

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Convention Report

The APWU national convention was held in Chicago from 7-21-14 to 7-25-14 and hosted by the Chicago Local. Our contract expires in 2015 and the delegates voted on resolutions to make changes in the existing contract. As one delegate put it, "this is a wish list for our next contract." Many of the resolutions concerned improvements for the PSEs including allowing them to accrue annual for vacations and to be paid Sunday premium. The delegates also voted on resolutions changing the national constitution. Some were to increase salaries of certain jobs including the Retiree Director who oversees 41,000 retiree members. Most of these resolutions were voted down based on increased cost. Resolutions to eliminate four vacant NBA jobs were voted on and two were eliminated and two were not. The NBAs for Chicago and Hawaii were retained because their delegates fought to keep them. NBA Linda Turney spoke for five minutes and I also spoke on the need for this job.

Stop Staples and the PMG Has Got to Go...

A rally was held at the downtown Staples store on 7-22-14 as convention delegates were bussed from the McCormick Place to the Staples rally. President Dimondstein spoke about the need to stop this deal, and Jesse Jackson spoke in support. PMG Donahoe is done with the pilot test and is moving ahead with his plan to open postal retail windows in Staples stores staffed by low paid Staples employees. Why would Donahoe give our business to Staples when the USPS needs revenue? The PMG seems more interested in privatizing the Post Office than in keeping it in business. President Dimondstein spoke on postal banking. He said millions could be made by offering banking services to underserved communities who are at the mercy of unscrupulous payday lenders. Postal banking makes sense but the PMG has shown no interest in it. Why is PMG Donahoe cutting service instead of trying to grow business? A resolution stating "The PMG has got to go" passed unanimously.

President says, It's Time to Stand Up, Fight Back

That was the theme of the this convention and chants of Stand-Up, Fight Back were made loud and often. Delegates also chanted in opposition to the "dirty Staples deal", that "The US Mail is not for Sale". President Dimondstein called for PMG Donahoe to step down for crimes against the Postal Service. He called him Wall Street's Trojan Horse, the privatizer from within". He said the PMG has slowed down service, closed post offices and reduced retail hours, tried to end six-day delivery, subcontracted work and eliminated thousands of jobs by closing plants. The delegates joined with him in chanting "Hey Ho, the PMG Has Got to Go!" In a strong show of solidarity the presidents of the Mailhandler Union and the Rural Carriers spoke at this convention, and the NALC President taped a message from his convention in Philadelphia. They understand that the fight to save the Postal Service depends on the unions working together against the forces of privatization led by the current PMG. Stand up and fight back.

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American Income Life Mailing

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Membership Declining...

The APWU bargaining unit has declined from 351,735 to 191,129 since 2000. The **membership** has declined from 275,929 to 152,583 in that same time period. APWU was 78% organized in 2000 and we are 79% organized in 2014. The national officers said we need to sign up the 21% non-members. The actual number is 38,546 non-members in the APWU in 2014. The four postal unions are leading the fight to preserve the USPS and maintain good paying postal jobs. With the President and Congress doing nothing to help the USPS, and the PMG trying to privatize, who else but the postal unions can lead the fight to defend the USPS. Many members say they rarely file a grievance and don't get in trouble so they don't really need the union but they pay their dues. The union does more than file grievances for contract violations. The union negotiates the contract which governs pay and benefits, and other work rules for the craft. Some non-members are always in trouble and have no shame about coming to the union all the time. With the PMG dancing to the tune of corporate America who else is there to fight for the Postal Service but the four postal unions? With membership declining due to attrition we cannot afford to have almost 40,000 free-riding scabs. One resolution that was not passed at the convention was to add paid Organizers to help the Locals sign up non-members. Coordinator Mike Gallager spoke against this, saying we don't need someone coming in and telling us how to sign up members, we know how. He's from the Philadelphia BMC which is 98% organized. He said they let their members know who was not a member and advised members not to associate with the non-members whenever possible. His advice makes a lot of sense.

Town Halls and Labor-Management at Palatine...

A/Plant Manager Mayberry held Town Hall Meetings on 7-28-14. Quentin said he waited a month because he did not want it to be about him but about Palatine. He said he had been told some bad things about Palatine but thinks it is good plant with good people. His focus is on housekeeping which he says has improved, dignity and respect for all employees, attendance, and service scores. He said Palatine was #2 in the country and #1 in the Great Lakes Area in overnight service. The main issue at the 7-31-14 Labor-Management meeting was the short-staffing in the Clerk Craft. Tour 1 Clerks are working one to a machine because they are 20 bodies short many nights and we said Clerks need to be retreated. Headquarters likes to understaff but even their Staffing Summary calls for 414 Clerks at Palatine while there are less than 400. Overtime is up and PSE Clerks are working six days per week. Quentin is supposed to get back with us on the staffing problems at a follow-up meeting on 8-7-17.

Priority Back at CS & Palatine

We were told that Incoming Priority Outsides would return to Carol Stream and Palatine on 8-2-14, with Priority Flats already back. This mail was previously worked at Chicago Metro L&DC (Busse) but the plan is to work Priority at the plants with Busse working more First Class Spurs from ISC. Palatine Priority is assigned to Clerks per the Inventory as is IPP. At Carol Stream Priority is assigned to Clerks but Incoming Parcel Post (IPP) is assigned to Mailhandlers on the Outside Belt. Per the national RI-399, IPP is Clerk work and Outgoing is MH. Plant Manager Mike Kotula said he would use Clerks for Priority and Mailhandlers for the IPP.

600 CCD Olivia Norman Transferred to Maintenance

Olivia qualified as an Electronic Technician over a year ago but was not selected by Maintenance Management for one of the many vacant ET positions until recently. The effective date of her transfer to Maintenance was 7-26-14. Per the National Constitution the Craft Director must be in the Craft they represent so the 600 CCD job is vacant and will have to be filled by appointment of the President subject to approval by Executive Board and the members present at the Membership Meeting. Olivia has done an excellent job as the 600 CCD and she will remain the tour 1 Chief Steward at Palatine. Olivia was selected by President Dimondstein to serve on the Labor Management Committee for the National Convention where she read resolutions from the podium in front of the entire convention.

Scholarship Drawing on 8-10

The 2014 NWIAL Scholarship Drawing will be held on 8-10-14 and the application must be received by 2:30 pm on that date. Four (4) \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded. Information and applications are available at your union office and can be faxed to Ray Wience at 630-833-0248.

Human Relations Retirement Seminar on Saturday 9-20-14

We were able to confirm the date with Retiree Director Judy Beard at the National Convention and we will have APWU Retiree Speaker Judy McCann back this year. Seminar Flyers with information will be available soon so plan on attending if you want to prepare for retirement either Civil Service or FERS. Lunch will be served and this seminar is members only.

American Income Life Mailing

This mailing is for you to name a beneficiary for a free \$3000.00 accidental death policy and there is no obligation to buy insurance.

