

## **Business Agent Sean Foley's Report**

**May 2020**

### **Contracts currently in negotiations:**

- Baker Commodities
- Casella Waste
- Rand-Whitney (Assemblers)

**Baker Commodities:** Negotiations have been put on hold for the time being. I am expecting to hear back from the Company in the coming weeks, as we may be forced to find an alternative option to face-to-face negotiations. Due to the unforeseen circumstances, the Company and the Union have agreed to extend the contract for forty (45) days.

**Borggaard Construction:** The mild winter and the Company's ability to land a couple of early season jobs has resulted in some steady work this month for our members. Hopefully, the Company will pick right up where they left off last year, as last year was one of their busiest in recent memory.

**Casella Waste:** As a precautionary measure, negotiations have been put on hold for the time being; I am expecting to get some dates from the Company in the coming weeks.

**Marios Brothers:** The Company has a couple of small jobs going on right now. This is another good sign that we may have a busy construction season this year.

**Merrimack Valley Distribution:** We had a member who was removed from the seniority list back in December. An arbitration hearing was held between the parties on April 3<sup>rd</sup> via the zoom platform. The post hearing briefs are due back on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to thank Steward Wayne Berthold and Alternate Steward Mark Travers for their help.

**Rand Whitney (Assemblers):** In what seems to be the common theme associated with the Coronavirus precautions that are in place negotiations with the Company have been put on hold for the time being. I am hopeful those negotiations will be starting soon whether they be face-to-face or via an alternative platform.

During the month I have had numerous grievance meetings through teleconference, along with an arbitration hearing via the zoom platform. While

**these alternative options have taken a little getting used to, I do feel it is important that we familiarize ourselves with these new platforms, as they may become the new normal when it comes to handling grievance meetings, arbitration hearings and negotiations in the future.**

**I would like to thank all the Stewards for their hard work and our Principal Officer Shannon George for his continuous leadership, as we navigate through these uncharted waters. I would also like to thank my fellow Business Agents, our Executive Board and the office staff for continuously putting our members' best interest first.**

**In closing, I would like to wish our members and their families continued good health.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Business Agent Sean Foley**