

# 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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## NWIAL Election...

Nominations were held for the 2014 NWIAL election at the Union meeting on 3-11-14. The candidates in ballot order are listed below:

### President

1. Jackie Engelhart
2. Daniel Gatto
3. Mary Corner

### Vice President

1. Walter Elerby
2. Dave Baskin
3. Royace Atkins
4. Dan Mulligan

### Secretary

1. Linda Duncan-Retel
2. Conny Smith

### Treasurer

1. Al Modi
2. Janice Alexander-Scott

### 600 Clerk Craft

1. Jacquie E. Jackson
2. Olivia Norman

### 601 Clerk Craft

1. Calvin Taylor
2. Lindsey Jefferson Jr.

### Associate Office

1. Kathy Stokes  
(Unopposed)

### Maintenance Craft

1. Joe Golden  
(Unopposed)

### MVS Craft Director

1. Sameer Eassa
2. Nigel Thomas

### Chief Trustee

1. Ray Wience  
(unopposed)

## Candidates continued...

### Clerk Trustee

1. Sue Rodriguez  
(unopposed)

### Maintenance/MVS Trustee

1. Joe Najar
2. Michael Kelly

Congratulations to the candidates who were elected as unopposed. The Election Committee members are Doreene Motley, Chairperson, Dennis Cattenhead, Arlene Thomas-Benford, and John Rogers. The company selected by the committee and approved by the membership is the American Arbitration Association who will print, mail, and count the ballots sent to all members. The Election Committee states ballots will be mailed on March 25th and counted on April 25th at the AAA office. Voters with missing or damaged ballots should call 312-616-6560 to request another ballot. Thank-you to Seok Kwon for his years of service as a Trustee and a Steward. Mr. Kwon did not seek re-election as a Trustee, and stepped down from being a Steward when he bid to tour 2 last year.

## “Stop Staples” Update...

The Mailhandler Union has announced their support of the APWU “Stop Staples” campaign and encourages their members to “participate in this battle against privatization” and to sign the petition at [www.StopStaples.com](http://www.StopStaples.com).

Staples announced on 3-6-14 that they will be closing 225 stores by the end of 2015 due to declining sales and less than expected earnings...

APWU President Mark Dimondstein responded “*This proves, more than ever that it’s a bad idea to turn public services over to a private company that can close stores at will, with no public input... Staples currently has a no bid, sweetheart deal to operate postal counters staffed by poorly trained, low wage, high-turnover employees at more than 80 of its stores. The PMG has said he plans to expand this pilot plan to 1,500 Staples Stores.*”

The National Employment Law Project lists Staples as one of the 50 largest low wage employers in the U.S. and they paid \$42 million in 2010 to settle a dozen lawsuits for cheating their employees out of overtime pay.

Jackie Engelhart  
President  
Dave Baskin  
Vice President  
Walter Elerby Jr.  
News Director

### Special points of interest:

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### **National Day of Action to Stop Staples Set for 4-24-14...**

The APWU announced a national day of action to protest the outsourcing of postal work to low-wage employees manning postal counters at 80 of the 1500 Staples. The PMG says this deal is not about privatizing but what else do you call it when they send postal customers to Staples instead of the post office. He says it's about convenience for the customer while post office hours and staffing are being cut to make the post office inconvenient. With Staples closing 225 stores in 2015 what sense does it make to replace the post office with stores that are closed if they don't make enough profit for the company. The PMG would like to close unprofitable post offices but the Postal Service is not a company, it's a service. He is trying to replace post offices with private sector substitutes such as Staples and Sears and as we know retailers come and go. This is not a good business plan for USPS or for postal customers. The USPS can extend hours and staff post office windows so the customers do not have to stand in long lines and be inconvenienced. The APWU will be organizing protests outside of Staples stores nationwide on 4-24-14 to bring attention to the "Staples Deal" and to gain media and public support to keep the USPS a public service. Information as to times and sites will be shared as we receive it.

### **Postal Unions Form Alliance**

President Dimondstein said one of his goals was to build alliances with our sister postal unions and with the broader labor movement in our efforts to save the USPS. On 3-11-14 the four postal unions signed a proclamation and formed The Postal Union Alliance to work together to protect service and oppose subcontracting of work and privatization of services.

### **USPS Attack on Custodians**

Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer says USPS has declared war on Custodial staffing again. They notified us on 1-22-14 that they plan to modify the MS-47 Handbook, which establishes the guidelines for housekeeping and determines the number of custodians needed to clean a facility. This is the latest USPS effort to make changes in the MS-47 dating back to 2000 when they unilaterally changed it. The Union filed a grievance on the unilateral change that we won in 2006. Arbitrator Das ordered the USPS to return to using the 1983 version of MS-47. The 1-22 notice informed APWU of changes to the handbook based on a pilot program initiated at three sites in Utah and Ohio. The trial program was devised by ManagerMen, a USPS consulting group, and is called OS-1 or Team Cleaning. They state the pilot test would test new methods, equipment and supplies, with the expectation that the program would result in a cleaner, healthier work site; improve efficiency due to better supply management, and improve esprit de corps amongst our custodial ranks. The USPS has not provided a schedule for implementation of the program but it cannot begin until at least 60 days after the union was notified.

### **Clerk NBA Lynn Pallas-Barber appointed Assistant CCD...**

Recently re-elected (unopposed) senior Clerk National Business Agent Lynn Pallas-Barber has been appointed as an Assistant Clerk Craft Director at APWU headquarters. The word is that her NBA job may not be filled and this is unacceptable based on the volume of grievances pending and the backlog in the Chicago office. I have contacted APWU President Dimondstein to give our objections to any possibility of not filling the vacant Chicago NBA job.

### **Arbitration Updates...**

Our two remaining Clerk NBAs report they are not getting many arbitration dates from management and I will speak with our national president about this as we have had few cases scheduled in the last few months after being told that our non-compliance grievances would be scheduled. Linda Turney has met again with Labor on the payout for Clerks who retreated to Palatine into NTFT schedules.

### **PSE Issues at Carol Stream**

We have discussed the complaints of our 1 PSE's with the new A/Plant Manager, Quintin Mayberry, and he states he will address them. The last two C.S Clerks retreated back from the Mailhandler Craft on 2-22-14 so any future residual Clerk vacancies would have to be filled through e-reassign or by converting PSE Clerks to career. Palatine had filed grievances for newly created duty assignments based on PSE work hours but we will not see PSE conversions until all excessed Clerks are given the opportunity to retreat to Palatine. We will be filing grievances at Carol Stream for newly created duty assignments to be posted based on the PSE work-hours.

### **No COLA for January 2014**

Our contract calls for a COLA increase in the second pay period after release of the January 2014 index and based on the index there will be no COLA increase.

### **New Steward appointments...**

At Palatine we appointed new Stewards Shari Thomas on tour 3 and Marquis Smith on tour 1. At Carol Stream, Danny Recinto was appointed the tour 1 Chief Steward to replace Hugh Fung. At Busse we appointed Jose Melendez for tour 3 Maintenance.

### **Post Office Basketball Teams**

Calvin Taylor reports that the Carol Stream basketball team beat Palatine in overtime on 3-9-14.

