

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

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The "Lone Wolf" ... Palatine employees were happy to learn Elizabeth Wulf was no longer the A/Plant Manager as of 6-15-18 and was returning to her POOM job. She was always a "Lone Wolf" and never leader of the pack for craft or management employees. She seemed to look at all employees as sheep to harass and intimidate. Just prior to hearing that she was going I noticed a sign hanging in the lobby at Carol Stream that said **"Its nice to be important but its important to be nice"** and thought its too bad she does not understand this. Many of the things she did upset the employees such as closing Leave Control, changing break times, threatening discipline for clocking in and out a few units early as we have always done per the 5 minute leeway. None of these changes made much difference in efficiency but made a big difference in morale. She micro-managed Palatine with poor results. Employees could not wait for her to leave and wonder why it took so long but are now ready to move on and reset.

Jeffrey Grendziak is the A/Plant Manager
He is the Plant Manager Green Bay WI P&DC. I met with the new Plant Manager on 6-21-18 at his invitation and he said he wants to communicate with the unions and the employees, which is a welcome change for us. Palatine needs to reset after the past few months and hopefully with a reasonable plant manager in place the service and morale will start to improve. Palatine has always been a good plant with good employees but does better with a good leader. I told Mr. Grendziak that I thought Chuck Sciorba was good at Palatine because he went out of his way to communicate with the union and employees. Mr. Grendziak did say Chuck is a mentor to him. We talked about trying to right some of what we consider to be the wrongs inflicted on Palatine such as closing Leave Control and switching that office with the old tour office. We talked about needing two Clerks on a DBCS, and allowing IPP Clerks to work mail on the belt. He plans to meet with 600 CCD Lloyd and MCD Joe Golden soon.

Carol Stream Jobs on Hold per Headquarters
In the Last Local Line we state that Carol Stream was to get more Clerk jobs as we were informed by senior CS management. These jobs have been put on hold per headquarters and local management is trying to get that changed. This shows that staffing is dictated by USPS headquarters and not locally. CS had 46 able-bodied Clerks without bids so those jobs were needed just so every FT Clerk has a bid as they should have. I have requested the current number of unencumbered (no bid) Clerks but we know CS does not have enough Clerk bids. CS is still planning on taking Palatine PARS mail in August so more bids will definitely be needed then. The most recent vacated bid was reverted so it's confusing to understand management's staffing. CS management says they need additional jobs but must convince headquarters who think they can revert every job vacated and still get the mail out. Plant Managers know this is not true but they have no control over staffing. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

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Special points of interest:

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One Down, One to Go
NWIAL Scholarships 2018

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Dan Halfman is a Welcome Change at Chicago Metro...

Dan Halfman has been the A/Plant Manager at Chicago Metro L&DC (Busse) Since January of this year. He has been a welcome change from Devette Murphy who is now the A/Plant Manager in Bloomington, IL. After some years it became obvious that Busse was not going to improve under her. I don't know what that says about the future of Bloomington but Busse definitely needed a change. Ms. Murphy was not very cooperative with the APWU and her favorite answer seemed to be "no". Minor issues such as headphones and leaners on the key stations on the High Speed Universal Sorter were a no go with her, but we now have leaners so Clerks don't have to stand eight hours in one spot. I have found Mr. Halfman to be reasonable when I approach him with a problem which means he shows concern for the employees. An example of the problems we had with Ms. Murphy were the last Local Negotiations when we tried to make minor changes in the Local Memo. She refused to discuss any of our changes if we would not agree to give up the 15% for vacations and incidental leave and change it to whatever they felt they could allow off. Busse seemed to be going down so a change was made and Dan is working hard to improve service while working with the Union and having consideration for workers. We have been filing grievances for years on the NMO operations as Distribution is Clerk work. When we signed the RI-399 Inventory A/Plant Manager Tony Alvarado said NMO was a dual 50-50 operation but management has not honored that and uses more Mailhandlers. Ms. Murphy failed to set up an RI-399 meeting for years but that may change now thanks to Mr. Halfman.

APWU Contract Negotiations Begin on 6-26-18...

As APWU contract negotiations begin the union asks all members to wear union shirts or stickers to show support and solidarity in the fight for a new and fair contract. Per the last APWU news bulletin. *"APWU is fighting for decent pay raises and to protect our COLA. We are focused on job security by defending our no lay-off protections, limiting subcontracting of our work, renewing the 50-mile limit on excessing and expanding postal services. We want to bridge the gap between divisive and unfair multi-tiered pay scales and increase the number of career employees. We will strive to improve the rights and benefits of both PSEs and PTFs. Our union will also seek to address management's lack of safety enforcement and an increasingly hostile work environment, often connected to a lack of proper staffing. The USPS agenda is very different: the lowest pay increase they can get away with, eliminate the COLA, take away our no lay-off protections, and add more low-wage tiers to the workforce. The battle lines are drawn in this set of negotiations. Wear your sticker and let your co-workers, and management know that you are standing up for good jobs, a good contract and quality service for postal customers."* Wear you union shirts! **COPA is Important!!!** Union dues keep the union in business but cannot be used for political contributions, so we need our members to support COPA, which stands for Committee on Political Action and is needed to support national lawmakers who can vote for or against the future of the USPS and your job security. Just \$2 per pay period = \$52.00 per year x all APWU members. Money buys influence and the privatizers have lots of \$\$\$ to spend.

One Down, One to Go...

I have been dealing with two anti-employee installation heads but with the departure of Liz Wulf as Palatine A/Plant Manager that leaves Postmaster Narbi Miulli in Northbrook as the big headache. This is another example of a manager who is not doing very well in service but likes to come down on the employees like a ton of bricks. She also should consider the idea that *"Its nice to be important but its more important to be nice."* I don't see that happening any more than I see it for Ms. Wulf. I cannot help but think of the senior Clerk off of work on Removal because of what I consider to be a gross abuse of authority and supported by two supervisors who in my opinion are not much better. Zero Tolerance has been twisted beyond recognition in this office and used as a tool of Removal. I wrote to the District Manager, Deborah Woodrum to request a Climate Assessment in Northbrook based on the hostile work environment but she declined. Miulli was Postmaster in Lombard with bad results and ugly stories. In my opinion this is a manager who will never know how to treat craft employees except those few who know how to play the game. This type of manager does not improve service but ruins morale. **NWIAL Scholarships 2018** Ray Wience is on the case again with the NWIAL scholarships. Who is Ray Wience? He is our Chief Trustee who retired from Carol Stream last November. We will award four scholarships at the 8-12-18 union meeting when Ray has members pull applications from the Bozo Drum. Forms are available at the plant union offices and will be mailed to all Associate Offices. Scholarship forms must be returned to Ray Wience at the Elmhurst Union Hall by 230pm on 8-12-18.

