

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Palatine Changes Hands Again...

On 11-1-18 CCD Lloyd and I met with A/Plant Manager Jeff Grendziak at his request because we contacted him after being told that supervisors were telling tour 2 Clerks some were being moved to tour 1 soon. We told him that it was not good to be telling employees they were being moved when none of this was discussed with the union and he said they had just made the decision so we were being told as soon as they knew. It seems with the increase in mail volume that happens every fall Palatine was not able to get the mail out without a lot of V pay and Senior Plant Manager Bob Prahel had come down to Palatine on 10-26-18 figure out how to fix the problem. When we met with Jeff on 11-1-18 he said they needed to abolish 20 tour 2 jobs by 11-24-18 and move 20 Clerks on 1723s prior to 11-24-18 I asked how many PSEs they had and he said 37. I asked how many they were authorized and he said 60. A lightbulb went on in my head!

If the plant is authorized to have 60 PSEs and they only have 37 (or less) that could be why tour 1 cannot get the mail out. Hire PSEs and leave the regulars on tour 2 alone. We were supposed to meet with the junior 20 tour 2 Automation Clerks the next day (11-2-18) but the meeting was cancelled by Jeff who said they had another plan. The following Tuesday, 11-6-18 I heard Liz Wulf was coming back as the Palatine Plant Manager and was asked what's going on at Palatine?!

She's Ba-a-a-ck...

I hope its different this time because the last time it was ugly, so ugly, that Palatine employees were whooping it up when she left the last time because they were really tired of all the unnecessary stuff. Ms. Wulf burned bridges with the employees and most of the supervisors. Employees were happy to return to some sense of normalcy where they did not have to worry about what would happen next. Leave control was back open and everyone could go about their business. Will she change? Can she change? Can we work together to fix Palatine?

MDO Valentine Caught Red (Orange) Handed

On 11-12-18 I was at the Palatine P&DC to see how much mail there was and how things were going. I came in at 1625 and walked back to the IPP unit. I did not see any familiar faces (Clerk) and asked a few of the young people working the mail if they were PSEs or MHAs. They were MHAs sorting Priority parcels into 600 direct gaylords, which is Clerk work done in IPP. I asked them where they rack their cards and they said "in other units". I went to find a supervisor who told me to see MDO Brenda Valentine in her office. She was in her office with the Mailhandler President and I told her she had 12 MHAs in IPP and was crossing crafts. She said "The customers have to get their mail" and then she said "There's no mail in the High Speed". I told her the cards were not racked and I needed the names of the MHAs. I went back to IPP and the 204b gave me their **orange cards** so I could write the names down. They asked me what was going on and I said they were not doing anything wrong but it was management in the wrong.

November 14, 2018

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Special points of interest:

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PSE Union Members Get it!

In the last two weeks we have signed up 15 PSEs, one TTO, and one Custodian as new members at the Palatine P&DC in Orientation. Most of us joined the union in Orientation when we were hired. PSEs are no different, they join the union in Orientation, because they get it, they support the union. If only that could be said for those regulars who have opted not to pay dues to the union for years. The senior Clerk at Carol Stream has not been a member for years. There is a Custodian at Palatine who thinks it's a joke and always says hi to me because he's a scab. He knows I do not want to talk to him because he's a scab so he always speaks to me and laughs. I would be ashamed to be making \$29.00 per hour as a level 6 step 0 Clerk and \$28.00 per hour as a level 4 step 0 Laborer Custodian, and be too cheap to pay dues. The Custodian thinks its funny. I do not know what the senior Clerk thinks but there are others. They are very friendly, they say hi and never consider how they are weakening the union by refusing to pay their fair share for a union. Like most of you, I joined when given the opportunity in orientation and have remained a member. We appreciate you! As for the scabs I do not understand you. You would not be making \$28.00 or \$29.00 per hour with ten paid holidays, 208 hours of annual, sick leave, the right to Just Cause in the discipline procedure, and job security without the union. When they get fired they do join.

T-Shirts and Gift Cards...

The second and final order was placed for the red NWIAL shirts. The shirts should be in soon and will be passed out to those who put their name in on the 2nd order. \$15.00 Jewel Gift Cards will be given out in early December to all NWIAL dues-paying members.

Grievance Notification...

When you file an individual grievance you have right to be at the step 1 meeting if you want to be there. Class Actions are different. When the grievance is denied at Step 2 you should receive a copy of management's step 2 denial if they provide one to the union. We should let you know when the case is appealed to Step 3 and you should get a copy of management's Step 3 decision and the Union's Appeal to Arbitration. If and when the grievance is scheduled for arbitration you will be contacted by the union and notified of the hearing date and of any meetings with the union to prepare for the arbitration hearing. We normally give you a copy of your witness statement after the Steward signs it so you have it for your records. Grievances that go to arbitration normally take years. Our National Business Agents try to settle as many cases at Step 3 as possible so there are fewer cases waiting to be scheduled for arb... Always make sure you get a copy of your witness statement after the Steward has signed it so you have some record of filing a grievance. If the union does not believe there is a contract violation and you have given us a statement we will respond in writing with a Status Letter explaining the reasoning. You have 14 Days from when you become aware or reasonably should have become aware of a violation to have a grievance filed. You receive a Letter of Warning on 11-1-18 so a grievance must be filed by 11-15-18 to be timely. If the grievance is not filed within time limits it does not matter how good a case you think you have, its dead. The merits don't matter. Don't wait until the last minute to bring your grievance to the union. Time is needed to request information, investigate, prepare the grievance, and schedule a step 1.

Megan Brennan



PMG Megan Brennan to Visit Carol Stream on 11-15-18

News of her visit came from maintenance employees who are very busy cleaning a dirty facility. APWU was not informed by CS management of the PMG's visit. PMG Megan Brennan will be at Carol on 11-15-18 for about four hours starting at around 0800. She will hold a meeting in the Great Lakes Room, have lunch, and may also visit the workroom floor. Megan Brennan is the first female PMG and took office on 2-1-2015. She began her USPS career as a Letter Carrier in Lancaster Pennsylvania. She then worked as a delivery and collection supervisor, a processing plant manager in Reading and the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, and a district manager in Springfield, Massachusetts. She served as manager of field support and integration and manager of operations support for the Northeast Area. In May 2005 she was named vice president for the Northeast Area. Brennan was then named vice president of Eastern Area Operations. In December 2010 she was name chief operating officer and executive vice president of the USPS. In 2012 she began shutting down mail handling facilities because of budget cuts brought on by less mail and Congressionally mandated pension funding rules. *PMG information from Wikipedia.