

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Information on this page is re-printed from a Local Line dated 8-8-2018.

Palatine Update...

A/Plant Manager Jeffrey Grendziak held Town Hall meetings at Palatine on 7-17-18 and 7-19-18. He addressed Scanning, Safety, and Attendance and then took time for questions. One employee asked how long he would be there and when he said he would like to stay at Palatine they applauded. Palatine employees have weathered a difficult period under Liz Wulf and they deserve to have a decent plant manager. With a positive plant manager who is willing to communicate Palatine can return to better days. Jeff said he would like employees to have some fun at work. He has improved employee morale just by being nice to employees. Things change and not always for the better... Rumors have been circulating at Palatine and at Carol Stream that Plant Manager Wulf is going to CS. These are rumors but they are always rumors until they happen... We hear Palatine may be downgraded due to the

loss of mail to CS, (Outgoing in 2010 and PARS in 2019) and no longer be a PCES plant so she would have to go to a PCES plant (CS).

Busse Update...

A/Plant Manager Dan Halfman continues to be reasonable and work with the union on issues. We asked him to follow the Pecking Order for day to day movement of Clerks that we have had at Palatine for years, and he agreed to try it where his predecessor would never have agreed to it. The Pecking Order when moving employees out of their bid is normally by juniority but the Palatine agreement lets Clerks volunteer to leave their bid by seniority. This allows Clerks to exercise their seniority if they wish to volunteer to go before requiring junior Clerks to be moved out. This seems simple and fair but some managers don't like simple and fair. A year later it turns out management never did allow the Clerks to be moved by the pecking order on a trial basis. There was no follow-up. There was no cooperation then and even less now. Change did not happen.

Team Not Cleaning...

We have all noticed how postal facilities have become dirtier and dirtier to the point they are nasty. This is because of the change to Team Cleaning agreed to by our own union at the national level. There is very little cleaning going with Team Cleaning but management is saving a ton of money on the reduction in cleaning hours and Custodians. Industrial cleaning equipment has been replaced by equipment more suited for office cleaning, not for 24/7 mail processing work. Someone recently said to me that "Its us and them" in reference to the nasty condition of the workroom floor compared to the how clean the offices are kept for the Great Lakes Area higher ups who work in the office space at CS on the other side of the locked doors. I don't know why our national union agreed to this reduction in cleaning but even management admits the facilities are not clean. Postal employees should not have to work in filth and Custodians should be given equipment and the time to clean properly. Team Cleaning is a joke and everybody knows it.

September 4, 2019

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Special points of interest:

Palatine Update
Busse Update
Teams Not Cleaning
Palatine Posting 25 tour 1 bids
Hostile Northbrook
Retirement Seminar on 9-21-19
Thank you AI Z!!!

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Palatine Posting 25 tour 1 bids

The union has been filing grievances on Clerk reversions and because we have Clerks remaining unencumbered for over 120 days because there are not enough bids. Management, that is Ms. Wulf and In-Plant Support Manager Moore said they were working on bids. What did they come up with?! 25 tour 1 bids and all machine. As they eliminate 15 IPP/LCTS bids they create 25 tour 1 bids in Automation, AFSM and FSS. Clerks who hold IPP/LCTS bids are being abolished because the incoming Universal Sorting System was given to the Mailhandlers at the national level by USPS. The work is parcel distribution but they gave it to the mailhandlers. The national APWU has filed a dispute which allegedly must be scheduled for hearing within six months. I have talked to national president Mark Dimondstein and Assistant Clerk Director Lynn Pallas-Barber about the importance of this disputed work and they agreed we will fight for it. These are the same two who agreed to the recent RI-399 MOU that favors the Mailhandlers so I felt I needed to call and let them know we expect them to fight. The work that will be done on the Universal Sorter is the same work being done manually by Clerks in IPP so the Clerks lose their bids. The tour 3 IPP/LCTS Clerks ask why they can't work in the Low Cost but Ms. Wulf said they are not needed although Clerks from Manual Flats work their regularly. Tour 3 Manual Clerks are being forced to machines on tour 1. In 2014 USPS all but eliminated tour 1 and returned mail processing to tour 2 saying they would staff tour 1 with PSEs. Clerks earn their money on the machines and bear the brunt of disruptive changes made every few years with no end in sight.

Hostile Northbrook

I continue to visit the Northbrook Post Office every week because of the violations and the hostile work environment since the arrival of Narbi Miulli as the Postmaster. Under her reign of terror most of the Clerks have been written up, and these are Clerks with clean records. Non-ODL Clerks are again being required to work up to 60 hours per week because Clerks have transferred out and/or retired early to escape this office and PSEs have resigned or been fired. Several vacant Clerks jobs have been reverted in this office with the District saying the reversions are for poor Clerk performance. They are lucky they have Clerks coming to work let alone doing the excellent job they do daily. This office has gone down since the arrival of Miulli and her mean spirited and abusive conduct. A hard working PSE Clerk has been pushed out the door for, get this, allegedly yelling at Miulli, could it be the other way around?! **Retirement Seminar on 9-21-19** Human Relations Director Vivian Henderson and her Committee are planning the annual Retirement Seminar on 9-21-19 at the Union Hall in Elmhurst (194 W. Lake). The APWU Retiree Department is sending us speaker **Joe Gordon**. This is for our members only. Sign-up lists are available in the union offices at the plants, and AO members can see their Steward and/or call the Union Hall to have their name put on the list. We need your name and office, whether you are Civil Service or FERS, if you are bringing your spouse, and if you need a hearing interpreter. Lunch will be served. Civil Service and FERs will be combined into one class but there will be sessions at 9 am and 1pm. If the morning class is filled members will be scheduled for the afternoon class to avoid crowding.



Thursday is Red Shirt Day!

Members are encouraged to wear their union shirts each Thursday.

Thank You Al Z!!!

It is the end of an era with the retirement of Palatine Steward Al Czerwinski (Al Z) at the end of the month, and it's a big loss for the Union. Al goes way back to old North Suburban with the Union when he and John Clark were the smartest guys in the room. John became a National Business Agent but Al stayed with the Local and served as Steward, Clerk Craft Director, News Editor and National Arbitration Advocate. Al kept his sense of humor and made me laugh by wearing his "lucky" red gym shoes back when he did Arbitration hearings for the Local. For the last few years he has served as tour 2 Maintenance Steward but has helped members of all crafts in countless ways. He's the smartest guy in the room. He does the research and gets the information for us when needed. I have had the privilege of working with him for many years and and consider him to be a friend. He would make us laugh with his impersonations and his hilariously clever songs about Mimi Jackson. Al is one of those postal employees who could not wait to retire. He won't miss coming to work but he will miss doing what he does best, using his knowledge for the protection of his co-workers. This is the end of an era as we lose this heavy hitter but we are happy for Al in his retirement. There isn't much time left to say good-bye and to thank Al for his service as the clock is ticking...

