

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

NBAs Erika & Nigel!

Congratulations to our newly elected National Business Agents. Erika Williams is the newly elected NBA for the Clerk Craft in the Central Region and Nigel Thomas is the newly elected NBA for the MVS Craft for the Central Region. We are all very proud of them and have watched them as the learned and took on more responsibility with Erika being the tour 3 Chief Steward at Carol Stream and Nigel as the former MVS Director. They both applied themselves to learning the contract and serving the members. They also had help along the way from other Stewards and officers. I know that Erika worked with former tour 3 Carol Stream Chief Steward Ramon DePeralta and learned from him the desire to help the members and be actively on the workroom floor. Erika had big shoes to fill and she filled them. Nigel learned from former Steward Doreene Motley, MVS Director Thomas Artingelli and former National Business Agent Merlie Bell.

600 CCD Lloyd Reports

Marcy reports that four more PSEs will be converted soon at Palatine into residual vacancies. She also reports that Lead Clerks performing TACS work will soon be adding Maintenance and Transportation to their duties.

Carol Stream Line H
Line H grievances filed by Maintenance Craft Director Joe Golden for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2022 were settled for a total of **\$2,200,000.00** on 6-17-2025 but then he had to go through the Overtime Desired Lists for each quarter of each year to determine who was eligible for payment. This is time consuming work but Joe does the work to ensure the correct Custodians are paid. When management does not meet their Line H requirements in the plants grievances have been filed by Joe and eventually settled for big money. Joe is winding down his time as Maintenance Director and will be missed. He is dedicated and has put in hundreds of unpaid hours of his time to file Maintenance grievances. Thank you Joe Golden for all your hard work!

NWIAL President to be Part-time on 11-22-2025

The second reading of the Constitutional Change to change the President to part-time passed the second reading at the membership meeting on 10-19-2025 and goes into effect on 11-22-2025. The change was necessary due to the fact that we are down to slightly more than 1000 members and are spending more for monthly expenses than we take in. The Local is not broke as we have saved money over the last 20 years but if we continue without this change that money will be gone and cannot be replaced. I submitted the change which the Executive Board and the members present at two consecutive meetings voted on and passed. We have always had at least one full-time officer and this will be a big change. Also passing the second reading was a change to increase the hours of the Vice President from 40 to 50 hours per month based on the loss of the full-time president. I have worked well over 40 hours per month since becoming Vice President and there will be more work to do as a result of this change.

October 22, 2025

Dave Baskin
President
Jackie Engelhart
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

NBAs Erika and Nigel
600 CCD Lloyd Reports
Carol Stream Line H
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on 11-22-2025

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Change to Not Raise VP Hours

I was surprised when a change was read (first reading) to not raise the VP hours from 40 to 50 per month when the president becomes part-time. The change to 50 when the president becomes part-time has been in the Constitution since 2019 and had just passed the second reading to go into effect on 11-22-2025. The change to leave the hours at 40 was submitted by Treasurer Janice Alexander-Scott who argued long and hard at the meeting that we cannot afford this increase of 10 hours and that I have made enough money off the Union and should do free hours. *I work approximately 25 free hours every month and have been since the beginning of the term. She argued long and hard as she was passionate about not raising the hours of the Vice President. She said it was about the good of the Local. I don't agree on that. We just reduced the president from full-time to part-time saving the Local 145 hours per month and the \$40,000 annual benefits but we cannot afford to increase the VP hours by 10 per month? I have worked many extra hours all along with a full-time president so that workload will only increase when the president becomes part time. The president change will put the Local on firm financial ground as that was the change that will save 145 hours per month and \$40,000 per year, so why fight about an increase of 10 hours to offset the loss of 145 hours per month? This does not make sense to me. I am the one who submitted the change to keep the Local financially sound. I have always worked hard for the members but the we cannot run on officers working unpaid hours. The second reading of this change submitted by our Treasurer will be read at the November meeting on the third Sunday of the month.

Doing more with less...

When the President becomes part-time the President and Vice President will work together to cover office hours at the Union Hall. If each of them works 50 hours per month that leaves a gap in the hours to be covered so I proposed to delete the Associate Office Director who does not work at the Union Hall and add an Assistant VP to work at the Union Hall and assist with AO representation. Long-serving AO Director Kathy Stokes recently retired from the Post Office and this is a good time make these changes based on our need to do more with less. Kathy was in agreement with this change as long as the Assistant position would be mainly covering AOs. The change to eliminate the AO Director was not passed so we did not read the change to add an Assistant Vice President. I don't recall seeing any AO members at this meeting with the exception of Kathy and she recently retired. The members present were mostly from the plants and they felt we should keep the AO Director. Kathy does not file many grievances so Dave and I file mostly all the grievances for the AOs. We only have two newer Stewards as senior Steward (Franklin Park) Arlene Thomas-Benford retired. Since the AO Director must come from an AO who do we have that is qualified? We have solicited in the past for Stewards in all but the very small offices (under 5 members) and we have found few takers. We get our best information from the active AO members who call or email us with violations. Some AO Stewards have quit and some have gone into management. The change to Assistant VP would allow a member or Steward from any office to run for the job instead of limiting it to only AOs. This would give us flexibility to provide the best representation.

Congratulations to Former Steward Kyle Popek, newly elected Maintenance NBA!

Kyle started out as a Steward at Palatine and then reassigned to Carol Stream. He then reassigned to Arizona and continued to learn his craft at each office he went to. He is the newly elected NBA for the Maintenance Craft in the Western Region. He is young and will be working for many years.

How Stewards Learn...

Kyle, Erika, and Nigel are examples of Stewards learning by filing grievances, reading the contract, and working for the members. The way to learn is by doing. Dave and I and all our Stewards learn by filing the grievances. Going to seminars and classes is good but you have to do the work. Those that work hard for the members today are tomorrow's Union Leaders and they will mentor other Stewards behind them. The Stewards at the plants have other Stewards to teach them but its not like it used to be as we do not have as many Stewards as we used to. Back in the day when I started we had 9 Stewards on tour 2 at Palatine and now we have 3, one for each craft, and two of them are the Craft Directors. Back then the Local had over 3000 members and we are now down to close to 1000 members.

Working for the Members

Over the years I have found that most of the members appreciate what you do and that is why when someone calls me when I am off, I get back to them, and I work extra hours to make sure that those who do contact me have their grievance filed in a timely manner and to the best of my ability. Members want to be treated fairly in the workplace and know they can count on the Union when their contractual rights are being violated and/or they are being treated unfairly. We all want fairness.

