

The Local Line

“A PPA Award Winning Publication”

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

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Update by: Jackie Engelhart

PARS to Carol Stream
After months of rumors I was informed on 2-6-2018 by Carol Stream management that the PARS operation will be moved from Palatine to CS in August of 2018. The only information at Palatine was rumors. This is a Headquarters initiative to consolidate all PARS/FPARs into the Outgoing facilities. Since CS took Palatine Outgoing mail in 2010, resulting in over 100 Clerks excessed, Palatine has no Outgoing. After losing Outgoing mail Palatine became the PARS site for Illinois and the PARS volume helped replace lost mail. Palatine has had PARS mail since its inception. Now the PARS is going to CS because CS has Palatine Outgoing Mail. One plant's loss is another plants gain and some managers at CS are positively giddy. We met with Palatine Plant Manager Elizabeth Wulf and Lakeland Senior Plant Manager Robert Prahl on 2-7-18 on problems at Palatine and we asked when they plan to inform the union and the employees about PARS leaving Palatine.

Bob said the PARS move is “tentative” but CS is busy getting ready for it. I asked Mr. Pralh if Palatine would be getting any other mail and he said no. He said it would be a big undertaking to move this operation out of Palatine. The big bosses don't care when they want to move mail from one plant to another they will spend. CS will always have mail because the Great Lakes Area offices are there and they do not want to look out on an empty plant. CS is happy to take mail from Palatine and Busse. CS got the Busse APBS. More mail from other plants will be good for CS Clerks as the PARS operation has been 100% Clerk work at Palatine. CS will get four CIOSS machines from Palatine to process PARS mail. There is table-top work that can be performed by injured Clerks that will be leaving Palatine. I am sure CS excessing was cancelled due to the addition of PARS mail. Last June CS Plant Manager Mike Kotula said CS excessing was cancelled. He said this was due to additional mail volume coming in but did not say what mail. It was PARS.

Palatine is the Stepchild
In 2010 Palatine lost the Outgoing in the “AMP” to CS, and lost 100+ Clerks. Lives were disrupted but Clerks began returning in 2013 because they had excessed too many Clerks. By this time Palatine had Letter PARS and Clerks considered this preferred duty in Automation with senior Clerks working PARS on the DIOSS. Quintin Mayberry came in as Palatine Plant Manager and worked to improve the facility after the 2014 service and tour changes. Palatine lost “Q” in 2017 and got Elizabeth Wulf as A/Plant Manager. She has a bad reputation in how she treats people and her post offices are some of the worst offices we have. Why put her in charge of the Palatine P&DC??? She tries to make herself look good by cutting OT. In her AOs Carriers and Supervisors do our work. She cut Clerk OT at Palatine and now we hear of supervisors on the machines and Mailhandlers working in Clerk units. Tour 3 PSEs were told not to work last Friday and Supervisors worked the machines. She has quickly turned Palatine into one of her dysfunctional AOs.

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Special points of interest:

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Employee Appreciation Day?!

Someone told me that 2-8-2018 is Employee Appreciation Day at Palatine. I hear the employees will get a "box lunch". I don't know what else is planned for this. I do remember Mike Kotula having hot food where he and all his supervisors serving on each tour. I was there for one of them and it was quite an impressive spread. I can't remember the last time we had anything like that at Palatine. So now we have an anti-employee A/Plant Manager giving us box lunches to show her appreciation. We had to beg to get her to buy two micro-wave ovens for the cafeteria but at least she is getting them over the objections of Ricky Hilliard who advised against it. We have had some bad plant managers over the years especially at Palatine and Carol Stream, but in my opinion, Liz Wulf is the worst. Ron Woodall was bad because he took Clerk work and gave it to the Mailhandlers but I never heard it said that he told his supervisors not to be nice to the employees. Jeff Wisner (Fox Valley) was an anti-employee MDO at CS and Palatine but I never heard it said that he instructed supervisors not to be nice to their employees. I know supervisors sometimes live in fear of the plant manager but from what I am hearing it has reached a new level at Palatine. Wulf is a micro-manager and some of her Associate Offices are still suffering her effects to this day, especially those where she picked new postmasters such as Calamidy Winbush at Park Ridge and LuVada Darling at Glenview. These were two of the most hostile postmasters I have ever met and they replaced postmasters that were actually, dare I say, nice?! Ruby Brooks and Vickie Henderson were nice and not her kind of managers so they both retired and were replaced with "not nice".

A Good Manager is out there...

I am referring to **Charles Spann** who was brought in to Busse for the Christmas season and has made some real improvements. I had the opportunity to talk to Chuck on two occasions and was very impressed with his energy and his knowledge of the mail. He actually took the time to talk to me about what he was doing to fix the problems at Busse or those that were being blamed on Busse. He said Busse gets blamed for late trips when the trips coming in to Busse from other plants are late. He knows about transportation and mail processing at the plants. He also has experience in the post offices with Clerks and Carriers. He is the senior MDO at the Milwaukee P&DC and he knows how to move the mail. He expects the employees to come to work and do their job but he is not out to get them and he will take time to talk to them on the workroom floor. He knows what he is doing and knows how to treat employees. I would love for him to come to Palatine because he is about the mail and not about anything else. I don't think he would be telling his supervisors to "not be nice". If it sounds like I am impressed with Mr. Spann, you are right. He did a good job at Busse but cannot continue that commute. He is just what Palatine needs and the commute would be shorter. Why then is Palatine stuck with a Post Office Operations Manager who has not done that job well? She will continue to micromanage and most likely get the same poor results she got in the post offices. This will continue until someone at the District or the Area decides that Palatine deserves better. In the meantime the employees who move the mail will continue to be the target of her petty actions as they move the mail in spite of her. Thanks for the micro-waves!

PARS Move Helps CS PSEs

When management cancelled the CS impact they said they may have to reduce the number of PSEs but with the addition of PARS CS is now hiring PSEs. Regulars continue to retire at both CS and Palatine which means that by August when PARS leaves the attrition should reduce any impact. At Palatine a grievance is being filed for the five (5) Clerk residual vacancies that management does not want to fill. Six were posted on e-reassign in 2017 and one was taken leaving the five. At this point management should convert the five senior PSEs at Palatine. Our contract ends 9-20-18 and one of the Union's main objectives is to get more PSEs converted. With management continuing to revert jobs it becomes harder to get a residual vacancy for conversion. Tour 1 PSEs are upset about having their starting time changed from 0000 to 0200 by Ms Wulf. I contacted her about this change and she said that this was their starting time before Christmas and is needed to finalize DPS mail. I do not recall a 0200 start time but I have a feeling that from 0000 to 0200 Automation will be short. This does not make sense to me but I have never been a manager.

Manager of the Week?

I have known Donald Bell for many years and have never had a problem with him. Ms. Wulf put him on tour 2 as MDO and they seem to be on good terms, which is more than I can say for many of her other subordinates at Palatine. Donald likes to yell but does not like to be yelled at. Now he is standing with his arms folded in Automation to intimidate folks. He says he will not be yelled at in "my building" but it is not his. Don't let your closeness to her go to your head Donald. Managers come and go but the relationship that counts is with the employees.

