

December Report

Brothers and Sisters,

Let me begin by wishing you all a safe and happy holiday for you and your families. Those of you who attended the Christmas party I hope you all had a good time...I know I did...LOL. It was just another way of saying to you all that my goal is to bring this union where it needs to be...Together.

We are truly facing some difficult times here at the post office. With the economy in a tail spin and mail volume at an all time low we still have jobs to support our families. Whereas most of the working men and women in this country are struggling every day just to put food on their tables, let alone pay bills. Every once in a while we have to remind ourselves how fortunate we truly are. We also need to remind ourselves why we are so fortunate. The answer to that is "union" solidarity.

As most of you are aware the Providence plant is facing what is called the "tour 2 initiative"...management's words. The proposal is to eliminate most of tour 2 and move employees to either tour 3 or tour 1. Locally, management is saying this is "mandated" by headquarters. Nationally, they are saying there is "no mandate". What a surprise...someone from management is lying. Vice President Ray Kearns, Craft Director Steve Poole, and myself have held 3 meetings on this issue. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 5th. At this point we have made it very clear to management that the contract "will be followed". There will be no "deals" of any kind. Follow the contract or the grievance activity will reach an all-time high I promise you that. There also appears to be a lot of rumors floating around on a daily basis. Please, DO NOT listen to anything unless it comes from myself...period! We are still meeting with the other parties to keep the impact to as few as possible. Even when we finish these meetings there is no doubt in my mind that the grievance activity will be cumbersome. Simply because this "initiative" is unnecessary and, in my opinion, only to force the CSRS employees into retirement. That's right, you read it correctly. Sure mail volume is down and the economy is tanking but we continue to thrive here in Providence when it comes to delivery. That's why this does not make any sense other than forcing employees into retirement...check out my post on 21st century.com under the General Business page and you will see where I truly stand on this.


On the Customer Service side we have begun meeting with the other parties once again. This time to discuss the distribution side of things. I learned from Mark Streeter, Customer service Rep., that things got very volatile on Monday...hmmm...let me think why that would happen. Oh, maybe because we "SIGNED AND AGREEMENT THIS SUMMER AND ALREADY THEY ARE VIOLATING IT!" Sorry for the CAPS...but enough is enough. Needless to say another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 9th, let's see how that goes.

State President James Ozanian and myself have been representing employees who are targeted by the National Reassessment Program (NRP). We have held 5 first interviews and all but one at this point has been given a job offer. We are already grieving the fact that employees who are currently performing the core functions of their bid job should not be part of this process. We are asking that the modified job offer be rescinded and removed from the employee's file. I have already asked management to forward me a copy of all employees who are not getting job offers...believe me they have that information. This is so I can contact them ahead of time so they are not told during the interview process. This will also allow the employees to prepare themselves for the OWCP Re-Habilitation Program. It's a process that we will be working very diligently on and at some point our Attorneys will surely get involved.

So as you can see it's business as usual for your leadership. The struggle continues my brothers and sister. So I will keep reminding you all that everyone needs to get involved on some level...great or small. To ask the officers of your union to do everything is an unrealistic request for my Administration or any Administration thereafter. We must come to together and "at least" believe in the definition of a "union" ...a number of persons, states, etc., joined together for some common purpose. What is our "common purpose" you might ask...simply this, fight to keep what we already have.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

In Solidarity,


Ronald Mathieu, President