WILMINGTON DE/MTS AREA LOCAL 152

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A BLAST FROM OUR PAST
How many people can you name in the above picture?
Being a Union member

This might sound corny from time to time, however, it is my opinion and as you already know, everyone has an opinion so here is mine. I started at the USPS in 1983 and immediately joined the APWU when the great APWU President, Malcolm T. Smith handed me an application. Over the past thirty-three years, there were times I disagreed with several contracts that were negotiated in Washington DC. and there have been many decisions that had infuriated me. All this time I remained a dues-paying APWU member and I never regretted my decision! We are truly a family that pays Union dues to represent us here and at the negotiating table in Washington, DC.

Our decision to join a Union is very important. The middle class was formed by the Unions and if anyone who studies the history of Unions will be surprised what they accomplish over the years. The Unions have fought for many of the things we have taken for granted every day of our lives. Union members have fought and some have even given their lives for what we have today. The Unions stopped the abuse of many companies working children in dangerous situations. Because of their small stature children were often used to climb in areas that adults could not get into. They worked with dangerous chemicals and were forced to work very long hours for pennies what others made. They were put in harm’s way and it was the Unions to put an end to child labor. There was no overtime, medical insurance, sick time, holidays, and no weekends. The presence of a Union in the workplace is very important and without a Union, the workers would have no one sitting on the opposite side of the negotiation table representing their needs.

The Wilmington DE/MTS Area local is about 90% Union organized which mean that 10% of your co-workers are non-members, or in other terms, scabs. I get criticized by using the term “scabs” and I know it’s not PC to say it, however, if you were to look up the meaning of scab in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary it says “a worker who refuses to join a labor Union” so I feel I am in my right to use the word “scab”. I have heard some lame excuses from the scabs when they defend themselves about not joining or why they decided to quit the Union and become a scab.

First, there is the personality conflict excuse. That’s the one where they say “I don’t like (insert Union official’s name here) so I’m getting out! That one is the lamest of all since some of the names I have heard are now deceased or haven’t been in office for many years! Second, there is the “Blame the Union” game where one complains about losing a grievance or losing a bid job so I’m quitting the Union. Thirdly, there is the “Union is against me” excuse. That is when the Union files a grievance about Management violating the contract and a worker thinks we are grieving them personally. We grieve any violation in the four corners of our contract and not individuals! Fourthly, there is the worst excuse of all, I don’t need the Union so I not joining. These are your co-workers deciding to let others pay for all the benefits they receive from the Union. They are the ones that complain the most about the Union, our raises were not that much, why are they hiring PSE’s, that contract sucked and why don’t they fire (insert co-workers name here) he or she is a bum and the Union is protecting him or her.

Your Union dues just don’t go to your Local. They get divided between the National APWU in Washington DC, then to your Local and finally your State APWU. Your dues combine with other members’ dues and give us a voice in Washington DC. Without the Union do you honestly think we would receive the benefits and pay we take for granted? Do you think the Postal Service just willingly opens their purse and says take what you want? The Union not only fights for your benefits and pay is currently in a battle on consolidation and most importantly, job security. We escape the consolidation the last time they tried to close Wilmington DE down but without the Union, who would fight in stopping it the next time we go through an AMP study. Your dues help keep Postal jobs alive, it may not be yours today, but in the crazy political times we live in, it could be any of our jobs!

I am retiring soon and thanks to the Union, I have a pension to look forward to. I hope everyone will be as fortunate as I was during my Postal career. I started in this plant and have worked all tours over my years. I have been a PTF clerk and an LSM operator. I then entered the Maintenance craft and became a mechanic then after two years, I became an Electronic Technician. I paid my Union dues and the Union provided me with raises, COLA’s and a plethora of many other benefits. I thank the APWU for all the things they have fought for over my years. We need Unions everywhere and big business spends millions of dollars to keep Unions out of their buildings and what do you think that reason is, that they care about you and have your best interest at heart, no, it so you don’t have a voice against big business.
Finally, in closing, I want to thank the workers who have joined the Union. You decided the importance of your job and job security. You are contributing so you have a voice at the table. You can attend a Union meeting and speak out on any problem you might have. Your Local can take your concerns as high as the APWU convention floor to be voted on by thousands of Union delegates and if passed, could become a language in the next contract!

Please convince your co-worker who decides to receive all the benefits the APWU has fought for and failed to contribute. The APWU fought hard last contract to keep COLA’s for the APWU members. They were successful in their quest and we just received a nice COLA increase.

My problem is the scabs have their hands out for everything we contribute and fight for without paying a cent for these benefits. I wouldn't mind if anyone who chose not to join the Union for any lame excuse they may have, to refuse the pay raises the Union got the members or any other benefit the Union might have won at the negotiating table. Do your scab co-workers think “why should I pay I'll just let everyone else pay for me” because their money is more important than your money?

Again, thanks to everyone who has joined to fight along with the APWU. We are close to 90% Union organized and I hope that number continues to grow. There are many uncertainties about our future, but having a strong APWU at the National level and Local level along with the State level is everyone’s best shot in job security and earning benefits that allow us all to make a decent wage!

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**36 Reasons why you should Thank a Union**

1. Weekends
2. All breaks at work, including your lunch breaks
3. Paid vacation
4. FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act)
5. Sick leave
6. Social security
7. Minimum wage
8. Civil Rights Act/Title VII (Prohibits Employer Discrimination)
9. 8-Hour Workday
10. Overtime pay
11. Child labor laws
12. Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA)
13. 40 Hour Work Week
14. Workers Compensation (Workers Comp)
15. Unemployment Insurance
16. Pensions
17. Workplace Safety Standards and Regulations
18. Employer Health Care Insurance
19. Collective Bargaining Rights for Employees
20. Wrongful Termination Laws
22. Whistleblower Protection Laws
23. Employee Polygraph Protection Act (Prohibits Employer from using a lie detector test on an employee)
24. Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)
25. Compensation increases and Evaluations (Raises)
26. Sexual Harassment Laws
27. Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
28. Holiday Pay
29. Employer Dental, Life, and Vision Insurance
30. Privacy Rights
31. Pregnancy and Parental Leave
32. Military Leave
33. The Right to Strike
34. Public Education for Children
35. Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011 (Requires employer pay men and women equally for the same amount of work)
36. Laws Ending Sweatshops in the United States
APWU Fights USPS National Attack on Jobs, Bid Posting Games, MTS Local is on the Frontlines!

Sisters and Brothers

I know you are all concerned about the illegal, failure of the USPS to post the next round of bid jobs, which were due on May 1, 2017. We did address the issue of management’s violation at the May’s Union meeting with those in attendance, but I understand many members were unable to attend. We addressed questions from members and detailed what was known at that time. We also provided those in attendance with our strategy on defending our jobs from these most recent attacks. Allow me to update you on what the Union is doing concerning Management’s failure to post jobs.

We have been aggressively filing grievances every time Management reverts jobs or fails to post jobs as WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO ALLOW MANAGEMENT TO VIOLATE THE CONTRACT AND DENY US JOBS WE DESERVE!

Clerk Craft Director Karen Jester-Witkowski has been diligently fighting for jobs through every means available, we can say that we have been very successful keeping jobs that management had every intention on reverting.

Two examples you will see on the next bid cycle are Job #70506541 and Job #95097976 will be posted due to a grievance settlement, with more to come. We have scheduled and attended Labor/Management meetings with National officers by our side to combat what is a National attack to reduce; full time duty assignments, bid jobs and PSE conversions. We are employing National tools and strategies intended to protect our work, enforce the contract and where violations exist make management pay for their blatant violation.

If you have any questions or concerns about the bid cycles, job reversions or abolishment, please stop by the Union office to speak to myself or a steward. I understand a lot is taking place now and it can be overwhelming or confusing to understand, but allow the Union to explain it to you and hear the facts not rumor. We all must work together to win this fight.

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Article 37.3.A Section 3. Posting, Bidding, and Application. Newly established and vacant Clerk Craft duty assignments shall be posted as follows: 1. All newly established Clerk Craft duty assignments shall be posted to craft employees eligible to bid within 28 days. All vacant duty assignments, except those positions excluded by the provisions of Article 1, Section 2, shall be posted within 28 days unless such vacant duty assignments are reverted. Every effort will be made to create desirable duty assignments from all available work hours for career employees to bid.

Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (JCIM) Section 3.A.1

65. Must all vacant duty assignments be posted within 28 days? Response: Yes, unless the vacant duty assignment is being reverted in Accordance with Article 37.3.A.2.
Management’s Answer to Job Abolishment's is “Work Alone”!

We Need All Members to Help Us Win This Fight!

The USPS has gone forward with the improper job abolishment's although they were unable to offer a contractual basis for their actions. And believe that we intend to fight with every tool and have already filed grievances on these actions.

We recently learned that management has, in violation of the contract, **staffed the DBCS's with one operator**. The local and national union has fought long and hard in the past year to enforce old language and establish new language with the intent to deal a death blow to these illegal, unsafe actions of staffing the DBCS's with one operator. If you are asked to work alone, request a union steward. If you see an operator working alone, request a union steward. Working alone will allow management to succeed in the current abolishment's and move forward to the next round of cuts. Please request a steward for any staffing questions, problems or issues you have as we fight this attack. Additionally, we have no reason to believe that the initial round of 22 abolishment's is the end of their attacks. We all must work together to win this fight.

On May 11\(^{th}\) and 12\(^{th}\) one of our National Business Agents (NBA) John Jackson along with myself Pre-Arbitrated some of the grievances in the system to help clean up grievances that had been awaiting Arbitration. Some of the grievances we settled was from the year 2011; 2014; 2015 and 2016. The pay out to the settlements was received in PP11 of 2017. We will be meeting again on more cases in the near future. As we are approaching the summer I wish you all a happy and safe summer.

In Unionism

Trina Wynn
Vice President
Hello there fellow Union members,

Things have been happening with Local 152!

If you are not aware we have a new Union office located at the 13/40 split right here in New Castle. The space is a good deal for the Local but needed some improvements when we took possession of it. Since moving in we have had some walls removed, flooring changed, modified the countertops, added cabinets and a new refrigerator. We have even mounted a new monitor on the wall to make it easier to display information during the Union meetings. It has been a work in progress and we are still making improvements but the area has been working out real well for our meetings. Our next meeting is in September and I hope to see you there.

I would like to extend many thanks to the Entertainment Committee. They have been working tirelessly to help raise money for the Christmas party. They have hosted a paint party at our aforementioned new Union office and it was a tremendous success! I am told they plan to do it again so be sure to get your tickets as soon as they go on sale as they will go fast. From what I am being told this year’s Christmas Party is going to be a smashing success. We have some dedicated individuals on the committee and they are going to make it happen.

In late June some of our Executive Board Members and Stewards will be attending the APWU Tri-State Convention/Training Seminar in Atlantic City. This is a wonderful event put on every year by our Union brothers in NJ. Training is an essential part of having an effective Local and this training will help the Wilmington Local continue to battle Management on the

The June meeting was out the last one for the summer. The next meeting will be in September and it is an important one. We have an Election this October and nominations will be made at the September meetings. Please make plans to attend this meeting and get involved. Nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting or by any individual in good standing by submitting a self-nomination letter to the Secretary/Treasurer by the date set by the Election Committee.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. It goes by very fast! Make plans to spend time with family friends. I hope to see you at the September meeting! Pow-Pow!!!!!!

In Unionism,

Doug Ritter
Secretary/Treasurer
Since our last newsletter we have had jobs created, crossing craft issues addressed, and management’s attack on the clerk craft. I have written several articles over the last couple of quarters that have not made it to publishing. Those articles may or may not be posted with this newsletter, so I am going to start off by just briefly mentioning some of the things I talked about in those articles.

Job Creation

Using the language in Article 37.4.D of our Collective Bargaining agreement, we have been successful in getting bid jobs created. The jobs were posted for bid, clerks bid on them, management reverted the jobs vacated by the clerks that bid on them, thus leaving us still with unassigned regulars. It is the union’s position that Management should not be reverting or abolishing jobs when we have unassigned regulars working in an operation everyday. They are being ridiculous and creating unnecessary grievances, because at the end of the day the contract requires that every full-time clerk be in a duty assignment. We will continue to grieve for the creation of jobs under this section of Article 37 until all of the full-time clerks who are unassigned have a duty assignment.

Protecting Clerk Work

Please be vigilant of other crafts and management who are doing clerk work. The union has continually filed grievances concerning the clerk work being done by the mail handlers on the APBS. We have accumulated a pretty big stack of those grievances at the area level. Thank you, Jamie for helping with the documentation for the initial filing of those grievances. The union also challenged management on the work that was being done by the mail handlers in the SCF rack. We had some help with our members with those efforts as well. The people that work those operations everyday were a great wealth of information in our efforts to protect clerk work using the grievance procedure. We have had success at the stations and have been able to get people paid when other crafts and or management does clerk work. I just met on a station grievance the other day that documented work being done by the manager and that clerk was paid. All you have to do to file a grievance is provide us with a statement of who it was, what they were doing (be as specific as possible for each occurrence), when they were doing the work (spans of time), and what day it took place. If you have any witnesses give us that as well, because we all know management will lie sometimes. I do want to say that in

New issue: Realignment. Here we go again.

On Wednesday, May 17, 2017, Trina and I met with In-Plant support at their request to discuss what they were calling mail processing compliment realignment at the Delaware Plant. What they presented to us were several jobs that they wanted to revert and a document talking about proposed abolishment. Their presentation made no sense and does not reflect the true picture of the work that is being done by the clerks in this building on a daily basis. In-Plant is telling us that this is a computer model that is telling them how many jobs they should have based on what is EARNED. So here we go again with some idiot sitting in an office somewhere trying to justify their job with computer models and not giving a rats behind about the people that come to work everyday and move the mail for the Postal Service. This computer model is telling in-plant support that we are 22 jobs over what is earned. Managements answer is to abolish the 22 jobs. After we were presented with this information, management asked us to take a few days to mull it over and let them know what our thoughts were. When Trina and I got back to the office we discussed what management had presented to us, reviewed the contract, and talked to one of our National business agents. The next day we contacted management and set up a meeting for Monday, May 22 to let them know what our position was on their proposal. The next thing we know we get an e-mail later that day that they are moving forward with their plan. The union was not given adequate notification and we are not in agreement with what they are doing. When we did have our meeting on May 22nd we told management that they are in violation of the National Agreement and that we will be coming forward with grievances and that we have already discussed how we are going to fight this and plan to use every tool at our disposal to grieve this action and work to give our members the job stability that they need and deserve.
Hello, brothers and sisters. After many months we finally obtained a copy of the in-service register for level 7MM occupational group. We should see some level 7 jobs being posted very soon. Hopefully, many of you have seen the posting that says “In service opportunity for maintenance”. This notice is for management to build their registers. To my knowledge there are no custodian vacancies at this time however in the future there will be and this is better than trying to send a note to management at the last minute. Also if you already have a qualifying score for something other than custodian this is a great opportunity to submit your name so that you can be added to the appropriate register. As always please make sure to have mgmt. sign and date your form when you submit it to them and keep a copy for your records. And FYI if you are not in maintenance and you have successfully passed one test or another beware, if you retake the test to try and get a higher score and you fail the test you will be declared ineligible. You can only use your most recent score!

I would like to talk about Wounded Warrior Leave. Wounded Warrior Leave is a new category of leave that is available to Veterans for the treatment of a service-connected disability with a rating of 30 % or more. It is a separate leave category, distinct from sick leave. Treatment is an in-person visit to a health care provider, as specified in Section 513.364 of the ELM, and includes the course of action prescribed by a health care provider. Treatment includes but is not limited to examination for and evaluations of the health condition that caused the disability rating. Health care provider is the employee’s attending physician or other attending practitioner as recognized by ELM 515.2. Twelve-month eligibility period is defined as the continuous 12-month period that begins on the first day of employment during which an eligible veteran can use Wounded Warrior Leave. For employees on the rolls and non-career employees on a required break in service (five days) on November 4, 2016, the 12-month period begins November 5, 2016. All classifications of career and non-career Postal Service employees are eligible if they meet one of the requirements. Eligible employees are entitled to only one Twelve-month Eligibility Period in connection with Postal Service employment. All requests for Wounded Warrior leave must first be submitted on a PS Form 3971. This request should be submitted in advance when foreseeable to the appropriate supervisor. There is an exception to the advance approval requirement for unexpected treatment. The supervisor is responsible for approving requests for Wounded Warrior leave by signing the PS 3971 and returning a copy to the veteran. The veteran is required to submit a PS Form 5980, treatment Verification for Wounded Warrior Leave, certified by a health care provider that the veteran used the leave to receive treatment for a covered disability. The PS Form 5980 must be provided no later than 15 calendar days after the employee returns to work. This information came from web news article #246-2016 and can be found posted outside of the Union office in the plant as well as on the APWU.org website.

Anyone having questions please feel free to contact me or leave me a note in the Union office.

In Solidarity,
Andrew Casson, Maintenance Craft DIR
A Fable—With a Modern Application

One day the Lion went out in search of some thievish animals that had been making depredations on his domain. On the way, he fell in with the Fox, and as the latter acted in a suspicious manner, the Lion accused him of being one of the rascals he was looking for. The Fox, thinking to divert the Lion’s attention, protested that he was no worse than others, and hypocritically pleaded that he did not know he had been doing anything wrong. “That is no excuse,” said the Lion; “I shall not permit you to escape punishment, and will deal with your confederates also according to their deserts, whenever they fall into my power."

Attorney-General Brewster. “The uttermost penny lawlessly received and taken from the public treasury must be recovered.”

This Harper’s Weekly cartoon by Thomas Nast portrays the Star Route scandal through the style and imagery of an Aesop's fable.

By the 1870s most of the mail in the United States was transported by railroad or steamship. In isolated area of the South and West, though, the federal government offered lucrative contracts to private carriers who delivered the post via horse, stagecoach, or wagon. These federal contracts used asterisks (“stars”) in place of the words “certainty, celerity, and security.”

Some contractors colluded to submit absurdly low bids, sometimes for non-existent routes, which Post Office officials accepted, then negotiated much higher payments from Congress and pocketed the profits. By 1880, there were nearly 10,000-star routes, costing the federal government nearly $6 million a year to maintain.

In 1880, Congress learned that some members of both parties were involved in the Post Office contract fraud. President-elect James Garfield was informed of the matter, and shortly after his inauguration in March 1881, the Republican president ordered his new postmaster general, Thomas James, to investigate. Evidence soon pointed to corruption, in Garfield’s words, "of a very gross and extensive kind." In April, the president forced the resignation of Thomas Brady, the second assistant postmaster general. In June, a clerk of Senator Stephen Dorsey of Arkansas, chairman of the Republican National Committee, admitted wrongdoing and incriminated Dorsey and members of the senator’s family. President Garfield insisted that investigators "Go ahead regardless of where and whom you hit," and encouraged prosecutors to move more swiftly.

This cartoon appeared after the indictments but before the first trial began. The lion stands for the federal government prosecutors and the fox represents the Star Route perpetrators. The donkey peering out of the pit is David Key, the former postmaster general (1877-1880) under whose watch most of the frauds were executed. Key was a former Democratic senator from Tennessee who joined the cabinet of Republican President Rutherford B. Hayes as part of a political understanding which helped resolve the Electoral College controversy of 1876-1877.

New York (June 14, 2016, 6:53 PM EDT) -- A Maryland federal judge on Tuesday sentenced a private contractor to 10 months in prison for bribing a U.S. Postal Service officer for favorable treatment on mail delivery contracts, according to prosecutors.

What was true in 1882 is unfortunately true today. With the new CBA and Arbitrator Goldberg’s ruling leaving intact Section 2 of the Motor Vehicle Jobs MOU, which stipulates that 600 Highway Contract Routes will be converted to PVS routes, you have to wonder what the delay is or why management is failing to comply. I hope the Lion has returned to Washington.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the newly hired Part-Time-Flexible employees to the Motor Vehicle Craft. It is important to all Motor Vehicle Craft employees to maintain a viable work force to insure a future for our craft. The Local has filed a grievance to convert some of these Part-Time Flexible employees to Full-Time Regulars. The Postal Service is in violation of the 20% cap limit on PTF’s.

In Solidarity,

Robert F. Kinsley Jr./MVS Craft Director
Learn more about the issues! Use the guide below to learn more about the specific bills that APWU supports and opposes. Contact your elected representatives to let them know where you stand!

Supported Legislation

H.R.756 - Postal Service Reform Act of 2017
Comprehensive and bipartisan postal reform legislation which largely solves the disastrous pre-funding mandate while at the same time treating our retirees fairly. The bill would also allow the Postal Service to modestly raise postage rates immediately, generating roughly an additional one-billion dollars in annual revenue.

H.R.760 - Postal Service Financial Improvement Act of 2017
Requires the U.S. Department of Treasury to invest up to 30% of the available funds within the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHF). Investment of funds modeled after those established by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. Allowing USPS to invest a portion of the PSRHF would enable the USPS to significantly reduce future liabilities.

H.Res.31 - Restore Service Standards
Calls for USPS to restore 2012 mail service standards. Prompt and reliable nationwide mail service is critical to retaining business, growing business and satisfying customers. Delayed mail will continue to drive business away from USPS and to its competitors. Requiring the mail to be transported further distances, USPS’s mail slowdown plan has increased costs and actually lost the agency money.

H.Res.28 - Protect Door Delivery
Converting existing door-delivery to centralized delivery points is wildly unpopular among small business and residential delivery customers. The USPS’ brand is its best asset, that brand is trusted by the American people at their door and inside their businesses, not at a neighborhood cluster box. Revenue is generated every day by Letter Carriers who connect with business owners and other customers at the door.

H.Res.15 - Protect Six-Day Delivery
The Postal Service is delivering in some places 7-days a week now and is offering same-day delivery through partnerships. Eliminating Saturday delivery is counter-productive to the thriving e-commerce business the Postal Service is part of. Eliminating Saturday delivery will drive business and revenue away. USPS provides affordable last-mile delivery for UPS, FedEx, and Amazon to every delivery point in the country, partnerships that have been extremely successful. Without Saturday delivery these companies will find an alternate, more expensive means of delivery.

H.R.676 - Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act
Establishing Medicare for All, this legislation will guarantee free health care to all those residing in the United States and U.S. territories. This bill helps correct a national disgrace – the United States is the only country in the developed world that does not guarantee healthcare as a basic human right.

H.R.1205 - Social Security Fairness Act of 2017
Repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which penalizes those who meet the requirements for Social Security benefits but have previous employment under CSRS. The GPO reduces benefits to spouses or widows by two-thirds if they are currently receiving a retirement or disability pension based on prior employment, during which they did not pay into Social Security. The WEP affects those who receive a pension from employment where they did not pay into Social Security but did qualify for Social Security benefits from other employment.

H.R.1251 - CPI-E Act of 2017
Social Security COLAs are currently based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners (CPI-W). This measure of inflation does not adequately take into consideration the spending habits of seniors. CPI-E (Consumer Price Index for the Elderly) has been calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics but has never been applied. Using the CPI-E would more accurately reflect what seniors spend the bulk of their money on, such as healthcare.

S.427 - Social Security Expansion Act
Extends the solvency of the Social Security trust funds while providing much needed and reasonable increases to benefits. Scrap the payroll tax cap on income above $250,000. Applying a 6.2% Social Security tax treats investment income for high-earning households the same as payroll income for working families.

Opposed Legislation

H.R.1364 - Official Time Reform Act of 2017
Official time improves working conditions and protects employees from discrimination and management retaliation. H.R.1364 would devastate union stewards’ retirement security by eliminating accrual of pension credits while on official time advocating for their co-workers. This needless and reckless bill would both undermine workplace protections and negatively impact the performance of our essential federal agencies. While this specific bill does not address the Postal Service, it is one of many legislative attempts to undermine federal and postal collective bargaining rights.

H.R.1259 - VA Accountability First Act of 2017
All but eliminates critical workplace protections for civil servants at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Virtually eliminates VA employees to “at-will” employment, able to be fired or demoted at management’s whim. Instilling a politically-charged culture of fear and reprisal, H.R. 1259 will only lead to worse care for our nation’s veterans.

H.R.1461 - VET Protection Act of 2017
Undermines the union representation of federal employees and limits the use of official time in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Needlessly extends probationary period from 12 to 18 months, during which time management is able to fire new employees for any reason.

STOP Act would require Postal Service to acquire all new postage meters to track incoming international parcels. The Postal Service urgently needs financial relief from Congress – unfortunately, the proposals put forth in the STOP Act would represent an enormous unfunded mandate for the Postal Service. Last year, an investigative journalist revealed that Americans for Securing All Packages, a key champion of the STOP Act, is funded by a UPS/Fedex trade association.

Char Cater / Legislative Director
Hello brothers and sisters

I know everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather, I know that I am! There are just a few things I would like to talk to everyone about. First, we are still working with management at the plant to try and find a solution to the flooring problem! They have an independent contractor come in and give a recommendation on how to fix the floor, correctly! The Union waiting to hear from management on the recommendation offered by the outside contractors. Once we hear from management, we will pass the information on to the membership. We are also waiting to set up a safety inspection on our station and branches. I am waiting to get a date from the safety office in South Jersey. Once I get that they, I will let the employees at the stations and branches know. If there are any issues that anyone at the station has, please get in touch with me at the Union office, and let me know what issues you are having.

I also what to let the membership know that the White House has some proposals in their 2018 budget, that targets the Postal Service and postal employees. They want to increase employees pension contributions, eliminate COLA’s and make massive cuts to health care benefits. Going forward we need to keep a sharp eye on our elected officials, let them know that we will not stand by and let them vote for legislation that will undermine Postal Services and the well-being of postal workers and postal retirees. I will be working with our legislative director to keep you informed.. Thanks, and again, come on summer!!!