

**SECOND JOINT STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE
AND BEHAVIOR IN THE WORKPLACE**

In our Joint Statement of February, we affirmed our belief that dignity, respect and fairness are basic human rights, and we pledged our efforts toward a safer, more harmonious, as well as a more productive workplace. Since then, we have continued to meet regularly and engage in an active dialogue on the issues addressed in that statement. We believe that effective communication and a cooperative spirit are the starting point for the resolution of the problems in our workplace.

It is essential to our efforts that the same discussions and cooperative efforts take place among representatives of management, postal unions, and management organizations at the region, division, and MSC levels, as well as at the national level. To the extent that representatives at those levels have not yet established an ongoing dialogue on these issues, we ask that you do so without further delay. The joint groups should focus on ways to foster safe, harmonious, and productive workplaces and, when a particular problem site is identified, the representatives should work together to eliminate the underlying problems.

In our discussions at the national level on problem sites, we concluded that problems are best addressed, and resolved, at the lowest possible level. Accordingly, if a problem site comes to our attention at the national level, we

will refer it to the appropriate regional joint group for attention. An intervention will not be initiated at this level unless the regional or local parties are unable to resolve the problems at the site. This problem-solving approach is not intended as a substitute for existing dispute resolution processes, but as an informal, cooperative approach to significant workplace relationship problems wherever they may occur. We can--and must--work together to resolve the factors contributing to disputes in our workplace, and we expect our counterparts at all levels of the organization to work toward that end.

Edell Mitchell, R.N.
D.C. Nurses Association

Robin Handwerker
National Association of Postal Supervisors

Willie A. Brock
Federation of Postal Police Officers

James J. Miller
National Association of Postmasters of the United States

Vincent R. Sombrotto
National Association of Letter Carriers

Vincent S. Chera
National League of Postmasters of the United States

Glen Berrie
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

William L. Brown Jr.
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association

W. Douglas
United States Postal Service