

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Staples Protest at two Locations on 4-24-14.

We are the only Local in the Chicago Metro Area organizing protests for the "Stop Staples" day of action on 4-24-14.

We chose two locations to make it more convenient for the members.

Location #1 is at the Schaumburg Staples at 160 Barrington Road, and Location #2 is at the Staples in Hillside at 190 S. Mannheim Road.

We have rented busses for each location and each bus hold 47 people. You can sign up at your Union office but if most people prefer to drive and we don't get many signing up for the busses we will cancel them.

We will be at each store from 11am to 1pm, and a bus is to leave Palatine and Carol Stream at 10am to return by 2pm. Picket signs and water will be provided but no food is allowed on the busses per the contract. Mailhandlers and Letter Carriers are welcome to join us as they support the Stop Staples efforts.

An attack on one craft is an attack on all crafts. Thanks to Dan Mulligan for making the signs.

Labor Specialist Mary Ann Gocha Leaving...

Labor Specialist Gocha has been discussing most of the APWU Step 2's at Palatine for the last year. Prior to that there were several people detailed into Labor discussing our Step 2's but they left and weren't replaced and one person could not keep up. Lakeland did not seem to care about staffing Labor Relations at Palatine.

Now that Mary Ann is leaving Lakeland District will see that they need more than one person to discuss Palatine Step 2's.

ADRP Grievances

NBA Linda Turney gave me a list of the payout amounts she calculated for Clerks who retreated to NTFT jobs but those amounts must be finalized with management. I gave Mary Ann the hours of out of schedule and guaranteed pay for tour 1 Automation ADRP grievance and she said she will inform her replacement that we were in discussions on the out of schedule to be paid to the affected employees.

Tentative Dobry Date

NBA Mike O'Hearn has asked to schedule the Dobry non-compliance arbitration on July 16, 2014.

Busse A/Plant Manager Adam Nelson is Gone...

To the disappointment of many Busse employees, A/Plant Manager Adam Nelson did not take the Busse job offered to him. He came in mid-January when Busse was a mess with mail piled up every where and he cleaned it up and got service scores going in the right direction. He held two Town Hall meetings in the short time he was here and he made an effort to communicate. He also changed some of the operational processes that will help Busse to be successful after he leaves. The major change he made was to bring in a UFSM 1000 for Priority and 1st Class bulky flat mail to take this volume off the APPS and APBS. As an Industrial Engineer he looked at the processes instead of micromanaging supervisors on the floor. Adam wanted to stay at Busse but did not take the job due to family issues. Devette Murphy is back as A/Plant Manager but no one knows for how long. Adam leaves Busse a better place than he found it not only because of the process changes but also because he communicated the changes to employees.

April 21, 2014

Jackie Engelhart
President
Dave Baskin
Vice President
Walter Elerby Jr.
News Director

Special points of interest:

Staples Protest at two Locations on 4-24-14
Labor Specialist Mary Ann Gocha Leaving...
Busse A/Plant Manager Adam Nelson is Gone...
Residual Vacancies Requested
Palatine to Post Bids for the Multi-Line Low Costs...
Pushing for Bids...
Why Staples Protest Matters
Ballot Count on 4-25-14

Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248
Email: nwialapwu@hotmail.com
Web: nwial714@yahoo.com

Residual Vacancies Requested

After the national MOU on Filling Residual Vacancies was signed on 3-20-14 we requested copies of residual vacancies at Palatine, Carol Stream, and Busse and have information back from Palatine. At Palatine most of the residual vacancies are in Maintenance with Seven Custodian, two Maintenance Mechanic, three Electronic Technician, and six MPE Maintenance Mechanic jobs to be filled. There are also six Clerk residuals. This information is needed to start the process outlined in the MOU that could eventually result in the conversion of PTF Clerks to full-time, and if jobs remain after PTF conversions and transfers from other crafts, possible conversion of Postal Support Employees.

At Carol Stream we should have 14 residual NTFT jobs that were posted for the AFCS on 12-4-12. These jobs became residual on 12-21-12 because nobody bid on them so these jobs must be filled as part of the National MOU. Six of the 14 NTFT jobs had six day work schedules which is not allowed in a 200 man-year office like the Carol Stream facility. They should all have been posted with two consecutive off days. Since career employees did not want the less than 40 hour NTFT jobs they may be available at the end of the NTFT process for PSE conversions at Carol Stream. A/Plant Manager John Colao has been adamant that he will not post 40 hour jobs in the AFCS unit. Clock-rings show PSEs are not working 40 hours in the AFCS which will make it hard to win the grievance filed that these jobs should have been posted as 40 hours. At the end of the MOU process these NTFT residuals may be available for conversion of PSE Clerks because it is unlikely that any career Clerks will want them. AFCS is staffed by PSE Clerks.

Palatine to Post Bids for the Multi-Line Low Cost...

The burn-in is about completed for the new Multi-Line Low Cost at Palatine and management has finally informed us what bids will be posted in May. The two 1500 bids will remain and five bids will be posted with an 1800 start time. There will be one bid each with Sat/Sun, Sun/Mon, Mon/Tue, Thu/Fri and Sat/Fri days off. They are not adding any bids on tour 1 as they plan to have most of the mail worked by tour 3 Clerks. Chuck Sciurba made the decision to assign this work to Clerks based on the fact that Clerks have staffed Multi-Line Break-Up since the facility opened in 1993.

Pushing for Bids...

VP Baskin filed a grievance to create 35 bids at Palatine based on PSE work hours but management has not settled that grievance so we do not have the bids. We will file a similar grievance at Carol Stream based on PSE clock-rings. Most of the PSES are working six days on tour 1 which is where most of them work and we have to show at least 30 hours being worked on the same five days just to show a 30 hour NTFT job. PSEs were hired to staff machines and not to staff Manual units so it should be rare for that to happen. Clerks whose Manual bids were abolished on tours 2 and 3 do not want to see machine-bid or PSE Clerks working in Manual units. Palatine assigns Clerks on a daily basis to Flats on tour 3 where bids were abolished, and while the 074 moves report does not show the required *"eight hours within ten on the same five days each week and the same assignment over a six month period"* needed for a duty assignment, we will continue to request the 074 moves report. We have raised this issue with tour 3 MDO Jill Dewey and A/Plant Manager Gary Kaiser.

Why Staples Protest Matters

In a recent video the PMG states he was "not backing away from Staples." He compares the deal to place postal units in Staples as a "rising tide that lifts all ships." Management claims they want to grow the business and make postal services convenient and accessible for everyone. He denied claims that he is trying to privatize the Postal Service. He said "Don't let people get you confused about privatization" and says he is a "39 year person" with no intention of privatizing the Postal Service. Actions speak louder than words and almost everything the PMG does indicates privatization. He has eliminated the majority of blue mail boxes, reduced hours in thousands of post offices and cut staffing so that there are long lines in most post offices every day. Some offices don't look like they are being cleaned because they are slow to replace retired custodians. USPS has a pilot program with UPS to sort NMO large parcels. These are "pilot programs" but they could expand nation-wide. In San Francisco there are postal units in all 13 Staples stores and some of the Staples locations are next door or across the street from the local post office. The Staples deal will eliminate the need for post offices in areas where the 1600 Staples stores are located. The problem is that Staples is a for profit business that pays their workers low wages while the CEO makes millions. He is closing 225 unprofitable stores so what will happen to Staples postal units? The Staples protests on 4-24-14 are to call public attention to the PMG's plan to replace the local post office with a Staples unit.

Ballot Count on 4-25-14

The ballots will be counted for the NWIAL election on 4-25 by the American Arbitration Association.

