

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Carol Stream has more mail and more jobs...

On 12-12-19 I saw a list of the 5 top facilities for cancellation of mail on 12-9-19 and CS was #1 with 2,159,000 pieces cancelled for that day. The top 5 listed were:

1. CS 2,159,000
2. N. Texas 2,050,000
3. Phoenix AZ 1,928,000
4. Milwaukee, WI 1,830,000
5. Denver, CO 1,774,000

The mail volume at CS is the driver for PSEs to be hired and for PSEs to be converted to career. A CS PSE has a better chance of being converted than a PSE at Busse, or at Palatine which lost PARS/FPARS to CS. Palatine cancelled no mail that day or any day because Palatine lost its cancellation operation to Carol Stream in 2010. Palatine has an APPS which is all Mailhandler while CS has an APBS so CS has more Clerk jobs there, and of course Palatine replaced IPP Clerk jobs with MHs on the new Universal Sorter which is really the same work as the Clerks did. Management decides who gets the mail...

PSE Christmas Hiring

Every year USPS hires PSEs for Christmas and every year they let them go for lack of work in January. Then the union gets calls from some of them saying they would not have taken this job had they known it was temporary. This year I was called to do Union Orientation on 12-9-19 for some newly hired PSEs and I asked their Training Technician if they knew they were being hired for Christmas and he said he was told not to tell them, and they were hired for 360 days. PSEs are hired for 360 day terms with a 5 day break before being called back so contractually there are no Christmas PSEs but management knows they are hiring them for Christmas but they do not tell them that. They lead them to believe they have a job when in fact they are temporary. They don't tell them because they only care about filling their jobs and not about people being intentionally misled. PSEs I spoke to did not know they were hired for Christmas and one was so upset she walked out. Merry USPS Christmas!

Why You need a Union

When I talk to new hires about joining the Union I tell them that the most important thing the Union provides is job security. If you are working for a non-union employer you do not have that, and that is the majority of workers. I have friends who have been called in on a Friday and told it is their last day. They thought they were doing a good job and had no idea this would happen. In some cases they had a lot of work piled on them and were fired after they got the work caught up. Bosses are free to treat employees however they want with no Union to protect them from abuse. Imagine working at the Post Office without no Union with some of the people we have in postal management these days. I was in one of our offices this week where the new supervisor who was just titled in September wanted me to come out for PDI's for four Clerks in one day. This type of supervisor is our best organizing tool. The Union negotiates our pay and benefits and our working conditions which are based on seniority so we can reduce favoritism. The Union = Job Security.

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Special points of interest:

Carol Stream has more mail and more jobs...
PSE Christmas Hiring
Why You need a Union
Holiday Peace in Northbrook
Ms. Information at Palatine
Thank you Rick Szczesny!!!



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Holiday Peace in Northbrook

Two PSE Clerks will not be enjoying Christmas this year thanks to Northbrook Postmaster Narbi Miulli who fired one because a Carrier/204B supervisor threw a parcel at her feet after the 204b complained to Miulli. The Carrier was sorting parcels which is Clerk work but Miulli has Custodians and Carriers sorting parcels on a regular since she fired the PSE. The second PSE was newly hired and let go after she complained to Miulli about how the supervisors talked down to her. The lack of respect in this office flows from Miulli and so does the retaliation, if you have the nerve to speak up for yourself instead of allowing management to disrespect you. I can imagine what Northbrook would be like without a Union. Northbrook employees have a break from Miulli who is detailed to Glenview for one month while they fill the postmaster vacancy. Northbrook employees thought Miulli was leaving permanently. They have peace this holiday season since Miulli was replaced by OIC Edward Abdul Rahaman. I sent this email to MPOO Bill Misinski, *"I heard you were sorting parcels all day at Northbrook from 4am on. This is why your subordinates think it is ok to violate. You set the example, a bad one I'm afraid."* His response was *"With peak season we are entrusted to save the service and that is exactly what we plan on doing. Your comments are noted and unwarranted."* My response *"Do we not have peak season every year at this time and isn't that why USPS is allowed to exceed the non-career caps at this time? You can violate but my comments are unwarranted. I do understand how it feels to be an employee subject to management's unequal enforcement of the rules."* MPOO Misinski is Narbi Miulli's boss...

Ms. Information at Palatine

This is to address misinformation put out at Palatine by a Clerk regarding RI-399 craft jurisdiction. I have talked to this Clerk and tried to explain her error and had a national officer call her to explain. She seems to think that an RI-399 MOU agreed to in 2018 somehow changes craft jurisdiction on the AFSM-AI and the FSS machines. This makes no sense as APWU agreed to withdraw disputes filed on the AFSM-AI and the FSS as part of the MOU agreement. I have shared my opinion on this APWU sell-out of the Clerk craft with President Dimondstein and Assistant Clerk Craft Director Lynn Pallas-Barber. I have shared my opinion of this MOU with our members in previous floor letters. I did read what the Clerk provided and spoke with her about this. She is wrong, the MOU does not change craft jurisdiction on these machines but actually withdrew the APWU filed disputes on them. The NWIAL does enforce our facility Inventories at each plant but we do not have the authority to change national level decisions. We are pushing our national officers to arbitrate the national dispute on the Universal Sorter ASAP, as this work is clearly Clerk work.

Election Committee

At the January 12, 2020 membership meeting we will select three members and an alternate to serve as the Election Committee. I have stated I prefer to have members who have done this job before so they know what they are doing. This is not an easy job and mistakes cost money and could delay the election process. We normally hire a company for the mailing of the ballots to ensure no tampering. One candidate files a complaint every election and we have been investigated by the Department of Labor every time based on these complaints; with no problems.

Thank you Rick Szczesny!!!

Palatine Tour 2 Chief Steward Rick Szczesny is retiring at the end of the year and we all wish him a long and happy retirement. He has served the Local for many years and in fact did such a good job that management tried to fire him in 2009 for *"Recording false information on your assignment worksheet and Failure to properly perform your assigned duties."* This was an attempt to remove an aggressive union Steward by the maintenance managers who were tired of dealing with grievances. Joe Golden filed the grievance but management made it clear that they were not willing to settle this case as they really wanted his job. Nobody at Palatine or at the Northern Illinois District were willing to do anything on the case. I had to go to Great Lakes Area Labor Relations Manager Dan Bessler as they were all pushing to fire Rick. Thanks to Dan for doing the right thing, the NOR was reduced to a Letter of Warning. Rick did go out for a few weeks and I remember the day he came back to work per the settlement. He was standing at the turnstile because he did not have his badge and maintenance management would not come and let him in. One more petty bit of retaliation. I have no doubt this whole thing was done in retaliation for Rick being a very aggressive steward. Rick has been fighting the good fight for much of his 40+ postal career and we thank him for that. Rick joins Maintenance Craft Director Joe Golden and former CCD/ Clerk/Maintenance Steward Al Z in retirement. This is the end of an era as the heavy hitters in Maintenance at Palatine are gone. "Old School" Rick has helped to train the next generation so we have Kyle Popek and Pat Thoele. Congratulations Rick and have a long and happy retirement!!!

