

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

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Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Huge Settlement for Palatine by Baskin!

Steward Dave Baskin signed a Step 2 settlement in the amount of \$ 999,828.00 for the many grievances he filed on the illegal use of 204Bs at Palatine PDC. A memorandum in the 2010 contract states "Not later than June 1, 2012, the Employer will eliminate the usage of 204-Bs except in the absence or vacancy of a supervisor for 14 days or more. The usage of a 204B in this exception is normally limited to no more than 90 days." At first we were told that we could only file grievances for higher level 7, but at a certain point the arbitrators agreed with the union that this was a violation of Article 1.6, supervisors performing bargaining unit work and the remedy for that is overtime pay to the violated craft ODL. In this case 228 long-term ODL Clerks will each be paid \$4,213.00, and 25 more short-term ODL Clerks (former PSES) will each be paid \$1,365.00. This settlement is the result of hard work, persistence, and contract knowledge.

Huge Settlement for Palatine by Golden!

Joe settled Palatine Custodial staffing grievances for 2012, 2013, and half of 2014 (when we went to CTC Team Cleaning). The total payout for the Palatine Custodians on the ODL is \$999,998.66. The remedy is for USPS failing to perform the Line J required number of custodial cleaning hours. Palatine Maintenance management refused to settle the grievances but, like Dave, Joe never wavered and appealed them to the next level and possible arbitration if he could not settle. Again, this is the result of hard work, persistence and contract knowledge. 55 Palatine Custodians will be paid based on how long they were on the ODL up to the sum of \$26,031.00 for those who were on it consistently from 2012 through the first six months of 2014. Joe continues to put in many unpaid hours to represent his craft and his hard work continues to pay off for the craft. It may take years but when we have contract violations being filed on the results will come in for the violated members.

Plants Understaffed

We met with Carol Stream Plant Manager Quintin Mayberry and his staff on 9-11-18 for our Labor-Management meeting and many of our items were on the Clerk understaffing. Local management is trying to get more Clerks but the higher ups continue to say CS is overstaffed by 27 Clerks with 324 on the rolls, but most Clerk units are shorthanded daily. Carol Stream is still saying they will get the PARS mail from Palatine but as we get closer to peak season it questionable that this will happen before January of 2019. Palatine is also short-handed but will be losing work when the PARS operation goes to CS and continues to revert all Clerk vacancies. We will be meeting with management on 9-12-18 to discuss Clerk staffing. We have a number of Palatine reversion grievances filed by 600 CCD Marcy Lloyd pending at Step 2 that we will be discussing. We need some bids posted but we do not want to get into an excessing situation when we lose PARS mail. It's a shame that they keep taking mail out of Palatine but these are higher-ups making these decisions.

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Baskin Settlement Jobs

As part of Dave's 204B settlement management agreed to post four new Lead Clerk positions, and to convert four PSEs. Four PSEs will be hired to replace the new regulars. Management did not want to give us jobs in addition to the money but Dave was able to negotiate the jobs and conversions.

Busse Clerks and Seniority

Busse A/Plant Manager Halfman agreed to use (on a trial basis) the pecking order for day to day movement of Clerks that has been used at Palatine for many years. I don't know if all Clerks and managers are aware of this trial basis agreement to allow senior Clerks to volunteer to be moved out of their bid assignment before forcing junior Clerks to move. I am hearing that junior Clerks don't like this because nobody wants to end up going to Mobile Scan but if nobody wants to go there it should be junior Clerks. It would help if management had enough Clerks with bids in Scan for this work so they did not have to continue to move Clerks out of the Racks to the LUCAS and then rob the LUCAS for Mobile Scan. Busse is also Clerk short-handed. We currently have six senior Clerks detailed to tour 2 because they are needed, but obviously more Clerks are needed on tour 3 to staff Mobile Scan and LUCAS. There are supposedly 101 Clerks on the rolls at Busse but the authorized complement is 84 or 86. The number of PSEs is about 20. USPS will continue to cut costs by understaffing and I was told by a union official that nation-wide we are down 8,000 Clerks over last year so this is going on all over. We are fighting for reverted jobs by using all the tools at our disposal and file on every reversion. Not posting vacancies hurts the regulars who have nothing to bid on and PSEs who want to convert.

Katina Powe on NDC Detail

I have reserved comment on this manager while hearing many negatives from CS Clerks so I was happy to hear that she is on a "developmental detail" to the NDC in Forest Park and will be there for awhile working with A/Plant Manager Jeff Wisner who was an MDO at both Palatine and Carol Stream prior to going to Fox Valley as the A/Plant Manager.

I perceive both of these managers as lacking people skills and not treating employees with dignity and respect, as anti-employee.

I wish the NDC employees who must work for them the best of luck and hope neither of them returns to CS in any capacity. I also hear former Senior MDO Janina Gilbert is the A/Plant Manager at Fox Valley and think they got a better manager than NDC. Janina has people skills and some respect for the craft employees who move the mail every day. I would think you can move the mail and still treat employees fairly and with dignity and respect.

Who Needs the Union?!

I recently spoke to a PSE in one of the Associate Offices about joining the union as s/he was the only PSE in the office who was not a member and s/he was asking about a grievance we filed for a discipline s/he recently received. S/he said I don't want to get involved and I said you just got a Letter of Warning and they think they can fire you after a LOW, so you are involved. Then s/he said well I was in another office and I found out you have to represent me anyway. S/he smiled about it. I said you have a bad attitude and walked away as I was clear that this was one of those people who want the union to represent them but think they are smart by letting others pay their fair share while they pay nothing and ride free. These are the lowest of the low.

2018 Scholarship Winners...

The 2018 NWIAL Scholarship winners and alternates are:

1. Tanjaneka Sumlin at the Wheaton Post Office for self
2. Kajal Patel son of Treasurer Bhupendra Patel at Busse
3. Kimberly Vencer daughter of Ceasar Vencer at Carol Stream
4. Ameri Reese daughter of Jimmy Reese at Carol Stream

Alternates:

1. Dayja Campbell granddaughter of Barbara Denton at CS
2. Gizell Guinto daughter of Ramon Guinto at Carol Stream

Congratulations to all winners!

Thursday is Union Shirt Day...

The National Union is looking for us to wear our union shirts on Thursday to show our support for a good contract now during the final two weeks of negotiations. (Negotiations could be extended) The second and final order for the red shirts will be placed soon.

National Day of Action on 10-8

All postal unions plan to work together for a national day of action to rally and picket at selected postal sites to bring attention to the fight to protect the USPS from privatization. The day of action is to be held on Columbus Day,

10-8-18. We'll provide more information as it becomes available.

Retirement Seminar on 9-29-18

Our annual retirement seminar will be held at the Elmhurst Union Hall on 9-29-18 with CSRS from 9am to 12pm and FERS in from 1pm to 4 pm and lunch at noon.

You must be an NWIAL member and you must sign up to attend.

The seminar is organized by Human Relations Director Vivian Henderson and her committee.

The speaker will be from the APWU Retirees Department.

Good Luck to Tanjy Sumlin!

Tanjy was our alternate Steward in Wheaton but has moved on to a job outside of the USPS. She was gung-ho union and will be missed.

