

We must go hourly to save the craft

This is a decision that will be very controversial with some carriers. I have to say it took me a long time to decide that we should abandon the evaluated system but I can see we no longer have the defenses to defend the time standards that were once fair and could be beaten by the average carrier.

Some of the reasons I believe carriers are able to run the routes under the evaluation are because they have been on the route for many years and it is automatic for them, they break or ignore safety rules (which can cost them wear and tear of their body parts faster or death), or they fail to give the basic service (such as attempting all parcels).

Not all carriers fit into any of the above categories but in my 29 years of service I see who fit all of them all the time. I have had the pleasure of trying to make up an excuse to cover a carrier's behind when an irate customer wants the service they are entitled to and honestly the carrier failed to provide the basic service.

The Postal Service is trying to save time and dollars by lowering the percentage of the cost of labor compared to other operating expenses. The rural carriers are an easy target and have helped lower the standards for the rest of the crafts.

We can no longer accept this kind of treatment and deserve to be compensated for the hours we work and the service we provide. We should go to the door for the parcels, we should be compensated for the time and mileage it takes to find the door when the mail box is a half mile away at an NDCBU.

When they run "Fletters" on the UFSM 1000 to keep their DPS percentages up we should be compensated to dig them out and face them. When we have 6 inches of snow in an hour and we can barely see to drive 15 mph we should be compensated for the time it takes. You want me to watch a 45 minute

video and make it back before 5, then provide assistance like you do on the city routes.

The converse is that we will be required to work our evaluation in the summer months for those who do not now. The days are numbered, for those who are going to receive FSS, that it will be possible to beat the evaluation at all with the time frames for the count. (this will not happen in a year but within two watch out) February is the 3rd lightest volume month of the entire year followed only by June and July.

Do you really think you will receive the flat volume that has been flowing in the last 4 months during this count time frame?

For those in the early states that have the primaries is the political mail going to be there then or long gone?

We must go hourly to save the craft. Can you imagine the poor subs that have to start under the next set of standard volume for a route?

Do you think they freely gave up the improvements to the pay for the new subs out of compassion or rather because they knew they would never keep enough of them.

I will probably be eligible for retirement under the current contract but if I stay I would say the only way is financial greed or that we will be paid hourly. We must go hourly or face the extinction of the craft.

Trisa