

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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President Dimondstein is Coming on 9-16-15

The APWU President is coming to Illinois to hold Town Hall meetings with our members. He will be in our area on Wednesday, 9-16-15 to meet with members at the plants off the clock. He will be visiting other Locals in the area so we were given the one day. The optimal time for him to visit the plants is from 3 to 5 pm so he can catch tour 3 coming in at 4 pm and tour 2 leaving at 0430 pm. If you are interested in attending a Town Hall meeting off the clock at your facility please sign a Town Hall sheet in the union room so we know where the interest lies and he can schedule accordingly. Mark cannot be in two places at one time so he will have to decide what times he wants to come to Palatine and /or CS. Most Busse Clerks start at 6 pm or later so he would have to come to Busse after the plants. All three plant managers have agreed to allow him access to the plants to meet off the clock. As locations/times are confirmed information will be shared with you.

Palatine Retreat Rights

Management will be sending letters to the employees identified by the union as having retreats but were have not been offered retreat rights. Since management has not provided letters for most of the employees in question we are asking that letters be sent out. Some of the employees may no longer work for the USPS or may have not updated their address. Once the letters are sent out management can proceed to retreat the employees that respond. It has taken time to get this done because some of these employees are not on the Lakeland list. It is likely that some of the employees we have identified may not be located but the effort must be made to contact them. The only employees left to be returned according to the Lakeland list are those in the MH Craft at Palatine but they should not be returned until the letters go out. PSE Clerks cannot be converted at Palatine until all employees with retreat rights are given an option to retreat and employees who must be returned from the MH Craft at Palatine return.

Busse Labor-Mgmt.

We met on 8-7-15 with Plant Manager Devette Murphy and her staff. We asked when the bid changes would happen and were told in September or October. We asked about operational and or equipment changes and were told the Universal Sorter would be coming in September but would not be running actual mail until December. We were told the APBS machine will be expanded with the addition of more modules in September but the staffing will remain the same. We were told the FSO (stands for Field Service Organization) was contacted about getting us a new union office door but who knows when that will happen. I do not understand how it can take over a year to replace a cheap door and would like to see if we have the new door by the time the Universal Sorter is up and running. Is it lack of cooperation or are they really that slow? Either way, it's not good. When moving Clerks from unit to unit when they are already out of their bid we have asked that it be done by seniority and that is the way it has been done because that is the fair way.

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

Special points of interest:

President Dimondstein
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Palatine Retreat Rights
Busse Labor-Management
Injured Employees and OT
Join the Retiree Chapter
We Lose Dobry Non-Compliance

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

Injured Employees and OT

I was recently made aware that injured Clerks assigned to manual letters and flats at Carol Stream have been told they are not allowed to work manual overtime. The union strongly disagrees with this and is filing grievances on it. Most of these Clerks were injured on duty and have restrictions that prevent them from working in their bid assignment. Some no longer have a bid and others who are permanent should have been given a rehabilitation assignment. Management has placed some Clerks with permanent restrictions in Limited Duty (temporary) Job Offers instead of rehabbing them. The negative impact on the Clerk is that they cannot work overtime in their bid and are not allowed to work OT in the Manual section. Palatine has a Memorandum that was signed in 1996 that states *"Light and limited duty employees, unable to work the core of duties of their bid duty assignment for at least 1 year, and unlikely to return to their bid duty assignment, will be allowed to submit their names to be placed on the manual distribution overtime desired lists. They will be ineligible to be on the overtime desired list of the bid duty area. They will be allowed to work only manual distribution overtime that is within their medical restrictions."*

We met with Plant Manager Mike Kotula on 8-25-15 and he agreed that Clerks who are have reached MMI and have permanent restrictions should not be kept in a duty assignment that they will never be able to work in again. He said he will take care of it if we get him a list of MMI Clerks, which we requested from the District Injury Compensation Office. Mike said that Clerks who are assigned to Manual and do not hold a bid in another section will be allowed to work OT in Manual.

Join the Retiree Chapter...

We have been giving out a lot of watches at Palatine and CS as more members retire. Within the next few years many more will go. If you are a member of this Local when you retire you will get a retirement watch and a form to fill out to become a retiree member. The cost is \$36.00 per year and can be deducted from your annuity at the rate of \$3.00 per month. As a retiree member you can vote for APWU general officers but cannot vote for craft officers. The importance of being a retiree member is you are still part of the union and will be kept informed on legislation that affects you. The APWU Retiree Department is like an AARP for postal retirees. When congress considers legislation that could affect pension or benefits the Retiree Department notifies our retiree members who go into action. Having thousands of retiree members who can be called upon to lobby congress on issues affecting the postal service and or postal retirees is critical to protecting the benefits we have. Enjoy your retirement but help to protect it by joining thousands of your fellow retirees who remain connected to the union and the fight to preserve what we have. Human Relations Director Mimi Jackson is working hard with a small but dedicated group of retirees to start an NWIAL chapter. **National Retiree Director Judy Beard** will be at our Retirement Seminar on **9-26-15** to encourage the efforts made by our retirees to start our own retirement chapter. Join the retirees when you retire! For those preparing for retirement the Human Relations Retirement Seminar is on 9-26-15 with our guest speaker from the APWU Retirees Department Don Sevre. Civil Service is from 9am to noon and FERS is from 1pm to 4pm with lunch served from 12 to 1pm.

We Lose Doby Non-Compliance

On 8-24-15 the Award came in from Ann Kenis and she let management off the hook for years of out of schedule for 34 Clerks and agreed that they were owed for only four weeks of OOS. Kenis is known from both sides as a pro-management arbitrator and we did not want this case before her but management cancelled the date when it was scheduled before Jacqueline Drucker and somehow it got rescheduled with Ms. Kenis. Vice President Walter Elerby Jr. was the union advocate and he did an excellent job of bringing out all the facts that gave rise to the case. Management Advocate Ron Hirn who lost the Dobry case argued that the tour 3 1300 bids would have been re-posted four weeks after they were awarded when Palatine mail went to Carol Stream. That was a lie as Dobry understood when he made his Award. Management gave the Union a staffing matrix on 4-21-2010 showing the staffing changes for the AMP and that was exactly what they did. Advocate Hirn continued to argue that bids would have been reposted in four weeks which was the same lie they tried on Mr. Dobry without success. Kenis is very smart so I can't believe she did not know that management's case was based on a lie. Yet in her Award she agrees with them saying that if the Clerks had been offered the 1300 start time they would have lost their bids four weeks later due to the AMP. Dobry's Award could have been more clearly written but he did say to make the grievants whole and he did say that the 1300 bids were the changes for the AMP so how do you make them whole without putting them in the bids and calculating out of schedule. Management delayed contacting Dobry for clarification and then got the arbitrator they wanted.

