

THE LOCAL LINE

October 9, 2026

President Dave Baskin

600 Vice President Jackie Engelhart, 601 Vice President Tom Conway

No Quorum

The Local has not held a Membership meeting since May, due to a lack of a quorum. A quorum is 20 members. We have around 1,100 members. We did not have a quorum in June. In July, we do not hold membership meetings. In August, we did not have a quorum. In September, we did not have a quorum. In October, we did not have a quorum.

If there is no quorum, we must cancel the membership meeting, and we cannot conduct any business. Our next membership meeting is November 8 at 2:30 pm at the Union Hall at 194 W. Lake Street in Elmhurst, 60126.

There are no membership meetings held in December.

What business do we have to conduct?

During the October meeting we were to discuss the 2027 budget. Last year, due to a lack of a quorum, we could not approve the 2026 budget until our January 2026 meeting.

Also needing to be discussed during our October

membership meeting was the gift cards. Having to wait until the January membership meeting was a big part of why it took so long to pass out the gift cards for last year. It would be nice if we could avoid having that same problem this year. The Executive Board voted to raise the value of the gift cards to \$35.00. Last year it was \$25.00. The increase is due to the higher cost of living this year. Even though the Executive Board voted on this increase, the membership must vote on this since gift cards are not a part of the budget, and never have been. Management can only discipline for "unscheduled absences. An unscheduled absence is defined in the Employee Labor Relations Manual (ELM) as any absence that is not submitted and approved in advance. If you need a day off, please get it scheduled in advance, when possible. Don't forget to call in. Do not use the on-line leave request app. The National Union strongly urges employees to use the 1-877-477-3273 number. If you use the on-line app you will not be given the 3971 to sign and verify it's accuracy. The app signs the 3971 for you. Discipline for attendance is hard to fight since your being off work is right there in black and white. Management's probable reason for actively pursuing discipline for attendance is to get rid of the employees making a higher wage than the PSEs they are hiring. All management wants is bodies to do the job. They don't care if think you are friends with them or have a family to feed and support. To management, you are just a body. They can always hire someone new.

Come to work

Management, mainly at the A.O.s, have been scheduling Pre-discipline meetings with employees and the Union. Management is issuing discipline for attendance infractions. Management calls attendance infractions a "Failure to Maintain a Regular Schedule" While we have not been shown a contractual interpretation of what maintaining a regular schedule is, management, for years, has gone by 3 infractions in 3 months.

Fighting/confrontations

Please do not get into a fight with anyone at work. Don't get into verbal confrontations with anyone at work. I know things may be difficult nowadays with the cost of living and unnecessary stress from management, but please don't let it get to you. If someone wants to get into a confrontation with you, Please, just walk away. If you begin to feel stress, or you are starting to get upset, take a washroom break, or ask to see a Union steward in the Union room and do your venting to the steward, not your co-worker(s). If someone is having a bad day, let them. Don't allow them to drag you into their bad day.

Follow instructions

I have had a few employees tell me this past week or so that they refused to do what a supervisor asked. Two of these were supervisors from another tour giving the instruction. A supervisor is a supervisor. It does not matter if they supervise for another tour or supervise a different unit. If they are on the clock, they are management and can give an instruction. If you don't like the instruction

follow the instruction and file a grievance later.

Armed Guards

I was informed by some stewards that there are armed guards at the Carol Stream LPC facility.

Carol Stream management decided not to notify me. On October 6, I was further informed the guards are harassing employees. One MVS driver reported that an armed guard told him that he had to stay by his truck and was not to walk on the dock. Another driver reported that he was told by an armed guard that he had to remove his ear bud. A third complaint was an armed guard told a driver that he had to follow his instructions or he would be escorted from the facility.

I reached out to the National Union to find out if they were aware of armed guards at postal facilities. I am informed that there is language in the Postal Police contract allowing armed guards. In many places, the postal service has met with the Local Union in advance, but in this case, Carol Stream management showed, once again, their total disdain towards the employees and the Union, and chose not to discuss

this with the union.

I was further informed by the National Union that the armed guards are not to be doing any labor relations duties. They are not to tell employees to remove their earbuds.

They have limited responsibility and it should be the outside and perimeter of the facility. They should not be chasing employees wearing a headphone or earbud. They should not be patrolling the workroom floor or reporting employee's behavior to management. They are not to stand outside rooms of management investigations (official discussions, Pre-discipline meetings, etc). They can however, be called to breakup any fights on the workroom floor between employees.

I have submitted information requests regarding these armed guards and was informed, by our National Union, of additional information requests I should submit, which I will do.

PSEs

All new PSEs are entitled to a Union orientation. See a steward if you did not get one.

Work safe. Be safe.

