

# The Local Line

*"A PPA Award Winning Publication"*

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

**Update by: Jackie Engelhart**

## Safety Concerns...

USPS has a new Safety Program called "Safety Ambassador". What's the difference between Safety Ambassador and Safety Captain? We do not know as we have not been involved in the roll out of this program and our national officers are asking for feedback on whether management is meeting with the union on this program and whether they are providing us with any input on the selection process. To my knowledge the answer are no and no. APWU has filed a national grievance on this. Why waste money rolling out a new program when we have already a Safety Captain program? Could it be management wants more control over who monitors safety? Maybe they don't want a craft employee who is aggressive about safety. Steward Johnny Love Sr. represents APWU on the Safety and Health Committee and is a long serving Safety Captain. Maybe management would like more control so they don't have to contend with employees who will disagree with them on safety concerns.

## Palatine IPP Belt

Clerks work Priority and Incoming Parcel Post on the IPP belt at Palatine. A/Plant Manager Wulf has decided to set up an Ad Hoc unit of BMCs and make the Clerks walk the mail from one BMC to another instead of working it on the belt. She states there are no mats in the Ad Hoc unit because they would be a safety hazard so they are walking back and forth on the hard floors all day. Clerks are bending over into Gaylords to get mail in this unit because she does not have a dumper. That is what I am being told by the Clerks but I don't think it makes sense to replace the belt operation with a walk-around operation for lack of a Mailhandler dumper. Some of the NMOs that Clerks are bending over into Gaylords and walking around are heavy. Ergonomically speaking the belt makes more sense when it comes to their safety and health. I have gone round and round with Ms. Wulf about this being unsafe. She said Safety Guy John Nieves has reviewed the area and found no issues. Safety is not a concern.

## Thank –you Jill Dewey!

Jill was the In-Plant Support Manager at Palatine for a short time before she retired on 4-27-18. She came to Palatine a few years ago from Rockford after USPS gutted what was one of their most efficient plants. Jill was tired of the 1.5 hour commute each way and she retired. She came to Palatine as the tour 3 MDO and was fair with the employees. She was moved to tour 1 by then Plant Manager Mayberry with Brenda Valentine going to tour 3. I'm not quite sure how that was supposed to fix whatever needed fixing but EAS have no rights. I thank Jill because she was fair with employees and the union and because she did not repost Palatine bids like Carol Stream did (twice) because higher-ups said throw employees out of their bids and they did. What was the difference? CS In-Plant Manager Doug St. John said CS had to follow the F1 Scheduler exactly as they were told. At Palatine Jill looked at the anomalies and made her case to the higher-ups. She used common sense and prevented an unnecessary mess for employees. Thank you Jill Dewey!!!

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

## Special points of interest:

Safety Concerns  
Palatine IPP Belt  
Thank-you Jill Dewey!  
McConnell vs. USPS (EEOC)  
Contract Negotiations in June  
NWIAL Shirts for Members  
Labor-Management Meetings  
Climate Assessment Requested

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: nwial7140ayahoo.com

### **McConnell vs. USPS (EEOC)**

On 3-28-18 an article was printed on the APWU website regarding the Class Action lawsuit filed for employees subjected to the USPS National Reassessment Program (NRP) from 5-5-2006 to 7-1-2011. It states the EEOC Decision that the NRP discriminated against injured workers and violated their rights under the Rehabilitation Act is final. More than 130,000 people may benefit from this decision including current and former APWU members who were put out of work by USPS under NRP. This was a plan to get rid of injured workers and it worked well. Many retired or went on OWCP when their job offers were taken. Members of the class (those who were affected) must have filed a claim within 30 days of receiving notice from the USPS to avoid forfeiting any potential relief \$. Notices were mailed by USPS to all eligible class members on 3-19 and 3-20-2018. The law firm who filed the legal claims before the EEOC informed the APWU that they made a mailing to all class members on 3-24 and 3-26-2018. If you did not receive notification and you believe you should be part of the class you can still submit a claim. The law firm Thomas & Solomon encourages claims to be filed no later than 4-12-2018. For more information employees may call 585-272-0540 or toll free at 877-272-4066 or go to the website [www.nrpclassaction.com](http://www.nrpclassaction.com). The EEOC lawsuit filed by Sandra McConnell and made into a Class Action by Thomas & Solomon has been more successful than the grievance procedure as NPR grievances have not been settled. Some of the grievances were withdrawn at Step 3 when employees retired from the Postal Service. The EEO Class Action begun by Sandra McConnell has finally forced the USPS to pay for NRP.

### **Contract Negotiations in June**

APWU contract negotiations will begin in June and we will submit resolutions for contract changes. One we have submitted before which was voted down was to allow Clerks excessed into another craft to be allowed to decline their retreat rights back to the Clerk craft. At Palatine Clerks were excessed into the Mailhandler Craft for years and built up seniority and were abruptly forced back to the Clerk craft. If they wanted to go back to the MH craft they had to write a letter to management and start a new period of seniority. This is not fair to them and the APWU changed the contract to allow Clerks excessed to Custodian to decline retreat rights and remain Custodians in Maintenance. This change would have to be worked out with the MH Union. Another change voted down in past conventions is the elimination of penalty (V) pay which some say denies APWU employees overtime vs. crafts with no V pay. I will be working on resolutions to be submitted at the Illinois Postal Workers convention we will be hosting soon in Lombard. APWU members who would like something changed in the contract should write down their change and or call me with the change. This is where change comes from.

### **NWIAL Shirts for Members**

We are buying NWIAL T-shirts for every member who wants one. Members who want a shirt should put their name on a list in their facility union office to include their size if they have not already done so. The first order was distributed to members 2 weeks ago. We will place a second order for those who missed the first order. Lists are available in the plants at the union office and members in small offices without a Steward can call 630-833-0088 x12 and give your information to me.

### **Labor-Management Meetings**

We meet in the plants 2-3 times per year and in the small offices at least once per year depending on the amount of problems they have. Our problem offices are Palatine P&DC, Park Ridge & Northbrook. Employees in any office with ongoing problems should contact their Steward and let me know. The more problems within an office the more reason to schedule Labor-Management meetings. When you have managers who do not treat employees with dignity and respect you have problems. The offices I named above have either a Plant Manager or a Postmaster who do not treat the employees with dignity and respect. Carol Stream Plant Manager Quintin Mayberry is not on this list but some of his MDOs are, and if that continues it is on him. Chicago Metro L&DC Plant Manager Dan Halfman has a tough job but still treats employees with dignity and respect and so far seems willing to work with the union.

### **Climate Assessment Requested**

Last August a Climate Assessment was done in Park Ridge due to a Postal Inspector's complaint. MPOO William Misinski responded to her complaint but not to complaints of the employees. The results of the 2017 Climate Assessment were horrible but nothing changed at Park Ridge under Postmaster "Calamity". She continues to cross crafts and have supervisors do clerk work. I asked Mr. Misinski to do a Climate Assessment at Northbrook due to the conduct of Postmaster Narbi Miulli who I believe creates a hostile work environment for employees who stand up to her. MPOO Misinski has ignored me. One Clerk was accused of zero tolerance incidents. She paid \$500.00 and passed a lie detector. Could management have passed? They are trying to fire her again.

