

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

Carol Stream Town Hall Meeting Shock
Employees attending a Carol Stream Town Hall meeting with Plant Manager Pamela Bronson were surprised, startled, shocked (take your pick) when she was talking about her managers calling her cheap and stingy because they know she does not like to pay overtime, and referred to herself as a Nazi. Some employees turned in statements of what they heard to the APWU and this was in turn reported to our National Business Agent James Stevenson who lodged a complaint with the USPS asking for an investigation. I looked up the word Nazi on line and found the following:

1. *a member of a German fascist party controlling Germany from 1933 to 1945 under Adolf Hitler.*
2. *On who espouses the beliefs and policies of German Nazis.*
3. *One who is likened to a German Nazi; a harshly domineering, dictatorial, or intolerant person, a grammar Nazi.*

Second set of definitions as follows:

1. *Along with Adolf Hitler, the Nazi party rose to power in the years leading up to World War II, committed war atrocities and attempted genocide during the war being defeated by the Allied powers in 1945.*
2. *Colloquially, the term can refer to someone who is extremely zealous about something, such as a "grammar nazi" or a "rules nazi". However the word is typically lowercase in those instances. Historically and politically, Nazi with a capital "N" refers to a person who follows the principles of Nazism."*

Those who were present were surprised to hear the plant manager use this word in a Town Hall, as it was highly inappropriate. I did not know about this until 11-23-2022 when I received an email from our NBA. The plant manager was talking about being cheap on overtime but using that word to make a point was stupid. Because she has not built up good will with employees she may be judged more harshly.

Aggressive Melrose Park Supervisor in Wheeling

In the last Local Line I wrote about Melrose Park supervisor Mae Jolliff who had returned from a year-long detail to wreak havoc among the Clerks. The grievance activity in this office exploded because of her but her Manager and the Postmaster seemed happy with her, because she was getting the clerks in line, I guess. The postmaster said she was improving his CSV scores so he was happy. Since then she had a zero tolerance incident with the Vice President of the NALC Branch in Melrose. I talked to the NALC VP and she said that she left the post office to get away from May and de-escalate, But May followed her outside and onto the Al Piemonte Ford lot next door. Unlike the post office the Ford Dealer has working cameras posted outside which filmed the incident. Within days Mae was detailed to Wheeling as the Officer-in-Charge. Zero Tolerance is used against craft employees but not applied to management. An aggressive supervisor follows a Carrier outside, is caught on film, and is detailed to another office.

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Special points of interest:

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Aggressive Melrose Park Supervisor in Wheeling
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NWIAL Christmas Gift Cards

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SIPS machine CS & Busse

Busse was the first to get a SIPS machine last year at the Annex. They now have one in the Annex and in the plant, and Carol Stream recently got one. We already had an RI-399 meeting at CS for the SIPS but no meeting was ever scheduled at Busse. There should be no dispute who is assigned to what work functions on the SIPS as the USPS at the national level has determined the craft for each of the 7 functions. Both APWU and the Mailhandler Union filed disputes seeking to claim more work and both disputes were denied by Arbitrator Sharnoff. Carol Stream is following the national staffing but Busse has been assigning all Mailhandlers.

The Functions for SIPS are

1. Retrieval and staging of packages in swim/staging lanes for access by stager/facers **MH**
2. Removing empty equipment containers from staging areas **MH**
3. Retrieval of full containers from staging/swim lanes and pull, scan, and sort the large non-machinable packages from each container **Clerk**
4. Singulating/separating packages and facing/feeding packages onto induction belt **Clerk**
5. In Functions 1 operations, sweeping packages (removing full containers and replacing with empty containers) includes sort plan switch out: **MH**
6. In Function 4 operations, monitor discharge bins and pull, scan and sort medium and large no read/no barcode packages into the proper discharge bin, including sort plan switch out" **Clerk**
7. Transporting full containers to dispatch area **MH**

We have been filing cross-craft grievances for every pay period the machine is running at Busse.

Constitutional Changes Pass the First Reading...

Three Constitutional Changes I submitted were read and passed at the November Membership Meeting on 11-13-2022. The changes were to have 600 and 601 Directors for MVS and Maintenance. Currently we have one Director for each of these crafts to cover all three plants, Busse, Palatine and Carol Stream, and its not enough. The reason for the change for Maintenance is Craft Director Joe Golden has been working 2 to 3x the number of hours he is paid for. After the last three years putting in 2 to 3x the hours and not being able to keep up, he is in agreement that we need to have two Maintenance Directors. There is also the problem of one Director not being able to spend enough time at all three plants. Employees complain they do not see enough of their Craft Director. These changes were made to improve the overall representation. The 3rd change is to add the extra positions to the Executive Board. All changes passed unanimously and will have their 2nd reading at the January meeting as there is no meeting in December. We would like to have the changes in place for the 2023 NWIAL election of officers.

NWIAL Election Committee

We are soliciting members for the 2023 NWIAL Election Committee to be appointed by the president at the January meeting. We hope to have some committee members who have been on the committee before so they know what they are doing and to teach those who do not have experience. The Election Committee consists of 3 members and one alternate. Letters may be faxed to fax # 630-833-0248 and addressed to President Engelhart.

*The first two columns on side 2 of this Local Line are reprinted from last months Local Line because it's important information.

FSS Machines Discontinued

On 12-30-2022 FSS machines at Palatine and nationwide will be discontinued. Flats Sequencing System (FSS) was deployed in 2010 to reduce Carrier hours used to Carrier Route flats. Flat volume had steadily declined since 2010 so the decision has been made to discontinue running the FSS. Most of the work on the FSS was assigned to Mailhandlers so Clerks lost this work long ago. **Smile You're on Camera at the Palatine P&DC**

Management is installing video cameras at Palatine including in the Cafeteria and Quiet Room. At the last Safety and Health meeting we asked about the installation of cameras everywhere and were told by then A/Plant Manager Kenya Moore that the camera installation was an Inspection project. I think they said 300 cameras were being installed. We asked why cameras were being installed in the Cafeteria and she said " Safety and Security of the mail go hand in hand." VP Dave Baskin has filed a grievance on the installation of cameras in the Cafeteria and Quiet Room . We need cameras working in the park lot so employees cars are not vandalized while they are at work. *We were asked to talk to our members about the importance of good housekeeping at the facility. **We Forgot Sophia...**

In the October Local Line we welcomed several new Stewards but forgot to mention Sophia Mosby, our new Palatine tour 2 Steward, so sorry, and welcome Sophia! **NWIAL Christmas Gift Cards** This year we are giving out \$25 Jewel gift cards for Christmas to all NWIAL dues paying members. Gift cards are available at the union offices in the plants and will be passed out in the AO's ASAP. Thank you for being a member. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us to you!

