

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all have been paying attention to the minutes of the meetings if you have not attended. I have spoke about the Postal Services push on changing the FMLA law to benefit management. I have talked on the issue of the Postal Services attempt to violate our privacy concerning medical records. I have relayed the back-door dealings from the Department of Labor and the Postal Service in regards to our "Weingarten Rights". Lastly, the National Reassessment Program which will terminate your brothers and sisters because they got injured on the job.

As you can tell we are being attacked from all different angles at once. It is an uphill battle that can not be done alone. What I am referring to is the idea that most union members have. It is simply this..."why should I get involved, my officers and stewards will take care of it". There is a problem with that thought process especially now. As a local union I can honestly tell you all that "we" are on our own. I will give you examples on this.

We recently filed a grievance in regards to the Postal Service deliberately stalling and delaying claims. We got "zero" assistance from the office of OWCP, any of our constituents in the Congress or the Senate, the Attorney Generals office simply passed the buck to the Office of Inspector General (OIG), which is a horror show in itself. Basically, no help...oh and as far as our Union leaders in D.C. are concerned, forget that idea. It is just one example of why I truly believe as a local we are on our own.

So what do "we" do about it? How about attending a union meeting? We have 9 meetings per year. This is our process that allows us to bring forth ideas to better our local as a whole. How about attending or volunteering for union functions like the May Breakfast or the Union picnic. How about looking out for your brothers and sisters instead of turning them in to management? These are just a few ideas that I pose to you. Maybe you can just take a few minutes and I ask yourself "can I do something to better our local?"

To simply believe that the union President and the stewards can take care of all the problems is just unrealistic.

Like I have always said in the past "I've got your back" and I will always stick to that premise. I wanted to be President of this local because I truly believe in the concept of a "union". Now it is my job to mobilize the membership into believing that "I got your back". The Postal Service does not care about any of us...we are just numbers that they are trying to crunch down. Has anyone noticed the discipline being handed out recently? We have had brothers and sisters being disciplined for management's mistakes. We had a brother disciplined for making one error in performing his duties, his first mistake in 22 years of service. When I see this kind of attitude from management it really pisses me off! How does it make you feel...I know "it's not me so why should I care?" Wrong answer! It has to and must piss you off as well because "it can and will be you eventually". The Postal Service is in the process of eliminating "jobs" starting with the

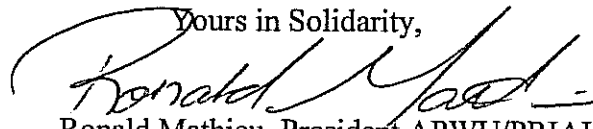
Reassessment Program and discipline for "any deficiencies in attendance". After that is complete "what next?" I am sure they are already thinking of something new.

So I will leave you all with a couple of things to ponder over the summer. First, the membership elected me as the Vice President and I eventually became your President. I will always do what is best for you all and your officers and stewards will do the same under my leadership. This is what you have "asked" of me when I was elected...I will hold true to that. Now I am calling on the membership, not for me, but for all of us..."How can I get more involved in my union".

Finally, I will leave you all with a saying that I came upon recently that I believe are "words" to live by. It goes like this...*If I continue to do what I've always done, then I'm going to get what I've always got.*

I wish you and your families a fun filled and safe summer. Hope to see you all at the July 19<sup>th</sup> union picnic...I challenged the mailhandlers to a softball game.

Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald Mathieu". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ronald Mathieu, President APWU/PRIAL 387