

November 11, 2022

Fellow Members-

We start this post by recognizing and honoring the service and sacrifices made by all of our veterans that work here. We thank them for their bravery and fortitude to do what many of us lack the drive to do. We thank them for sacrificing their time away from their families and home lives to fight for, defend, and protect our freedoms, rights, and ways of living that way too many of us take for granted and act as if we have done something to be given them. It should also be noted that these men and women continue to deal with their service wounds, both the visible and those not seen, for the rest of their lives; their bodies and minds aren't always given discharge dates and their service never ends. We also recognize and thank the families of veterans who have missed them while they are away training and keeping us safe. Thank you to all of you who have served and who continue to serve!!

I also want to take a moment to recognize the passing of retired Mail Handler Lola Daggres. Lola was an off and on member of the Union and when I was elected Branch President she rejoined the fight until the day she retired. Lola had been a Union steward before I ever was hired here and I know that only because I found a Labor-Management agreement that she signed. I recently used that piece of paper prior to her passing to secure and reaffirm the rights of FTR Mail Handlers to be paid for 8 hours of level 5 pay when they perform level 5 work for 4 hours or more. Lola could be stubborn and stand-offish but when you got to know her you would find that she had a good heart. The best part of Lola was that she could be a loud, obnoxious huge pain in management's ass. She used to give the bosses fits and was quick to remind them that there was no book limit for FMLA when she was walking out the door. Rest in peace, Lola.

The accelerated bid packets have been handed out and are due back on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Remember to bid every job that you would want a chance at getting because this is a blind bid for all jobs that are currently open and which will become open during this process. Nobody can take your job unless you bid out. Please remember to bid the jobs you want in the order that you would want them and then bid your job last. Sign and date the front page and turn the packet into the Union office or a shop steward.

Speaking of shop stewards, Tour 1 has a new shop steward in Angela Gomez-Curet and the Annex now has Tim Casey and Daralis Hockenbury serving as Union reps. We thank

them for stepping up to the plate and we look forward to having them fully trained and going head-to-head with management in defending the rights of our members.

Next weekend, three more Mail Handler Assistants will be converted to Full-Time Regular Mail Handlers. Congratulations and good luck to them! There will be more in the new year as a result of the accelerated bid process. Let's hope Philly HR doesn't screw these all up.

Philly HR's mass mistakes are still being mended but there is an end in sight, as there are only a couple people left to have their statuses fixed. The issue of monetary remedy still needs to be addressed but the grievances had been filed since day one and management knows that they are on the hook for the payout. Once I receive the adjusted pay stubs, I will be combing through them and the clock rings to get everyone that was harmed their money.

The Union Meeting is fast approaching!! Please sign up in the Union Office and be sure to attend. There is a lot to talk about and always some good food to chow down on. It is a 6PM meeting this time. Attendance gets you more chances in the Xmas gift card raffle. See the bulletin board for details and sign up!!

I will be meeting on Monday to discuss the Thanksgiving holiday list. My plan, as always, is to get as many FTR Mail Handlers off for this major holiday.

Just a reminder yet again, if you get called into the office by supervisors or inspectors it is your right to ask for a shop steward to accompany you. You should have another set of eyes and ears in the room. If they do not have a steward there waiting for you, request one. The interview can't go on without a steward present after you requested one. Protect your rights; protect yourself.

Finally, it's that time of year when we start getting an influx of fresh faces. While some of them may not last very long, we still must try and help acclimate people to the Postal environment and train them to do their jobs. The influx will not only be just for the holiday season either; even with the upcoming conversions, we will still be below our complement number although we are also expecting a few eReassign candidates to transfer in at some point too. Let's do our best to welcome any new additions that we receive and to form a better, stronger Union. Everyone should be treated equally, fairly, and with dignity and respect, just as we ourselves would wish to be treated; that is not just a message for this time of year and in this building, but should apply always and everywhere.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

*Sean*