

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

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Floor Edition

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5,524 PSEs to be Converted by 3-13-2021!
Per a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 12-24-2020, 5,524 PSEs will be converted in Function 1 (the plants) by 3-13-2021. The number of PSEs to be converted at each plant has been agreed upon.

Palatine is on the list to get 60 conversions and Busse is listed to get 39.

Carol Stream is only getting 2 conversions because they have been converting locally all along because of the addition of PARS mail.

The MOU states "Postal Management and the American Postal Workers Union signed a major MOU to help address the chronic under staffing at mail processing facilities throughout much of the country. Under the terms of the new agreement, over 5500 new career positions will be created at 192 installations. The number of career positions will vary by installation based on management's determination. 5,524 PSEs will be converted to career status as soon as possible, but no later than 3-31-2021 .

Both Palatine and Busse were trying to cut the number of Clerk jobs as Clerks retire based on the so-called "authorized complement". It is obvious that more Clerk jobs were needed at both plants and grievances were filed on every reversion, but a National Award ruled against us in regards to filing grievances for newly created duty assignments based on PSE work hours. With 60 at Palatine and 39 at Busse that should convert almost all current PSEs! **MPAs are Gone**

On 12-31-2020 USPS separated all Mail Processing Assistants who they had been relying on to get the mail out during the holiday peak season. With the loss of these temporary Clerks, the USPS realized they could not get the mail out without increasing the Clerks at the 192 plants listed. These same plants have continued to decrease the authorized complement while working PSEs 40+ hours per week. With the loss of the MPAs, USPS realized they needed more Clerks and they agreed to convert PSEs per this national MOU. Thanks to the National!

Same is Needed in F-4
While the parties addressed the clerk short-staffing in the plants they have not addressed the short-staffing in the AOs. Management continues to rely on Carriers and supervisors to scan/sort parcels regularly in many offices. Postmaster Eddie Abdul scans/sorts parcels at Northbrook and Postmaster Craft scans/sort parcels at the Lake Forest Annex. Supervisors sort mail at Buffalo Grove routinely. Management uses Carriers as backs up to sort parcels. In Buffalo Grove they have a CCA coming in at 0300 just to sort parcels. With USPS intentionally relying on Carriers to sort mail, USPS may not agree to convert additional PSEs in the Associate Offices. This is why we need Clerks to speak up when they see management or Carriers performing Clerk work. In offices where the Clerks come forward we file grievances for OT pay to the violated Clerks in that office. In the offices where Clerks remain silent there is no monetary remedy and no reason for management to stop violating. AO Clerks are often afraid of management retaliation for filing these grievances.

Special points of interest:
5,524 PSEs to be Converted by 3-13-2021!

Same is Needed in F-4
Union Orientation New Hires
General Expediter Changes
COVID Information
CS Stewards Appointments
Updated NWIAL Website...
If You Need Help...
Next Union Meeting

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Union Orientation New Hires...

Some newly hired PSEs say they have not received Union Orientation as part of their Orientation. These PSEs are at Palatine P&DC. We try to attend Orientation when we are called but often-times we are called for new hires who are hired for offices that are part of the Northwest Illinois Area Local. We cannot sign up new members for offices that don't belong to us. If you are a new hire and have not had Union Orientation please let us know by calling the Palatine Union Office at 847-590-6627 or the Union Hall at 630-833-0088 and we will contact management to get it scheduled ASAP. I just retired from the postal service on 1-2-2021 after 44 years. How many jobs are there with good salary and benefits and job security? At the post office we have good salary and benefits, and job security because we have a Union. If there is a problem you can come to the Union (once you pass your probationary period) and we can file a grievance for you, or discuss the problem with management. If you get discipline for attendance or other issues the Union can file a grievance for you if you let us know but the grievance has to be filed within 14 days of the date you received it or became aware. At most jobs you can be fired for any reason or for no reason. The State of Illinois is an "At Will" state meaning management can fire you for no reason at all. That is not the case at the Post Office. The Unions have negotiated progressive discipline meaning you have to progress from an Official Discussion to a Letter of Warning to a 7 Day Suspension to a 14 Day Suspension to a Removal, unless you are caught stealing or you threaten someone on the job. There are very few good jobs out there for which you do not need a college degree, but this is one.

General Expediter Changes

I received an email from Palatine A/Plant Manager Kenya Moore regarding a national change. She states "Please let this serve as official notification that effective on 1-16-2021 the general expeditors will change finance numbers from function 1 mail processing to transportation logistics which was function 3a; I do not have the official finance number. The employees will report to the supervisor of transportation who will provide their daily instruction, leave requests and all other administrative duties. As more information is shared I will forward to you all." This is the Stand Up Talk: "On 8-7- 2020, the Postmaster General announced a plan to realign the organization to provide greater focus on the core aspects of our business and to give us a better chance for future success. As part of this organizational realignment, the decision has been made to transfer supervision of bargaining unit employees assigned to dock operations e.g. general expeditors and ramp clerks, from Mail Processing to Logistics. The purpose of this change is to streamline dock operations. It is anticipated that the change will result in more efficient movement of mail and packages to delivery units. Therefore, effective 1-16-2021, all bargaining unit employees assigned to dock operations, e.g. general expeditors and ramp clerks, will report to a designated Supervisor, Transportation Operations. Bargaining unit dock employees will be provided with the names of their new supervisors at the conclusion of this stand-up talk. This change will not result in any impact to the current status of bargaining unit dock employees or any contractual provisions. Installation/bid clusters will remain the same; however, unique finance

numbers have been created for each newly established Logistics operation. Affected employees will receive a PS Form 50, Notification, in the mail, which will inform them of their new finance numbers. Additional administrative changes, for example, changes in pay locations, may also occur as a result of this change."

I thank A/Plant Manager Moore for sharing this information...

COVID Information

The most recent number of positive cases I have for the plants is 78 cases at Palatine and 69 cases at Carol Stream with no information being provided by Busse. A USPS Stand Up Talk on COVID-19 vaccine availability dated 1-7-2021 states "The CDC has recommended that all Postal Service employees be included in the next round of distributions or Phase 1b. This phase will also include frontline essential workers such as firefighters, police officers, grocery store workers, public transit workers and others... Once the USPS is advised of dates, we will communicate it to you, so that you can take the necessary steps to obtain the vaccine."

CS Steward Appointments

601 CCD Calvin Taylor appointed Nigel Mayes as a tour 3 Clerk Steward and Erika Williams as the tour 3 Chief Steward at the EB meeting on 1-21-2021 as tour 3 Chief Steward "Ramone" retired. Both will do a good job for us.

Updated NWIAL Website...

New Webmaster Kyle Popek has put a lot of work into updating the website which is at NWIAL.org.

If You Need Help...

If you need help and no Steward is available at your office call the Union Hall at 630-833-0088 and leave a message on x12 for me.

Next Union Meeting

The next meeting is on 2-14-2021 at 2:30 pm at the Union Hall at 194 W. Lake Street in Elmhurst.

