

# The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Results for 2023  
NWIAL Election  
Winner in Bold

## President

1. Ms. Mary  
Mary Corner 90
2. Bhupendra Patel 221
3. **Dave Baskin 274**

## Vice President

1. Jackie Engelhart  
(unopposed)

## Treasurer

1. Yolanda Safsaf 247
2. **Janice Alexander-  
Scott 310**

## Secretary

1. Arlene Thomas  
(unopposed)

## 600 Clerk Craft

1. Marsee Lloyd  
(unopposed)

## 601 Clerk Craft

1. **Elaine Bartlet-  
Walker 87**
2. Calvin Taylor 70

## 600 Maintenance Craft

1. **Joseph Golden 50**
2. Michael Tijerina 20

## 601 Maintenance Craft

1. Gary LoDolce 21
2. **A. Pritchett 43**

## 600 MVS Director

1. Walter Mitchell Jr.  
(unopposed)

## 601 MVS Director

1. **Kellen Gamble 23**
2. Mike Raia 18

## AO Director

1. Kathy Stokes  
(unopposed)

## Chief Trustee

1. Ray Wience  
(unopposed)

## Trustee Maintenance & MVS Trustee

1. **Tasha Wardlow 67**
2. Rodney Williams 61
3. Gary Meyer 59

## Trustee Clerk

1. Sue Rodriguez  
(unopposed)

## Members have Spoken

At least some of the members have spoken as most of you did not vote. 1,549 ballots were mailed out and 598 ballots were returned. Less than 40 % of the members voted.

The new officers will be installed on 5-7-2023 at the membership meeting.

This is my last week as president and I continue to try to catch up before I become part-time VP.

I will continue to fight for the members as I have always done and will write the Local Line as I have done for 21 years. I hope to meet more of you in the next 3 years.

**Thanks to Calvin Taylor**  
Outgoing 601 CCD Calvin Taylor knows everyone and everyone knows him. He is our longest serving officer and has dedicated his working life to this Local and the APWU. I have had the pleasure of working with Calvin and we have a mutual respect. Many a time Calvin would be at Carol Stream hours past his end of tour waiting on bids or covering on tour 2 when short handed. He missed very few union meetings (always for a good reason) and was one of the few officers to give a report at every meeting. He also took care of the 601 Associate Offices by taking information and retirement watches for the members. Like me, he has put in many years but was still wanting to continue to serve the membership. Nobody is perfect but Calvin did his best for the members for longer than anyone and we thank him for his years of dedication. Calvin is a walking history of the Local due to his years of service going back farther than anyone. Losing an election is not the way he wanted to go out but he has years of service to be proud of and we thank him for that.

May 1, 2023

Jackie Engelhart  
President  
Dave Baskin  
Vice President  
Alan Czerwinski  
News Director

### Special points of interest:

Results for 2023 Election  
Thanks to Calvin Taylor  
Take Action for Dignity  
at Work on April 28.  
Buffalo Grove is Toxic for  
Black Female Clerks  
Northbrook Steward Harassed  
Thank you Melanie Bellmon

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## Take Action for Dignity at Work on April 28

(from APWU Bulletin)

This year, on Workers Memorial Day, postal workers across the country will take action to demand dignity, respect, and adequate staffing to get the job done. and to redouble the labor movement's fight to secure safe workplaces for all. On Friday, April 28, we are kicking off our campaign against one of the biggest safety challenges that we face, toxic work environments. Postal workers deserve a job where we can show up, safely do our work, and clock out knowing that we've contributed to the postal mission. But a vicious cycle of short staffing and a toxic work culture is hurting postal workers and the communities we serve. This is reaching a crisis point and that is why we are taking action. For far too long, the Postal Service's leadership has failed to promote a healthy workplace environment. The culture of bullying and toxicity from managers has created a hostile work environment that makes workers lives miserable, hurts everyone's morale and, too often, forces dedicated workers out of the service. The toxic environment, together with the crisis of short staffing across the country, is hurting our jobs and is hurting the public.

### Toxic workplaces hurt individual postal workers, who suffer effects on our mental and physical health.

Toxic workplaces create physical hazards, as workers are unable to meaningfully report dangerous workplaces to managers who refuse to listen. Toxic workplaces hurt the service that we provide to the public. They lower morale, drive workers out of the Postal Service, and create a vicious cycle of worsening working conditions and poorer service." Northbrook and Buffalo Grove are toxic offices for some of our Clerk members.

## Buffalo Grove is toxic for Black Female Clerks...

For the last few years I have filed many grievances for the hostile work environment at the Buffalo Grove Post Office under Postmaster Jae Cheon and his constantly changing supervisors. Recently, a black female clerk at Buffalo Grove filed a sexual harassment grievance because she states the new supervisor made some comments about her doing him a favor so she would not be homeless because the postmaster wants to fire her. She brought her complaint to the APWU and we filed a grievance while Cheon said prove it. The APWU reported the complaint to Postmaster Jae Cheon and he contacted HR to conduct an investigation to be done by two postmasters from other offices. It was just completed two months later and sent to the HR manager. The supervisor accused of the sexual harassment is still supervising the complainant and issuing her discipline in retaliation for filing the complaint. He is also accused of following black female clerks to the bathroom and referring to the black female clerks as "black bitches". There were no sexual harassment complaints at this office before Mark Pantaleon. Jae Cheon's response on the sexual harassment was to report it but he said that she had to prove it. This is a continuation of the toxic work environment for black female Clerks at Buffalo Grove under Postmaster Jae Cheon. I have asked National Business Agent James Stevenson to get involved with Buffalo Grove and he's looking at grievances and the pattern of black females being fired and or resigning to avoid being fired. The supervisors change but the Postmaster remains the same and is the common denominator. Cheon's response on sexual and other harassment is "prove it".

## Northbrook Steward Harassed

Our Northbrook Steward has a lot on her plate as the new Steward and a newly converted FT Clerk. Postmaster Sabrina McIntosh and Supervisor Vivian Childs are out to get her by fast-tracking discipline for not reporting when she was scheduled to be NS and told at the last minute to report to another office that day. She had a clean record but they issued her a 7 Day Suspension, no Discussion, no Letter of Warning, right to a 7 Day. A month later they issued a 14 Day because she could not stay end tour overtime two days although she had good reasons for not staying on both of the days. This is an abuse of authority and intimidation of the Steward for filing grievances on the many violations going on in this office. **Thank-you Melanie Bellmon** Melanie is the tour 2 Chief Steward at Carol Stream. She has worked diligently to represent the members at CS for many years. She is stepping down at the end of the term and she will be missed by many of us and especially the members on tour 2 Carol Stream. She would call me from time to time with a question or to read a grievance she wrote and she usually had the grievance right with only minor changes to be made. I will miss Melanie on a personal level but will also miss her for the fighter that she has always been. When she is working on a grievance there is no stopping her. When Melanie was working on a grievance she did not back down and fought for that employee. In my opinion, she is one of our best Stewards and the kind of Chief Steward I tried to be, one that looked out for my tour. Thank you for your years of service. You will be missed by me and many others. We hate to see you go but you make up you own mind and are true to yourself.

