

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

APWU Contract Update from Sam Wood...

On 12-17-2018 I received this email from Sam Wood, a Local President in Florida: "APWU President Mark Dimondstein reports that the national union leadership will make an announcement on 12-21-2018 regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement between APWU and the USPS. It was previously posted that the announcement was to be made on 12-7-2018. Why was there a two week delay? I do not believe that this delay would be to announce we are going to arbitration. So, the other reason would be that the agreement has been reached and that the Rank and File has to approve this agreement before presenting to the membership for ratification. Some of the Rank and File Committee have posted on Facebook that they are back in Washington DC. So, in my opinion there must be concerns about this agreement, since this is the second time the Rank and File has visited DC in the last two weeks.

In 2011 many APWU National and Local leaders lost there elections due to what many saw as a Concessionary Contract. I believe that if any National Officer or Rank and File Member votes in favor of a Concessionary Contract in 2018, they should suffer the same fate."

APWU Contract Update from President Mark Dimondstein...

On 12-21-2018 President Dimondstein announced that APWU and USPS are at an impasse in contract negotiations and APWU will be going to Interest Arbitration for the next APWU contract. In a statement released on 12-21-2018 he said in part: "As your president, taking general guidance from the National Negotiating Committee, I led in reaching a tentative agreement with management on 12-6-2018. I believe it to be fair and positive for the members. The APWU Constitution has a democratic process where any tentative agreement goes to the Rank and File Bargaining Advisory Committee for acceptance and their decision whether to send it to the membership for a

ratification vote. The Rank and File Committee had some serious concerns with the tentative agreement and sent it back to the APWU leadership to reopen negotiations with management and attempt to address their concerns. We did just that in two meetings on 12-19-2018 and 12-20-2018. However, we were unable to reach any changes or new agreements with USPS. The APWU and USPS are now at impasse. Interest Arbitration will now be the next major step. Our future wages, benefits, and working conditions will be determined by an outside arbitrator. During this period both sides can continue discussions and if possible, reach new tentative agreements. The APWU National leadership is committed to the goal of reaching a voluntary agreement that addresses the Rank and File Committee's concerns and can be put before the membership for a ratification vote. The APWU will be fully prepared to present a solid case in interest arbitration to back up our demands and protect the many gains of the past. **Continued...**

December 24, 2018

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Postmaster of the Year, again!
#2 is Calamity at Park Ridge
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
To all our members!



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President Dimondstein Update
The union has already been preparing for such a possible outcome and preparations will continue full steam ahead. We will also consider invoking the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service process prior to interest arbitration. Interest arbitration is a slow process and can take many months of preparation, hearings, and adjudication. It is important to remember that almost all the provisions, rights, and benefits in the current contract remain in full force and effect until we obtain a new contract. This includes the no lay-off protections for career employees with six years of employment. Past President Moe Biller always said "the struggle continues." Negotiations and interest arbitration are fluid and challenging. They are not helped by rumors, half-truths, fabrications, innuendo, and accusations. Lets make sure we stay united and strong as family, wear your union gear with pride. The battle for a decent contract is far from over."
Sam Wood seems to know what he was talking about as President Dimondstein states that they were in agreement on a new contract but the Rank and File Committee saw problems and did not agree. He referred to 2011 when President Guffey and most of the national officers were voted out due to the contract they negotiated. That contract created Non-Traditional Full-Time employees who did not have to work 40 hours or have two days off. Even though the Rank and File and the membership ratified that contract, they had buyers remorse and voted out the national leadership who were responsible for that contract. Dimonstein and his team were elected in 2011 and are on the hot seat as they negotiate a contract. The Rank and File did not like what they saw so Sam was right.

Liz Wulf Starting up Again?

On 6-15-2018 Elizabeth Wulf was relieved of her "developmental detail" at the A/Palatine Plant Manager by the Great Lakes Area Vice President Erica Brix and replaced by Jeff Grendziak. As of 11-14-2018 Jeff was gone and we had Ms. Wulf back at Palatine. No one was happy about this with the exception of Ms. Wulf herself. We hoped she had learned from her previous detail where she was constantly creating turmoil and would act differently this time. For the past six weeks she has refrained from any major upheaval but as the new year approaches she is notifying her staff of crack-downs on breaks, timecard access, starting your car on the clock. She had In-Plant Support Manager Moore inform the Union that she intends to change all Clerk starting times to 0700 for tour 2, 1550 for tour 3, and 2300 for tour 1 in January 2019. There has been no discussion with the Union on this. Now that the holiday mailing season is ending will she have more time to micro-manage employees?
Merry Christmas Dan...
I received a Christmas card at the Union Hall today from Busse's A/Plant Manager Dan Halfman. That is a first for a plant manager. Some of them are like the Grinch. Dan has been at Busse for almost a year and has done well in a very difficult job. Busse is improving. Mail volume seems lighter this year at Busse but then I was not there in the middle of the night when the annex was humming.
Carol Stream and PARS...
The powers that be still plan to send Palatine PARS mail to Carol Stream in 2019 because they have Palatine's outgoing mail. Why spend tons of money to set up the PARS and FPARS at Palatine, keep the mail there for years so employees are well trained, and then move the entire operation?

Postmaster of the Year, again!

The dishonor goes to Northbrook Postmaster Narbi Miulli again. Our former Steward reassigned to another office in part because he wanted to get into Maintenance and in part because he believed (as do I) that Miulli would continue to discipline him out of a job. The new Steward is no stranger to having her job threatened and was fired not once but twice as insurance but was returned to work. Other Clerks are being written up as soon as the Postmaster finds out their previous work was rescinded or reduced. Northbrook is 100% organized thanks to Narbi Miulli.
#2 is Calamidy at Park Ridge
The runner up for the second year in a row is Park Ridge Postmaster Calamidy Winbush-Smith who can't seem to keep Clerks in this office and thinks she has the right to use Carriers to do Clerk work. She posted a sign at the clocks stating "**All CCAs to report at 6am and report to parcels UFN. Thanks!!! Calamidy Winbush**"
You can't get any bolder than that! There are constant violations. If somebody does not report these violations they get away with it and Carriers take our work and we lose more Clerk jobs as a result. Clerks who look the other way don't understand or don't care. There are several in the running for the #3 spot but these two are my worst Postmasters in 2018.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members!
Without the members there is no union and without the union most of us would not want this job. I don't understand the non-member holding onto their money like Dicken's Ebenezer Scrooge. We passed out the shirts to all members who ordered one and Christmas gift cards to all dues paying members as a thank-you. Happy Holidays to all members from the Officers and Stewards!

