

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Carol Stream to Get More Clerk Jobs!

Management notified the union that they have been given approval by the Great Lakes Area to create additional Clerk duty assignments at the Carol Stream facility. There are currently 46 able bodied Clerks without bids at CS because they only posted the number of bids that the Function 1 Scheduler called for. Not having enough bids for all FT Clerks is a violation of the contract for which a grievance can be filed so they needed to add bids. A few months ago they were ready to reduce the number of CS Clerks by 70 based on excessing and attrition and now they are adding 57 bids. This will take the Clerk complement from 298 to 350. CS management states 26 more bids will be posted for PARS and FPARs when that mail is moved from Palatine to Carol Stream. In the past they have stated this will happen in August 2018. With the addition of the 57 jobs and the 26 jobs for PARS the CS Clerk complement will jump from 298 to 376 which is good news for CS!!!

Palatine is the Loser

Palatine continues to revert Clerk jobs as they prepare to lose the PARS and FPARS mail to CS. It doesn't matter what the job is, General Expediter, Bulk Mail, Automation, all Clerk jobs continue to be reverted and this has been going on for a year. We have not been able to get a straight answer on what the authorized complement is for Palatine. We do not know what the authorized complement will be after losing the PARS and FPARS mail. As it stands management is reducing the number of jobs in tour 2 and tour 3 Automation by a few so they can post three tour 3 General Expediter jobs that have been reverted, and to add jobs in IPP so Ms. Wulf can cut Manual overtime worked in IPP. When the mail picks up overtime will have to be called in all units as jobs continue to be reverted. With the loss of PARS mail there will be fewer places for injured Clerks to work just as when Palatine outgoing mail went to CS in the 2010 AMP. The loss of outgoing mail was offset by the addition of PARS but now PARS is being moved to CS too.

Anti-Employee ...

I said that Elizabeth Wulf was anti-employee and anti-union when she was named A/Plant Manager at Palatine and employees have told me I was right. I am sorry to be right but my limited experience with her as the MPOO had been totally negative so I did not expect otherwise. It's a shame that employees have to come to work wondering what new anti-employee action she will take or what new anti-employee supervisor she will bring in to Palatine. An email from Ms. Wulf to four trusted supervisors, most of whom are new at Palatine, states "In order to establish order and control back within the Palatine P&DC the following items are in place: There are no craft employees on special projects, There is no automatic going to the union room, This is not a hang out (the Tour Office), All overtime will be worked in the area it is assigned, Full day overtime is for 8 hours, Break time is 15 minutes, The NO LUNCH provision is not allowed." I'm still stuck on "In order to establish order and control back within the Palatine P&DC..."

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Former President Burrus Passes
(From APWU Web News Article)
On 5-21-18 former APWU President William Burrus passed away at the age of 81. Burrus served as National President from 2001-2010. He was the first African-American to be elected president of any national union in direct voting by the membership. Prior to being elected president, Burrus served as Vice President for 21 years from 1980 to 2001 working with then President Moe Biller. As a top national officer, Brother Burrus helped negotiate substantial gains for the members with improved wages and benefits, earning a reputation as a skillful negotiator and powerful advocate for postal workers. He led the union negotiations of four contracts and was directly involved in every national contract negotiation from 1980 to 2006. Over his decades of service he was responsible for countless Arbitration settlements and Memorandums of Understanding with the Postal Service. He began his career with the Postal Service in Cleveland, OH in 1958, as a distribution clerk, and then as a Maintenance employee. He served in the US Army from 1954 to 1957. He participated in the Great Postal Strike of 1970. He was the president of the Cleveland Local from 1974 to 1980, and helped lead the fight against the 1978 contract that would have capped COLA increases. Burrus was an AFL-CIO Vice President, and was named as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by Ebony magazine. He was respected by members of Congress as a champion of the public postal service. President Dimondstein states *"The APWU family is greatly saddened by the death of Brother Burrus. We have greatly benefited from the impassioned and determined life's work and leadership of William Burrus."*

NWIAL Hosts State Convention
We hosted the 2018 Illinois Postal Workers Convention in honor of **Al Modi** who was both NWIAL-Treasurer and State Treasurer when illness forced him to resign. Al wanted us to host the next convention and we did it in his honor. Hosting a convention involves a lot of planning which fell to our Secretary Linda Retel without whom we could not have done it. Hosting such an event requires volunteer time and Linda had some dedicated volunteers on her committee. We thank Linda and her volunteers, Ray Wience, Kathy Stokes, Vivian Henderson, Ericka Williams, Latara Collins, and Melanie Bellmon. They took care of the hospitality room and the daily COPA raffles, as well as registration and whatever else needed to be done. Webmaster and retired CS Steward Hugh Fung was there two days taking pictures and he did a great job. You can see Hugh's convention pictures on the NWIAL website. Music was provided by Elaine Barlet-Walker (Easy E) and Legislative Director Linda Carter came to raise money for COPA. COPA is the (APWU) Committee for Political Action which raises money for APWU for political contributions to support those who support us in Washington D.C. Present at the convention were national officers including President Mark Dimondstein and VP Debby Szeredy and delegates from around the state of Illinois. The highlight of the convention was the presentation of a special award to the family of Al Modi. The Award presented to his family said in part **"He led by example"**. President Dimondstein spoke to the delegates on Friday and took questions afterward. He expects that contract negotiations with the USPS will be difficult this year. Every contract gets a little harder.

Last Call for NWIAL Shirts
We have been taking orders for those NWIAL members who did not sign up for the free shirts we are giving to members this year. If you want a shirt and have not signed a list or put your name in with the union, please do so now, as we will be placing the second and final order at the end of May. The shirts are red a black bowling ball hitting white pins, and say **United we Stand Divided we Fall.**

One Time Conversions GLA
Four plants in the Great Lakes Area have requested and been approved to convert some PSEs. The approved plants are Chicago ISC, Fort Wayne IN, Grand Rapids MI, and Traverse City MI. Busse has requested to convert 11 PSEs but has not been approved. A/Plant Manager Dan Halfman will be meeting on complement and hopes to get Area approval.

A Dangerous Finger...
At least two employees, one Clerk and one Carrier, at Northbrook have been fired for zero tolerance because they raised their voice and /or pointed their finger while on duty. I hear the issuing supervisor raises her voice all the time but I don't know if she points. The Clerk is being fired a second time although she is currently out on a Removal for the same thing. The second Removal is insurance. This is why APWU never signed and why at least one other union regrets signing the Joint Statement, because it is used and misused against craft employees only.

Northbrook is "Smokin..."
On 4-16-16 heavy the heavy smoking Northbrook Postmaster, Narbi Miulli, had Smoking signs posted on the enclosed dock area at the Northbrook Post Office. The APWU Steward states this was a change with no union input. Most Northbrook employees are non-smokers but the Postmaster likes to take her smoke breaks.

