

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

March 14, 2017

**Nominations for 2017
NWIAL Election...**
(in ballot order)

President

1. Mary Corner
2. Jackie Engelhart

Vice President

Walter Elerby Jr.
(unopposed)

Treasurer

Bhupendra Patel
(unopposed)

Secretary

Linda C. Duncan-Retel
(unopposed)

Chief Trustee

Raymond Weince Jr.
(unopposed)

Trustee - Clerk

1. Janice Alexander-Scott
2. Sue Rodriguez

**MVS/Maintenance
Trustee**

Gary Meyers
(unopposed)

Clerk Director 600

Marcia Lloyd
(unopposed)

Clerk Director 601

1. Calvin Taylor
2. Elaine Bartlett-Walker

AO Director
Kathy Stokes
(unopposed)

**Maintenance Craft
Director**
Joe Golden
(unopposed)

MVS Craft Director

1. Jerrod Oden
2. Kenneth E. Redinger

Congratulations to all the unopposed candidates. Ballots will be mailed out to all NWIAL members on 3-28-17 and will be counted on 4-24-17. There will be a second mailing on 4-14-17 for members who did not receive a ballot or who lost or spoiled a ballot. The American Arbitration Association was selected by the Election Committee to perform this years election as they did our election in 2013. Their job is to print, mail, and count the ballots. Information should be posted on Union Boards. The Election Committee has worked hard to make sure that the member and mailing list is as accurate as possible so that all members get their ballot. Last election about 2/3 of the members voted.

Rotten in Glenview...

Something is rotten in this office as a second Clerk has been issued a 14 Day Suspension for writing a "false" witness statement for the union regarding a supervisor performing clerk work. I've been told that Officer-in-Charge Yolanda Cage tells supervisors to perform Clerk work or be written up. The Postmaster job in this office is open and she is filling in until it is filled. She is trying to get the mail out with minimal clerk overtime and the Clerks have been writing witness statements every pay period that are being settled at Step 3 for \$\$\$.

Clerks see the cross craft and the bargaining unit work violations every day and they write it down so that grievances are filed. Some Clerks are afraid to write statements for fear of retaliation and now that Cage had two Clerks with clean records issued 14 Day Suspensions for writing statements, the fear of retaliation is real. We filed grievances, and an unfair labor charge after the MPOO Liz Wulf failed to take action and Lakeland District Manager Deborah Woodrum failed to respond to my letter on this.

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

Special points of interest:

Nominations for 2017 NWIAL Election... (in ballot order)
Rotten in Glenview...
Clock on Right Operation
From postalnews.com on 1-6-17
Focused on Obamacare for now
Carol Stream Reverting Jobs
Retirement Watches & Flowers

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Clock on the Right Operation

This issue came up at the membership meeting with one member stating that Clerks do not always clock on the right operation at the plants, and this could affect jobs. She is correct because if you are working in one operation while clocked onto another those hours count towards the wrong operation. The productivity of the operation you are actually working on will look better because you are working the mail but not using hours on that operation. At the same time you are using hours on the operation you are clocked on but not doing any work there. Management will see that the work got done in the first operation with fewer hours used while the work did not get done in the second operation with more hours. Clocking to the wrong operation will affect productivity in both operations and long-term could affect management decisions to post or not post jobs in these units. Last year a Carol Stream Clerk called me because s/he was always being moved out of the bid. I got the Clerk's clock-rings and noticed that s/he was clocked on operation 781 while working in Automation which was not the Clerk's bid. Operation 781 is a training operation but the Clerk was not being trained, s/he was working the mail. We asked for the operations moves report to operation 781 for all Clerk units and found that this was wide-spread. We brought it to the Plant Mgr. who was unaware of it but said it would be corrected. It seems the MDO's thought they could make their productivity numbers look better if they had Clerks on 781 while processing mail. I am sure that the MDO was telling the supervisors to clock Clerks onto 781 as Clerks had no reason to clock on that operation unless they were being trained. Clock correctly!

From postalnews.com on 1-6-17

"A bill introduced by GOP congressman Todd Rokita of Indiana would eliminate civil service protections, including the right to union representation for all new federal employees, including postal workers. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employee in the civil service hired on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act shall be hired on an at-will basis. Such an employee may be removed or suspended, without notice or right to appeal, from service by the head of the agency at which such employee is employed for good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all..."

The Bill would also *"Eliminate an employee's right to representation at the worksite by no longer allowing union representatives to resolve disputes, address issues of discrimination or retaliation, or propose improvements in the workplace during the workday. Allow agencies to continue workplace investigations even after employees have quit or retired."*

Focused on Obamacare for now Republicans led by Paul Ryan are working on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The Congressional Budget Office Report states the replacement plan would take healthcare away from 14 million people by 2018 and 24 million by 2026. Everyone in the Medicaid expansion would lose coverage and the price of insurance for older people will rise. Instead of a tax penalty for not having insurance under the ACA, the replacement plan would permanently increase insurance rates by 30% if you let your health coverage lapse. President Trump promised to replace the ACA with better and cheaper health insurance but now supports this plan. He flip-flopped and is siding with rich Republicans, not the people.

Carol Stream Reverting Jobs

Carol Stream has been reverting every Clerk job that has become vacant since January of 2017. They say it for "business reasons" but upon further questioning they say CS is over complement and they will revert every Clerk job until they get to complement. This is per the Great Lakes Area. The last authorized complement I was given for CS is 362 FT Clerks and 72 PSE Clerks. The current Clerk complement report shows 380 FT Clerks and 72 PSE Clerks. I am hearing that management cannot get the mail out without calling overtime but the Area has ordered that they revert until they get to their authorized number. Some Clerks on the rolls are on long-term injury and not at work. USPS would rather use OT than convert PSES to career status. They cannot increase the number of PSEs because the number of PSEs is based on 20% of the number of career Clerks per district. Calvin has filed grievances on the reversions but in the meantime there will be no residual vacancies to use to convert PSEs to career.

Retirement Watches & Flowers We are an aging workforce and many of us are nearing retirement. We have been giving out more watches as more members retire. Sadly, we have also been sending more flowers as more of our members have been passing away. VP Elerby mentioned this in his Floor Letter after the passing of three Carol Stream members in a short period of time just recently. 601 CCD Calvin Taylor told me that he personally contacted EAP to inform them that EAP counseling should be available for CS employees affected by the loss of the three co-workers at one time. The Local sends flowers when a member passes as long as we have the information in time to order.

