

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Floor Edition

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Retroactive Pay

On 8-5-2022 APWU announced that after much back and forth with the USPS they have agreed to a date for the employees to receive retroactive pay from the 2021-2024 contract.

The retroactive pay will appear on checks to be received on 10-28-2022.

More PSE Conversions

The USPS will convert 2,404 PSEs to career in 157 installations no later than 9-10-2022. There will be 40 conversions at Carol Stream P&DC, 10 at Palatine P&DC, and 14 at Chicago Metro L&DC Busse). These conversions will be done by relative standing.

Conversions are coming much faster in the last two years now that the USPS sees that they need Mail Processing Clerks to run the mail.

Career Orientation

601 CCD Calvin Taylor reports that PSEs to be converted will be given Orientation for Career. All newly converted Clerks should be scheduled for a 4-hour Orientation to explain the benefits of becoming career. If you have questions or concerns, ask the Union which is there for you.

Plant Modernization

USPS under Postmaster General (PMG) Louis DeJoy has a plan to modernize facilities but is not sharing that information with the Unions or the employees. He states USPS has to reduce costs by 35 to 40 billion over the next 10 years and raise revenue by 25 billion, and he states we do that through growth in the package business and pricing. He states USPS does not have to look hard to find ways to run more efficiently. His next big project is overhauling the network of facilities. He states we have plants where the last time that plant was managed well was in the 90s. He said that's because that's the last time that plant was suitable for the work that we had to do. Its not about the managers, its about the facilities, he said. An overhaul, he says, is not just necessary to right-size the organization, but to create an environment where employees actually want to work. We have a terrible operating environment. Plants are old and dark, delivery units are dark and crowded. This is his next mission.

Plant Closing Rumors

There have been rumors of Busse closing for years because it is a leased plant and not owned by USPS. Busse closing rumors surfaced this summer with no confirmation from USPS. Work is being done at the NDC for changes to come. Palatine has an APPS, a Universal Sorter, and the IPP/Priority Belt. Carol Stream just notified us on 8-29-2022 that they will be getting a Single Induction Parcel Sorter (SIPS) It will be installed in the next few weeks and located where LCTS #6 is currently, with LCTS #6 and LO11 Prep relocated east of DBCS#31 at post Q20. CS says the SIPS will augment the APBS machine. CS states there is a large return mailer moving into the 601 area in September. Any discussion of Busse closing includes returning some of the parcel sorting back to the original plants. We asked Palatine about any new parcel sorting machines and were told they are hoping to get one but have nothing official. Palatine will most likely lose two FSS machines so there will be room for new parcel sorting machines. Whatever DeJoy's plan is for Busse, he's not telling.

Jackie Engelhart
President
Dave Baskin
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

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Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248
Email: nwial7140@yahoo.com
Web: nwial7140yahoo.com

Sexual Harassment Case

We received a statement from an employee who had testified at the Palatine P&DC sexual harassment arbitration on 7-25-2022 stating tour 1 supervisor Keke called him a "Snitch" preceded by the F word. When the employee said he would write a statement on her he said she came back 5 minutes later to his machine and accused him of threatening her and he said he was just stating the truth. I reported this to A/Plant Manager Kenyata Moore and a grievance was filed. Apparently, this tour 1 supervisor has a problem with the employee testifying but not with her fellow supervisor sexually harassing employees on tour 1. We were told in Career Orientation that this same supervisor told the employee that breaks are 10 minutes although they have always been 15 minutes at Palatine and that's in writing. The targeted employee feels like he is being retaliated against and I would say that is exactly right. Does this stuff ever end and what kind of people are they hiring to supervise and manage employees?

CS OSHA Complaint

I received a copy of an OSHA complaint filed at Carol Stream which stated "Employees are exposed to hazards associated with excessive heat inside the facility."

There has long been a problem with keeping the plants cool enough in the summer months, and it would probably be worse if management wasn't concerned about keeping computers cool.

Belated Thanks to Chris James

Tour 2 Steward Christopher James retired in May from Palatine and we all thank him for his years of Steward service on all three tours and as Chief Steward on tour 3 when Jack Pyssler was 600 CCD. Chris would not back down when he thought he was right whether with management or anyone else. Thank you and happy retirement!

2022 Scholarships Winners

The 2022 NWIAL Scholarship winners were drawn at the 8-14 Union Meeting as follows:

1. Jubin Bettikkatt daughter of Biby James (Busse)
2. Cieira Thomas, daughter of Tanesha Winters (Bellwood)
3. Jordan Montgomery, son of Crystal Wheeler, CS
4. Santiago Battaglia, son of Cheryl Shadeh, CS
5. Alternate Patrick Jurkulak, son of Pavel Jurkulak (Palatine)
6. Alternate Asia Glass, daughter of Tanska Speight, CS

NWIAL Retirement Seminar

The NWIAL Human Relations Committee will be hosting a Retirement Seminar at the Union Hall on 9-17-2022 per Human Relations Director Vivian Henderson. The annual retirement seminar was cancelled the last two years due to COVID restrictions. Normally we have two sessions but Vivian said there will be one session from 9am to 5pm this year combining CSRS and FERS.

The APWU Retirees Department is sending Instructor Joe Gordon to teach our retirement seminar. Lunch will be served. We ask that all attendees register at their union office or by calling the Union Hall at 630-833-0088. Please let us know if you need a hearing interpreter at least 2 weeks in advance.

USPS Zero Tolerance Policy

We have said it many times but we continue to see employees jeopardize their jobs because of "zero tolerance" incidents. If you are provoked by another employee at the workplace (craft employee or a supervisor) you should walk away and not allow them to provoke you into reacting to them. This could result in both of you being walked out and placed off of work without pay and or fired. Don't lose your job over nothing. Management abuses this policy.

Call for a Steward...

All employees should know to request a Steward if you are called in the office to meet with management. Ask if this could lead to discipline and if so request a Steward and wait for the Steward before talking to management. If you are called in they are most likely looking to issue discipline. **Edgar Young and Union Time** Palatine Tour 3 Maintenance Steward Troy Saldana continues to be denied union time by tour 3 MMO Edgar Young who allegedly told Troy, "according to the Department of Labor he does not have to release him to process grievances on the clock." He is wrong but he does not want to release the Steward on his tour. He allegedly threatened to call the police on an injured employee if he did not leave the building. During the height of COVID when we had contract cleaners at Palatine I had to go to the Plant Manager because tour 3 Custodians were not getting overtime like the other tours. At least two of our Palatine Custodians passed related to COVID during the pandemic So it appears Mr. Young does not like the Union, Stewards, OT, and of course the injured employees. I sat in on a meeting with him once and he would not budge. I would hope that his superiors would let him know that he must release the Steward as grievances are to be processed on the clock. The Maintenance Manager and the Plant Manager have the authority to instruct the MMO to follow the contract whether he likes it or not. They should do it. **Good-by Leonard Morgan** Lenny Morgan was a Palatine Maintenance Steward years ago and a good one. We all liked him because he was a good Steward and a nice guy. He is retiring at the end of August so we wanted to wish him a long happy retirement!

