

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

December 2009

Submitted by Stan Wylie

Happy Holidays to all...

As we wrap up the year grievances have slowed down a bit. Qwest is again offering pretty wide spread opportunities for folks to leave payroll by the end of the year. It is not new of course and they have done it on a pretty broad basis over several departments for several years. I do find it interesting though that our CEO and his senior labor representatives have been telling us all year that they felt the huge loss of land lines and other services had bottomed out and that they expected the churn to be more ebb and flow with the competitor's. So if that is the case then how is it they are still able to cut dozens and dozens of jobs through voluntary separations. When the company announces these cutbacks I always ask how the company will get the work done to the senior manager and have always gotten pretty much the same answer... I don't know, not my idea etc... I asked one manager a week before last and was shocked and surprised they actually had an answer and a plan in effect to allow these cutbacks to occur.

MV Trans has their own temporary hours reduction as well going on. Microsoft basically cuts their transportation needs in half through holiday weeks so what that means for the drivers is they only need about half of them during those weeks. Unfortunately there is very little the union can do to stop that from happening. In this case we did some checking with unemployment and provided the drivers with information on the best way to file claims if they were going to be impacted and offered up resources to assist anyone who may need them.

We are still working through several issues at MV and have another meeting scheduled to follow up on several items. We are also meeting with the stewards in February to start preparing for bargaining the new contract. All represented employees will be given an opportunity to provide suggestions and feedback for any contractual changes they would like discussed in the bargaining session.

We reported out last month we had filed a board charge against Qwest and the NLRB has asked to defer it and to file a grievance. Since there are timelines associated with grievance filing the company has agreed to waive the timelines and will hear the grievance. Since then a 2nd board charge has been filed and as of this date we have not heard back from the NLRB on that issue at all.

We will have some volunteer opportunities on 12-17 from 4-7 at the Union Gospel Mission to serve dinner at the shelter and also on 12-22 around the same time for the Women's shelter. Feel free to contact Gayleen Jennings for more information or to volunteer. You can call the local if interested and we can give you the information to contact Gayleen.

Healthcare is still a hot topic now that Thanksgiving is done Congress will be debating and possibly voting before the Christmas break. Please call your Congressmen and Senator's. Urge them to pass healthcare reform without taxing healthcare plans.

Have a safe enjoyable holiday.

