

Business Agent Eli Gillen's Report

April 2020

Contract negotiations currently on hold: Spencer Town Hall Clerks, Worcester DPW Clerks, Webster Fire and Lancaster Fire.

American Red Cross: At our multiple Red Cross locations we are facing many challenges dealing with numerous Covid-19 related concerns. Two of our locations have been closed due to issues related to the virus, both will return to normal working hours as quickly as possible. There is an agreement in place to offer additional paid time for members affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the large volume of blood donors and limited locations, we encourage anyone who is looking to donate, to please call ahead to make an appointment, as you may be turned away at the door if there aren't any openings

It is business as usual for our town highway and utility departments in the towns of **Spencer, North Brookfield and Barre**. Our highway members in **Sutton** are on a shutdown with pay and a rotation list is in place to cover the trash transfer station in town.

Spencer Utilities and Facilities: We are attempting to schedule a date to review and vote on the Town's contract offer.

Sterling Dispatch: We also have a contract offer to vote on and are waiting for a date.

Barre Highway: The members have unanimously ratified a new three-year agreement with significant wage increases over the life of the agreement, as well as improvements in vacation time and a number of small language changes to clean up the contract.

In our custodial groups of **Quaboag, North Brookfield, and Spencer/East Brookfield**, we have had discussions with the Stewards and District offices. Plans were put into place for cleaning as the school shutdowns unfolded. Most of our members are now at home with pay until the shutdown is over.

In our Spencer and Sutton Town Hall groups, as well as our Worcester DPW Clerks, our members are on staggered schedules to keep minimum staff in the offices or working from home when at all possible. This is allowing our members to maintain social distancing while still getting their work done and being paid for their normal scheduled days.

Our dispatchers in Paxton, Ashburnham, Sterling and Oxford, as well as our Firefighters in Lancaster and Webster continue to serve the public and are keeping their communities as safe and healthy as they can. We would like to thank their continued efforts during this trying time.

UPS has ongoing issues in all departments related to Covid-19 and efforts are being made to make the membership safe and the company accountable to maintain a clean and safe work environment. Numerous issues have been discussed and the situation is ongoing and evolving, as measures are taken to address concerns, and more are proposed. We have regional calls to address the ongoing situation.

We are in new and uncharted territory with many challenges ahead, many of which we have overcome. I would like to thank the hard work of all our Stewards during this trying time, many have gone above and beyond in support of the efforts to serve the members. I would also like to thank the office staff, Executive Board, fellow Business Agents and Principal Officer Shannon George for all their continued support and efforts on behalf of our members.

Respectfully Submitted

Eli Gillen