

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

October 9, 2019

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

APWU National Election Winners *

I is for Incumbent
E is for Endorsement

President
M. Dimondstein I E*
15,766
Greg Bell
6,746
John L. Marcotte
9,765
Tony D. McKinnon
3,151

Vice President
Debby Szeredy I *
14,237
Sam Wood E
7,794
Jonathan Smith E
13,108

Secretary-Treasurer
Elizabeth Powell I E*
25,276
Jeane Gardiner
9,488

Industrial Relations
V. Zimmerman I E*
13,205
Scott M. Hoffman
11,735

Legislative/Political
Judy Beard I E*
17,653
Courtney Jenkins
9,797
Thomas Benson
7,490

Organization Director
Anna Smith I *
17,736
Doris Simmons E
6,996

Research & Education
Joyce B. Robinson I E*
14,273
Dena Briscoe
10,592

Human Relations
Susan M. Carney I E*
18,979
Nannette J. Corley
4,932
Daleo Freeman
10,908

Health Plan Director
Robert Furbush E
8,618
Sebrina E. Maynard
11,152
Sarah Jane Rodriguez*
13,659

Regional Coordinator
Sharyn M. Stone I E*
3,818
Roscoe Woods
2,265

Clerk Director
Clint Burelson I
6,769
Lamont A. Brooks E*
10,519

Assistant Director A
Sam Lisenbe E*
8,960

Michael Macho
8,030

Assistant Director B
Lynn Pallas-Barber I E*
9,981
Christine Chris Pruitt
7,197

Clerk NBA Chicago
Mike O'Hearn I E
696
Devendra Rathore "D" *
790

Maintenance Director
Idowu Balogun I*
3,492
Sayed Moustafa
1,506

Assistant Director A
Jimmie Waldon I*
3,290
Kenneth Wall
1,634

Assistant Director B
Terry B. Martinez I*
3,067
Steven Duckworth
1,935

Retirees Director
Nancy E. Olemukor I E*
4,895
Jennifer D. Fulbright
4,830

Low Voter Turnout
About 40,000 APWU
members voted in this im-
portant election which
means many did not vote.

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

Special points of interest:

APWU National Election Winners
Two Slates in the Race
The Shame is...
Uncontested Offices
All our NBAs unopposed except for
O'Hearn. Wake up Call!
Constitutional Changes...

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Two Slates in the Race

This hard fought election pit two main slates of incumbents against each other and almost all the incumbents on each slate have won. President Dimondstein's slate, "Together We Win" included Secretary-Treasurer Liz Powell, Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman, Legislative Director Judy Beard, and Organizing Director Anna Smith who all won re-election. Also on the ticket was Clerk Craft Director Burleson who was not re-elected. The Fighting 4U Team was created after President Dimondstein told Vice President Debby Szeredy he did not want her on his slate so she joined with Assistant Clerk Craft Director B. Lynn Pallas-Barber, Research & Education Director Joyce Robinson, Human Relations Director Sue Carney, and Health Plan Director John Marcotte to create the "Fighting 4 U" slate. The question has been asked if she was Vice President for two terms why did she not run for President on the new slate?

The Shame is...

Debby Szeredy is still the national Vice President when she knows what everyone else knows, she is not qualified to be President and President Dimondstein decided to replace her. Hopefully nothing happens to the President because she would not know what to do. Her friends that supported her and ran the slate all got back in and got what they wanted except for John Marcotte who gave up his job as Health Plan Director to run for President because their slate needed someone for President. Now John goes back to the work-room floor as a result of taking on the job of running against Mark. He was the leader, not Debby. Mark Dimondstein ran the President of the New York Metro for Vice President but Jonathan Smith did not win, nor did Sam Wood.

Many of us hoped Sam would win because of his track record of fighting against the give-away of Clerk work to the Mailhandler Union by USPS. Sam Wood is a Local President in Florida who took USPS to court on jurisdictional issues and won without help from the national union. It would have been good to have a leader fighting for our work instead of Dimondstein and Pallas-Barber withdrawing RI-399 disputes and paying Clerks a measly \$166.00. I would have loved to see a fighter like Sam Wood leading APWU. Too bad that we are stuck for 3 more years with a Vice President whose friends say that she is nice but know she is not qualified... Fortunately, we re-elected President Dimondstein who is qualified to lead us into contract arbitration.

Uncontested Offices

All other offices were uncontested including 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 were also unopposed.

All our NBAs unopposed except for O'Hearn. Wake up Call!

That is what I wrote before the election although we endorsed Mike based on his experience. Many Stewards were not happy with Mike's settlements and with the fact he had not done any arbitration hearings for us in awhile. Of the three NBAs he was the last one I would call, the weakest link. Fox Valley Local President D. Rathore is our new Clerk NBA and he is smart and hard working, and should be able to do the job. Mike and "D" ran a clean race. Mike O'Hearn is a good union person and very knowledgeable. He has had some health issues which probably slowed him down, but an NBA job is a lot of work.

Constitutional Changes...

The NWIAL currently has about 1204 dues paying regular members and 130 PSE clerk members. We discussed the fact that we have lost 100 regular members since the beginning of this term and we will continue to lose... Several years ago we changed the full-time Vice President to part-time as the number of members had declined to the point where the Local could not financially support two full-time officers. When we fall below 1000 FT members the dues income to the Local would decline by \$100,000, so we believe we should prepare. As when we looked at the options for savings when we made the change to the FT Vice President, there are not many options that would save \$100,000 dollars. The only way to save that kind of money is to change the President to part-time which would save \$85,000 in salary and benefits. Some officers have asked how we can go to a part-time President when I am full-time and busy. The answer I give is if everyone does their job it can be done. Based on the last three years where we have only lost 100 FT members we can be optimistic and hope that we do not go down to 1000 members for several years. The point is we need to be ready. I submitted a constitutional change that would change the FT President to part-time if the Local membership drops below 1000 FT members for a six month period. A second change would increase the number of hours for the VP from 40 to 50 hours if and when the President becomes part-time. The President would work 60 hours per month and the VP 50 hours. The changes passed the first reading at the 10-6-19 meeting and will be read for a second time at the 11-3-19 meeting at 2:30pm.

