

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

September 14, 2015

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Palatine Retreat Right Letters go out Finally

I have been working with Labor Relations and In-Plant Support to get these letters sent out. No Clerks have been retreated since 4-20-13 when 49 were returned. That's because their list included Clerks who did not have retreat rights on the agreement I signed. I signed a step 2 settlement on 12-3-14 to retreat seven Clerks but their list was wrong again so I asked them to hold off and do it right. They had skipped quite a few Clerks and jumped down to the Clerks who went to the Mailhandler Craft within Palatine. We have been trying to get management to send letters to the employees who were skipped and some of those letters were finally sent out.

Both management and the union were using the Lakeland Retreat Right list but management had skipped a number of the employees on that list. Another complication has been lists provided by Steward Dave Baskin which contain a number of names that are not on Lakeland Retreat Right List for Palatine P&DC.

Retreat before Convert

Palatine PSE Clerks cannot be converted until all employees with retreat rights to the Clerk Craft at Palatine have been given their retreat rights and Palatine had over 200 Clerks excessed out in 2011-2011. Some Clerks were excessed into the Mailhandler Craft in 2010 at Palatine to join other Clerks excessed to MH in 2005 and 2007. Some Clerks excessed to Palatine MH in 2010 were then excessed out. Some were excessed to MH in Pittsburgh and some to AMC O'Hare. Shortly thereafter management decided to close O'Hare and those Clerks were excessed to Kansas City. Management should not have excessed Clerks into the MH Craft at Palatine and then excessed these new Mailhandlers out of the facility knowing they would need them back when they got four FSS machines. Clerks excessed to the MH Craft within Palatine will be forced to return to the Clerk Craft at Palatine. They don't have a choice because our contract says they must be returned. We will continue to work to get that changed.

Mailhandlers Affected

Last week I heard that 20 Mailhandler Assistants at Palatine were to be converted to career but any Mailhandlers who were excessed out of Palatine would have to be offered retreat rights before the MHAs can be converted. These same employees Clerks excessed into the MH Craft within the installation and then excessed out of Palatine as Mailhandlers still have to return to the Clerk Craft. Most of the Clerks who were excessed into the MH Craft at Palatine want to stay in the MH Craft. They do not have a choice. Clerks who were excessed out of the facility have a choice to retreat or not but Clerks excessed into the MH Craft in the same installation must return to the Clerk Craft at Palatine. Our Local submitted a resolution at the last convention to change this in our contract but it didn't pass. I will bring this issue up to President Dimondstein when he visits on 9-16-15. I will tell him it's not fair to force employees to return to the Clerk Craft after years in the MH Craft and /or to force them return when they had to relocate to Kansas City, etc.

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

Special points of interest:

Palatine Retreat Right Letters go out Finally
Retreat before Convert
Mailhandlers Affected
President Dimondstein's Visit
Custodial Team Cleaning
Palatine Attendance Control
NWIAL Scholarships Winners
Fall Human Relations Retirement Seminar is on 9-26-15

Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248
Email: www.nwial.com
Web: nwial714@yahoo.com

President Dimondstein's Visit

Our national president will be at the NWIAL plants on **9-16-15**. He will start at Palatine P&DC around 6:30 am in the Palatine room and then walk around the floor to greet APWU members. He will be at the Union Hall in Elmhurst from 10 am to 2 pm and then at Carol Stream around 3 pm. He will meet with employees in the cafeteria and walk the floor. He will end his day at Busse Hub in the cafeteria from 6:30 to 8 pm. The 60 day period for mediation of APWU contract talks began on 6-9-15 with no contract agreement so the parties will be preparing for binding arbitration for a contract. You will be able to hear from our national president why there is no agreement with the Postal Service and what the Union is fighting for. In 38 years as a postal employee and APWU member I have never seen a national president come to any NWIAL facility so this is a rare chance for APWU members. Take 30 minutes out of your day and meet your national president. Management at all three plants agreed to allow him to meet with employees off the clock so we have him coming at times when there are overlaps with employees beginning and ending their tours. We thank the plant managers at Palatine, Carol Stream, and Busse for allowing our national president to meet with APWU members. Mark is visiting NWIAL offices for one day as he is visiting other Locals in Chicago, Madison and Milwaukee. For members who prefer to see him at the Union Hall he will be in Elmhurst from 10am to 2pm along with Central Region Coordinator Sharyn M. Stone. We are asking APWU members to wear APWU shirts and buttons to show solidarity as Mark prepares to lead the APWU team into binding arbitration for a new contract.

Custodial Team Cleaning

On 7-9-14 APWU and USPS signed a memorandum entitled "MS-47 TL5 & PSE Conversion". At the time it converted all PSE Custodians nationwide to career. It also required the USPS to meet required cleaning frequencies in each installation within 90% at the end of each fiscal year or make automatic payments to Custodians in the installation at the overtime rate for all cleaning hours not performed per the MS-47 staffing. The last issue addressed in this MOU was changes USPS wanted to make in cleaning methods and equipment used by custodians. They wanted to standardize cleaning methods and the equipment and products used by custodians. USPS hired "ManageMen" as a consultant to test and implement their pilot program. This included a method called "Team Cleaning" USPS said the goal of these new methods was to improve efficiency but the union felt the goal was to cut the workforce according to Maintenance Director Raymer. After intense negotiation Director Raymer agreed to the proposed TL-5 changes to the MS-47 because the union would have to prove that the changes were not "*fair, reasonable, and equitable*" in order to prevail in arbitration. Team Cleaning has already started at Palatine P&DC and some of the Custodians are not happy with it. Custodians work in teams with one vacuuming up dust with a vacuum cleaner on their back and another sweeping the floor all day. Instead of moving from one duty to another on their route, the Custodian does the same task all day. I do not know how cleaning of the bathrooms has been broken down. Carol Stream and Busse have not started yet but they will be next. USPS has not informed the union of any changes in custodian complement as a result of the changes.

Palatine Attendance Control

We have another new supervisor in Leave Control and she is from Fox Valley where they do not have the same agreements we do. We still have the agreements on faxed medicals and only the first day of call-ins being unscheduled. When a new supervisor is put in Leave Control they are usually told to clean house or crack down on attendance by the plant mgr., so we advise employees not to abuse your leave, to use FMLA when you can, fax in medicals prior to the start of leave when you can and make sure you have a Steward if called in for a PDI. Also report any problems with Leave Control to your Steward.

NWIAL Scholarship Winners

This notice is a little late as the winners were pulled in August and should have been in the last Local Line but the winners are:

1. Eric Monette, son of Palatine member Michael Monette
2. Cathy Joo, daughter of Palatine members Michael and Angela Joo
3. Olivia Rodriguez, daughter of Carol Stream member Susan Rodriguez (Steward/Trustee)
4. Ilona Tecson, daughter of Palatine member Manuel Tecson

Two alternates were also selected

1. Michael Tecson, son of Palatine member Manuel Tecson
2. Kenyrra Louis, daughter of Palatine member L. Tillman

Congratulations to all of the 2015 NWIAL scholarship winners!!!

Fall Human Relations Retirement Seminar is on 9-26-15

The guest speaker is Don Sevre, Civil Service in the morning from 9am to 12 pm, lunch served at 12, and FERS from 1pm to 4 pm.

Retiree Director Judy Beard will be joining us to start an NWIAL Retiree Chapter for our retiree members who pay \$36 per year. Sign up if you are coming so we have enough food and materials.

