

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

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Against Staples Deal...
Hopefully you are aware that USPS has agreed to set up postal units in 80 Staples Stores and they plan to open post offices in 500 stores according to the Staple Store Mgr. I spoke to in Norridge. Approximately 40% of APWU members work in retail and this action is an attack on our jobs. USPS also has a deal with UPS to sort parcels but says this deal won't have a significant effect on the bargaining unit. That may or may not be true but management's plans are clear enough. They want to shift our work to the lower paid employees of Staples and UPS and whoever they can cut a deal with. I went to Staples to talk to the Store Manager and handed her a letter protest of protest and she said she would give it to her District Mgr. All Locals have been asked to go their nearest Staples Store and give the Manager a signed copy of the protest letter. We have copies of the letter available for any member who is willing to deliver it to wants to add their voice to stop this taking of our work.

Carol Stream AFCS
I had an inquiry about why we do not have 40 bids in the AFCS like South Suburban and Cardiss Collins have. We filed a grievance when management posted less than 40 hour jobs for the AFCS but they denied the grievance at Step 2 and at Step 3 so it will have to be arbitrated. No Clerks bids on the less than 40 hour NTFT jobs so management has assigned PSE Clerks to staff the AFCS unit. I called the Union at South Suburban and they said they have six 40 hour and two NTFT bids. The Steward also said the Clerks do not work eight hours in the AFCS which was the reason CS would not post any 40 hour jobs. I called Chicago Local President Sam Anderson and have not talked to him about this yet but Cardiss Collins outgoing mail is being cancelled at South Suburban and CS. We will revisit this issue with A/Plant Mgr Colao. If there is not agreement to create some 40 hour jobs we will ask that our grievance be moved up to the top of the docket and scheduled for arbitration as soon as possible.

Busse Town Halls...
New A/Plant Manager **Adam Nelson** held Town Hall meetings on all three tours on 1-17-14. He told employees Busse is at the bottom for service and then proceeded to explain changes he wants to make. Adam said he needs to start Scan-Where-You-Band at 9 am to clear the mail and will use details. Any Clerk details to 9am must be done by seniority. Adam said he has plans to bring in a U-FSM for the Priority Flats. A U-FSM is an old FSM 1000 with a feeder on each end instead of the four keying stations. Busse has more mail than ever due to the Military Priority coming from ISC. Almost all military mail has been consolidated to the Chicago ISC as USPS has closed other facilities. Neither the ISC or Busse have enough staffing for all the additional mail. District Manager Karen Schenck came to Busse on 1-16-14 and told employees Busse has been raised to an Executive Plant and that the bathrooms will be fixed. She took no questions and left the facility. Adam did take questions, and said as an Executive Plant Busse will now get more support resources.

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Special points of interest:
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Palatine Plant Mgr on Detail
Lean Mail Processing - SS
MVS Growing at Carol Stream
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Update on Palatine Settlements
NWIAL Election Committee

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Palatine Plant Mgr. Bob Prah **Going on Detail to Milwaukee...**

We were told last week that Bob will be on detail as Senior Plant Manager for Lakeland District as of 1-18-13 and **Gary Kaiser** will be detailed as A/ Plant Manager. Lakeland Senior Plant Manager Chuck Sciurba will be detailed as Senior Plant Manager in St. Louis. I believe Palatine has improved under Bob and hate to see him go.

Lean Mail Processing - 5S

Palatine met with both Unions on 1-10-14 to talk about Lean Mail Processing and "5S". Operations Industrial Engineer David Rupe and In-Plant Support Manager Esther Smith gave us a copy of the Service Talk that will be given to all employees before they start 5S. 5S stands for sorting, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain. They plan to rid the work room floor of anything that does not support mail processing, including filing cabinets used by employees or supervisors for personal items. Many of these filing cabinets have locks on them and will be opened. They said they will cut locks off if necessary and will call a union Steward when they cut off a lock. The Service Talk reads "Eliminate un-needed equipment from the floor and organize the remaining items into an effective layout with reduced wasted movement, transport, and inventory." They said employees should keep their personal items in their lockers but employees need gloves, aprons, water, and purses and cannot be running to and from their lockers. This work-room floor clean-up focuses on unnecessary clutter which means employees stashing their personal items in gurneys, APCs, and locked filing cabinets. In the days and weeks ahead you will see Esther and Dave on the floor deciding what needs to go. The last "s" stands for sustain or will they be able to keep it clean.

MVS Growing at Carol Stream

I recently spoke to MVS National Business Agent Merlie Bell and he told me what our Craft Director Nigel Thomas has been saying... Carol Stream is one of the few facilities gaining MVS work. MVS Director Nigel Thomas has been keeping me informed of his success in getting more jobs in MVS and the Carol Stream VMF. Getting work for the craft is the top priority for the MVS Director and that is done by showing that postal drivers can compete on a cost basis with contract drivers. Gaining and protecting work in today's Postal Service is huge, and Nigel continues to negotiate with management to add/protect jobs at CS, Palatine and Busse.

AFL-CIO COPE Meeting...

On 1-15-14 I attended the all-day Illinois AFL-CIO COPE meeting where candidates were endorsed for the 2014 elections. APWU has a seat on the 35 member state Executive Board which includes Teachers, Government Workers, and private sector Trade Workers. While I cannot print who was endorsed at this meeting, I can say that these labor leaders support candidates based on their voting record on labor issues and job creation for the Building Trades. Public employee unions such as the Teachers, Government Workers, and Service Employees were not happy with the private sector Unions for endorsing some of the incumbents who voted in favor of "SB1" the pension overhaul bill. They say that Illinois failed to fund their pensions for the last 30 years while taking money the employees paid into the pension fund and spending it for other things. That sounds a lot like what the Congress did by forcing USPS to overpay billions into Retiree Health Benefits and FERS and refusing to refund any of the overpayments to the Postal Service.

Update on Palatine Settlements

1. The grievance filed for non-compliance of the Dobry Award for tour 3 Automation has been bumped to the top of the docket and the NBA will try to get it scheduled for May.
2. The Step 3 Settlement for the Clerks who retreated back to Palatine into NTFT jobs is to be implemented at Step 3 and NBA Linda Turney said they have reviewed the clock-rings and will be meeting this week to discuss amounts to be paid.
3. The Step 3 Settlement for the abolishment of tour 1 automation bids by starting time for the posting of 10/4 NTFT jobs has been remanded to Step 2 for remedy and Palatine Labor Specialist Mary Ann Gocha said she will be meeting with the Area this week to discuss further (monetary) remedy. If they do not agree to pay we will file on non-compliance.

NWIAL Election Committee

The Constitution requires that we appoint an election committee that must be approved by the members present at the January meeting. Only six members volunteered to be on the committee and per the constitution we selected four, three members and an alternate. They are Doreene Motley, Dennis Cattenhead, Arelene (Thomas) Benford, and John Rogers. Since Doreene and Dennis served last election and Arlene worked on an election committee years ago we have some experienced people. The Election Committee will research Election Companies and report to the members at the February meeting where members will vote on the company to use. We are constantly updating the membership list but sometimes members move and fail to fill out a change of address to the union. We need to have your current address for the mailing of ballots.

