

LOCAL 88 NIXIES

THE STATE OF OUR UNION
BY F. Fehrenbach

We now have a new contract for the next two years. I am sure not everyone agrees with all the provisions of the agreement. However, whatever articles each of us as individuals might not agree with does not give us the right to ignore that article or to deliberately break its provisions. We as members have no more right to break any provisions of the contract than management. It is in fact the responsibility of every member to enforce every provision of the contract.

How long would we have a contract if every local or member ignored one provision of the contract? It wouldn't be long before every article was being ignored somewhere and soon we wouldn't have a contract. The place to make complaints on these matters is at the union meeting. If enough members feel the same, a resolution can be sponsored and sent to the National Convention. If there is enough support, it would probably be passed at the National Convention with instructions or a mandate to the bargaining committee to change that provision in the next agreement.

The October meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 1973 at 7:30 PM at the Catholic War Vets Hall, at 310 10 Ave. So. This may conflict a little with Monday Night Football. We do try and get thru the meeting in an hour, so you wouldn't miss too many plays by coming. If the union is not doing what you think it should, come to the meeting and present your ideas.

The question I have asked most often is; "such and such happened, do I have a grievance?" I wish to give you the definition of a grievance as it is stated in your contract. "A grievance shall include, but is not limited to, the complaint of an employee or the union which involves the interpretation, application of, or compliance with the provisions of this agreement or any local Memorandum of Understanding not in conflict with this agreement."

So you see you are the person that must decide whether or not you have a grievance. The next procedure is to ask the supervisor to see your union steward. Simply inform your supervisor that you have a grievance and you wish to discuss it with your union steward. Now, when you talk with your steward he may or may not agree that you in fact have a grievance and should point out why. There have been times that someone has complained to me about a situation, and he may have a pretty good point, but thru experience or thru conversation with regional officers similar cases have been processed, with decisions against the complainant. I will so advise you. If you still want to go ahead with the grievance, I will most certainly forward it to the Postmaster or to the Region. Most supervisors when advised of a grievance will want to start a discussion on it right away. Do not discuss it with him but advise him that you want your steward present during the discussion. Any questions?----Bring them to the meetings-----.

LIST OF OFFICERS FOR LOCAL 88

President	Francis Fehrenbach
Vice President	Harvey Lien
Financial Secretary	Ed Mayer
Recording Secretary	Frank Aabye
Sgt. Of Arms	Harry Schafer
Hospital Plan Rep.	Mel Johnson
Trustees	Dale Howard Lloyd Levin Robert Hutchinson
Stewards Tour 1	Leonard Gill
Tour 2	Gary Peterson
Tour 3	Don Oster
News Editor	Pat Detwiller

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

By Miriam Johnson
President, Local 88 Auxiliary

We sure would like to see some new faces at our Auxiliary meetings. Surely, some of you ladies can spare a couple of hours once a month to attend an auxiliary meeting. What better place is there to meet wives of other postal clerks and find out what you can do to make working conditions better for your husbands. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 8PM in the homes of the auxiliary members. For more information as to the places of meetings ect. and if you would like a ride, please call me a 232-3040.

The Whist Parties that so many of you have enjoyed in the past will start again in October. In fact, the first one will be Saturday, Oct. 27th. Being it's so close to Halloween, we thought it might be fun to have a Costume Card Party and there will be a prize for the best costume. For those of you who do not wish to come in costume, by all means, come anyhow and bring your friends who like to play whist. Be sure to have your husbands sign up early. Let's make this the biggest and best card party yet-----See you there.

IMPORTS, THE PAINLESS WAY TO UNEMPLOYMENT By Pat Detwiller

The time has come when each and everyone of us along with our entire family, must take a hard long look at tomorrow. The imports that are coming into this Country can mean only one thing---unemployment. Maybe it is true that we can save a couple pennies here and a couple there, however us Americans seem to Mortgage ourselves to the hilt for our families and then wonder why our children can't get jobs. These same people that complain about the lack of jobs can be found supporting stores and Companies that cater to the foreign imports. So what if you do save some by purchasing these imports, think about tomorrow and think about your children, do you want them working in a large factory in Japan or China? Lets all do a selling job on Union Made products made in America and I am sure we will have a better tomorrow for ourselves and our family.

Any of you members that have money coming from back wages under Public Law 89-301 should get all available notes together. Management has agreed to co-operate with the members in completing these forms. Remember you can take the time cards home if necessary, also you will be allowed one hour on the clock to check your records. Remember this money is yours if the claim is filled out properly.

COMPLETED FORMS-----A MUST
By Mel Johnson
Hospital Plan Representative

Situations which delay claims on your hospital or Doctors bill. First you should be sure these items have been done and of course be sure the Doctor or Hospital has completed the forms and sent it in.

THE FOLLOWING ARE VERY IMPORTANT IF CLAIMS ARE TO BE PAID ON TIME

1. Change Of Address
2. Change in Listed Dependents
3. Assignment Of Benefits
Plan can only accept the signature of the member and although Plan's medical form spells this out, spouses and in some cases, young adult dependents sign assignments. Claims must then be returned to Hospitals and Doctors for proper assignments.
4. Accidental Injury Claims
Members and dependents should always provide hospitals and doctors with the date of the accident and the nature of the accident, (how and where it occurred) and request the information be shown on claim forms.
5. Separation of Services---Charges for each Service---Name Of Service
Members and dependents should advise a doctor's secretary that Plan pays for services, such as office visits and diagnostic under different benefit lines and that each service, by name, with charge for each service, should be shown separately on claim form with names of x-rays and laboratory test where performed.
6. Diagnosis (Symptom of Illness, Illness or Injury)
Members and dependents should advise hospitals and doctors the symptom of illness, illness or injury that requires their services and request that same be shown on medical forms. Claims for outpatient diagnostic services at a hospital are primarily the ones lacking this information.
7. Separate Claim Form and/ or Bill for each Patient
A separate claim form and/or bill must be presented for each patient in order that plan can properly determine payment based on diagnosis, services and charges.