

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Call Congress on 7-23
APWU News Bulletin
"On July 23, APWU is mobilizing members via phone and social media to contact members of Congress about supporting HR 2382, the USPS Fairness Act. The Act would repeal the pre-funding of retiree health benefits that has crippled the Postal Service. The mandate is responsible for 92 percent of the Postal Service's losses since 2007 and is a constant threat to the financial sustainability of the Postal Service. Without legislation to repeal the mandate, the Postal Service remains more vulnerable to partial or full privatization. To obtain a majority we need 70 more sponsors. Make your voice heard. Ask your representative to support the USPS Fairness Act, HR2382. You can email your representative by going to apwu.org/fairness. Talk to family and friends and ask them to call in." This legislation affects all postal employees as well as people who depend on the USPS staying as a public service. Privatization would not be good for any of us.

Universal Sorter to MH
Palatine is scheduled to receive a Universal Sorting System in August and the parties were invited to go to Indianapolis to see theirs on 7-17-19 leaving at 5am and returning at 5pm. We considered going but decided it was not worth it when the trip would have nothing to do with which craft would be awarded the work... It was just as well, as I received notification later in the day from APWU of their notification of the USPS decision to award the work on the Universal Sorting System to the Mailhandler Craft. This was a national level jurisdictional decision and not a local decision. I had contacted the national the day before and been told a decision was imminent. The USPS decision is very disappointing but not a major surprise. Any time the USPS can take level 6 distribution Clerk work and pay a lower wage level 4 and not have to pay penalty V after 10 hours, they do it. USPS continues to use new equipment to make operational changes and transfer clerk distribution work to the Mailhandlers. APWU is filing a dispute.

NBA Stevenson Wins Busse PSE Arbitration
National Business Agent James Stevenson won an arbitration for Busse not properly calling back PSEs who had been separated for lack of work. The grievance was filed by Chief Steward Yolanda Safsaf when several PSE Clerks contacted her to say they were separated while others hired after them were still working. Yolanda investigated and processed the grievance as management had made mistakes in maintaining the PSE lists for rehiring. This caused some PSEs to be separated improperly. This was big win at Busse because this has been an ongoing issue with errors in the hiring list resulting in PSEs not being rehired. The Award states in part "There is sufficient evidence that the grievants were dropped from the PSE rolls improperly in violation of the National Agreement and were not offered reappointment, even though other PSEs with less seniority were either hired or reappointed when the grievants should have been kept on the rolls after their separation in January 2017. Grievants made whole"

July 22, 2019

Jackie Engelhart
President
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Vice President
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News Director

Special points of interest:

Call Congress on 7-23
Universal Sorter to MH
NBA Stevenson Wins Busse
PSE Arbitration

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Rickey Dean
USS Position Statement
May 10, 2019
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The Reject Arm Key was also staffed by the third Clerk. These parcels are the pieces that the camera on the machine could not read and then need to be keyed to 5-digit zip code so the machine can then distribute to the assigned Arm 1-19.

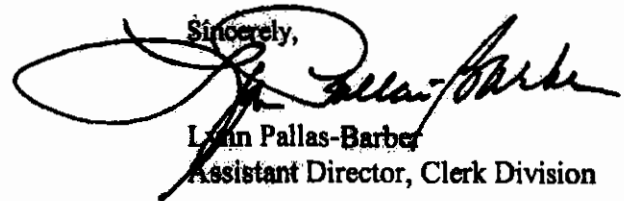
As in the case of FSM machinery or letter automation, an appropriate rotation system employed for the Universal Sorter requires the staffing of the machinery by crews of sufficient size to cover leave, absences, and off-days. The crew is assigned to the entire footprint of the machine. Loading and sweeping the machine are not allied duties but part and parcel of operating the machine, just as is the case in letter automation or on the Flat Sorter. It should be noted that the sweeping of the Universal Sorter (unlike the simple sweeping from bin to tray on the DBCS or FSM) includes a further manual distribution of each mail piece to several separations by three-digit zip code. Most important, it should be noted that utilizing the entire crew of operators on a rotation which includes not just the loading (keying or singulating) and distributing, but also allied duties to this as well as other operations, not only benefits the operator's ergonomic safety and well-being, but benefits the Clerks who will operate the Universal Sorter. The Clerks should also be assigned to perform the initial set-up of equipment, including placarding, labeling, and expediting the containers, which will clearly enhance the over-all efficiency of the operation.

The APWU notes that the primary purpose of the USS operation is the distribution of parcel post by machine. Parcel post machine distribution has remained a function of the Clerk Craft with the SPBS, APBS, SPSS, HTPS and now in accordance with Article 4, the replacement theory and primary purpose of the operation should continue with the USS. In support of our position we would like to point out that Arbitrator Zumas opined on page 38, July 14, 1986, in his jurisdictional decision addressing the Mail Processor – HIM-NA-C 14:

"Given the jurisdictional proprietary right of the Clerks to distribute mail and the fact that the purpose of the OCR/CS and BCS machines is to sort and distribute letter mail, it follows that the Mail Processor, while operating such machinery, is performing a distribution function reserved to the Clerks as the Primary Craft. Loading and sweeping, as part of the Mail Processor's are permissible under the 'allied duties' note relating to the operation of OCR machine distribution."

Additionally, under the "replacement principle", Clerks should operate and perform the distribution functions in the Arms of the USS machine, as the manual, mechanized and automated distribution of parcels and priority mail have remained functions assigned to the Clerk Craft.

Sincerely,



Lynn Pallas-Barber
Assistant Director, Clerk Division

LPB/gk/opei#2/afi-cio