

# The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

## "Happy People Move the Mail" - J. Norfleet

For those of you who started at North Suburban in River Grove, you may remember our first female plant manager, Janet Norfleet, whose motto was "Happy people move the mail". I remember her because we have not had any other plant managers with that motto although some were better than others. Palatine had a young Mark Tovey who is fondly remembered because he actually cared about employees and is now the District Manager for Central, IL. Palatine also had Ron Woodall who was not a people person and tried to overturn APWU settlements he did not like, mostly without success. Carol Steam also has had its share of anti-employee, anti-union plant managers but I do not remember the names with the exception of Charles Caton long ago. Palatine and CS are in transition with the retirement of CS plant manager Mike Kotula and the move of Palatine plant manager Quintin Mayberry back to CS at the new plant manager.

## Plant Managers...

Plant Manager Kotula would pick up the phone and give me a courtesy call when there was something he thought I needed to know. Other plant managers had not shown the same courtesy. Mike was nice to talk to but he was behind a lot of the problems on the floor and he selected MDOs that generate complaints. Time will tell if that changes under Quintin. Mr. Mayberry worked long hours to improve Palatine and he did not harass the employees. Palatine was his first plant manager position and he came into a plant that was on the decline. He worked hard to turn Palatine around and I think he did a good job. With what he learned in his first plant manager job I am sure he will be ready for Carol Stream. I think Carol Stream is ready for him as he was employee friendly as a tour MDO and well liked. The only one of the three plants we represent not to have a new plant manager is Chicago Metro L&DC. Plant Manager Devette Murphy is still there although she might prefer to be elsewhere.

## What About Palatine?

No one in management at any level reached out to us regarding the transition at either plant but we hear the first choice for Palatine was Madison Plant Manager Gary Kaiser who turned it down because he lives in Wisconsin. Gary was here for a short time before Quintin came and was cooperative then, and recently, while filling in. Once Gary Kaiser turned the job down management needed to find someone and there are not a lot of PECES plant managers floating around anymore. With no plant managers available the higher ups decided to detail someone with no plant experience, Manager Post Office Operations Elizabeth Wulf. My experience with her has not been very good. Offices like Park Ridge and Glenview that had reasonable postmasters were replaced by not so reasonable postmasters. The cross-craft and bargaining unit work grievances shot up under the postmasters she appointed. These offices violate the contract and I don't see any respect for the unions or the (not happy) people who move the mail.

October 5, 2017

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

### Special points of interest:

"Happy People Move the Mail"  
Janet Norfleet  
Plant Managers ...  
What About Palatine?  
Crossing Crafts and Injured  
Problems need to be Injured  
Happy Retirement Ray Wience  
APWU All Craft Conference in  
Las Vegas...

Northwest Illinois Area Local  
American Postal Workers Union  
194 W. Lake Street  
Eimhurst, IL 60126  
Phone: 630-833-0088  
Fax: 630-833-0248  
Email: nwial7140@yahoo.com  
Web: nwial7140@yahoo.com

### **Crossing Crafts and Injured**

Unions get very upset when management crosses crafts so it was not good when we heard injured on duty employees from other offices were being brought in to prep flats on the AI and FSS at Palatine. This work is assigned to Mailhandlers but is still in dispute by APWU at the national level as Flatsorter was always all Clerk. On at least two days our 3 management said they did not need the injured employees in Flat Prep so they sent them to Clerk units of Manual Letters one day and Waste Mail on the second day. I called Senior Plant Manager Bob Prah and told him there is no way that any non-facility employees should be assigned to the Clerk craft as there is an impact notice to excess six (6) Clerks out of the facility. I doubt any Clerks will be excessed out of Palatine but you cannot bring in employees from other offices to do Clerk work when you say you need to excess six Palatine Clerks out of the facility. It is unfortunate that someone in management decided to bring in injured employees from other offices to take work from Palatine employees. Some of the injured employees have been off work on OWCP for extended periods because they were seriously injured. I'm sure they did not want to be at Palatine and be in the middle of this mess created by management. While the ELM 546 does allow management to make cross-craft job offers to employees who were injured on duty few are placed. Usually they assign injured Carriers to Clerk work in Associate Offices and we file grievances. This is the first time management has assigned injured employees from other offices into the plant. It is doubtful that these long-term injured employees would be very productive so what was gained other than to upset Palatine?

### **Problems need to be Reported**

If management is violating the contract or if you think they are, you need to let the union know. We can't be everywhere all the time so we need employee input. Carol Stream has not been using the proper number of Clerks to sweep on the APBS which means they are using Mailhandlers in lieu of Clerk sweepers on APBS. At Busse Plant Manager Murphy unilaterally changed the policy on personal headphones stating no one can wear them because she says there is no seated/stationary work at the facility but Clerks in the Racks and NMO sorter work in confined spaces so wearing headphones would be safe. It seems Ms. Murphy's favorite word is "no" and she takes the easy way out on issues like this. She says employees can listen to boom boxes but many say they want to listen to their own music. Ms. Murphy defers in favor of what is easier, not what is right. PSEs are still working at 1300 weeks after she said she would fix this and allow a few senior regulars to start at the early start time. When we meet she says she will fix the problem and then doesn't. We have a Labor-Management meeting at Palatine on 10-11-17. 600 CCD Marcia Lloyd states she received employee feedback on issues of concern for our agenda. Palatine is requiring employees with over 4 call-ins in a 6 month period to provide documentation for every call-in under a "deems desirable" policy in conflict with the ELM handbook provisions. Employees should look at their 3971's before they sign them as we are finding some do not know what is on the 3971 when signing. If something does not seem right you should talk to the union to find out if it's a contract violation. We file grievances at every plant on every Clerk vacancy reverted.

### **Happy Retirement Ray Wience**

I know he looks too young to retire but Ray has 42+ years, and he is retiring from USPS on 11-1-17. Ray has been there for us forever and Carol Stream will miss him. He is retiring from the post office but not from the union, he will continue as our Chief Trustee. Ray has served as our Treasurer, as a Steward and Chief Trustee. Even when he stepped down as a Steward several years ago he never stopped talking and listening to our members because he cares. He is friendly to every one and that's why everybody likes him. Ray is a 100% union guy who is always looks out for the members. He worked with former Treasure Al Modi on the scholarships and the annual gift cards to members. He was always a voice for giving something back to the members. The November union meeting will be his first meeting as a retiree and I am sure there will be a cake. I know our members appreciate Ray and what he has done as a union representative and friend. Thank you Ray for all you have done and will continue to do for NWIAL members in the future.

**APWU All Craft Conference in Las Vegas...**

We sent a group of Stewards and officers to the biennial All Craft Conference classes/workshops in Las Vegas held 10-1 to 10-3-17. Monday morning we learned of the mass shooting and I was glad to get a call from Calvin Taylor stating that of our contingent was safe and accounted for. When I heard the shooting was at a music festival it did not occur to me that the shooting was on the strip right in front of the Mandalay Hotel. I am sure those attending the Conference were deeply affected by what happened Sunday night as they arrived for next day classes. How many mass shootings will it take for something to be done?!

