

Vice Presidents Report
April 2009

Submitted by Craig Dameron

In February we received notice that MV Transportation was looking at the possibility of having to layoff of drivers due to a reduction in the needs of their client Microsoft. President Lynch, Paul Green, and I along with Larry attended several meetings with the MV Transportations management team to discuss options to avoid a layoff.

We were successful in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding, that we are confident will prevent the layoff of any of the drivers. The MOU asks for volunteers to take time off with or without pay. Drivers are able to take off between one (1) day and up to thirty (30) days in the month of April. Drivers who take time are guaranteed to return to their current bid (Route) with no break, lapse, or loss of seniority or benefits. In addition any driver taking off a week or more of unpaid time shall have their employee contribution to benefits pro-rated for the month.

I spent the day up at MV Transportation as the company explained the proposal to the drivers. The meetings went well, and the drivers were relieved to learn that MV Transportation was not announcing a formal layoff.

Last month I reported out that Qwest, Local Network Operations had made changes to the QJD plan. The changes in the plan seem to be positive on the surface. Technicians will receive an additional point towards QJD for every third jack installed on a job, and an additional point for every hour increment after the first hour for time and materials. In addition they have added several new codes that will not be counted as repeats for the Broadband Technicians, these included customers calling into the MOC center to have their modem re-set.

In going through the changes that were made, it appears to me that the company had an alternative motive for these changes, and it was not just to do the right thing for the Technicians, or because they were listening. Both of the major changes adding extra points, I believe, were done to drive an increase in revenue. Giving an additional point for every third jack installed on an order and adding an additional point for every hour increment after the first hour for time and materials both add up to increased revenue for the company.

I encourage all technicians to continue to charge appropriately on all work orders. While I believe the company wants you to milk the orders, for example a job that would take an hour and 45 minutes, the company wants you to stretch it out an extra 15 minutes to get the additional point and so they can generate additional revenue. Make no mistake, if the customer calls and complains – the company will sell you down the river and not even think twice about it.

I have been reviewing the Grievances filled by CWA Local 7800 for the 1st quarter of 2009. Between January 1st and March 31st 2009, we have filled 72 grievances at Qwest Communications and 10 grievances at MV Transportation. Please see the break down attached.

So far for the 1st quarter of 2009 we have seen a decrease of 102 grievances or 59% at Qwest Communications and an increase of 8 grievances or 80% at MV Transportation over 1st quarter 2008.

Approximately half of the grievances filled so far this year at Qwest are out of the CFS including 3 terminations. The other half has been split between BMG and LNO.

MV Transportation is split evenly at this time with 5 contract violations and 5 Terminations.

In closing I would like to extend my appreciation to Secretary/Treasurer Stevens and the Budget Committee. Debbie did an excellent job in locating and coming up with changes in the budget that would not affect Member Representation or our ability as a Local to function. There will be a motion later in the meeting regarding the Budget. I believe that the cuts are needed and reasonable given the economical state of the country at this time.