

From the desk of
Rich Olson-MVS Craft Director

First of all, let me thank Daleo Freeman, Violetta Ward and all the members for your thoughts and prayers, and for your support and concern during the previous fourteen months. By the time you read this article, I will have been returned to work. My family and I truly appreciate all that was done for us while I was out of work.. THANK YOU!

I would especially like to thank Vi Ward for her compassion, her relentless representation on my behalf, and her wisdom. I will miss Vi, who recently took a National level position with the Union. I wish her success in her new assignment. The Cleveland Area Local will not be the same without her.

There have been numerous changes in the crafts during my absence. In vehicle maintenance, both of the auxiliaries are now working two tours. Management claims that this action will reduce the amount and type of work which had previously been subcontracted out. This change should result in more employees being permitted off on annual leave during the choice vacation period. The Union has filed several grievances disputing the way these changes were implemented. These grievances are currently at the step two level.

I have been, and will continue to fight to have management post and fill the numerous vacancies in vehicle maintenance. There are currently at least fifteen vacancies in vehicle maintenance, most of which have never been properly posted. None have been filled. These grievances are also at the step two level. I am considering the possibility of an annual bid in vehicle maintenance to correct some improper reassignments, and to give any employees the opportunity to relocate or bid to another tour. I have requested a list of all VMF duty assignments for review. I will be discussing this further with the craft.

There are several issues I continue to deal with in motor vehicle. I have repeatedly requested that management create additional duty assignments between the airport and the plant. I was informed during a previous labor/management meeting that six positions were to be created. That has since been reduced to four. It is my contention that we should gain back the eight assignments we lost when mail processing was discontinued at the airport.

We have had been successful in converting PSE's to full time, based on residual vacancies. We will continue to monitor the ratio requirements of the contract, and other

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conversion opportunities that arise. I will be requesting an annual bid in motor vehicle when I return to work.

I would also like to thank assistant director Steve Martin for stepping up and filling in during my absence. His diligence and dedication are greatly appreciated.

I have no dilutions that my return to work will be smooth, or that there will now be an open line of communication between the craft representatives and management. Be assured that I will continue to represent the employees of the craft as I have in the past. This was not my first removal. I can only hope that it will be the last. Meanwhile, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

In Solidarity,

Rich Olson