

THE LOCAL LINE

May 15, 2024

President Dave Baskin
Czerwinski

Vice President Jackie Engelhart

News Director Alan

Marjorie Stapleton Scholarship winner.

Congratulations to Carol Stream steward Tanska Speight. Her daughter's name was drawn at the State Convention as the scholarship winner for the area.

Changes in Health Benefits.

I am sure most of you are aware there will be changes to our Health care beginning 1/1/2025. During the State Convention, President Dimonstein and Legislative Director, Judy Beard, gave brief talks on the changes, particularly for those members close to retirement. President Dimonstein stated that he called Social Security to check and see if they were aware of the changes created by the Postal Reform Act. He found out that both the person he spoke to on the call, and that person's supervisor, were giving him wrong information. He had the supervisor look up the Postal Reform Act and the supervisor apologized for not knowing the new rules

that apply to Postal Workers. President Dimonstein suggested employees should not call social security but to call the National Union or the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) for correct information. The phone number is 1-833-712-7742. Or you can text PSHBP to 39369. If you want to go online, You can email retirementbenefits@USPS.gov or PostalretireeHealthBenefits@USPS.gov.

All employees participating in FEHB are required to select a PSHB plan during open season (11/11/2024 - 12/9/2024).

Active employees are not required to enroll in Medicare.

All employees under the age of 64 are required to enroll in Medicare Part B, when you become eligible. HOWEVER, if you are at least 64 as of 1/1/2025, or already retired, that requirement would not apply. I called the 1-833 number and spoke to someone regarding this since I am over 65 and like my health plan and have a

family plan. I did not want to also have to take Medicare Part B on top of my Health Plan costs in order to protect myself and also my family (Medicare Part B would only protect me). They confirmed that since I will be over 64 on 1/1/2025, I do not have to also enroll in Medicare Part B. If you are already enrolled in Medicare Part B, you cannot cancel. You must remain in Medicare Part B. Again, if you have any questions. get answers from the contact information provided above.

Carol Stream Denying Palatine MVS Drivers Representation

During our last election, we created two (2) MVS Craft Director positions. Instead of 1 person to represent both 600 and 601, we now have an MVS Craft Director for 600 and an MVS Craft Director for 601. Unfortunately, the 600 MVS Craft Director works at Busse. When we lost Busse, we lost the 600 MVS Craft Director.

Since January, I have tried filling the vacancy. Our Local's Constitution reads, in relevant part, as follows, under the President section; **"He/she shall fill all vacancies from any cause whatsoever, within thirty (30) days, subject to the approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Board and a majority of the members present and voting at the next membership meeting, until such vacancy is filled by regular election."** It is my responsibility, as President, to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. My choice for 600 MVS Craft Director is Oscar Molina. Due to absences on the Executive Board it took until the April meeting for Oscar to pass the Executive Board. The main objectors were the Executive Board members from Carol Stream (601). During the April membership meeting, members from Carol Stream came out

to vote down my choice. The membership at that meeting, which was mostly Carol Stream members, voted to table my appointment until the May meeting. During the May membership meeting, members from Carol Stream again filled the room to vote down my choice. They are denying the Palatine MVS drivers their right to representation despite the 600 MVS Craft Director having nothing to do with Carol Stream. Members at Carol Stream can't even vote for the 600 MVS Craft Director during our elections. But the Clerks, Maintenance employees and MVS employees from Carol Stream are coming out to block the Palatine MVS drivers their right to have representation on the Executive Board. My choice of Oscar Molina for 600 MVS Craft Director is not going to change. Per the Constitution, I make the appointment. It is my decision as President. If

members from Carol Stream continue to fill the meeting room just to vote against Palatine having an MVS Craft Director, the blame falls solely on their shoulders. They are denying their fellow members their right to a Craft Director. We are a Union. It is our responsibility to make sure all members are represented, not to deny members representation. Our fight should be with management.

Organizing drive.

The National Union is holding an Organizing drive. If you sign up 1-2 new members you get a T-Shirt. 3-4 members you also get a thermal mug. 5 or more and you also get a tote bag. The \$25 to the new member and \$25 to who signs the member still apply. The stewards should have the non-member lists. On the form 1187 you put your name as Organizer along with your EIN and shirt size. Turn it in to the Union.

Work safe. Be safe.

