

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Melrose Park

Since the return of Supervisor Maletsah (Mae) Jolliff we have been super busy in Melrose Park which includes Hillside and Northlake. This office has always had grievances but now its shot up to number 1. When Jolliff went on a long-term detail most of the Clerks were happy and hoped she would not be back, including the Clerk 204B. I sat in on a pre-disciplinary interview recently and found her to be aggressive and condescending. She read a mile a minute, through 3 lists of questions for 3 PDI's for the PSE Clerk. When she was finished she smiled at us and said "Have a nice day!"

My blood pressure was up when this ordeal was over and I went to vent to the new postmaster, Scott Powers, about her aggressive demeanor. He listened and said something about how she was improving his CSV (productivity). I have observed more than one mild-mannered postmaster to allow an overly aggressive supervisor to create a hostile work environment. In order to improve his

CSV, Scott Powers is allowing Ms. Jolliff to create havoc on the Clerks. She is requiring documentation for absences of 24 hours or less with no one on restricted sick leave, abusing the deems desirable (for protection of the USPS) provision in the ELM. She is sending Clerks out of their bid duty station to the other branches while she sends window-qualified PSE Clerks home with short hours. Senior Clerks should work their bid and PSEs should be sent to cover at other branches. She issued the new Steward a 2-page written Official Discussion although the contract says an Official Discussion is verbal. I brought this to the postmaster who said it would be taken care of but now we are at Step 2 of the grievance procedure. This "Discussion" was actually an attempt by Jolliff to intimidate the Clerk by saying she was not working fast enough and not meeting productivity standards. Article 34 states the parties agree to "A fair days work for a fair days pay". Jolliff is in violation of Article 16 and Article 34 as she tries to intimidate this Clerk.

Thank you NBA James Stevenson!

I forgot to thank National Business Agent, James Stevenson Jr. for scheduling the Palatine Sexual Harassment grievance for arbitration and for doing a great job in arguing the case at the arbitration. Thank you Mr. Stevenson! Arbitrator John Fletcher sustained the Union's grievance stating **"SDO Sexually harassed several female employees creating a hostile work environment. Harassed employees award \$2,000.** Management said the report was **confidential** and so they did nothing at all. The arbitrator states **"While the above is a mere summary of the devastating testimony and written evidence accepted in this matter, without more it is conclusive that the charges leveled against SDOSW by the female employees who testified and those who have complaints on file in this class action grievance have merit - SDOSW engaged in sexual harassment that contributed to a hostile work environment. A remedy is required."** The supervisor is now on a detail to another facility. Report sexual harassment.

Floor Edition

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SIPS machine CS & Busse

Busse was the first to get a SIPS machine last year at the Annex. They now have one in the Annex and in the plant, and Carol Stream recently got one. We already had an RI-399 meeting at CS for the SIPS but no meeting was ever scheduled at Busse. There should be no dispute who is assigned to what work functions on the SIPS as the USPS at the national level has determined the craft for each of the 7 functions. Both APWU and the Mailhandler Union filed disputes seeking to claim more work and both disputes were denied by Arbitrator Sharnoff. Carol Stream seems to be following the national staffing but Busse has been assigning Mailhandlers. The Functions for SIPS are

1. Retrieval and staging of packages in swim/staging lanes for access by stager/facers **MH**
2. Removing empty equipment containers from staging areas **MH**
3. Retrieval of full containers from staging/swim lanes and pull, scan, and sort the large non-machinable packages from each container **Clerk**
4. Singulating/separating packages and facing/feeding packages onto induction belt **Clerk**
5. In Functions 1 operations, sweeping packages (removing full containers and replacing with empty containers) includes sort plan switch out: **MH**
6. In Function 4 operations, monitor discharge bins and pull, scan and sort medium and large no read/no barcode packages into the proper discharge bin, including sort plan switch out" **Clerk**
7. Transporting full containers to dispatch area **MH**

We have been filing cross-craft grievances for every pay period the machine is running at Busse.

Congratulations Jeanne Grace

I have been knowing Jeanne Grace for a long time and she has always been outspoken when it comes to her contractual rights. She was so disliked by then Northbrook Postmaster Narbi Miulli that Miulli issued her not one but two removals hoping that at least one would stick. Miulli tried to fire Jeanne twice for zero tolerance when she was the one who was in violation of the Joint Statement in regards to "no bullying". Jeanne was off for a few months and did not get all her back pay but she persevered and the union got her back to work with some of her back pay. When the Northbrook Steward transferred to another facility Jeanne became the Steward and has done a great job. At a certain point the District got tired of me and some of the NALC employees complaining about the hostile and abusive work environment created by Miulli at Northbrook so they detailed her to Glenview where she remains. She has maintained a lower profile in Glenview, meaning she has not tried to fire innocent employees under the guise of zero-tolerance as she did to Jeanne and a hard working PSE at Northbrook after the PSE reported that a Carrier threw a parcel at her foot. The Carrier was a 204B so Miulli had her walked out and then fired her. The hard-working PSE was returned to work with back pay and then converted to career, but suffered due to the actions of Miulli. Jeanne Grace was not afraid to stand up to the person who fired her and kept on standing up for the employees at Northbrook. I cannot thank Jeanne enough for standing strong against the bullying she and others endured at Northbrook under Narbi Miulli. She has earned her retirement. Thanks Jeanne and Boo Radley! (Boo is her service dog, a Corgi)

Constitutional Changes Pass the First Reading...

Three Constitutional Changes I submitted were read and passed at the November Membership Meeting on 11-13-2022. The changes were to have 600 and 601 Directors for MVS and Maintenance. Currently we have one Director for each of these crafts to cover all three plants, Busse, Palatine and Carol Stream, and its not enough. The reason for the change for Maintenance is Craft Director Joe Golden has been working 2 to 3x the number of hours he is paid for. I asked Joe when he first became craft director if we should have 2 Directors but he said he wanted consistency. After the last three years putting in 2 to 3x the hours and not being able to keep up, he is in agreement that we need to have two Maintenance Directors. There is also the problem of one Director not being able to spend enough time at all three plants. Employees complain they do not see enough of their Craft Director. These changes were made to improve the overall representation. The 3rd change is to add the extra positions to the Executive Board. All changes passed unanimously and will have their 2nd reading at the January meeting as there is no meeting in December. We would like to have the changes in place for the 2023 NWIAL election...
NWIAL Election Committee
We are soliciting members for the 2023 NWIAL Election Committee to be appointed by the president at the January meeting. We hope to have some committee members who have been on the committee before so they know what they are doing and to teach those who do not have experience. The Election Committee consists of 3 members and one alternate. Letters may be faxed to fax # 630-833-0248 and addressed to President Engelhart.
Happy Thanksgiving to all!!!

