

May 2010

Brothers and Sisters again I and this entire administration thank you for your support during these very difficult times. The Mail Handler Craft across the country have experience a number of problems based solely on Postal initiatives. St. Louis continues to deal with Article 12 issues and the related impact of Postal Management decisions. As stated in earlier communication the Union is alive and well and continues to address all contractual violations via meetings and the grievance arbitration process. However we still need to continue on working with the Union to protect our rights. If you become aware of anyone working in a bid that was abolished by management please inform the Union immediately.

There have been significant changes since our last communications. The P&DC downtown currently is experiencing the return of empty equipment, the Union has contacted management and expects this is to be resolved soon with a remedy of bid jobs being posted for Mail Handlers handling empty equipment. There are no disputes that this work is Mail Handler work and has been prior to the creation of the MTEC facilities and the private sector contracting of this work.

The Union continues to have major concerns with the health and wellbeing of our members in relation to proper emergency care. The Union has filed grievances and will continue to pursue the many concerns centering around the First Aide Responders provided by the USPS to assist in emergency medical issues. On many occasions there have been major problems with the current system if any member has problems, good or bad with this system please advise the Union.

The National Level has established a Disciplinary Task Force as per the National Agreement. This Task Force is currently involved with the USPS at the National level addressing issues such as the improper use of Deems Desirable, The Arbitration Process, and problem that has plagued the St. Louis Area for quite some time the Improper and abusive behavior of supervisors and managers. I am one of the representatives for the Union involved in this process and we are working tirelessly to address these issues other concerns across the nation that deal with discipline as soon as the parties develop new policies and or enter into agreements I will inform you (the membership of Local 314).

Locally Discipline is at a all time high and continues to rise for these reasons I caution every Mail Handler to be aware of the attitude on the workroom floor. Management has began a process that is designed to reduce staffing at all cost this is the reason for discipline being issued for seemingly minor infractions. Therefore each and every Mail Handler should be aware of any situation that could cause discipline to be issued. Moreover if your brother or sister is harassed by a manager please demonstrate Unionism and provide a statement to support them remember tomorrow it could be you.

The Union was successful in getting all PTF's promoted to regular Mail Handlers with the exception of 8 I believe and a grievance has been filed concerning the status of the

remaining PTF's. This was paramount due to the fact that the Great Lakes area was under a withholding in addition to the drastic reduction in staff by the USPS.

I would like to thank every representative beginning with the stewards that are on the front line everyday fighting for our rights. Next I would like to thank the E-Board and Council of Local 314 for their continued dedication and professionalism in representing Mail Handlers daily. Brothers and sisters while the past year has brought many changes including bid abolishment, tour changes, discipline, reduced staff and a increase in harassment the Union has remained true to the course of addressing each issue and seeking resolution. In some cases resolution has been reached early in the process while other issues have had to go through to arbitration. Whatever the case the representatives of local 314 have been consistently fighting for our rights and will continue to do so. A footnote to everyone please remember to contact your Union Steward or call the Union office if you are asked to meet with mangers and certainly The Postal Inspection Service. We continue to have Mail Handlers that go into meetings with these branches of management without Union representation to do this is you place your career in jeopardy. In closing I continue to encourage unity and involvement, attend Union meetings and get involved the Union belongs to the members of local 314 and can only flourish with your participation. For the Mail Handlers that have recently become Stewards thank you for joining the fight. We will continue to fight for our rights and provide the representation to the best of our ability. May God Bless every Mail Handler and their families.

Fraternally,

Anthony Davis
President
Local 314 NPMHU