

March 26, 2023

Fellow members-

First off, I'd like to congratulate Jimmy Goss on his impending retirement from the USPS. Jim has been a steady presence over the past 33 years here on each tour that he has worked. He served as a shop steward years ago and has always been an active pro-Union / anti-management activist and supporter. This is Jim's last week, so be sure to wish him well. We thank him for his service to the country, his service to the Union and its members, and his service to the customers. We wish him good health and good times in all of his future endeavors. Good luck and congratulations, Jim!

Now let's move on to some business. Firstly, as you all know, the new CBA was ratified. Details about when it will go into effect, the pay scales, and of course the back pay will be released to us in the coming weeks and I will share them as I receive them. There will be training at Local 308 HQ for Branch Presidents and stewards, so I will be heading to that and bringing some of our representatives with me in early April.

On 2/25, we had an event at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins hockey game. Pictures are online on the Local 308 webpage and in our Facebook group. It was a good time and we may look into doing one here at a Lehigh Valley Phantoms game.

The March 13th retirement seminar that I posted about was well attended and the reviews that I have heard were once again all positive. I will continue to stay in contact with Patricia and send business her way because every Mail Handler has had nothing but positive feedback for me about their experiences with her and her help that she has given them in their retirement process.

This week there will be a meeting to try and put the APBS sweeping assignments to bed once and for all, but we are still expecting disputes as we have faced for years.

Yesterday, 3/25, two more MHA's were converted to full-time regular status. We congratulate Carlton and Arisleiby. The goal is always to get our MHAs converted to regular and this has been happening pretty regularly lately...as long as Philly HR gets them put in the system correctly.

Speaking of HR, the jobs for this month will go up on Friday, 3/31, and are incorrect, of course! Please be sure to read the versions of the jobs that are posted on the bulletin board prior to bidding; the online versions will be wrong.

The Annual Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 9th.

There are plenty of rumors swirling around about the Parcel Annex. When I know facts, I will disseminate them but for now there is just a lot of speculation. I will respond to questions, with my opinions, if pressed on the matter but I can't and won't spend time addressing every "what if" and "what might be" hypothetical scenario that is circulating. Be assured that we will address every speculation in a contractually sound manner that is in the best interest of our members and keeps consistent with the language of causing the least disruption as possible, if and when conjecture, intimation, and innuendo become reality situations.

Management is up to its old tricks again of taking you're A/L when you call off sick and don't have sufficient sick leave. Don't let them do it!! It is a CBA and ELM violation for them to automatically take your annual leave when you don't authorize them to. If you notice this happening to you, inform a shop steward and have them file a grievance.

I met with the director of EAP (Employee Assistance Program) and she is attempting to set up an office in this building so that counseling can be a more accessible option for people. EAP is a great program offered by the Postal Service, but it is severely underutilized and there is a certain stigma attached to it. Not enough people know about the program and many feel that it is only if you are in need of help for traumatic events or addictions. Many employees don't hear about it until they are in a PDI and, even then, it is under-explained. I will keep you updated on the status of this possibility, but I think that it would be a great resource for the employees here.

Finally, I was sworn in as Branch President on March 11th. This marks the fourth time that I have been bestowed with this honor and responsibility. I thank you all for your support and understanding over the years. I know the great responsibilities with which I am entrusted and I do not take them lightly. I've learned a lot over the past nine years and I continue to learn more with each passing year. I'd like to think that I've seen and heard it all, but every year there are a few surprises. Over the years, I have met and dealt with so many people; sometimes my opinions of the people have changed for the better or worse but I've always given everyone a clean slate when we first deal with each other. The common theme throughout my tenure here is that we all need to treat each other with dignity and respect. We also all need to realize that we are here to do a job and get paid. We need to communicate and we need to be listened to. Management needs to follow the CBA, just like we are expected to follow their rules. They want accountability from us and we need to demand accountability from them. We

all have rights and we need to exercise those rights. Don't be silent, don't sit back and accept what you are force-fed if it is not right. Exercise your rights, ask to see a shop steward. As I say in orientation, I have no problem with the Postal Service; my problem is with the way it is run. The mismanagement, the ineptitude and ignorance, the lack of communication, the arrogance and misdirection; these are the plagues of the Postal Service. We have made great strides here at the Lehigh Valley P&DC over the past decade and the leadership team up front is the best we've seen during my terms, but work can always be done to improve and new maladies are always on the horizon (especially with Philly HR and DeJoy). We must stay vigilant; we must stay united and stay strong!

In Solidarity-

Sean