

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

No Security at Busse

Within the last two weeks several female employees have had their cars vandalized in the Busse parking lot while they were at work. One was spray-painted, and another had their windows broken out and bleach poured into their gas tank. A third female employee states a co-worked vandalized her car while it was parked at her home. One of the employees whose car was vandalized had previously complained to management about an Airtag being placed on her car and she thought it happened in the Busse parking lot. The victims are afraid to drive to work as their cars have been vandalized and there are no security cameras in the Busse parking lot to identify who is responsible. The lack of security has been brought to management's attention and Plant Manager Halfman said he would send the invoice to the Union. I spoke with an OIC investigator familiar with this situation and was told management has been advised of the need for security cameras.

It was reported that on the same night the windows were broken out of the car in the parking lot that three unidentified persons were walking on the workroom floor. Anyone can walk into Busse at any time because there is no security. The entrance doors are not secure as the alarm is disengaged or the door is propped open so anyone can get in. There is no Security Window at the entrance to screen who is coming in the facility without a badge card. The same lack of security exists at the Busse annex. Since the vandalism occurred on postal property you would think that the USPS is liable for the damage done to the cars parked by the employees. You would be wrong as Article 27, Employee Claims, states this process does not apply to privately owned motor vehicles and contents, Employees may utilize the Federal Tort Claims Act in accordance with Part 250 of the ASM. Tort claims may be filed on form SF95 but I have never know anyone to get a tort claim approved for their car being damaged on postal property...

Sexual Harassment

"Under federal antidiscrimination law, harassment is defined as unwelcome verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group of individuals because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40+) mental or physical disability, or in retaliation for EEO activity. To be considered harassment under the law the behavior must also (1) result in an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; (2) unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance; or otherwise adversely affect an individual's employment opportunities." Once you tell the harasser to stop, if they do not stop, report it. We are still waiting for the results of the sexual harassment investigation regarding a Palatine supervisor. The complaint was given to the Union and sent to the Palatine Plant Manager on 11-3-2021. We filed a grievance on management's failure to respond promptly and properly to the sexual harassment complaints and immediately contact the district to start an investigation.

March 29, 2022

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Special points of interest:

No Security at Busse
Sexual Harassment
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So You Want to be a Teamster
MVS Director Proposes MVS Craft
Split from Local 7140

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Postal Reform Act Passes

By Janet K. Street,
Legislative Director

"It passed on March 8, 2022, with a vote of 79-19, and will be signed into law by President Biden. The four provisions of the bill are:

1. Repeal of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, thus freeing the USPS of the onerous mandate to prepay for 75 years in advance for employee's health insurance, and employee's retirement benefits.
2. The continuation of six-day delivery of mail.
3. Requiring transparency of postal operation by the weekly publishing of service data on the USPS website, as well as a report to Congress every six months on the USPS fiscal and other operations, and
4. Integration of the Federal Employees Health Care with Medicare. This will ensure greater efficiency in cost savings, providing a better return for the years of contributions paid to Medicare over one's postal career. This is a big step forward in providing financial stability for the USPS."

Financial Stability for USPS

The elimination of the pre-funding removes a big debt from USPS. The integration of FEBH with Medicare means new retirees will not be able to keep their postal health insurance into retirement. If you are already retired you will not be affected by this change.

NWIAL Shirts Available

We now have all sizes of the shirts purchased for NWIAL members. If you have not ordered on line or requested a shirt at your union office, now is the time to do so. If you are an Associate Office member call the Union Hall at 630-833-0088 to request a shirt and or call AO Director Kathy Stokes.

So You Want to be a Teamster

Recently an unsigned letter was posted at the Carol Stream VMF. It starts out "*Your APWU MVS/VMF representatives are sending out this notice to inform all paying members to withdraw their union dues as soon as they are able to. Several reasons we are asking every dues paying member to withdraw is because for the past several years we have been neglected by our union president and nationals. We have been to meetings where and have asked about our grievance and until today there has been no response or action taken to address our concerns or our grievances. So far to date 14 grievances have been denied or on hold at the national and local level. We have been trying to help every union member fight a corrupt management and our union president Jackie Engelhart, fails to back us every time we file a grievance. We believe we need to step up and take action for ourselves. If we are paying our union to back us and they don't, then we seriously need to reconsider a new option (Teamsters).*" I received a copy of the letter from a Steward to make me aware as it was telling members to get out of the union. The letter was not signed but said it was from APWU/MVS/VMF representatives which would be the MVS Director Mike Raia and the VMF Steward Hiram DeJoyos Jr. They have not reached out to me for help except to get the name of the Step 2 Designee for the VMF. I got back to them after asking the plant manager for the information. Some drivers have come to meetings to complain about low pay compared to other driving jobs. I communicated this to our national, and the national union did raise the pay scale for level 8 TTOs. If you want to be a Teamster the USPS is not the job for you...

Article 1 of the Contract is titled Union Recognition and it states "*The Employer recognizes the Union designated below as the exclusive bargaining unit for which each has been recognized and certified at the national level:* APWU is listed for Maintenance, Motor Vehicle and Postal Clerks. **MVS Director Proposes MVS Craft Split from Local 7140**

Article 2.2 of the Local Constitution states "*Object - To unite into one organization, all employees under the jurisdiction of the NWIAL.*" On 1-9-2022 MVS Director Mike Raia passed out a list of 12 changes he would like to make to our Local Constitution. Many of the changes violate the National and Local Constitutions.

1. MVS/VMF Craft will be separating as a jointed craft union organization.
2. MVS/VMF Craft has formed their own exclusive board of members.
3. MVS/VMF Craft will have their own set time and date of exclusive board meetings/ membership meetings.
4. MVS/VMF Craft will have their own Local Business Agent removing the National Business Agent.
5. MVS/VMF Craft will be holding rights to the building Northwest Illinois Area Local #7140, 194 W. Lake St., Elmhurst, Illinois 60126. Including and not limited to all Union Area Local offices.
6. Area Local #7140 will meet with the MVS/VMF exclusive board on Area Local #7140 including and not limited to all Money and Savings to fund MVS Craft. MVS Craft will determine the appropriate amount.
7. MVS/VMF Craft will have their own set LMOU, Union constitution, and Collective Bargaining Agreement.

