

November 8, 2019

Fellow Members-

I'll start this posting off with the same salute that occurs every year at this time, a big heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans for their service. Veterans' Day is often an overlooked holiday, yet it is one of our most important; because without our veterans and their bravery and sacrifices then we wouldn't have the freedoms that we do enjoy and we wouldn't have the right to fight for the holidays and other rights that we constantly are striving for. Thank you to all of the veterans and the families of veterans who have sacrificed for the freedom and rights of the rest of us; your service and bravery is appreciated. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

We will be having our winter Branch Meeting on Monday, November 25th at Dolce Mamma Italian Bar & Grille on Route 512 at 5PM. Please see the posting on the bulletin board for more information. Just as a reminder, the more Union meetings that you make; the more chances that you get in the Holiday Gift Card Drawing that will be held in December. There will be a total of 12 \$40 gift cards issued in the LVP&DC this year courtesy of Local 308.

The RI-399 settlement payments came through in October. There were employees who did not receive the amount of shares that they should have. From what I have seen so far, this has applied to voluntary transfers and employees that served as PTRs. If you believe that you are owed more, please bring me a copy of your paystub from the October 4th paycheck and a copy of your Form 50 from when you were originally hired as a Mail Handler. I have sent the first batch of appeals off to our Washington HQ to be rectified.

The Christmas Annex will be opening down the road on November 18th. We are taking three FTR Mail Handlers for each shift to perform the duties of an equipment operator, a dock group leader, and a parcel post group leader. Details are on the Union boards and bids close at 9AM, November 13th. Please see the bulletin board for details.

It is getting to be the Peak Season and that means a lot of holiday sign-ups and a lot of mandatory overtime requests. Remember that the way to get off of any ODLs is by handing in a buck slip to a Union representative and that you are still on that ODL for 24 hours. Holiday sign-ups are due in the green box within the assigned time limits. Management is getting weary about allowing buck slip sign-ups after the holiday lists are posted and I expect a change in that procedure during the next year. Again, if you

missed the sign-up period, a buck slip needs to be handed in to the Union and approved by management by 9AM the Thursday two days after the list has been posted.

Peak Season also means more stress. More stress on the bosses to get the mail out and the failure to do so means that they will in turn put more stress on the workers who actually do the work and get the job done. It also means that there will be a lot of new, temporary help and the daily chance of mandatory overtime. Do not let the stress of the season, the long hours that you may have to work, the plethora of new faces, or the constant criticism, negativity, and bad decisions of management torment you at this time of year. Concentrate on the paychecks that you'll receive and remember that it'll all be over soon enough and we will get back to business as normal. Treat your fellow brother and sister Mail Handlers with the respect and courtesy that you expect in return and with the welcoming, joy that is the real meaning of the season.

Anyone who feels that they are owed a clothing allowance and has not received it yet, should submit their names to the Union and we will forward it to the Plant Manager. Plant Manager Ken Hanson has said that he will personally see to it that they are taken care of.

Last month, recently retired Mail Handler Carl Burghardt passed away. Carl was a unique person who I shared space with in both locker areas for the past twenty years. Prior to being president and being on day shift with Carl, I would see him every morning when I'd be leaving and he'd be arriving. After I became president, I talked to Carl more often and got to know him better. He was a funny individual and had a big heart. I regret that he didn't get to enjoy more time on this Earth as a retiree after all of the hours that he used to drag himself into here. I have a bunch of fun memories of Carl and will never forget him dancing to "Uptown Funk" at the Dinner-Dance. RIP Carl, which could also stand for "Rruuff" in Paradise.

Lastly for this "blast", even though he didn't want me to write anything but I know that he will read it, Mail Handler Mike DeRoach finished serving his sentence in the U.S. Postal Service prison. Mike was a staunch Union supporter, but also believed in telling the Union when they were wrong. He did his job, not yours. Mike could be prickly, but if you got to know him, he is actually a good guy but will not pull any punches on you. He spent time writing up bosses for working on Tour 1 and always got on my case if I wasn't holding management more accountable. He also kept me updated on who was the worst Tour 1 equipment operator, when winter officially "sprouted", and how many days it was until spring training would start so that the Phillies could attempt to go undefeated. I will miss Mike's stark commentary on my job performance as a "flapper", equipment

operator, and president and also our spirited debates on the Hall of Fame.
Congratulations and good luck Mike, and thank you for your service for the PO and for
the country! Enjoy your new gig.

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean