a LPC.

FACT: The USPS is looking into removing all outgoing operations and sending them to Harrisburg.

FACT: There will be a public meeting in Trexlertown on November 30th to gather input from the community about the changes. Please see the news releases posted alongside this post for more information.

FACT: There will be a Union Branch Meeting on December 5th where this will definitely be the main topic of discussion. Again, see the posting on the bulletin board for more info.

Now let's go over some of the above facts and also talk about some stuff that has happened already.

I am still under the impression that local management gets spoon-fed any information that they implement and that the higher-ups are trying to make everything a surprise when it happens. One thing that is not a surprise, really, is that we would be up to lose our outgoing mail. The Post Office and local management have stated that there will not be any excessing as a result of this proposed move. If the outgoing mail goes away for good, it may wind up affecting about 10-12 bid jobs. The jobs would most likely be abolished and reposted in other areas, much like what is about to happen with the Annex and APBS positions. There would definitely be some uncomfortable situations, but at least no moving of people from out of the building or laying them off. It is a

manageable situation and not one that we must currently confront, but one we must be cognizant of and ready to counter.

The meeting at the Trexlertown Movie Tavern will be a formality put on by the higher-ups in management. If you are so inclined as to attend the charade, please feel free to and to add your two cents. They schedule the meeting for an inconvenient time of day, at a place far away from the site, and minimally advertise it because it is just a procedural obstacle in their way of pushing through their agenda and, contrary to what they say, they really don't consider the input and inconveniences brought forward when considering their desired outcome. Don't be naïve and think that the PO conducted some half-arsed farce of a review in the past twelve days since they sent out that notice and that the input at any forced dog and pony show town hall meeting is going to change what is already a predetermined and forgone conclusion. The USPS and DeJoy announced their plans long ago and the Taking the Service Out of the U.S. Postal Service Plan (aka Delivering for America or something like that) was concocted and initialized. We inside this building know that there is no way sending our outgoing mail to Harrisburg to process and then send back here is faster and better service; hell, we still do the outgoing because these other facilities can't even handle their own work, never mind adding ours and other facility's mail.

Does the renaming from P&DC to LPC spell doom and gloom? Not to the extent that some of your coworkers and even some bosses are spreading, but it does signify a change in work and possibly some inconvenience down the road for people. There is no imminent relocation or stress-filled dislocation situation on the horizon currently for any Mail Handlers, but that is not to say that next year or three years from now won't turn out to be brutal. If you want to know what's going on, watch the bulletin boards and Union websites, attend the Union meetings and be engaged; don't go by the word of mouth on the Union floor or what people online are saying.

There will be a Branch Union meeting held on December 5th at The Palace Restaurant and you can bet your tuckus that the number one topic of discussion will be the building transformation. As usual, President Gibson will be there to answer questions and address concerns. Breakfast will be buffet style and you will receive an extra entry for the gift card drawing when you attend.

Job bids are slated to be posted on 11/9. In what comes as unsurprising news, HR may have mishandled them. There are supposed to be 39 bids getting posted, but as of this morning, not all of them were showing up in the system. Hopefully, this will all be

sorted out by next Thursday, but if not I have already spoken with Dylan about a fallback plan.

If you are an unassigned regular, it is highly recommended that you bid and bid often. While jobs are open to everyone in the building, it is important to remember that if anything goes without a bid then unassigned regulars would be forced into residual jobs in inverse order of seniority. You may wind up losing the days off you have but at least you wouldn't lose the shift...or vice versa depending on how you prioritize things when you bid.

The seas are about to get choppy, so let's put on our life vests and get ready for the ride.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean