

Brothers and Sisters,

As you all know and see at your workplace every day whether it be the plant, city station, associate office or administrative offices there has been a lot going on.

The Postal Service has implemented changes in the services standards for some classes of mail. These changes became effective in January. It has resulted in drastic changes for many of you with more changes to come until this implementation has finally stabilized. There have been changes in work schedules, bids have been abolished and a significant number of clerks at the plant have been excessed from their bids. We are fully aware of how these changes have affected your personal lives and just want to ensure you that we are making sure everything being done is within the contract. Your stewards, officers and union representatives are monitoring everything that's taking place.

More changes are coming to the city stations and associate offices in addition to the service standard changes. Locally we are about to embark on a new service, it's called Amazon Fresh. It is the delivery of groceries by the Postal Service for Amazon. It is too early to tell how this endeavor will go, but without being pessimistic, I never thought I'd see the day where we would be delivering groceries. I guess this is the Postal Service's way of thinking outside of the box.

We have been very successful in the last few months in getting approximately 45-50 PSE's in all 3 crafts (Maint, MVS, Clerk) converted to career in the plants, city stations and associate offices with more in the process. Again your union stewards and officers monitor this process very closely to make sure it is working as it should because our top priority is to get as many PSE's as possible converted to career. This means better pay and full benefits for those converted employees and their families.

NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN FEB. 19, 2015

We are currently in negotiations for a new contract. Our current contract will expire May 20, 2015. Without going into too much speculation as to how this contract will be negotiated and its details, I would just like to say your national officers need your support and patience in this arduous process. It is a very critical time for us all going forward in our Postal careers. You can get contract negotiation updates by going to the APWU.org website.

We need everyone on board and involved for us to secure a satisfactory and respectful contract. As craft employees of the APWU we all need to be diligent in protecting our work which protects our jobs. Anytime you see violations of our contract you need to let your steward or other union representative know about it so it can be addressed, and if necessary, grieved. This includes things such as other crafts doing your work, management doing your work, harassment by management, unsafe working conditions, unfair/disparate treatment (favoritism), on the job injuries/accidents, holiday scheduling violations, forced overtime, etc. That being said it is also very important that we do our jobs with pride. As our contract says 'A fair days work for a fair days pay'. It is your responsibility to show up at work on time and ready to do your job for the salary and benefits this union has fought for. Always remember to work safely and consistently, your safety is our #1 priority. Don't be in such a hurry that you cause an accident or make a financial mistake (that you will have to pay for) or forget something for the dispatch, forget to make necessary scans, for these could also lead to discipline in addition to not providing the service to the customer that they've come to expect. Remember, we work for the customer, not management.

To the non members that we also represent and negotiate for, we need you to become a member. If any member is aware of a non member, ask them to join. They are getting the same benefits from this union as the dues paying members and that's unacceptable. How can someone expect to benefit from something without paying their fair share? Non members, now is the time. This union needs you in order for us to be successful and continue to do what we've been doing since 1971. We are only as strong as our membership. Contact me at 619-283-5600 or (MLS office 858-674-0230) any other steward or officer and ask for an application so that you can have a voice in your union and your job.

Thank you for your help in strengthening this union.
Solidarity Always

Eddie B. Cooper, Jr.
Vice President