

March 23, 2024

Members-

Firstly, the ballots for the NPMHU National Convention representatives were counted yesterday; the results are posted. I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me and I will be honored to represent the Mail Handlers from Local 308 and especially those from the Lehigh Valley.

For those who ordered t-shirts, the shirts are in. For those who see people in their new apparel and would like shirts of their own, see a shop steward and tell them your size and color preferences and I will order more soon. Shirts are \$10 each.

As you can tell by looking around, mail volume seems to have dropped and work hours are being cut. MHA's are having their hours reduced and there are increased instances of stand-by time occurring. Management is still working their way through how to properly administer stand-by and to keep the work floor productive. There is still no definitive word on the dates for any changes taking place, but the lack of work seems ominous.

That being said, 18 job bids should be posted for automated bidding starting on March 29th.

Since management has free time due to the lack of mail, they decided to update some policies and started quite a stir. Most of the hullabaloo was because of misinterpretations of a policy that has been in effect for many years, the "Food and drinks on the workroom floor" policy. The big hangups were, firstly, that it states, "Only water" can be brought to the workfloor and the second was because a SDO decided to add his own commentary in and say that it had to be in a clear container. The clear container part is not true; it was just senseless jargon from a supervisor caught up in the moment or something. The "only water" portion is also not going to be enforced and the Plant Manager told me that he will reissue the policy. The point of the policy is to have spill-proof drink containers on the floor; he wants to eliminate containers with straws / straw openings and paper hot-cups with plastic flip lids from eateries, in other words containers that can easily spill. Your drink does not have to be water, but it still does need to be non-alcoholic. We look forward to Plant Manager Greg Miller reissuing the policy and clearing up any of this unnecessary confusion.

Now on to two bits of sad news.

Firstly, retired Mail Handler William "Lucky" Luksavage passed away recently. Lucky worked in the O10 during my time here and will be remembered for his enthusiastic support of his beloved Penn State Nittany Lions football team. He used to claim that he would actually draw up and send plays to Joe Paterno for him to run on Saturdays. He was an avid golfer and Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Rest in peace, Lucky.

Finally, Tour 3 Chief Shop Steward and Dispatch Group Leader James DeVore has taken gravely ill. I spoke with him on Thursday and, he stated that "barring a miracle", he didn't expect to make it through this weekend. James called to inform the Union of his condition and to thank us for entrusting him with his duties. He was in an unbelievably calm mood and seemed at peace. James has always been one of the smartest guys in the room, but he never let on about it. He is a valued member of our team that has won many cases. His knowledge and understanding of the Contract, the law, and even tax codes has helped numerous members for years. He has been a source of wisdom for me and has talked me down from overreacting on more than one occasion. He is a solid pro-Union force. Through all his dealings with management and all of the health issues he has had, James has remained even-keeled and steady-handed. He is the face of courage and light-heartedness while in the fight of his life. Nobody who has encountered James will forget his penchant for "Dad jokes" or his love of telling them, even if some were cringe worthy. In the coming weeks/months, I will share some of the ones that he has been texting me during his hospital stay. During his time here, James has touched the lives of people no matter what craft they were with his humor and good will. He is a good guy, with a great mind, and a fantastic spirit. In a place where people get treated like numbers, James treats everyone like a human being.

I thank all of you who donated money for his family during this time and I ask all of you to remember James, his wife, his six boys, his parents, and his siblings in your thoughts and prayers during this most difficult of times.

James joke: Why did Jeff Bezos get divorced ? He figured out that marriage was a Union.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean