

Brothers and Sisters,

It has now been just over 100 days since assuming the position of President for our local. It has been everything I expected and more. But be rest assured, it is something I hold near and dear to my heart for representing all of you is a privilege. Let me first say that the communication lines within the administration are at an all time high. I have contact with all stewards, officers, and A/O's on a consistent basis so I am in tune with all the problems out there. I recently directed stewards from Coventry, Bristol, and West Warwick, and Pawtucket to forward copies of their local agreements and they responded quickly. I have instructed all stewards to forward all grievance activity to myself so it can be scanned here at Providence. All officers have been instructed to write an article for the new website, which they will do on a bi-monthly basis. We just completed a steward training hosted by the state where nearly all stewards attended. These items are done so not one issue or member falls through the cracks.

I have also required management to meet on a quarterly basis. The clerk craft, maintenance craft, and stations and branches have now held meetings on a consistent basis. We have been meeting customer service once per week for nearly 6 weeks now fine tuning the operations and this may include new bid positions as well. Meetings at the Plant are being done quarterly as well. Our last meeting in January, in my opinion, was not at all productive. We discussed the same issues from the October meeting because nothing has been addressed by management. We discussed safety, supervisors performing bargaining unit work, and form 1767's. These issues have not been addressed promptly enough for me. I was forced to contact OSHA on several 1767's that had not been abated. Within 2 hours of OSHA contacting the Plant Manager the violations were abated. Supervisors continue to perform our work. This shows that we are need of more hires and a total disrespect to our contract and your union; I will not tolerate this type of action. With the help of our Safety Representative, Mike Nyzio, we were successful in getting the Fire Department to the Plant to instruct management on not blocking the fire hose connections on the platform. Again, these are issues that will be addressed promptly during my administration.

Lastly, I want to speak to the members of this local. One of the things I believe is missing is the understanding of "union". This is your "union". The

administration represents "you". At the same time the members need to become part of the "union". You need to look after your brothers and sisters, not squeal on them. You need to speak your rights to management, not hold it in. If you see supervisors working the mail then write a statement so we may grieve it. If you see a safety violations then abate it immediately or inform your supervisor with a 1767. I have seen to many times where members will not write a statement or fill out a 1767. This just doesn't make any sense to me. This is your "union". If stewards need statements to file grievances for supervisors working the mail then why not provide it? If a 1767 is in order why not fill it out? Is it fear of retaliation? Is it the idea of "let the union grieve it?" Or maybe it's the thought "that's the steward's job". This is the thought process that must and can change from the members. At some point in the near future...and I mean "near future", we must come together as a whole. In order for us to survive the onslaught from management we have to become a "union". Therefore, as President of local 387 I am challenging the members of this local to start looking out for one another. I am challenging the members to become part of something...become part of your "union". I am sure you have heard it all before, right? Quotes like "this is your union". Well all the quotes you have heard are so true. Where would any one of us be right now, today, if you were not working for the postal service? Ask yourself that question. Think about it. How are any of us able to provide the type of lifestyle we enjoy today? Some of us own homes, cars, boats, motorcycles. Some of us vacation to exotic places routinely. We provide for our children with a quality of life some of us did not have when we were young. We all have decent medical and dental care when we need it.

When you really think about those things how fortunate are we? The answer is "very fortunate". But how or whom helped provide these benefits we enjoy? It was our brothers and sisters before us that are responsible. It is not management that provides these benefits...it's the "UNION". I challenge the members to think about it.

Yours in Solidarity,



Ron Mathieu, President