

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

October 28, 2014

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

USPS Moving Ahead with Tour Changes...

The Plant Managers of Carol Stream and Palatine have informed us they were given the go-ahead on 10-23-14 to proceed with plans to realign tours based on the elimination of most overnight service for First Class Mail. USPS put these changes on hold for the last year but are now moving forward with plans to change mail processing from a tour 1/tour 3 window to a tour 2/tour 3 window. The plan is to start letter automation at 0800 and start tour 3 at 1600.

Tour 1 Automation will run only a few machines which will probably be staffed by PSE Clerks. PSEs will probably have two days off after the tour changes are made. Palatine will post more Manual bids for IPP and Low Costs #1 and #3. Carol Stream Plant Mgr. Mike Kotula said he will be ready to discuss the specifics of the changes later in November and Palatine Plant Manager Quintin Mayberry said he will meet with us in late November to discuss Palatine changes.

National Day of Action Planned for 11-14-14

All four postal unions are working together to hold a national day of action to protest the reduction in service standards and the closing of more plants. The national unions plan to hold these protests at post offices and facilities. NWIAL will rally at the Carol Stream P&DC where we have a plant, a post office and the offices of the Great Lakes Area. Our day of action should start at noon and last until 4pm on Friday 10-14-14. We need our members from all postal unions to show up at Carol Stream to send a message to the Great Lakes Area that the unions will continue to fight to save the USPS. If you can spare an hour or two we need a good turn-out in case we are able to attract media attention as we did in 2010. We will order signs and shirts from Headquarters when they are available. All four postal unions support this day of action because planned service cuts and plant closings will weaken the USPS and result in the loss of 15,000 craft positions. If we don't fight for the Postal Service, who will?

PSE Conversions Finally Coming at Carol Stream

Our grievance filed back on 5-7-14 at CS has been extended several times as we worked to ensure that all residual vacancies are posted per the National MOU on Filling Residuals signed on 3-20-14. The MOU states the pecking order for filling residuals by posting them on 21 day and regular e-reassign, and the one time posting for Part-Time Flexible Clerks. Step #9 in the MOU pecking order is the conversion of PSE Clerks to Career. We knew that some of the jobs, especially the NTFT jobs posted for the AFCS machines, would probably not be taken by Career employees and would serve to convert CS PSEs. 26 CS jobs have made it to Step # 9 and should be used to convert CS PSEs. Four CS PSE Clerks will be converted in November and 22 more will follow. Grievances were filed at Palatine and CML&DC where management tried to revert Clerk residuals rather than post per them per the MOU. The Busse grievance was appealed to the ADRP level and the Palatine grievance will be appealed if we do not reach agreement at Step 2.

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Special points of interest:

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USPS Starts Sunday Delivery of Amazon Parcels...

On Sunday, 10-26-14, the USPS in the Great Lakes Area began Sunday delivery of Parcel Select packages from Amazon.com. Sunday Delivery Hubs have been established in designated offices and most of the Sunday work is being assigned to PSE Clerks and non-career Carrier Assistants. The program began in November of 2013 in 13 postal districts, primarily in the Los Angeles and New Your metropolitan areas. Amazon will drop-ship volume directly to the delivery unit at the designated hub offices where the delivery routes will be generated. Based on the success of Sunday Delivery for Amazon the USPS will seek to attract other retailers to the program. Sunday Delivery for Amazon is a big deal as the USPS continues to expand its market share in package delivery. As first class mail and periodical volume continues to decline while the package volume is increasing. USPS market share is increasing based on marketing, pricing, and improved scanning and service. The USPS now sees package delivery as the key to its future and only growing source of revenue. While senior managers refer to the Postal Service as "the Company" the business part has consisted of cutting costs and cutting service and not on growing new business. That has changed with emphasis on aggressively marketing Priority and increasing package volume.

Former CFS Space at CS will Warehouse Parcel Select Mail

The Local was informed that the old CFS unit at Carol Stream will be used to warehouse parcel select volume for one major customer. The name of the customer has not been announced yet because the contract has not been finalized but if I were to guess the name of the company I would guess Amazon.

Will Realignment Fix the Clerk Understaffing at Palatine?

Palatine is down to 376 Clerks and Lakeland refuses to retreat anyone back to the Clerk Craft. Lakeland's retreat right list shows 17 employees with retreat rights but one of our Stewards thinks there are 111 with retreat rights. Within the last year management mailed residual bids to the retreat right employees and did not have current addresses for all of them. There is a big difference between 17 and 111 and after looking at the Lakeland list, the list of Clerks who retreated and the current seniority list I think the actual number is closer to 17 than to 111.

Before any Palatine PSE Clerk can be converted all the retreat right eligible employees must be given an opportunity to retreat to the Clerk Craft at Palatine P&DC. Whatever the number is we need more Clerks at Palatine as 376 is not enough to cover the operation. We have talked to Plant Manager Quintin Mayberry and the District is not in agreement to add Clerks. I have been told that management plans to staff the plants based on a 25% increase in productivity when they move to the new service standards because there will be no waiting for mail to come in. I spoke to Senior Plant Manager Bob Prah about the shortage of Clerks at Palatine and he confirmed that management will not increase the number of Clerks because they expect to be more productive after the realignment.

I told Bob that Palatine is working one Clerk per machine and moving Clerks out of Manual Letters daily to work in Automation, and he said we have to get through the next two months until the tours are realigned. Management says all plants should be 25% more productive after the realignment. That is the reason they will not retreat more Clerks to Palatine.

Busse Service Score Improving

I read the 10-14-14 Team Chicago newsletter posted at Busse which states services scores are going up under Plant Mgr. Devette Murphy. That is good news for Busse after losing Incoming Priority back to the plants due to service issues. The improving service scores and clearance times are welcome news and show what Busse can do!

One Week to Election Day!

The election is less than one week away and hopefully many of you have already cast your ballot in early voting as I did last week. While we cannot tell you who to vote for we can tell you to vote. The future of the Postal Service will be affected by the results of the November 4th election and not by the grievances that we file.

Any postal employee who stays home on election day should not be upset when the next Congress passes legislation that drastically affects the Postal Service and you. The fight to preserve the USPS will be much harder if we stay home and ignore this election.

Vote for the candidates of your choice on November 4, but vote! **NWIAL Starts Retiree Chapter** We have talked about starting a Retiree Chapter but Human Relations Director Mimi Jackson has taken action. She got a group of interested NWIAL retirees to attend a meeting for the purpose of starting our own Retiree Chapter. Retiree Chapters are important to the APWU because retirees are very active with legislative issues. Retiree dues are \$36.00 per year. Retirees are the only category of postal employees that is growing and there is strength in numbers.

Open Season for Health Plans Open Season to change your health plan starts on November 10th and ends on December 8, 2014. We have not been notified by any of the three plants of the dates they will hold Health Fairs.

Qz