

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Ballots Mailed...

Ballots for the 2014 NWIAL election were prepared and mailed on 3-25-14 by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) They ask that the members wait until 3-31-14 to request a duplicate ballot. If you have not received a ballot by 3-31-14 you should call the American Arbitration Association at 312-616-6582. The ballots will be counted at the AAA office on 4-25-14 and must be received by 9am that day. The Election Committee are Chairperson Doreene Motley, Arlene Thomas-Benford, Dennis Cattenhead and John Rogers. They have worked hard, and some of that work was done on their time. We thank them for their service to the Local and hope that all members will exercise their right to vote and return their ballot by 4-25-14.

Candidate Mailings...

The Election Committee has received complaints from some members regarding the campaign literature mailed to their home. The Election Committee reports that it is in compliance with the Labor-Management

Reporting and Disclosure Act Section 401-C which states that *"Every local labor organization, and its officers, shall be under a duty, enforceable at the suit of any bona fide candidate for office in such labor organization, to comply with all reasonable requests of any candidate to distribute by mail or otherwise at the candidate's expense campaign literature to all members in good standing of such labor organization with equal treatment as to the expense of such distribution."* In accordance with the LRMDA, the Election Committee issued the following rules regarding such mailings:

"No partial or complete list generated by the Union, past or present may be used to conduct any campaign mailings by any candidate. A Union list is considered part of Union Funds.... If a candidate wishes a mailing of campaign material they are to place the material in a sealed and stamped envelope prior to submitting it to the committee." These candidates do not have access to the mailing list.

Arbitration Update...

I spoke with NBA Mike O' Hearn last week to find out why the Dobry non-compliance case has not been scheduled after he told me that it would be. He said the Arbitrators on the Lakeland panel are not giving them dates and we need more Arbitrators on the Lakeland panel. The Local asked that this case be bumped up to the top of the docket and he agreed to move it up if we provide the Advocate. We are just waiting for the case to be scheduled. I continue to follow up with NBA Linda Turney on the payout for the Clerks who retreated to Palatine into NTFT jobs. She says she is still going through the clockrings with management and is working to get it done. I have completed a review of the clockrings for tour 1 Automation Clerks who are due out-of-schedule, etc. for the ADRP grievance filed for the improper method of the re-posting jobs with 10/4 schedules. Labor Specialist Mary Ann Gocha said she will give us an estimate for the out-of-schedule pay and I will provide our amounts.

April 1, 2014

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Special points of interest:

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APWU National MOU Signed on Filling of Residual Vacancies

On 3-20-14 APWU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Postal Service regarding the filling of residual vacancies. The MOU lists the order in which residual vacancies will be filled for each of three APWU Crafts. Clerk Craft

1. *Unencumbered Clerks in the same installation.*
2. *Employees with Clerk Craft retreat rights pursuant to Art. 12.5.C.5.a(5) or 12.5.C.5.b(6).*
3. *Full-time regular Clerk Craft employees from an installation impacted by excessing pursuant to Article 12.5.C.5, who request voluntary transfers beyond the District or 100 mile geographic radius through eReassign 21 Day Posting.*
4. *Conversion of Part-Time Flexible (PTF) Clerks in the same installation.*
5. *Full-time regular Clerk Craft employees from an installation impacted by excessing, pursuant to Article 12.5.C.5, who request voluntary transfers beyond the District or 100 mile geographic radius through regular eReassign.*
6. *One time posting of remaining residual duty assignments to PTF Clerks in other installations within the District who are on the rolls as of the effective date of this agreement.*
7. *A. Transfers through regular eReassign, from other APWU crafts, employees with priority consideration. B. Transfers through regular eReassign from all crafts, employees without priority consideration.*

This MOU was negotiated to establish a fair procedure for converting Clerk Craft PSEs to career. The number of conversions will depend on the number of residual vacancies identified.

Creating a Duty Assignment

(This column was first printed in the 11-26-13 Local Line.)

Management eliminated tour 2 manual bids at the plants in 2009 under the Tour 2 Compression. They eliminated tour 3 manual bids in 2010 at Palatine due to the AMP to Carol Stream. Clerks who lost manual bids on tours 2 and 3 rightfully get upset when they see Clerks or PSE Clerks work those units on those tours. It depends on how often and how many hours per day the non-bid Clerks are working to determine whether we can file a grievance to establish a duty assignment and retreat someone to the section. Clerks whose bids were abolished see someone working in their old section and tour want to file a grievance but to prevail we have to show at least four consecutive hours of work in a principal area of assignment to post a bid. In arbitration hearings we have to show eight hours of work on the same five days over a six month period to convert a PTF or to post a newly created duty assignment. Working an employee a few hours per day in a unit does not show the need for a duty assignment. Palatine Clerks with tour 3 bids on the Low Cost Tray Sorter do not like to see Flat Sorter Clerks work in the LCTS on tour 2 but based on the clock-rings they do not work there for more than an hour or two so we cannot show a duty assignment. I asked one of the tour 3 LCTS Clerks if they wanted their 1600 time changed and he said "no." We reviewed the operation move reports for operation 074 but they show the majority of the hours are being worked by 11 tour 1 bid Clerks. The hours being worked by non-bid Clerks on 074 do not show the required same 40 hour schedule being worked over a six month period to prove the need for a bid.

Long Lines at the Windows

On Friday, 3-14-14 several of us visited several 600 Post Offices. These offices all report to Area 7 MPOO Elizabeth Wulf who I'm told micro-manages her offices. We started out at Lake Forest before the Window opened and then went to Winnetka and Glencoe. We hit these offices in the early morning and there were no lines. When we got to Wilmette it was late morning and there was a line. The next stop was Glenview which normally has a long line. The later it got the worse it got. At Mount Prospect around 1230 there were two window Clerks and a long line, and at Prospect Heights there was a long line of ANGRY – looking customers and only ONE Window Clerk. The other Clerk was in the back doing dispatch and she said its like this every day because they send the PTF's to help out at other offices. One of the offices they send the Prospect Hts. PTF to is Winnetka where management excessed two Clerks and now has only four to staff downtown and the branch. There is no relief staffing and no one to fill-in for vacations and or sick leave unless they pull a PTF out of Prospect Hts. where those customers were extremely angry. Last we went to Park Ridge which had a line and is short-handed while they excessed a Window Clerk to a Custodian job last year. After seeing how "our" lobbies are staffed I called MPOO Wulf who asked me to write a statement on what I saw. I sent her a letter on 4-19-14 that said in part, "Wait time in line is a joke. You cannot expect to gut the Clerk staffing and have your windows staffed. I was angry at what I saw and embarrassed for the Postal Service. Are we really trying to sabotage ourselves?" Ms. Wulf who is responsible for staffing these offices has not responded.

