

# The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

## USPS Moving Ahead with Consolidations...

In 2012 the USPS went forward with a plan to close or consolidate mail processing plants. The Mail Processing Network Rationalization Plan had two phases. Phase 1 consisted of closing or consolidating 141 processing plants and lowering service standards, slowing mail from overnight delivery to a 1-2 day standard nationwide. Absent congressional action, USPS is implementing phase 2 in January 2015. The Postal Regulatory Commission reviewed phase 2 and forecast the savings to be as low as \$46 million, which is only 2% of the 2.1 billion claimed by USPS. USPS ignored the PRC request to delay phase 2 until a study is done to determine the actual net savings of phase 1. To date 51 Senators and 160 Congressmen have signed letters to leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and relevant sub-committees to request a one year hold on Phase 2 consolidations and any related mail service standard changes.

## Phase 2 Reduce Service and cut 15,000 Jobs..

Phase 2 of the Plan will reduce service standards and cut up to 15,000 jobs. IL Senator Durbin has signed the Senate letter but many Representatives from IL have not signed the House letter against Phase 2 consolidations. NWIAL Legislative Director Yolanda Safsaf put out a Legislative Report listing IL representatives who have not signed the letter to stop Phase 2.

Contact your Congressman to ask them to sign the letter already signed by 160 Representatives to stop the Phase 2 cuts. Log onto [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org) and click on "Contact your Legislator" on your far right side. To select an issue; choose "Labor".

## Preparing Locally...

No knows if this is going to happen but the target date is January 5, 2015. Plants nation-wide had to submit their staffing plans for this possible change to headquarters. Carol Stream said they will be meeting with the union in a few weeks and will then meet with the employees. Palatine is waiting for word from Lakeland before talking about possible changes.

## APWU Wins Grievance Filed on POSTPLAN...

The national union reports they won a major victory on 9-5-14 when Arbitrator Goldberg ruled that USPS jobs in four and six hour offices must be assigned to clerks instead of part-time Postmasters and Postmaster Reliefs (PMRs). The ruling and MOU will result in 3,000 new full-time career level 6 Clerk jobs in six-hour and level 18 offices, and 6,000 new non-career level 6 Clerk jobs in four hour offices to be staffed by PSE Clerks. The dispute arose in 2012 when the USPS came up with POSTPLAN, which cut hours at thousands of post offices to 2, 4, or 6 hours per day. They also eliminated the supervisory duties of postmasters and replaced them with Part-Time Postmasters and Postmaster Reliefs. The plan had two objectives, to drastically reduce hours of service and to replace the Clerks with Postmasters. This ruling and the MOU means thousands of jobs will be posted in these offices within 90 days. USPS transferred Clerk work in these offices to Postmasters but the Union prevailed in Arbitration and got the work back.

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### Special points of interest:

USPS Moving Ahead with Consolidations  
Phase 2 Reduce Service and cut 15,000 Jobs  
APWU Wins Grievance Filed on POSTPLAN  
Palatine Kenis Non-Compliance Case Scheduled for 10-10-14  
Dobry Non-Compliance Rescheduled for 11-7-14  
Busse Non-Compliance Case Scheduled for 1-22-15  
ADRP Settlement Update  
Carol Stream Residuals  
Palatine Residuals  
Busse Labor-Management  
VOTE! On November 4th

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### **Palatine Kenis Non-Compliance Case Scheduled for 10-10-14**

Management violated the contract when they allowed Palatine Clerks to volunteer to go senior in lieu of to the Mailhandler Craft within the installation. Dave Baskin won that case but management failed to comply with the Award. He filed a second grievance and this case was won by NBA Linda Turney. Management paid the grievants out-of-schedule but no guaranteed pay so Dave filed a 3rd grievance. Management says they complied with the Award by paying the out of schedule pay. The issue to be decided is whether the grievants were paid properly and are entitled to the guaranteed pay included in the Union's remedy and granted in the Kenis Award. NWIAL Steward and National Advocate Doreene Motley has been assigned to arbitrate the case and Dave will be her Technician.

### **Dobry Non-Compliance Case Re-Scheduled for 11-7-14**

The case was rescheduled by NBA Mike O'Hearn after management cancelled the 7-16-14 hearing date on 7-8-14 because they did not have an Advocate. Vice President Walter Elerby Jr. is the Union Advocate for this case. Ann Kenis is the Arbitrator assigned to decide what Arbitrator Dobry meant the remedy to be for this grievance that he sustained. In the Kenis case Kenis will be the one deciding what she meant the remedy to be when she sustained the grievance but Dobry is no longer a postal Arbitrator so Kenis will decide what he meant.

### **Busse SPBS Non-Compliance Case Scheduled for 1-22-15**

This grievance was filed for non-compliance with the Stallworth Award which awarded monetary remedy to SPBS Clerks for not posting bids to staff the SPBS. Doreene Motley, who won the first case, is the Union Advocate.

### **ADRP Grievance Update**

Management has agreed to meet on 10-15-14 to discuss the payout for the Palatine ADRP settlement for the grievance filed when they improperly posted 10/4 NTFT jobs and did not repost all jobs below the senior affected Clerk. Labor Relations has reviewed the clock-rings and will give me their calculations as I have given them the hours of out of schedule etc. I was told that payouts over a certain dollar amount must be approved by the District Manager.

### **Carol Stream Residuals...**

On 9-26-14 I spoke with the Central IL Complement Coordinator about the status of Carol Stream Residual vacancies in the Clerk Craft and she said there are 22 jobs that were posted on 21 Day and Regular E-Reassign and are still vacant. She said the jobs have been sent to the Area and Headquarters for approval to fill by conversion of PSE Clerks at Carol Stream. We have been tracking these jobs at CS because the National Union agreed to a pecking order for filling residual vacancies with step #8 being the conversion of PSEs to career if the jobs have not been taken in the previous seven steps. These jobs are still vacant after the first seven steps and we are now as step # 8. We will follow up with the District Complement Coordinator and have a grievance at Step 2 to make sure that the MOU is followed and PSEs are converted at Step #8.

### **Palatine Residuals...**

Management does not want to fill Clerk residuals at Palatine and actually reverted seven of them. A grievance was filed on the reverted residuals which was resolved. We filed a grievance to fill these residuals by retreating Clerks which is pending at Step 2. We told the Plant Manager he needs to bring Clerks back but Lakeland is not in agreement.

### **Busse Labor-Management**

Management has been saying for months they are waiting for their staffing plan to be approved and they are still waiting. At recent Town Hall meetings Plant Mgr. Devette Murphy told employees concerned about reducing tour 2 jobs that she would not be making any changes now but would look at staffing changes after Xmas. When we asked about Clerk staffing she said the same thing, she will not make changes now but will review staffing after Xmas. She said the High Speed Universal Sorter that was to come this year will be coming early next year. This machine will be used to sort all NMOs and will replace most manual distribution of NMOs. Busse asked us to agree to revert Clerk residual vacancies but we said we would not agree without seeing a staffing plan which they have been waiting all year for. We do not want to post jobs that will result in excess Clerks but we need to know what their staffing plan is but they don't know. We asked for cooperation on several issues including Corral OT and will see it they keep their word on what they told us.

### **VOTE! on November 4th...**

This is a non-presidential election. That means a drop-off in voting by voters that tend to support us. At both national and state levels there are candidates who support Labor and others who attack us. Union members should vote in every election because not voting helps elect people who will vote against the interests of workers. In Illinois the election is for all congressional seats, one Senate seat and the Governor's office. In just about every one of those contests there is a worker friendly candidate and one who is not. On November 4th, or before in early voting, get out and **VOTE!**

