



GR MAIL HANDLER

NPMHU LOCAL 307 GRAND RAPIDS MI. BRANCH

Remember to vote on the Contract

The Ballot count for the tentative Contract will be on January 24th. This is a Decent Contract that is endorsed by the National Executive Board and the Local Executive Board.

- **Our next Branch Meeting will be Friday March 9, 2007 at 10:00 am at a location to be announced. Check your bulletin boards for updates.**
- **The Local will be hosting a Super Bowl Party at our Local Union Headquarters in Detroit. All are welcome and more information will be released when the details are finalized.**
- **The Mail Handler Union has been Re-Affiliated with the AFL-CIO. We were out of the Federation for a brief period when our Parent Organization, LIUNA opted out for philosophical differences. Our disaffiliation opened the door for the APWU's ill fated Raid on Our Union. The APWU fought to Keep us out in order to go after our jobs and our money but we were successful in our reinstatement. So the short lived Raid was just a waste of Time and Money. But that obviously did not teach them a lesson because:**
- **The APWU at the National Level has filed a Frivolous Lawsuit against the Postal Service and the Mail Handler Union over Jurisdictional issues. Read the whole story at www.npmhu.org or www.npmhu307.org. If you do not have access to the Internet ask your Steward or check the Union Bulletin boards.**

As Stipulated on the last page of this newsletter the following pages contain Information or opinions that may be personal in nature and are not necessarily the position of the officers of Local 307 nor the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. Some of the items of interest and or articles may have been obtained and or copied from other newsletters from other Locals throughout the country. As always any member in good Standing is invited to contribute his or her ideas, opinions or insight on any issue that they feel may be beneficial to the Craft. All relevant items submitted in an electronic format will be included in any future newsletters

- **I would like to be on every tour in each building everyday, but that is physically impossible. If you feel that you don't see me enough, I am always available and willing to talk to any Member with an issue 24/7 at (616) 217-8342, through email - grlocal307@sbcglobal.net or the Local message board at www.npmhu307.org**

One of the basic principles of our Contract states "The principle of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay is recognized by the parties to this Agreement".

This is a very powerful, all encompassing and *Personal* Item in our Contract. There are no time or work standards in the Mail Handler Craft.

It is up to the Individual Mail Handler to decide how fast or how hard they should work in an operation. They should always work Safe and perform a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. No more and no less, based on their Standards and individual capabilities.

All of us are different, we come in different shapes and sizes, have different physical strengths, many of us have Service Connected Disabilities.

I bring this up because we have A MAJOR PROBLEM IN OUR CRAFT, Mail Handlers are complaining about, writing up and Rattling out their Brother and Sister Mail Handlers to Management. It has gotten so bad that management has received over 1000 (thousand) anonymous safety hazard reports, many of which site individual Mail Handlers by name and call for Corrective Action (discipline) to be given.

If you feel that your Brother or Sister Union Member is doing Something unsafe, have the courtesy and the Decency to tell them. Don't fax their name downtown on a report. If you see someone not wearing a seatbelt or taking a few extra minutes on break, Don't tell management, it is not your problem. If you feel that some Mail Handlers should not be Mail Handlers, Remember that management discontinued the strength and stamina test and that there are no longer any standards in our Craft.

To The few Mail Handlers doing this, to complain to each other or the Union Steward is one thing but otherwise these are management problems. Please Remember to work safe, Respect your fellow Mail Handler, do your job to the best of your ability stop skulking in the shadows, Stop Your Nonsense and hold your head up high you're a MAIL HANDLER IN THE MAIL HANDLER UNION, YOU ARE NOT IN THE APWU, SO ACT ACCORDINGLY

****** Arbitration Update ******

- **Steve and I Arbitrated the MPO Tour 1 spreading case and expect a decision within the next few weeks. The APWU intervened in our Arbitration and argued it was Management's right to take our work away from US, even though they will not be affected either way, win or lose. I was told that they got wind of the Arbitration by a former clerk who is now a Mail Handler. This is why WE do not discuss certain cases on the floor until it is safe to do so. More often than not, it is not safe to discuss the Cases until they are settled to avoid the possibility of the clerks or disgruntled managers from trying to destroy or stall our case**
- **The February Arbitration Docket was settled in Pre Arbitration. Four cases total. Two cases dealt with a bypass over time issue when management on tour 3 at the P-1 was scheduling and working PTF's 6 and 7 days per week to the detriment of the tour 1 and tour 2 Listers during May and June 2006 The other 2 were a Discipline/Disparity issue and a Displacement.**
- **We will be Arbitrating the Transporter case, the new casual in lieu of, the AMF and what constitutes Makeup over time and others sometime this year, next dates start in March**

******* Other News *******

- **PTF's Will be placed into Residuals on January 20th**
- **Nothing new to report on Hiring**
- **P-3 lease is signed, watch for updates on the bulletin board**
- **Tour 1 MPO needs someone to step up and be a Steward**
- **Tour 1 MPO needs a parking rep and Ergonomic committee members from the Mail Handler Craft.**
- **I will be placing an order for denim jackets on January 26th.**
- **Aprons can now be purchased by check only for \$12.50 payable to NPMHU Local 307. (Members Only)**
- **Extra T-shirts can be purchased by the Members by check only Payable to ADCO Specialties. Price lists will be posted on the Bulletin boards**
- **If you are interested in any of these items you must give me a call at (616) 217-8342**

“To have a Grievance is to have a purpose in in life”

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JOIN THE UNION

JOIN THE FIGHT

OTHER NEWS

- All Postal employees are invited to become associate members of the Mail Handler Union at the current rate of \$1.61 per pay period. One day we may all be Mail Handlers anyway, so show your support and join early.
- I would like everyone to encourage Shanda Heilman, Stephanie Miller and Fran Walsh to join our Union
- Our local web site is running well and is equipped with a chat room to post questions and or comments. Check it out at www.npmhu307.org
- There are 271 Mail Handlers in our Craft. Many of you are always Free with you opinions and Comments. I have always welcomed that and still encourage any and All Members to contribute to this Newsletter.
- Tour 3 at the P-1 has undergone a shake up in Management and the Climate will change as it always does with new MDO's, whether good or bad. The Stewards will be on top of it, But Remember a Union is only as Strong as it's Members. The Stewards will not see or Know everything that is going on in all the buildings. Help yourself by helping them, Keep them informed of everything that you see or hear
- **Remember if you do not fill out a complaint, you do not have a Grievance. Do not automatically assume that you are part of a class action case. Check with your Steward**

This newsletter is about Mail Handlers, by Mail Handlers and for Mail Handlers. It's goals are to inform, educate, protect, defend, serve, organize and empower Grand Rapids Mail Handlers.

This newsletter will be published periodically on personal time using personal funds and the editor reserves the right to determine if material submitted shall be printed and reserves the right to edit as needed for length, clarity and content.

The opinions expressed within this newsletter are personal in nature and not necessarily those of the editor, the officers of local 307 or the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. The officers of the NPMHU assume no responsibility for the content made by any contributor to this newsletter

