

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Coming Changes...

There have been rumors that Carol Stream and or Palatine will be losing an FSS machine, and according to both plant managers that is correct. On 2-4-16 CS Plant Manager Mike Kotula informed us that CS would be losing an FSS to Fox Valley and would be gaining an APBS machine. An APBS is a modified SPBS that be used to key or scan mail. The CS APBS will be used to process the growing first class spurs volume for the metro area, and some priority or bundles. He said the APBS machine should be at CS by October and the FSS should be removed from CS within 16 to 24 weeks. The FSS machine cannot go into Fox Valley until their barcodes are moved to South Suburban which cannot happen until the planned expansion of South Suburban is completed. Mike said the CS APBS machine will be coming from Busse but Busse management is not aware they may lose their APBS. I asked Chicago District Acting Senior Plant Manager John Colao about this

A New Metro Plan

and he said the "Metro Plan" is approved but he did not think it would happen this year as there was not enough time to move all the equipment by September when the mail volume increases. I asked Palatine Plant Manager Quintin Mayberry if Palatine will be losing an FSS and he said Palatine will lose one FSS but will be getting an APBS and an APPS. He said the changes for Palatine will not be made until next year after they complete the equipment moves at Carol Stream, Fox Valley and South Suburban in Central IL. He also said Palatine will be getting a new Low Cost Tray Sorter that will place LCTS 2 and 3 but that this will should not affect craft jurisdiction. LCTS #3 will be moved upstairs to replace #1.

Palatine to get FPARS

We were notified that USPS is deploying and Palatine will be getting Flat Postal Automated Redirection which is basically PARS for flats, and it will be worked on the AFSM. USPS says FPARS will not increase AFSM staffing but the machine will run longer.

CS Labor-Management

Aside from losing an FSS and gaining an APBS, Plant Manager Kotula stated CS will be getting all the LO-11 mail back from Fox Valley which is a million pieces per day. Management wants to post productivity numbers in Automation and we told them they could not do it. He also stated CS has 80 Limited Duty employees, 45 who are off of work, and 35 with job offers. Most of the job offers are in letters and flats which leaves them short-handed in Automation where the PSEs are needed to work. **Management's Issues** Plant Manager Kotula asked us to share his requests of CS employees.

1. Come to work
2. Do your best
3. Work safe
4. Stay off your cell
5. No large bags on floor

CS PSE Conversions

Six PSE Clerks will be converted in March as a result of a grievance filed for management failing to fill CS residual vacancies. We are happy that six PSEs will be converted but we told our national officer who settled this case that more than six should be converted based on the grievance we filed.

February 22, 2016

Jackie Engelhart
President
Walter Elerby Jr.
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

Coming Changes...
A New Metro Plan
Palatine to get FPARS
CS Labor-Management
Management's Issues
CS PSE Conversions
Requesting a Work Order
Palatine Issues:
Busse Issues
IL Primary is March 1st
IPWU State Scholarship

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Requesting a Work Order

Some Custodians have come to us to complain that the amount of work they are assigned cannot be done in the allotted time given. Maintenance Craft Director Joe Golden put out a letter addressing this problem back in December. He stated the Custodian should fill out a work order for more hours needed on an assigned route. He stated that work not included in the staffing package cannot be counted towards the 90% and the Custodians should request and fill out a work order for this work. The work orders will document the need for more workhours in the facility staffing package and work orders for work performed that is not included in the staffing package document those hours should not be counted towards the 90% at the end of the fiscal year. Only Palatine has changed to the new TL-5 "Team Cleaning" but Carol Stream and Busse will be changing over in the near future. At Palatine a few Custodians have followed the advice and asked for work orders but management has refused to provide them each time. In that case the employee must provide a statement to the union regarding the refusal to provide the work order and the reason the work order was being requested. This is the only way to document the fact that the time allotted on most if not all of these routes are insufficient to complete the work. Management will continue to stonewall on work order requests but the grievances filed will serve the same documentation purpose. We do not know why the national union agreed to these changes because it reduced the cleaning time and the number of custodians thus helping management avoid future payouts for not meeting the 90% . The result is that Postal Service saves money because the facilities are no being cleaned properly.

Palatine Issues...

Thanks to Plant Manager Mayberry for agreeing to move up the starting time for tour 2 Low Cost from 8am to 7am after saying he would look at it. Some of the Clerks in this unit asked if they could have the earlier start time after the AFSM start time was changed from 8am to 6:30 am. I was asked to speak to Quintin about the lack of chairs in the first floor breakrooms and was told there is no place to sit on break. This was brought up at the end of the Safety meeting last week and Quintin said he would walk the floor to see where the chairs are. Maintenance Manager Hilliard stated employees were bringing chairs into the women's locker room. After the meeting I went to the first floor women's locker room and found no chairs in the locker room but the bathroom still closed for who knows how long for painting but no one painting. The women's locker room on the second floor had signs posted with a red stop sign stating do not bring chairs in the locker room or they will be locked up. I asked a Custodian what that meant and he showed me stacks of chairs are locked up in the old cot room. I called Ricky Hilliard about this and asked him if the Plant Mgr. knew the chairs were locked up and he said "no". I did not think the Plant Manager knew or why would he say he was going to look for the chairs? I asked Ricky why he did not say anything about the locked up chairs when we talked about needing chairs in the break rooms and he said these chairs are from the cafeteria. So while the employees have no place to sit, the Maintenance Manager locks up chairs because he's mad that a few employees are bringing chairs into the women's locker rooms. The chairs should not have been locked up and will be put back.

Busse Issues

We have two ADRP grievances in the system at Busse for failing to fill residual vacancies that should result in PSE Clerk conversions. These grievances are at the Headquarters level but we spoke to Busse management about this and they said they wanted to convert the 14 PSEs we have and hire 14 more but that had to be approved by USPS Headquarters. Without any further discussion Busse posted 14 newly created jobs so we thought the plan was approved, But a few days later the 14 newly created Clerk jobs were cancelled. I spoke with the Plant Manager and she could not tell me why the jobs were cancelled at that time. We requested a meeting with her to discuss the cancelled bids and other problems we have at Busse. Management has yet to say when they will post bids for the new LUCAS but they have been staffing it since November with Clerks and Mailhandlers. We were told weeks ago that Clerks from the Corrals would be working in the new LUCAS but I was told that has changed and the machine is being staffed more with MHAs. We have asked for the meeting with the Plant Manager this week because we need to know why the jobs were posted and cancelled, and to clarify the LUCAS staffing. Another unanswered question is what is the status of the APBS ?

IL Primary is March 15th
It takes a few minutes to vote in the primary for the candidates you want to represent your party in the 2016 state and national elections. IL does have early voting which makes voting more convenient.

IPWU State Scholarship
Applications and rules for the \$1,000.00 state scholarships are available at the union offices and must be received by the IPWU Secretary/Treasurer by April 1st, per Chief Trustee Ray Wience.



Mail to:

Al Modi, Secretary/Treasurer

Illinois Postal Workers Union

P O Box 86199 Carol Stream IL 60189

American Postal Workers Union (AFL-CIO)
Marjorie Stapleton Memorial Scholarship Application
Applicant Information

Scholarship Applicant Name _____

Applicant's Home Address _____

Applicant's Home Phone Number _____

Applicant's High School _____

Applicant's Signature _____

IPWU Member Information

Have you been a member of the IPWU for three consecutive years? Yes No

IPWU Member Name (Parent or Guardian of applicant) _____ Craft _____

Local Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Work Phone Number _____

Member's Signature _____

Secretary/Treasurer's Verification

I verify this is a member in good standing for three consecutive years of the _____
(Local Name)

Local Secretary Signature (Print)

Local Secretary Signature

(To be completed by the Scholarship Committee)

Date of Postmark on Application _____

Number Application is assigned _____

Verified by _____
(IPWU Secretary/Treasurer)

There shall be four (4) annual winners of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) each, payable in two installments of \$500.00 each. Payments shall be made to the winners on September 1st and January 15th upon proof of enrollment at an accredited University or College. Failure of a winner to provide proof of enrollment by September 1st shall cause forfeiture of the entire \$1000 scholarship and the monies shall be returned to the scholarship fund and no award shall be made to an alternate. No winner shall receive more than one scholarship (\$1000) from the IPWU.

There shall be one winner from the following areas:

• **CHICAGO/SUBURBAN AREA**

Members Employed in Zip Codes 600 -606

• **NORTHERN AREA**

Members Employed in Zip Codes 609 – 614

• **CENTRAL AREA**

Members Employed in Zip Codes 615 - 619 and 625 - 627

• **SOUTHERN AREA**

Members Employed in Zip Codes 620 - 624 and 628 – 629

Application Requirements

1. Applicant must be a child, stepchild, or legally adopted child of a member of the IPWU.
2. Parent or guardian of the applicant must belong to a Local or be a MAL that has been a Local/Mal of the IPWU for three (3) consecutive years prior to awarding the scholarship.
3. Applicant must be a senior in High School or presently enrolled in an accredited University or College as a full time student.
4. **Applicant must submit a score of at least 20 on the ACT or presently be enrolled in an accredited University or College as a full time student.**
5. **Applicant must submit a GPA of 3.0 on a 5.0 grade scale or a GPA of 2.0 on 4.0 grade scale.**
6. The application must be signed by both the applicant and the IPWU member parent/guardian. The Secretary/Treasurer of the member's Local also must certify the application.
7. The applicant will be selected by a random drawing.

Failure to submit all documentation shall rule the applicant ineligible.

All applications and documentation must be received by the IPWU Secretary/Treasurer no later than **April 1st.**