

# The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the  
Northwest Illinois Area Local

## Local Update by Jackie Engelhart

Floor Edition

August 6, 2006

**National Convention in August in Philadelphia**  
All Executive Board members will be attending the national convention from August 14 through 18, 2006 in Philadelphia. If you need to speak to any of us we will return to work on August 21st. The convention will discuss and vote on issues pertaining to contract negotiations, which will begin in August. We will provide a full report on the convention upon our return.

### **Gregory Johnson is Plant Manager at Palatine P&DC**

Effective July 22, 2006 Gregory Johnson was appointed the Plant Manager at Palatine P&DC by Great Lakes Area Vice President Jo Ann Feindt. He began his career as an LSM Clerk, and was most recently the Manager of the Chicago Bulk Mail Center. We met with the new Plant Manager on July 20th to go over items we plan to address in the next Labor-Management meeting on August 31, 2006.

### **Rockford Consolidation Terminated by USPS**

In a letter to Congressman Donald Manzullo dated July 31, 2006, the USPS notified him "of the termination of the "Area Mail Processing" (AMP) study of the consolidation of mail originating at the Rockford P&DC into the Palatine P&DC. Protection of current service levels is an overriding consideration in these reviews. Concerns about service, were the consolidation to take place at this time, have led us to halt the study. Therefore, consistent with the desires expressed by the community, outgoing processing will remain in Rockford." Congratulations to the Rockford Local and President Greg Voiles and Vice President Art Haws on the successful outcome of their fight to hold onto the mail in Rockford. This David and Goliath story has implications for other targeted installations and their employees. The Rockford Local and Congressman Manzullo did not allow this to happen.

### **USPS Lists 139 Facilities as 'Potential Candidates' for Consolidation**

The USPS was forced to admit the existence of this list during testimony before the Postal Rate Commission, and the list was provided to the PRC on July 25, 2006. Under cross examination, the USPS national manager for Area Mail Processing stated the list was generated in September of 2005, as part of the Evolutionary Network Development, better known as END. USPS has refused to share their plans with either the Unions or elected officials who have requested this information. In April the APWU filed a lawsuit alleging USPS has begun its consolidation plan without first obtaining an opinion from the PRC. APWU will be running radio and TV ads in selected cities to combat consolidation. #28 on this list of "Possible AMP Opportunities (just below # 27 Rockford) is Carol Stream P&DC. The proposed gaining site for both Rockford and Carol Stream is Palatine P&DC. These are possible sites.

Jackie Engelhart  
President  
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#### **Special points of interest:**

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More Area Mail Processing

A Continuing Cycle

Where's the Air?

Palatine Faxed Medicals

### **More Area Mail Processing**

The Chicago Local has been notified that due to operational changes in the Chicago District, 22 (all) DBCS machines and 3 flat sorter machines will be moved from Irving Park Road (IPR) to Cardiss Collins P&DC beginning on July 8, 2006. Some managers question how Cardiss Collins will be able to handle this additional volume, but these changes are being mandated by the Area Vice President Jo Ann Feindt. I will be talking to Chicago Local President Sam Anderson in Philadelphia to find out how the Chicago Local is dealing with the impact of USPS actions. With the plans coming from the USPS Headquarters and Area levels, you could be here today, and over there tomorrow.

Why over there and not gone? Because the Union negotiated no lay-off protection in Article 6, and the procedures to follow when USPS actions create excessing in Article 12 of the Contract.

### **A Continuing Cycle**

The results of the current USPS mentality is all around us, from Rockford to Chicago, and in the Associate Offices all over the Northern Illinois District. In the AO's management continues to revert every vacancy created by retirement. As soon as that employee retires and vacates a job, the District tells the Postmaster, the job is no longer needed.

Based on declining volume or fewer transactions, or whatever other data they use to justify it, these number crunchers are mandated to continue cutting jobs.

The Postmasters are stuck trying to figure out how to do the same amount of work with an ever declining "authorized complement".

They answer to the POQMS who

Answer to the District Manager, currently Nancy Rettinhouse, who is filling in for Lynn Smith. They don't care how the Postmasters do it, but they must continue to provide "service" with fewer employees. We know that this often results in supervisors doing our work and other crafts doing our work. Many of the Postmasters are frustrated but they dare not say what they really think to their bosses. If you are in an understaffed AO you need to contact the Union when you see supervisors or other crafts performing clerk work. If you don't think its important, think again, as you could be the next clerk "not necessary for operations". You could become a statistic in the USPS numbers game.

### **Where's the Air?**

Employees at Chicago Metro Surface Hub have been working without air conditioning for the past week. I am told one of the two chillers is working at 30% and the other is down. This is a leased facility and no one seems to know when the air conditioning at Busse will be fixed. In the meantime fans were brought in and the employees are expected to sweat it out. We were at Busse on August 2, 2006 to meet with the Mailhandler Union and Management for a "walk through". The three parties are in the process of creating an RI-399 Local Jurisdictional Inventory for the facility. This is long overdue, and the parties looked at each operation to view the work being performed. There was agreement on many of the obvious operations being clerk or mailhandler, but all of the Segments and the SWYB operations are in dispute. The parties will meet again in September to discuss the disputed areas.

### **Palatine Faxed Medicals**

We have had problems since the Palatine Medical Unit closed, with employees trying to fax their medicals to Carol Stream. Some are being told they cannot fax them to C.S. I asked A/Labor Relations Manager Dan Bessler to help correct this problem. On August 2nd Dan sent an Information Letter on Submission of Medical Documentation to the Palatine Plant Manager, and asked that the information be shared with all Palatine P&DC employees in a service talk. The letter states "Employees returning from a non-work related illness or injury with restrictions should fax, mail or personally present in person their documentation to the Carol Stream Health unit located at 500 E. Fullerton Ave, Carol Stream IL 60199-9442, (630-260-5644 FAX). It will be acceptable to use inter-office mail. Any other medical documentation related to a non-work related illness or injury that was originally turned into the Carol Stream Satellite Health Unit as Palatine, should now be forwarded as described above. All work related medical information should be forwarded to an Injury Compensation Specialist." If you do not want to mail or fax your medical, you can bring it to the Palatine P&DC Leave Control Office, have it time stamped and copied, and put the original in a sealed envelope to be sent in an inter-office envelope to Carol Stream. All medicals submitted to USPS should be kept in your medical file or record. APWU advises that all original medicals for OWCP should be kept in the Medical Unit as well, with a copy to OWCP and a copy for your own record. Contact your area steward if you have a problem submitting a medical to Carol Stream, and the steward should contact Dave Baskin or I.

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