

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

October 17, 2016

Dimondstein Team Wins Big Victory!
(I) denotes incumbent
* denotes the winner

Director
Joyce B. Robinson *
(I) 18,754
Charles P. Smith
9,468

Motor Vehicle Business Agent
Central Region (ours)
Alvin O. Branch
139
William Wright*
295

Jackie Engelhart
President
Walter Elerby Jr.
Vice President
Alan Czerwinski
News Director

President
M. Dimondstein *(I)
33,538
Jerry Stidman
6,618

Clerk Division Director
Clint Bureson *(I)
13,559
Ross Baker
6,095

Dimondstein Ticket Won

Mark Dimondstein gets credit for leading APWU boldly back into the fight. He made APWU a more activist union and led us to a decent contract when USPS wanted give-backs. He organized the fight to protect Customer Service (Window Clerk) jobs endangered by the USPS secret deal to outsource this work to lower paid Staples employees and drive business away from post offices nationwide. This was a huge fight and is not over but we have fought back and Staples is reconsidering this deal. This is what had to be done to stop USPS from giving our work away. Mark deserved to win and most of his slate were the better candidates. One major exception was the race for Vice President where the incumbent, Debby Szeredy won because she was on Mark's ticket and not because she was the most qualified. Greg Bell and Jeff Kehlert are much more qualified.

Special points of interest:

Dimondstein Ticket Wins Big Victory!
Dimondstein Ticket Won
APWU Election Continued...
Early Voting Begins 10-24-16
Abused in the Associate Offices Plant Issues...
Carol Stream APBS
Palatine Flat PARS
Clerks Must be Vigilant

Vice President
Debby Szeredy *(I)
17,495
Jeff Kehlert
9,690
Greg Bell
12,940

Assistant Clerk Director B
Lynn Pallas-Barber*
(I) 14,135
Renee Breeden
5,543

Industrial Relations Director
Tony D. McKinnon
Sr. (I) 10,244
Vance Zimmerman *
18,277

Maintenance Division Director
Steven Raymer *
(I) 3,558
Robert (Bob) Hock
2,679

Legislative/Political Director
Judy Beard* (I)
27,778
Thomas R. Benson
11,641

Assistant Maintenance Director
Terry B. Martinez *(I)
3,343
Michael Burris
2,824

Health Plan Director
John L. Marcotte*
(I) 22,057
Robert Furbush
4,505
Sarah J. Rodriguez
6,380
Lisa A. Norwood
6,512

Retirees Department Director
Nancy E. Olumekor*
(I) 7,191
Karen Swift
1,548
Desi Neurohr
1,258
Joe Gordon
1,354

Research & Education

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: nwial7140@yahoo.com

APWU Election Continued...

Greg Bell who came in second has served as Vice President and the Industrial Relations Director. Jeff Kehlert is a senior Business Agent who has written numerous instructional books used by the APWU. Jeff's energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge are impressive and we would have been lucky to have him in the #2 spot. Both of them are very qualified for this job. In this case being on the ticket trumped who was most qualified, and incumbent Debby Szeredy was re-elected over two more qualified candidates in a three-way race for Vice President. The good news is that our very competent Maintenance NBA Vance Zimmerman was elected as Industrial Relations Director and will replace Tony McKinnon Sr. Vance decided to run because he knew first-hand that many NBAs were unhappy with McKinnon. Vance has been an excellent NBA and he is the right person to be the Industrial Relations Director. Locally, we did not support the incumbent Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer because he agreed to the major changes in how Custodial work is performed in the MS-47 TL-5 agreement. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of custodians in many staffing packages and forced our Custodians to work with supplies that are more for office cleaning than industrial cleaning. He is responsible for this Fiasco and many Maintenance employees voted for change in Robert Hock. With 3,558 votes for Raymer and 2,679 for Hock, Hock did very well against the incumbent who was on the Dimondstein slate. The number of votes for Hock should send a message to Raymer. Many APWU members did not vote at all. Only 40,156 votes were received for President out of almost 200,000 APWU members.

Early Voting Begins 10-24-16

Early voting in Illinois begins on 10-24-16, and it's easier to vote early than it is to fight the crowds going to the polls on election day. Election day is 11-8-16 but don't wait until election day to vote. The Hatch Act is a federal law stating federal employees may not engage in political activity while on duty; in any room or building occupied by a US government federal agency; while wearing a uniform or other similar item that identifies the employing agency; or using a government vehicle. The Hatch Act prohibits distributing campaign literature or wearing campaign related items while on duty or in a federal building. The Hatch Act prohibits us from telling you who to vote for but does not stop us from telling you to vote for candidates who support Labor and a Public Postal Service. Do not stay home on election day because when we vote, we win. Take advantage of early voting which starts in IL on 10-24-16. **Abuse in the Associate Offices** Non-ODL Clerks at Northbrook have been required to work six days per week and ten hours per day since June due to management incompetence. Clerks are threatened with discipline for not working overtime. A non-ODL Clerk was instructed to take a longer lunch on her NS day than the one hour lunch on her bid. Not only is she forced to work her NS day but forced to take an extended lunch per the Postmaster, Narbi Miulli. Prospect Heights Postmaster Ellen Eaheart blocked off five weeks on the Clerk vacation schedule for herself because she is allowed to work 15 hours per week. She took several holidays for herself thereby denying them to Clerks. She is not a Clerk! She also takes Clerks off the clock if they are late from their ten (10) minute break. These violations will be filed on.

Plant PSE Issues...

Newly converted PSE Clerks at the plants did not have to serve a new 90 day probation because they have all served at least two (2) successive 360-day terms. The newly converted Clerks are not being allowed to use annual per Section 512.313 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, which states "*New employees are not credited with and may not take annual leave until they complete 90 days of continuous employment under one or more appointments without a break.*" This should have been explained to them during Career Orientation. **Carol Stream APBS** The Carol Stream APBS is up and running. The Clerk bids will be posted as Parcel Post Distribution Machine Operator, which is the Standard Job Description for SPBS and APBS. Management wanted to post Mail Processing Clerk duty assignments but the job description has not been changed at the national level and cannot be changed locally. Therefore APBS Mail Processing Clerk jobs were cancelled and will be reposted. **Palatine Flat PARS** We were told by senior management that Flat PARS is part of the AFSM and is Clerk work, just as PARS is part of Automation and is Clerk work. Palatine Management says they will post additional Clerk bids for FPARS but has not said how many or when. Only AFSM bid Clerks should be working in Flat PARS on overtime. **Clerks Must be Vigilant** The last Palatine MH newsletter urged Mailhandlers to write statements as several grievances have been filed on crossing crafts. I would give the same advice to Clerks as most of time Clerks are being violated as management loves to give our work to MHs in the plants and Carriers in the AOs.

