

# The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

## Palatine Update...

A/Plant Manager Jeffrey Grendziak held Town Hall meetings at Palatine on 7-17-18 and 7-19-18. I attended some of the tour 3 meetings where he addressed his big 3, Scanning, Safety, and Attendance. He talked to the employees about these concerns and then took time for questions. One employee asked how long he would be there and when he said he would like to stay at Palatine they applauded. Palatine employees have weathered a difficult period under Liz Wulf and they deserve to have a decent plant manager. With a positive plant manager who is willing to communicate Palatine can return to better days. Mr. Grendziak said he would like employees to have some fun at work. He has improved employee morale just by being nice to employees. We have a meeting scheduled and will ask the status of the PARS move to Carol Stream and when Palatine will start posting Clerk bids. We assume that bids are not being posted due to the loss of PARS mail.

## Busse Update...

A/Plant Manager Dan Halfman continues to be reasonable and work with the union on most issues. We asked him to follow the Pecking Order for day to day movement of Clerks that we have had at Palatine for years, and he agreed to try it where his predecessor would never have agreed to it. The Pecking Order when moving employees out of their bid is normally by juniority but the Palatine agreement lets Clerks volunteer to leave their bid by seniority. This allows Clerks to exercise their seniority if they would like to volunteer to go before requiring junior Clerks to be moved out. This seems so simple and fair, it's a no-brainer but we asked for this when Greg Johnson was at the Carol Stream plant and he would not agree to it. I could not figure it out. What harm is there in allowing senior Clerks to volunteer to be moved and avoid forcing junior Clerks to leave the bid? I thank Dan for being willing to use the Pecking Order on a trial basis and hope that it works out and becomes permanent. It's a benefit to Clerks.

## Busse Expediter OT

I have been contacted by two General Expeditors who want to be able to work overtime when it is called for Manual Clerks. General Expeditors and others are allowed to be placed at the bottom of the Manual ODL at Palatine and Carol Stream but I am told that Manual Clerks would be upset if this was agreed to at Busse. This has been going on since before I was a Steward (a long time) and it works. I believe the reasoning was that management uses Clerks on higher level to expedite so Expeditors do not get as much overtime. The smaller non-machine sections are allowed to be placed at the bottom of the Manual ODL, such as General Clerks, Registry Clerks, and Postage Due. Palatine and Carol Stream also have a Secondary list for all non-Manual Clerks, but the Manual ODL must be maxed out before calling OT for the Secondary. Busse does not have a Secondary ODL and we need to change that soon. Placing other sections at the bottom of the Manual ODL is a thornier problem but we will continue to explore what is fair to all. I am open to your input.

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### Special points of interest:

Palatine Update...  
Busse Update...  
Busse Expediter OT  
Carol Stream Update...  
Teams Not Cleaning...  
The National Union...  
The Unprintable Office  
Information for PSEs  
Thank you Constance Smith!  
Retirement Seminar on 9-29-18  
NWIAL Scholarship Drawing  
Thursday is Red Shirt Day!

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### **Carol Stream Update...**

Carol Stream is still supposed to be getting Palatine's PARs mail but we have no new information. Management does not always know what they are doing and if they do they don't share it with us. We asked for Labor-Management at all three plants and are waiting for a CS meeting to be scheduled. We filed a grievance a month ago for CS not having enough Clerk duty assignments as 22 Clerks have been unencumbered since last September, well over the 120 days requiring more bids to be posted according to the contract. Management plays so many games with staffing not just at Carol Stream but in all offices. The Union must file grievances when management reverts jobs that are needed as they have been doing for over a year at the plants. We should be filing grievances when PSE work hours show the need for more duty assignments. Marcy has filed some grievances at Palatine on reversions using the APWU MDAT program to document possible duty assignments. (That is 600 CCD Marcy Lloyd.) Walter has been working with the MDAT program at Carol Stream. (That is VP Walter Elerby Jr.) Filing grievances for bids benefits both regulars and PSEs because you need residuals and no able-bodied unencumbered Clerks to be able to convert PSEs to career. Since management wants PSEs to remain PSEs as long as possible it is our job to file these grievances. This goes for the AO's as well.

### **Team Not Cleaning...**

I'm sure we have all noticed how not clean postal facilities have become to the point they are nasty. This is because of the change to Team Cleaning agreed to by our own union at the national level. There is very little cleaning going with Team Cleaning but management is saving a ton of money on

the reduction in cleaning hours and the reduction in Custodians. The industrial cleaning equipment has been replaced by equipment more suited for office cleaning, not for 24/7 mail processing work. Someone recently said to me that "Its us and them" in reference to the nasty condition on the work-room floor compared to the how clean the offices are kept for the Great Lakes Area higher ups who work in the office space at CS on the other side of the locked doors. I don't know why our national union agreed to this reduction in cleaning but even management admits the facilities are not clean. Postal employees should not have to work in filth and Custodians must be given the equipment and the time to clean our facilities!

### **The National Union...**

The National Union was wrong on the Team Cleaning and wrong on the withdrawal of RI-399 disputes filed on Clerk work improperly assigned to Mailhandlers. They are also wrong on not having enough National Business Agents based on the grievance workload they have. Our Chicago NBAs work very hard based on the amount of grievances they have.

### **The "Unprintable" Office**

I continue to visit the Northbrook Post Office every week because of the violations and the hostile work environment since the arrival of Narbi Miulli as the Postmaster. Under her reign of terror most of the Clerks have been written up, and these are good employees who had clean records. They are being written up for not reporting on their non-scheduled day when they are not even on the ODL. PSEs with good attendance are being written up for attendance. One had a few lates for the year but no call-ins. On the first call-in discipline was issued. This is to send a message to PSEs that you do not call in no matter what.

### **Information for PSEs**

A copy of this national Web Article regarding five new benefits just negotiated for PSES is available at the plant union offices and will be mailed to the AOs soon.

### **Thank you Constance Smith!**

Conny was our Steward in Glenview for the last few years and she has done a very good job for us. We're sorry that she stepped down and hope she changes her mind. Thank-you Conny for fighting for your co-workers at Glenview!!!

### **Retirement Seminar on 9-29-18**

Human Relations Director Vivian Henderson and her Committee are planning the annual Retirement Seminar on 9-29-18 at the Union Hall in Elmhurst (194 W. Lake). The APWU Retiree Department will be providing the speaker but we do not have their name yet.

This is for our members only. Sign-up lists are available in the union offices at the plants, and AO members can see their Steward and/or call the Union Hall to have their name put on the list. We need your name and office, whether you are Civil Service or FERS, if you are bringing your spouse, and if you need a hearing interpreter. Lunch will be served.

### **NWIAL Scholarship Drawing**

The drawing for annual NWIAL scholarships will be held at the Union meeting on 8-12-18 starting at 2:30 pm. Applications must be sent to Ray Wience at the Union Hall and received by 8-12-18 prior to the start of the union meeting. Winners need not be present for the drawing when Chief Trustee Ray Wience places all applications into the Bozo Drum to be pulled by members at the meeting. There is still time to submit a form for the four \$750.00 scholarships, and two alternates. Applications are available at plant union rooms.

### **Thursday is Red Shirt Day!**

Members are encouraged to wear their union shirts each Thursday.

