

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

September 8, 2020

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

2020 NWIAL Election Election Results

*winner in bold print
President

1. Mary Corner 135
2. **Jackie Engelhart**
375

Vice President

1. Teddy Ervin 40
2. **Dave Baskin** 329
3. Walter Elerby Jr.
141

Treasurer

Bhupendra Patel
(unopposed)

Secretary

1. Carmen Bell 168
2. **Linda Duncan-
Retel** 327

Chief Trustee

1. Janice Alexander-
Scott 144
2. **Ray Wience** 351

Clerk Trustee

1. Latara Collins 156
2. **Sue Rodriguez** 330

MVS/Maintenance Trustee

Gary Meyers
(unopposed)

Clerk Director 600

Marcia Lloyd
(unopposed)

Clerk Director 601

Calvin Taylor
(unopposed)

AO Director
Kathy Stokes
(unopposed)

Maintenance Craft Di- rector

1. Anthony Pritchett Jr.
58
2. **Joseph Golden** 84

MVS Director

1. **Michael Raia** 22
2. Allen Fox Ferguson
Jr. 15
3. Kenneth Redinger 17

1,311 ballots were mailed
by the American Arbitra-
tion Association to eligi-
ble voters on 7-24-2020.

The ballot mailing was
originally scheduled for
3-16-2020 but was de-
layed due to the COVID-
19 Pandemic and execu-
tive orders issued by the
State of Illinois and the
City of Chicago which
limited the number of
people allowed to gather
in one place indoors.

When the state entered
Phase 4, allowing gather-
ings of up to 50 people,
the ballot mailing was
held on 7-24-2020. 520
ballots were returned out
of the 1,311 mailed out.
We have another election
on 11-3-2020. Vote!!!

Get Involved...

We had some new and
younger candidates who
ran for office this time,
which is encouraging.
Two of the offices with
younger candidates were
the Maintenance Director
and the Vice President.
These offices are griev-
ance handling positions so
it would help to get some
Steward experience first.
The Secretary job is not a
grievance handling posi-
tion but most of our Secre-
taries were also Stewards.
As senior Stewards retire
we will be soliciting to fill
those Steward positions.
If you are serious about
being involved and think
you can learn as you go,
you might want to apply.
We normally post a letter
when we have a Steward
vacancy and to apply the
member writes a letter to
the president stating they
are interested in the job.
The job is not for every-
one but we do have many
long-serving Stewards.
That is the way all of the
current officers started
with the union. They be-
came Stewards and stuck
around long enough to
learn the contract and how
the union works. You nev-
er stop learning as a Stew-
ard but we all had to start
at the beginning...

Jackie Engelhart
President
Dave Baskin
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

2020 NWIAL Election Results

Get Involved...

Retro-Active Pay

AL Carryover 2021

General Expeditors

Automation Clerks to Return to 0700 and
1500 at Palatine

Carol Stream Automation

You Have 14 Days to File...

Last Call for Scholarships...

Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248
Email: nwial7140@yahoo.com
Web: nwial7140ayahoo.com

Retro-Active Pay

Most received their retro-active pay on paychecks dated 9-4-2020 but 2000 employees nationwide did not because they were either in a saved grade or in a salary exception. Salary exceptions applied to the MVS craft and Accounting Services is working to manually input their back pay. The retro-active pay period is 9-20-2018 through 4-20-2020. The amount an employee receives is based on the actual work hours, step and level, overtime hours worked, premium pays, and paid leave hours. No pay is received for LWOP. Retirees who were still working during the retro-pay period will receive a check for the hours owed. Contact the union if you did not get your retro-pay.

AL Carryover 2021

The amount of annual leave that can be carried over into 2021 is increased from 440 hours to 520 hours. Employees can still sell back a maximum of 80 hours of annual leave prior to the beginning of leave year 2021 provided:

1. The employee must be at the maximum leave carryover ceiling at that the start of the leave year; and
2. The employee must have used fewer than 75 sick leave hours (excluding emergency sick leave taken under the Families First Coronavirus Act in leave year 2020. This MOU expires on 12-31-2020.

General Expeditors

National Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks followed up with the USPS on rumors of Expeditors being assigned to Motor Vehicle. He states certain employees may report to a different supervisor based on a Headquarters realignment dealing with logistics and transportation. The restructure could affect more than General Expeditors. Such employees will remain in their current craft.

Automation Clerks to Return to 0700 and 1500 at Palatine...

Management offered some tour 2 and tour 3 Automation Clerks the option to change their time later by 4 hours to 1100 and 1900 or become unassigned. No choice! These were not the most senior Clerks in their sections but they were not the most junior either. The most junior were excessed out of the section and the next senior had their jobs reposted, some to the later 1100 and 1900 times. Because of the excessing out of the section there was closed section bidding for both tours. Then on 7-9-2020 management informed the Union that the Awards for tour 2 and tour 2 Automation was cancelled and all affected Clerks would be returned to their original bids. They also said this did not include the time changes. Many of the Clerks moved to the later 1100 and 1900 start times were senior to Clerks who were returned to their bids when management canceled the Award. The Union filed a grievance for the denial of bidding and seniority rights on 7-16-2020 and has been in discussions with management since that time. The grievance was resolved on 9-2-2020 to return all Automation Clerks back to their original 0700 and 1500 start times on 9-12-2020.

Carol Stream Automation

Recently I spoke with two tour 3 Automation Clerks who asked why they could not go back to 1600 after being moved to 1700. I contacted the plant manager who responded: "*After looking at the volumes, it has been determined to leave them at the 1700 start.*" I will request to see what volumes they are looking at to see if we have an argument for a 1600 start. Management has the right to schedule and staff but the union can and should make efforts to gain better schedules if we can.

You have 14 Days to File...

Grievances must be filed within 14 days of when the grievant or the union becomes aware. That does not mean that the grievant has 14 days and the union has another 14 days. It means if you get a Letter of Warning or a Letter of Demand, or are bypassed for OT or holiday work, you have 14 days to have a grievance filed for you. This is especially true if you are off work and mailed discipline. Whatever is going on in your life, it is always worse without a job, so call the union and let us know. When the union is notified of a bid reversion or whatever it might be, we have 14 days to file from when we became aware. When the grievance is filed untimely it does not matter how good a case we have, if management sees that it is untimely, its going no where. If you have no Steward in your office or no one answers in the Union room you can call the Union Hall at 630-833-0088 and let me know so we can get it filed. If you need to file a grievance or you think your rights have been violated you should request a Steward and should be able to speak to one in 2 hours or less. If they say they called the Union room and no one answered but you know there is a Steward working in their unit then management must get the Steward up. Most times there is at least one Steward in the building on any day and tour, but they are working on the floor, and not released.

Last Call for Scholarships...

The drawing for the 2020 NWIAL scholarships will be held at the Union meeting on 9-13-2020. Four \$750.00 scholarships will be awarded by random drawing from the "Bozo Drum" overseen by Chief Trustee Ray Wience. You still have time to fax a scholarship application to the Union Hall at 630-833-0248.

