

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

October 27, 2020

Vote!!!

We are less than one week from election day and we all need to vote. The fate of the USPS hangs in the balance... I voted by mail and it only took 6 days for the ballot to go from the Northlake Post Office to the County Clerk's office in downtown Chicago as I was emailed yesterday to confirm the receipt of my ballot! **COVID Cases Rising** I thought Palatine had the most cases in the Chicago area, but I recently spoke to President James Malone of the South Suburban Local about 2 weeks ago and he said they had 53 cases at South Suburban. Last count Palatine was at 42 confirmed cases. The Carol Stream Plant Manager will notify both unions of any new positive cases at CS but she does not give a total. Lakeland is the only District that puts out a weekly updated list online of all offices so you know the numbers. The other districts should do the same. **Masks to be given out** We will be giving out an APWU mask to all our members very soon.

You can thank Palatine clerk Linda Rowland for this idea as she would consistently ask me for a union mask every time I saw her for some months. After the election I made a suggestion that we buy masks for our members. I waited until after the election to do this so I could not be accused of trying to buy your vote. We now know how important wearing masks is to keeping us all safe. Stay safe and thank you to all of our members. **National RI-399 Cases** Three national RI-399 disputes are scheduled to be arbitrated as follows: AFCS, December 2020 ADUS, January 2021 USS, February 2021 Carol Stream P&DC has Automated Cancellor Facers which are staffed by Clerks since late 2012, when they deployed the AFCS-200, and upgraded these machines to cancel, face, and sort letter mail. The AFCS dispute was filed by the Mailhandler Union and is the first time in my recollection that work was taken from them and assigned to us. That was unheard of, as work is usually taken from Clerks and assigned to Mailhandlers. A first!

Lets hope we hold onto it. ADUS is short for Automated Delivery Unit Sorter and this machine was first tested in post offices with large parcel volume and not in the plants. The post offices have no MHs so there would be no MH staffing on an ADUS in a post office. The dispute is in the plants where MHs have been assigned to the functions of staging mail, sweeping and dispatching. While most of the work on the ADUS was assigned by USPS to Clerks, a dispute was filed by APWU to say that the functions assigned to Mailhandlers should be assigned to Clerks as an integral part of the operation, in offices that have Mailhandlers. The Mailhandler Union has also filed a dispute on the ADUS machine. The USPS has created a monster by pitting Clerks against Mailhandlers so they can fight over work. The third case is for the Universal Sorting System, which is nothing but a mechanical Parcel Sorter where the employee has to distribute or sort the mail by zip to right container. This is distribution but that did not stop USPS from giving it to MHs. We know its Clerk work.

Jackie Engelhart
President
Dave Baskin
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

Vote!!!

COVID Cases Rising

Masks to be given out

National RI-399 Cases

Mailhandler Award on non-career discipline into career

Cameras on the Window...

Window Clerk Safety

Update Contact Information

2020 Scholarship Winners

Thank you Ramon!!!

Mike Raia is a Fighter!

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:nwial7140@yahoo.com

Mailhandler Award on non-career discipline into career

The unions have been arguing this since the creation of non-career employees, MHA/PSE, with union rights in the 2010-2015 contract. There was nothing put in the contract stating that non-career employee's discipline record will be cleaned when they become career. The simple argument is that this is a new (career) appointment so the record should be clean but this was not agreed to in the contract. We argued it but management continued to cite discipline issued to non-careers in discipline issued to a new career employee. Since the non-career employee is not always afforded the full range of progressive discipline it seems unfair to not clean their record when they are hired as career. National Arbitrator Shyam Das agreed with the Mailhandler Union that the non-career is a new hire when converted to career and their discipline record is clean. That is victory for all MHAs and PSEs and the end of a long fight.

Cameras on the Window...

Melrose Park has new monitors with cameras on them and we were asking is this Big Brother, but it turns out all new monitors have cameras on them for Zoom. Clerks were concerned that management was using the new monitors to spy on Clerks while they are working, but I was told by the national union that cameras are automatic on new monitors and we can put tape or a post-it over it. Clerks had already figured it out.

Window Clerk Safety

In the race to cut Clerk jobs some offices that normally have at least two clerks on the window are staffing with one, leaving one clerk alone should there be any kind of trouble. This is the case in Northlake where there have been robberies along North Avenue.

The window needs to be secure, with the entire window covered with plexi-glass so the clerk is not at the mercy of anyone coming in with the intent to do harm or steal. Currently the window has a plastic shield for each station but anyone could come over the counter...

At least with two Clerks one could call for help in case of emergency but one Clerk and no protection is a sitting duck. All they say is we have clerks off and the office does not earn two Clerks from this time to this time. Secure the window!

Update Contact Information

Recently a Palatine Clerk collapsed at the time clock and was taken to the hospital where she remains today on life support. We hope for a miracle for her. Steward and Safety Captain Johnny Love Sr. called to ask me to urge employees to update their contact information at the post office in case of an emergency. Management will contact your emergency contact but they need to have the correct information. Please make sure your emergency contact information is updated. Johnny also advises employees to "ICE" your phone, which he states is simply placing I.C. E. behind a contact number in your phone to be contacted in an emergency.

2020 Scholarship Winners

The drawing for the four \$750.00 scholarships was held on 9-13-20 with the winners as follows:

1. Edwin Davis, son of Vera Wilkerson, Palatine P&DC
2. Hannah Conway, daughter of Tom Conway, Carol Stream
3. Keyuni Gibson, daughter of Denise Yancey, Carol Stream
4. Jennifer Watts, for herself, Carol Stream

Alternates are:

1. Crystal James, daughter of Arlene Thomas, Franklin Park
2. Joana Mathew, daughter of Jobman Mathew, Busse

Congratulations to all the winners!

Thank you Ramon!!!

Time is running out to thank CS tour 3 Steward Ramon DePeralta for being one of the nicest guys around and for running around the floor for years to represent every member to the best of his ability. I am so glad I got to know him and see what a wonderful person he is. He does a great job as the Chief Steward and I know he is loved by many CS members.

We have been lucky to have him. His cheerful laugh is infectious. You cannot help but smile back when you are in his presence ...

He is retiring on 12-2-2020 so we don't have much time to thank him for his years of service to the members at CS and for being just an all-around nice person. He's also one heck of a Steward, a person of integrity, a leader, a team player, and a true union person. I could go on and on but I would like to hear from CS members who have been touched by him. If you have comments you would like to see in the next Local Line please send them to me as I am sure there are others who will miss Ramon as much as I will.

Mike Raia is a Fighter

Mike has been given a hard time as MVS Director and tour 2 CS Steward by Transportation Manager Ruben Garcia who does not seem to respect Mike's position. He and Mike's supervisor played games about his union time to the point we had to take it to the plant manager, Pamela Bronson, who said he would get union time and any disrespect to Mike must stop. Mike is fighting back and has shown he will not back down when he has to fight for union time to investigate and file grievances to better represent his craft. Mr. Garcia may think it's a joke but Mike is serious about the job. Some managers disrespect the union so it follows they will not respect the union leaders either.