

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

.93 cent COLA

The sixth Cost of Living increase is .93 cents per hour and is effective on 8-28-2021. The annual increase is \$1,935.00. This is the largest COLA of this contract and the largest I remember. The COLAs are in addition to wage increases. The COLAs received so far under the 2018 contract totals \$3,349.00 per year. Postal Support Employees do not receive COLAs but have received several additional increases over the general wage increases for all employees. This COLA would more than pay a year of union dues for those who pay them. For those who don't pay it's a shame they get benefits not paid for. They are the free-riders who take but don't pay. There is absolutely no reason not to be in the union just based on the negotiated pay raises. Everyone should pay their fair share in dues. Having a union is not just about negotiating pay increases, it also job security, and negotiated benefits and work rules. Those who do not pay dues would not stay if not for union benefits.

Abusive Supervisors II

We get more complaints about one supervisor at Busse than all others combined, and if your guessed Trina Simms, you are right. I have consistently heard over time that she favors employees who buy her food and targets those who don't. I don't know this to be true but I've heard it many times about her and about no other SDO. On 4-7-2021 we received a statement from a Clerk stating she had requested help on the Scan-Where-You-Band Roller Table as she and another person were having a hard time clearing the heavy bags which caused the belt to stop 3 times. Simms said not to let the other employee play her and refused to give them help. The employee made the mistake of asking for help a second time and was told to clock out. The employee asked why she had to clock out and Simms screamed at her that she was calling the police and she gotta go. The employee returned to work and was told she had to have a PDI and was told by MDO Carla that she could not return until she had a PDI with

Trina Simms. The employee was later issued a Removal and is off work. When I received a copy of the employee statement on 8-5-2021 I emailed it to the A/Plant Manager Steve Basik, stating "Clerk X called me yesterday as she has been off of work for months because she had the audacity to interrupt Trina Simms lunch and ask for help with heavy bags on the SWYB Slide. Simms has a long history of abusive behavior and intimidation. I just appealed a grievance for Clerk Y. Dan Halfman knows Simms history. He emailed me back saying "Send me her statement and I'll investigate. I never heard back from A/Plant Manager Steve Basik. The craft employee is off work and the abusive supervisor continues. Plant Managers have to know who their abusive supervisors are but they continue to allow abuse. **Post the OT Calls!** The past practice at all the plants is to post the overtime calls on a designated board, but in some cases OT calls are not being posted which leads to OT bypasses and grievances being filed. The overtime calls must be posted.

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Special points of interest:

.93 cent COLA
Abusive Supervisors II
Post the OT Calls!
Chicago Metro-Busse Annex
DBCS 302 Bin Machines
Clerks on Probation
Postmaster DeJoy
Thank you Al Bitoy Jr.!

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Chicago Metro-Busse Annex

Every year management rents a building somewhere in the area because they do not have enough room at Busse during peak season. This year the USPS is leasing annex buildings and setting up PSAs or Package Supporting Annexes. The Busse lease is for 2 to 5 years. The 112,000 square foot facility is located at 2600 Lively in Elk Grove two minutes from Busse. A/Plant Manager Steve Basik and In-Plant Support Manager Jason Rogers gave us general information after we toured the facility. The Single Induction Package Sorter (SIPS) was originally intended to sort NMOs but they said the machine cannot sort NMOs and will be used for machineable. They said the SIPS will be staffed by Mailhandlers, with 4-6 or 8-10, depending on whether mail is moved by ground or by air which means sacks and more staffing. They will have a Flexible Rover Sorter to sort NMOs and a SPYDER and four SWYB lanes. They state the normal staffing will be 50 employees except in peak. They stated they got lockers from the Chicago Surface Transfer Center (STC) in Aurora, which is staffed by non-postal employees. We were told this is a postal facility but staffed with non-postal employees. We knew this facility existed and that it was staffed by non-postal employee but did not know it was a postal facility. I understand the Mailhandler Union has filed a national dispute on the non postal staffing at STCs. The Busse Annex is very clean compared to the conditions in postal facilities. The Annex looks like a facility should look in regards to being clean and it was shocking to see a clean facility when we are used to seeing filthy dirty postal facilities never clean. The security is lacking as there is no turn-style and no badge-reader.

DBCS 302 Bin Machines

The USPS is in the process of changing 222 and 270 bin DBCS to 302 bin machines and they have no plans to increase the staffing.

At Palatine the plan is as follows:

1. Eight 222 bin DBCS to become 302 bin DBCS
2. Twelve 270 bin DBCS to become 302 bin DBCS
3. One 222 bin DIOSS to become a 302 bin DIOSS
4. Sort plans reduced from current 35 to 20 sort plans
5. Larger aisles
6. Extended staging for HSTS
7. Elevated supervisor platform on both sides of HSTS
8. Relocated manual units to supervisor platforms
9. Relocated MTEL cabinets to supervisor platforms

*This information was provided by Palatine management, and we have no similar information from Carol Stream management.

Common sense would tell you that by extending the DBCS/CIOSS from 222 to 302 bins you would need another Clerk-sweeper to cover all those additional bins. I have talked to national officers and they say they are talking to the USPS about this issue but they say the staffing will be 2 Clerks.

Clerks on Probation...

Management said Clerks cannot bid while on probation but there is nothing in the contract that supports this and they finally agreed with the us and see it in the JCIM. 600 Clerk Craft Director Marcia Lloyd wants newly converted Palatine Clerks to know they should contact her if they have problems with bidding, accessing Lightblue, or for not being paid correctly. She said to contact her directly if you have any of these problems. Congratulations to all newly converted Clerks converted on 7-31-2021 and 8-14-2021 as the result of National Union negotiations. Just in time for the big COLA!

Postmaster DeJoy

On 6-3-2021 the *Washington Post* reported that the FBI is investigating PMG Louis DeJoy regarding campaign fundraising activity involving his former business.

It is reported that Agents have been interviewing employees of his former company, New Breed Logistics, about allegations that employees made campaign contributions and were later reimbursed by the company in the form of company bonuses. The PMG denies he has done anything wrong. There have been calls to replace DeJoy but he says he is not going. On 3-21-2021 he published a 10-year plan for the USPS which calls for slowing the mail, raising prices, shortening hours at post offices, and closing more plants. He proposed to raise prices on 8-29-2021 but Congress called on him to delay any price increase to at least January of 2022. The rate increase would increase the price of a stamp from .55 to .58 cents. Congress is working on Postal Reform legislation that would end the pre-funding mandate of retiree health benefits and save the USPS \$40 to \$50 billion over 10 years. This legislation would require future retirees to enroll in Medicare part A and B when they reach 65. Current retirees would have the option to enroll in Medicare with no late fees or stay in the FEHB

Thank you Al Bitoy Jr.

Palatine tour 2 Steward Al Bitoy is retiring on 10-1-2021 after 46 years of service. Al and I started in 1976 and worked together on the floor for many years. He is a nice guy and a real friend. People come to Al because they know they can talk to him and he will get back to them, and he is always at work unless he's on vacation. Al is also a good union person who comes to union meetings and does what he can for the members. Thanks and congratulations Al!!!

