

## **Business Agent Eli Gillen's Report**

**May 2020**

### **Contracts in negotiations:**

- **Spencer (Utilities & Facilities)**
- **Lancaster (Fire)**
- **Sterling (Dispatch)**

### **Contract negotiations currently on hold:**

- **Worcester (DPW Clerks)**
- **Quaboag (Custodians)**
- **Webster (Fire)**

**We are still facing challenges at our multiple Red Cross locations but have had no more closures due to COVID-19. There is still a heavy donor response, as long hours and days are putting a strain on our members.**

**Spencer (Utilities & Facilities): The members have voted on an initial offer; we are attempting to sit back down with the Town to discuss a couple changes.**

**Spencer (Town Hall Clerks): The members will be voting on an offer from the Town next week.**

**Sterling (Dispatch): A meeting was held to discuss an offer based on an overall schedule change. A majority of the members did not support this change. We are talking with the Town on bringing a final offer to the group for a vote.**

**Lancaster (Fire): We have one grievance and have reached out to the Town to continue negotiations via conference calls or Zoom meetings.**

**UPS: The Company is experiencing peak like volume, but without the additional work force that comes with that volume. There are numerous issues that are compounding this problem, including changes in the Feeder Department, which has forced drivers to stay in the department that had wanted to bid into Metro, as well as over twenty currently open jobs in the Metro Department. We are moving as quickly as we can to untangle this knot and get jobs posted for our part-time members.**

**UPS Package: As stated, the Company is facing peak numbers, and many drivers are being forced to work six days a week. Again, we are hoping that filling these open jobs will help to relieve this pressure. We have multiple grievances and have requested meetings with the Company.**

**UPS Hub:** The long hours and close quarters has resulted in numerous members being tested for COVID-19. With that being said, we currently have three confirmed cases reported in the Hub.

**UPS Feeders:** Our members are currently on a 70-hour schedule with many members working a 6<sup>th</sup> day in any week that they want it. As four additional Sleeper Team jobs have been added to the Local there has been several moves, and five qualified members are being moved into or held in the department. We have pushed the issue to maintain our bench, and a grievance has been filed. We had one confirmed COVID-19 case in the Feeder Department.

**St. Vincent's Hospital:** We have been faced with many issues and are attempting to address each of them as they come in. This Tenet-run hospital has violated the contract and has abused the staff in every way possible. Their goal of losing the least amount of money possible during these difficult times is clearly the only target they wish to achieve. Without negotiating with the Local and no regard for any input from any avenue, the Hospital has put more than 15% of the bargaining unit on furloughs and is seeking to expand that number. With little concern to the financial well being or security of the dedicated staff, they have cut hours to bare bones leaving many wondering how they will make ends meet. We are pursuing every possible avenue to address these problems.

It has been another month of overcoming new challenges and obstacles. We will continue to fight through any issues that may come up. These are trying times for everyone and I am proud of the hard work our membership continues to do every day to keep others safe and at home through this pandemic.

I would like to thank the continued hard work of all my Stewards, as well as 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,

Business Agent Eli Gillen