

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

**June 2020**

**Contracts currently in negotiations or that will be starting very shortly:**

- **Baker Commodities**
- **Casella Waste**
- **Rand-Whitney Assemblers**

**Angelica (Drivers):** We had a driver who was terminated for what the Company claimed to be job abandonment. A grievance meeting was held via teleconference and at the conclusion of that meeting the Company agreed to reduce the termination to a one (1) day suspension.

**Baker Commodities:** Contract negotiations are scheduled for June 9-11<sup>th</sup>. The membership is currently working under a forty-five (45) day extension that is set to expire on June 17<sup>th</sup>. I am hopeful that we will be able to reach an agreement prior to the extension running out.

**Casella Waste:** We were able to start negotiations with the Company. We have numerous more sessions scheduled for the month of June as we will be trying to reach an agreement with the Company prior to the contract expiration date of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CPC Logistics:** A couple of grievances have been filed and we are in the process of trying to work them out. The members of CPC Logistics have requested a Stewards Election. As a result of that request, ballots were mailed out to the membership on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Those ballots are due back to the Union Hall no later than June 5<sup>th</sup> and we will be counting the ballots on June 7<sup>th</sup>. I would like to wish good luck to both candidates.

**Pepsi-Cola:** On May 7<sup>th</sup>, long time Shop Steward Chuck Hackett decided to step down. Ryan Cutler will assume the duties of Shop Steward moving forward. I am very confident that Ryan is up to the task, as he has been working closely with Chuck over the last year or so and was a member of the Union's Negotiating Committee during the last contract negotiations. I would like to thank Chuck for all his hard work over the years as Steward and for always being there for our members.

**P.J. Keating (Drivers):** We have a member that has been terminated for what the Company is claiming to be a violation of their anti-harassment policy. As of now the Company has dug their heels in on this one and it seems as though we will be destined for arbitration.

**Polar Park:** Construction on the stadium and the surrounding area started up again on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Right now, there seems to be a lot of mixed signals coming from both the team and the general contractors as to whether the project will be completed in time to kick off the 2021 season. From what I am hearing they have put the bidding for the hotels across the street on hold for the time being and have decided to scrap the old plans for the parking garage across the street and are currently working on a new design that will not include an underground level.

**Quality Beverage (Auburn):** A Steward's Election was held on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Current Steward Justin Reed was re-elected by the membership by a 15-9 vote. I look forward to continuing to work with Justin, as I feel Justin and Alternate Steward John Zwirbilia have been doing a tremendous job.

**Rand-Whiney (Assemblers):** Negotiations are scheduled to start on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first few sessions will be held VIA the Zoom platform. While this may not be the ideal format to negotiate, it does allow the parties to start negotiations on a successor contract and remain within the restrictions that have been put in place to limit gathering sizes.

**UPS Freight:** We are having an issue where the Company is holding our road drivers at the Newburgh, NY terminal while moving the Southborough freight into the Southborough location with foreign drivers. This was originally addressed and corrected last year. However, it appears the drop-in volume and the elimination of using the Wallingford, CT terminal as a Mini Break Bulk to service the Southborough location has renewed the practice. I have reached out to the Company to let them know Local 170 expects the Company will use all Southborough drivers to bring back Southborough freight into the Southborough terminal and only use the foreign drivers to move the overflow freight.

It has been another busy month and looks like it is going to be a very busy summer with all the rescheduling of contract negotiations and arbitrations. I would like to thank all my Stewards for their continuous hard work. I would also like to thank our Principal Officer Shannon George for his leadership

**through these unprecedented times, my fellow Business Agents, the Executive Board, and our office staff for continuously putting our member's best interest first. In closing, I would like to wish our members and their families continued good health.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Business Agent Sean Foley**