

October 23, 2022

Fellow Members-

Let's just jump right into business here. If you are called into the office for anything that may lead to discipline such as a PDI or investigative interview, it is your right to have a steward present with you for that questioning. You need to exercise that right and ask to have a steward present; a supervisor, MDO, inspector, or plant manager does not need to ask you if you want one, you need to ask for one. I have written and said this many times; they are calling you into the office for a reason and not just to have a friendly chitchat...bring back-up. Stewards, while not there to answer the questions for you, can provide another set of ears/eyes in the room, can participate to help clarify questions/answers, can make sure the meeting is run professionally, and can help you with anything that you don't understand. Exercise your rights!

Peak season is rapidly approaching and as usual I will ask that we help any new employees out as best as we can because we know that they don't get a lot of training (if any at all) and it can be overwhelming. I also ask that we all start treating each other a hell of a lot better. Over the last several weeks, I have gotten more complaints about people mistreating each other than ever before. I am not asking that you have each other over for the holidays, but for goodness sake at least be respectful of one another. If you can't do that, then just stay the heck away from people that you don't want to be around. I say it all of the time and I really shouldn't have to because we are all supposedly adults, but treat people the way that you wish to be treated. We are all here to do a job and go home at the end of our day. There's been such an uptick in childish and unnecessarily nonsensical behavior, not just among supervisory staff, that sometimes I think this is a high school or a daycare. Let's get it together, folks!

As an addendum to my previous paragraph, let me add a little word about rotations...AGAIN. Ergonomic rotations on machines are in place for workers' safety. It is really not a good idea to not rotate and to risk repetitive motion injuries. Rotations are set up for your protection; please follow them for your own safety and the safety of your fellow employees.

Discussions continue about whether the next round of bids will be a manual bid posting of just the vacant jobs or if we are going to do an accelerated bid packet again. Either way, bids will be going on beginning on either October 28th or November 4th.

It appears, I repeat appears, for now that HR may finally be getting their crap together and that they are finally starting to get caught up on all of the conversions and job bids. I am not putting too much trust into it until it is completed, but we may be headed in the right direction out of the woods at least. I don't know how screwed up the seniority list will look though, that has yet to be fixed.

Our next Branch Meeting has been scheduled for November 29th at 6PM. Dinner will be provided and President Gibson and Treasurer Rembelinsky will be up from Philly to speak about the state of our Union. We are doing an evening one to try and drum up some more attendance and maybe get some new people involved too. Remember the more Union meetings that you attend in a year means the more chances that you have put in for the holiday gift card drawing. See the bulletin board post for details. RSVP by November 21st.

The jackets are all in and have been distributed with a few exceptions. I will get those out as soon as possible.

The Union is planning an outing to a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins game on February 25th. Mark the date down.

There will be a retirement seminar on November 13th. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details. This is a great seminar and I definitely recommend it for anyone who is considering retiring soon, but it is also informative for anyone because she talks about TSP investment, military time buyback, and other topics that can affect you down the road. The seminar is free and if you are retiring, she will also help fill out your retirement book for free. The Mail Handlers had a big turnout the last time she was in town. The seminar and one-on-one meetings were well-received and reviewed by those who attended. See the posting to get the details and RSVP.

Finally, this week marks the last hoorah for two girls that I started with. Lori Goldman and Kim Yoo will serve the final week of their sentence here and are officially retired as of November 1. Their former MDO told me that if he had ten of each of them then he'd never have to worry about the mail getting out. He said that he never had to worry when they were there because their work was always done. I never worked with Lori other than when we were PTF's and I had to come in early on Tour 3 for our 12 hour days. She is a dependable employee who quietly went about doing her job every day that she was here. I think I only ever saw her angry or worked up once in our 24 years here and that was during the Christine Goughler era (or error as it may be). Kim is dependable and always did her job too, just not always as quietly as Lori, but

we need people who speak up too. Kim took a turn as a Union rep back when I started out as one but found that dealing with management and fellow coworkers can be super aggravating; imagine that. Anyway, we wish both Kim and Lori happiness and good health, as well as a long and lucky retirement. We thank them both for their service to the company and the customers, as well as their support for the Union. They will both be greatly missed; be sure to say congratulations and good luck to them both this week. Congratulations to both of you!!!

Stay United, Stay Strong-

Sean