

March 5, 2017

I'd like to start this posting off by congratulating Bill Smith on his retirement and by thanking him for not only his 43 years of service in the USPS and membership in the NPMHU, but also for his service to the country as a member of the Navy.

I'd like to welcome 2 new members to the Lehigh Valley; Tanya Hermon and Jeffrey Futrell both arrived here on February 18th. When you see either of them, please make them feel welcome here at Lehigh Valley.

I'd also like to welcome all of newly signed up members of the NPMHU Local 308. Thank you to Cecilia Sanchez, Cara Shiner, Eileen Gonzalez, Terry Young, Harriet Arnold, Carmella Cavallo, and Katherine Morrow-Voelker. Also, thank you to APWU members Bryan Barron and Bobby Flecksteiner who joined the NPMHU as associate members.

Chief shop stewards Joy Carlino and Floyd Steinmetz joined me on 2/23 in a Labor-Management meeting with Plant Manager Ken Hanson. Overall, the meeting went well and Mr. Hanson was receptive to the Union's concerns and ideas. Our new plant manager seems dedicated not only to making the Lehigh Valley a better and more productive workplace, but also a better place for the employees to work in. Those are my first impressions and they are much better than my first impressions of Mr. Hanson's two most recent predecessors, although that's not saying a whole lot. We will be working to resolve the situation involving the availability and distribution of work gloves for the Mail Handlers. Also, acquiring additional and better tow bars for the tow motors and possibly attaching new towing apparatuses to the back of them is being investigated in terms of financial feasibility and overall compatibility. There was also discussion about the consolidation of some of the start times, the paying of old grievances, the behavior of some of the management staff, and the staffing issues that continue to cause the overworking of our MHAs. I, hopefully, will be meeting with the plant manager and the district manager this week to further discuss the staffing problems here and the possibility of alleviating some of the excessive hours that are required of our work force.

As a result of grievances that have been heard over the past month, every member should have received or be receiving \$200 in their pay checks. These payouts are mainly the result of the failed NMO room and the PSE clerks being put on the HSTS. Be on the lookout for your payments.

The contract was ratified and finalized. The first contractual raise and COLA took effect on the pay that we are receiving this Friday (PP-5). The next COLA took effect as of yesterday and will be reflected in the pay for pay period 6. The retroactive payments should be in the paychecks that will be issued on May 19th (PP-10).

On March 18th, I will be sworn in for my second term as Lehigh Valley Branch President. I would like to thank all of you for the support that I have received over the past three years and I remain committed to enforcing the contract, protecting your rights, and working to make the working conditions here as safe, profitable, pleasant, and productive as possible.

All dues paying members are invited to join the officers of Local 308, as well as National President Paul Hogrogian at the swearing-in ceremony. The ceremony is followed by dinner and dancing. Please see the posters on the bulletin boards for more information and call to reserve your spot.

NPMHU Local 308 hoodies are in; if you ordered one bring your money to me and you will receive your sweatshirt. I will be placing another order on March 17th so stop in the office and sign up to receive this latest Union gear.

I am currently researching a winter event and need to gauge the interest in one of these two options: a bowling night or a dinner/dance. Please see me and let me know which event you would be interested in attending. I'm getting prices for both scenarios. As usual, the event would be free to members.

Finally, I'd like to recognize two employees who have been important to helping Mail Handlers throughout their career and who in my three years have gone above and beyond the call of their duties. At the end of this month, Mary Dion and Kim Organetti will each be calling it a career. I'd like to thank them for all that they have done for us over the years and congratulate them on their retirement.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean

