

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

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APWU Candidates in National Election...

I indicates Incumbent

President

Mark Dimondstein (I)
Greg Bell
John L. Marcotte
Tony D. McKinnon

Vice President

Debby Szeredy (I)
Sam Wood
Jonathan Smith

Secretary-Treasurer

Elizabeth Powell (I)
Jeane Gardiner

Industrial Relations

Vance Zimmerman (I)
Scott M. Hoffman

Legislative/Political

Judy Beard (I)
Courtney Jenkins
Thomas Benson

Organization Director

Anna Smith (I)
Doris Simmons

Research & Education

Joyce B. Robinson (I)
Dena Briscoe

Human Relations

Susan M. Carney (I)
Nannette J. Corley
Daleo Freeman

Health Plan Director

Robert Furbush
Sebrina E. Maynard
Sarah Jane Rodriquez

Regional Coordinator

Sharyn M. Stone (I)
Roscoe Woods

Clerk Director

Clint Burelson (I)
Lamont A. Brooks

Assistant Director A

Sam Lisenbe
Michael Macho

Assistant Director B

Lynn Pallas-Barber (I)
Christine Chris Pruitt

Clerk NBA Chicago

Mike O'Hearn (I)
Devendra Rathore "D"

Maintenance Director

Idowu Balogun (I)
Sayed Moustafa

Assistant Director A

Jimmie Waldon (I)
Kenneth Wall

Assistant Director B

Terry B. Martinez (I)
Steven Duckworth

Retirees Director

Nancy E. Olemukor (I)
Jennifer D. Fulbright
*only retirees can vote for this office

Uncontested Offices

All other offices are uncontested including our Clerk NBA's Linda Turney and James Stevenson, our Maintenance NBA Craig Fisher, and our MVS NBA William Wright or WW for short. Motor Vehicle Director Michael O. Foster and Assistant Director Javier Pineres are unopposed.

Mailing of Ballots

Ballots will be mailed by the American Arbitration Association to all APWU members on or after 9-10-2019 but no later than 9-15-2019. Many of our members do not vote in the National election or even in the Local election. It matters who is elected to these offices and there will be articles in the national Postal Worker magazine by the candidates to help you make informed decisions when you vote. These are the people who negotiate your contract, maintain the finances, and fight the USPS every day. Our NBA's settle our grievances at Step 3 and arbitrate them when the USPS will not settle them. Most NBAs do a great job and all are un-opposed except for Mike O'Hearn. I will leave it at that... All members should vote!

Jackie Engelhart
President
Walter Elerby Jr.
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

APWU Candidates in National Election
Uncontested Offices
Mailing of Ballots
USPS Wants to Cut Benefits
The PARS Move...
Palatine to get Universal Sorter
Know Your Rights...
Locker Inspections.
CS A/Plant Manager is Pamela Bronson from Michigan...
NWIAL Scholarships

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USPS Wants to Cut Benefits

The proposals obtained by Huff Post are subject to change but PMG Brennan is expected to present this business plan to the House Oversight Committee this summer. She will ask Congress to help USPS make cuts to employee benefits as part of a long term plan to lead to a sustainable future.

The proposal would save an estimated \$18 billion on employee compensation over a decade by cutting paid leave, raising worker's share of pension contributions, and shifting new employees into less secure 401(k) retirement plans. In addition to benefit cuts, USPS wants to require retirees to enroll in Medicare which would save \$49 billion over 10 years. The plan also includes increasing the non-career workforce who are not eligible for career benefits. The change in employee leave policy would combine vacation with sick days resulting in fewer days off for workers estimated to save USPS more than \$5 billion. The plan also wants to reduce to 5 day delivery instead of the 6 day. Passage of these proposals are not likely at this time but this draft proposal shows what the Postal Board of Governors wants to do. Elections have consequences and that is why we all should vote.

The PARS Move...

By now the Letter PARS has moved from Palatine P&DC to Carol Stream, but the Flat PARS is on hold for now. Why was PARS moved out of Palatine which had this mail from day one, and after losing outgoing mail to CS??? Mark Tovey told me two years ago that Headquarters wanted PARs mail in facilities with an outgoing operation and Palatine's outgoing was at CS, so Palatine lost mail that replaces the loss of outgoing mail. Another reason might be to make room for a new Universal Sorter in the expansion.

Palatine to get Universal Sorter

It is coming in August and should take 3-4 weeks to install in the expansion area where PARS used to be. It will have 16 lanes with 10 containers per lane, 2 sides, 3 dumpers and 1 key station. They say it can sort 1900 pieces per hour and runs at 98% read rate. It will be used to sort Priority, First Class, and Non-Machineable Outsides (NMOs) and bundles. Management says it will be run on all three tours. It will have 160 containers the same as the APPS. The Universal is expected to reduce mail to the IPP unit, which will be moved back to the expansion near the Universal Sorter.

Town Halls at Palatine

I attended the first one on tour 2 where Plant Manager Wulf talked about recent efforts to improve Priority scores which she said are up and down and not consistent. She said Amazon is a new competitor, and Fed Ex is now delivering 7 days. She talked about Flats being at 73% with 2 million failures... She said Palatine processes 44 runs on the flatsorter which is the most in the country. When Ms. Wulf left for a telecon, In Plant Support Manager Kenya Moore took some questions.

A tour 2 General Expediter told her that many of the scanners don't work and the WiFi is bad so why are they blaming employees? Ms. Moore said they are doing a survey but it sounds like they should know the scanners are bad. The Expediter raised the issue of staffing or the lack of it, saying that trucks sit unloaded on tour 1 for lack of employees, with mention of hiding trucks on tour 1. It was said that Quad Graphics a company mentioned by Ms. Wulf sometimes waits for hours. A 2nd Expediter said there was no one in Express or in PAU that day to service customers because the Clerks are NS with no NS day OT called.

Know Your Rights...

A pre-disciplinary interview must be held with an employee before management can issue discipline. They must call you in and ask for your side of the story whether it is for attendance or anything else. If management has not called for a Steward you need to ask for one and wait to begin the PDI until you get one. This is due process. When a Postal Inspector wants to talk to you they will not tell you that you have the right to Union representation but if you ask for one they will have to stop the interview and wait until you get one. They work in teams and talk nice but they are not there to help you.

Locker Inspections...

Palatine P&DC conducted locker searches twice in the past few months and I don't know what they are looking for, but whatever facility you work at do not keep anything illegal in your locker.

CS A/Plant Manager is Pamela Bronson from Michigan...

We requested Labor-Management meeting at all three plants on 6-6 and she is the only one to respond. We met on 6-24-19 and most of the items involved staffing with management stating they have 326 Clerks on rolls and are authorized for 316, 10 over cap. How can that be when CS just got the PARS? They are saying they have to do another Function 1 Scheduler based on the PARS but for now are being allowed to "borrow" Function 4 (AO) PSEs with the number allowed going up to 83. Upper management knew the mail was coming and they knew to reduce Palatine's authorized complement by 22 Clerks so how did they not know to increase at CS? This is the type of game they play.

NWIAL Scholarships...

Scholarships applications will be accepted until 8-10-19 as the drawing will be held on 8-11-19. Happy 4th to those who get it off!

