

March 21, 2015

Members-

Spring is here, supposedly, if you ignore the snow, but help is not.

There is no help if the help that you were seeking was more employees. Three of the newly hired MHAs quit within a week of being hired and some of our fellow regular Mail Handlers are getting to ride off into the long awaited sunset of retirement.

Congratulations to Dennis Johnson, who is retired as of today, and to Chuck DeCarlo, who will be finishing off his career at the end of this month. I thank them both for their service and for their support of both this Union and of me. I also want to thank Chuck for his years of service to the Union as both a branch president and a steward.

There is no help if the help that you were seeking was truth and transparency from management. Management, at all levels, continues to try and combine jobs, eliminate bids, and they suppress the efficiency and morale of the work force. They are trying to excess employees from facilities where mail does not even get finished without overtime as it is. They feel that they can squeeze more work out of the limited number of employees that they have because of what the farcical BPI stat on the computer says. If you read the Local's website, then you know that the Philadelphia NDC is embroiled in this situation. Management's bean counters concoct outrageous staffing packages based on the numbers a computer spits out. The thoughtless and emotionless computers base numbers on mail volume, processing and transportation schedules, optimum equipment performance, and employee hours, but not on actual human beings, personal factors, maintenance issues, weather factors, or any other variable. The numbers are then passed on to the thoughtless and emotionless managers who try and make the numbers (aka people) fit the spread sheet regardless of the National Agreement. This is the new postal non-service business that we work for. Management contorts the numbers, lies about the reasons, and doesn't let the facts stand in the way of their will. They have an end result that they are looking for and they will achieve it no matter what is the right outcome. Then, when it's all going awry, they will gladly blame someone else, usually the employees. They will also happily throw their fellow managers under the bus; however, shouldering blame or accepting responsibility of their own is not an option. They will never admit that they are wrong. Some people, even when presented with facts, photos, and first-hand accounts are still so ignorant and belligerent in their belief that they still deny. The truth can be right outside their window, but they don't believe it until it comes up on their computer. They rely on the computers for all decisions, even in personal character. They also feel that violations of people's rights are only a problem if it's their own rights being violated. Family is

only a priority if it's their family. I could probably rant on topics concerning management for quite some time, but I don't want to use up all the ink, paper, and time. Suffice it to say, I believe that when you sign up for a red badge and walkie-talkie in this business, you are asked to willingly trade in your honesty, integrity, sensibility, and accountability.

Help is here in the form of your Union though. Grievances are being filed on a daily basis about managers and people from other crafts doing our jobs. Payments won't show up today, but will be forthcoming. Management feels that the Contract is only enforceable when they see it fit, but I say it's in force all of the time for all of the Mail Handlers. If you see a contract violation and wish to write a statement, please remember to include the time(s) and duration of the violation as well as the name of the person committing it. Who, what, when, where, and how long are the critical information that we need for a successful grievance.

If you get moved from your primary bid job, please swipe over to your new operation number. If you need to know what it is, please ask the supervisor. If the supervisor does not know the operation number, then please let me know and I'll find out for you.

Please check out the postings about the Grand Alliance, which is a coalition trying to save the postal service, and the postal pulse. Postal pulse is the new name given to the VOE surveys. No matter what name it is being called by, the Union still does not endorse or support it. As difficult as it may seem to believe, management is trying to mislead employees and say that the Unions support it. If you are one of the lucky ones called upon to fill it out, remember that you can always bring it in to the Union office to be shredded and disposed of in a proper manner. Don't just leave it behind or give it to a supervisor.

Finally, I've been in office for a year now and my outlook on what goes on up front here has become even more cynical than before I took office. The complete disconnect between the workroom floor and the front office is real and evident. I could tell it before, but it is so much worse than I thought. It is my hope that we can turn this around with your continued support and the work of me and my stewards.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*