

October 11, 2017

Dear Members-

I have started a private Facebook group for the members of the NPMHU that work here in the Lehigh Valley. If you are not already a member of the group, you simply need to have a friend recommend you to the group and I will verify the request. The page is only open to current members of the NPMHU at Lehigh Valley P&DC; once you retire, resign, become an EAS or acting EAS, quit the Union, transfer, or are terminated then you will be removed from the group. No non-members or 204Bs will be allowed in the group. The page is to help people stay up to date and in touch with what is going on and to have discussions. If at any point it turns into personal attacks or other inappropriate posting then I will shut down the page.

Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Union is holding a membership drive. If you are able to enlighten any non-member of more than a year to join the Union then you will receive \$50 per sign-up. We only have two individuals in the building who need to be convinced about the benefits of being a member of this Union.

Starting on October 16<sup>th</sup> the APWU and the NPMHU here at Lehigh Valley are joining together to sponsor a food drive to benefit those less fortunate than us during the Thanksgiving holiday season. From 10/16 until 11/15 there will be an ERMC outside of the Union offices where you can deposit your food donations. Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards for needed items, as well as those items that are not accepted. Please be generous!!

On November 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having a breakfast at the Palace Restaurant to say farewell to all of the Mail Handler members that retired this calendar year. All members are invited. You will be responsible for your own breakfast and cake will be served. Please see the posting on the bulletin boards.

Our final Branch Meeting for this year is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the Palace Restaurant. This is your last chance to increase your odds of winning the holiday gift certificate drawing. Please see the posting for more details.

Supervisors and 204B's working is a contract violation that is getting absolutely out of control. With the holidays coming and not a lot of help on the way, not to mention our already short-handedness, I can only expect it to get worse. Please write statements when you see EAS employees or clerks performing our work!! Save our jobs and protect

our work and future work. If you let a clerk or boss do your work and you are complacent with it, then they will just continue to do our work. Then, lo and behold, one day some pudgy-fingered bean counter who has never worked a day in the post office or stepped a foot in a plant will decide that since a Mail Handler wasn't swiping those operation numbers or scanning those containers or grieving those violations...then it must not be their work. DON'T let his happen to OUR jobs!! WE all form the Union and it is OUR fight. Stewards do the paperwork, but we also need your help and your input. We can't see everything all of the time. Of course, it's easier and causes fewer problems for people to not say anything and let someone else do the work so that they can get a longer break. Well, the fact is that the break will be even longer if it's not your job anymore. Help us to protect us.

In my eyes, the conversion of 15 MHAs as a result of the accelerated bid process has been delayed by over a month. In a good faith effort this Union not only agreed to, but also basically ran, the bid process under the premise that 20 residuals would remain and, thusly, 15 conversions would occur. Full time regulars did benefit from the process, so it should not be considered a wasted effort. Those FTRs who wanted a different job were able to bid and be placed in those jobs that they desired in an expeditious manner. Unfortunately, the Postal Service can't get out of its own way and they continue to bumble, botch, and bastardize what should be a rather fluid process due to the clear and unambiguous language of our National Agreement. The USPS' antics of buffoonery at the highest level have included messing up their own computer program that they created to try and determine job complements and their misreading of language which they helped to write. So, the fight continues to get this process done and done correctly. There have also been grievances filed in an attempt to recoup the monetary damages to those employees that have had their career assignment put on hold. All involved will be kept apprised of the movement of the grievance through the procedure until resolution. What this process did teach me is that maybe I was a bit too trusting that when people make deals that they have the authority and ability to follow all of the way through on them. I do believe, however, through this whole ordeal, though, that the Plant Manager was in agreement with us and our views and was trying to accomplish the same goals of staffing that we were and, therefore, I can't heap too much of the blame on him. Unfortunately, the higher-ups put the brakes on progress which doesn't surprise me since USPS headquarters is located in the center of bureaucratic bs, forward -thinking gridlock, and non-compromising factions, Washington DC.

Tour 3 AI employee Melody Flynn will be riding off into the proverbial sunset of retirement at the end of this month. We wish her good health and good luck as she starts the next phase of her life.

Finally, as you all probably know, Tour 2 parcel post group leader Rob Seruga passed away on September 21<sup>st</sup>. I will miss talking sports, especially hockey, with Rob. He was a kind man and a conscientious worker. Rob served the members here as a shop steward for several years and we are grateful for his service. He was a supporter of not only our Union, but of all labor unions. Please keep Rob and his family in your thoughts and prayers. "Bye, Bobby".

Stay United, Stay Strong-  
*Sean*