

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

The New Contract...

By now you know we have a new contract, and most of its highlights. President Dimondstein and the national negotiating team refused to agree to givebacks or the creation of a third lower wage pay scale, so they were had to go to arbitration. That was not the end of their work, but a continuation of the fight for a fair and decent contract for all APWU - represented employees. When the negotiations ended at an impasse the Union continued the fight for a good contract and not the one that USPS wanted to give us. This fight required much time and effort by our national officers, and it cost money to lawyers and expert witnesses. The Union did their job and the costs of winning a new contract through negotiation and or arbitration are paid for by members who pay dues. It's unfair that the 15% who are not members, who do not pay dues, receive benefit for what the rest of us pay for. We are required by law (passed by Congress) to represent scabs who free-ride of the rest of us.

The Good News...

The good news for the career employees is we have not lost anything, and will get a 3.8% raise for the 40 month period, and a continuation of the same COLA formula. PSEs got a bigger raise of 6.8% for the same period because they do not get the COLAs, and 50 cents more over the 40 months. PSEs will now have six paid holidays, and can opt for pay or earn leave. All PSEs in Maintenance will be converted to full time career and all MVS PSEs will be converted to full time or part-time flexible within 60 days of the date of the Award on 7-8-16. PSE Clerks in 200 man-year offices with a seniority date of more than 2.5 years will also be converted to career full-time in 60 days. While we have had some success in converting PSE Clerks at Busse and Carol Stream to career locally, we were not able to convert at Palatine due to the large number of excessed Clerks who had retreat rights to Palatine. The last of the excessed Clerks were returned on 7-9-16 and this means that PSE Clerks can be converted going forward.

Protections Extended...

The no lay off protection is extended to all APWU employees who were career on 7-8-16, and will be earned after six years for employees who attain career status after 7-8-16. The 50 mile radius for excessing is extended for the 40 month contract life. The MVS Craft is protected from any further subcontracting for the life of this contract, which ends on 9-20-2018. This is a major accomplishment as the USPS notified APWU on 6-19-2013 they were considering subcontracting all the 162 PVS sites. This was after Arbitrator Goldberg sustained a national level grievance on 3-4-2013 filed on USPS decision to privatize all PVS sites in California. After losing this case they still wanted to go forward with privatizing the entire MVS Craft nationwide. APWU fought these efforts to eliminate PVS, and now has protected MVS from new subcontracting until 9-20-2018. Thanks to the union the MVS Craft is stronger. APWU wanted to protect what we have and make life better for PSEs and they accomplished that.

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She Has to Go!

Within the Union Arbitrator Ann Kenis is seen as favoring USPS. Many of our Business Agents feel that going in front of Ann Kenis means USPS has the advantage. Management must agree because the vast majority of arbitrations scheduled in the Lakeland District are in front of Arbitrator Kenis. Jacqueline Drucker is also on the panel but few dates are scheduled with Drucker so the Union keeps losing in arbitration with Kenis. This has been going on for years to the point that Business Agents feel they have little chance to win a case with her. Recently Clerk NBA James Stevenson did a case in Highland Park for requiring the Custodians to collect and shrink-wrap empty equipment instead of having the Clerks do the work. Not only is this not Custodian work but management counts the hours as custodial cleaning work. Since there are no Mailhandlers in the Associate Offices this work should fall to the Clerks but like all AOs, Highland Park is short of Clerks so they assigned the work to Custodians. NBA Stevenson did a great job at the hearing while the management advocate did not put on much of a case. He had the Postmaster contradicting himself during the questioning so Kenis was asking him for clarification. We fully expected to win this case and we believe management also expected we would win the case. We gave Kenis too much credit, as she did what we have come to expect, and found a way to give it to management. As I said to NBA Stevenson after we go the Award, the management Advocate could have called that one in and won. This is the same Arbitrator who said management complied with the Dobry Award after they cancelled a hearing with Drucker and got it re-scheduled with their favorite Arbitrator. She has to go!

Motley Crue/Thanks Doreene

My younger brother loved a rock band called Motley Crue who he simply called "the Crue". When I think of the impending retirement of my friend, Doreene Motley, I think of the name of that band, because for the last few years, Motley was my crew. She was a Carol Stream Steward of course, but also a National Advocate who rarely turned down an arbitration case regardless of whether or not the National Business Agent felt it was a good case or a "winner". She loved doing arbitrations and it showed as she worked very hard to prepare each case that she did. Sometimes she got discouraged as many of the cases she did were cases the NBAs did not want to do, and many of them were in front of Arbitrator Ann Kenis, who was very hard on the union. Doreene also served as the Chairperson of the Local Constitution Committee for the past few years. The Local owes her a debt of gratitude for her years of service as a Steward, a National Advocate, and the Constitution Chairperson. I owe her a debt of gratitude for her unselfish service as the Chairperson of the Election Committee for the past two elections, keeping things on track when at least one candidate was creating chaos. She had past experience in the job and the iron will to ensure that whatever the shenanigans, she was up to the challenge, and did not allow the election to be disrupted. Doreene Motley has served the Local with integrity and passion for years and she will be missed. Considering all the positions that she has filled, she was the "crew". As many of us near retirement we look forward to not working so much but this union workhorse has paid her dues in many ways. I want to thank her for all she has done for the members of the Local and for her steadfast friendship.

Passing the Torch...

Within the next few years many of us will be heading into retirement. I will be 62 in August and will have 40 years on 9-27-16, but would like to stick around for a few more years, health permitting. The Local has been fortunate to have many experienced stewards and officers continuing to serve. Most of them do an excellent job. We have a few younger stewards who continue to gain knowledge from the older stewards so that when the time comes they will be ready for the passing of the torch to the next generation of unionists. We all learned from others who came before us and we pass on our knowledge to the next group. I believe passing on knowledge has been the key to our success.

Organizing Shirts are in...

PSE members who have come to union office at their facility and put their name on the ordering list will receive their shirts soon as they have arrived and will be available at their union offices. These shirts are being paid for by the Local because the National stopped buying shirts for new members in 2013 and most PSE members did not get a shirt when they signed up. Career employees should have gotten shirts years ago when they first started, and non-members who decide to join still get \$25.00 as an incentive. For members who want to buy the new organizing shirt, the cost is \$11.00 for S, M, L, and XL, \$12.00 for 2X, \$13.00 for 3X, and \$14.00 for 4X, and can be ordered at your facility union office.

Scholarships are now \$750.00

Chief Trustee Ray Wience informed me that the amount of the NWIAL scholarships increased this year from \$500.00 to \$750.00. Applications are still available for the drawing to be held at the next union meeting on 8-14-16 at 2:30 pm at the Elmhurst Union Hall.

