

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Local Update by Jackie Engelhart

Floor Edition

December 13, 2005

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Xmas Gift Certificates

We will be giving out ten dollar Jewel gift certificates to all current NWIAL members. Union members can pick up their gift certificate at the union offices at Palatine, Carol Stream, and Chicago Metro Surface Hub. Associate Office Director Kathy Stokes will be bringing the gift certificates to the members in the associate offices. We will be updating our mailing list when members come to pick up the certificates. These gift certificates are for members only!

Constitution Changes Pass Second Reading.

Four constitution changes passed the second reading at the December meeting and will now become part of the NWIAL constitution.

Changes are: 1. to eliminate the Industrial Relations Director and the 12 hour monthly salary. 2. change Associate Office Director position changed to increase grievance handling responsibility and increase required hours, 3. increase hours for

Webmaster from 6.5 to 8, & 4 . eliminate the steward Xmas bonus.

The purpose of these changes was to increase representation and/or to decrease expenses.

A fifth change passed the first reading and will be read for the second time at the January meeting.

This change proposes to change the number of Local Line mailings from 5 per year to 4 per year. This will save the Local approximately \$5,000.00 per year. Regular floor letters will keep the membership informed in between mailings of the home edition. We must continue to find ways to save money to keep the Local financially strong.

50-50 Organizing

We continue to sign up new members under the 50-50 Organizing Drive, which ends on 1-31-06. With all the changes USPS has planned the value of membership & solidarity has never been higher. Non-members hurt all as they won't pay for benefits received & they weaken the union. Sign up a new member and get \$50.00.

More Metro Stewards

With the addition of former steward Sherry Thomas, and Rogelio Matias, Metro has doubled the number of clerk stewards. Both have completed new steward training and will be able to perform steward duties with the assistance of Chief Stewards Jonn Johnson & Keith Williams.

No Busse Xmas OT

Jonn Johnson informed me that T.E.'s are working overtime while regulars are not. I spoke with Plant Manager Melvin Anderson and he stated the T.E.'s should have been "changed to casuals" effective 12-6-05.

Either way, management is in violation of the contract, and this will be grieved. If you have questions or concerns contact the union office and write a witness statement if necessary.

Northbrook Steward Vacancy

We need a steward at the Northbrook Post Office due to resignation of Mike Diak. Interested Northbrook members should call Dave or myself at 630-833-0088.

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"Consolidation of USPS Network Begins."

Text of this APWU News Bulletin states "The long-expected USPS network consolidation has begun in bits and pieces, with individual offices being notified of changes to their mail processing operations. Recently, the union received notification from the USPS of the planned consolidation of "some operations" at 10 offices one week, followed by a dozen more several weeks later. The APWU will respond with all available resources. A group of officers has been empaneled to coordinate the APWU response. Local efforts will be crucial in fighting this battle. Any attempt to deter management from closing facilities or consolidating operations will require a grass-roots effort by members of affected locals, in concert with other postal unions and labor organizations, as well as with community organizations, per President Burrus. Concern about the effect consolidations would have on our members was a major factor in the decision to extend the 200-2003 contract until 11-20-05. That two-year contract extension required management to share its consolidation plan with the APWU by December of 2002. Despite repeated union requests over the two-year contract period, the USPS never presented a consolidation plan. It is now clear that USPS management plans to alter the national network through a series of piecemeal changes. It is expected that in the coming months the Postal Service will inform the union of additional offices identified for change. These changes will include merging mail processing operations, leaving some commu-

And delivery services. In a strongly worded letter to the USPS on 11-18-05, Burrus expressed the union's concern regarding management's failure to provide the union with complete information about its consolidation plans, and demanded that all affected employees be made whole for any reassignments made in violation of the parties agreements."

Illinois Offices Targeted

APWU has been notified that USPS is conducting "Area Mail Processing Feasibility Studies" as follows: 1. Fox Valley P&DC into South Suburban P&DC 2. Rockford into Palatine P&DC 3. Carbondale & Centralia Post Offices into St. Louis P&DC. I have been informed by management that this is just the first round of proposed consolidations & that this will happen.

"USPS Outplacement"

This is the name of the USPS plan to remove injured employees. The Postal Service does not have the authority to outplace any employee. Only OWCP has this authority. OWCP applies its own criteria for selection of employees for its vocational rehabilitation services. The Postal Service has a right to re-evaluate and reassess limited duty jobs. It also has an obligation to make every effort to provide limited duty to employees who have compensable injuries, per the Employee & Labor Relations Manual (ELM) Section 546. The "Outplacement" plan does not change this obligation. They want to eliminate the costs associated with accommodating injured employees. Management believes the majority of injured employees are lying. We disagree with that, but we agree on one thing, if you can work your bid, you should be working your bid.

Associate Office Excessing

We were recently informed by management that there will be some excessing out of associate offices. We were told that some offices are over-staffed and some are under-staffed and they need to move clerks to where they are needed. I have requested any and all information on this from management and have, as yet, received nothing from them. We did receive a call from Glenview steward Dee DeLaCruz concerning plans to excess clerks from that office. VP Baskin will be meeting with management at that office.

Carol Stream CFS

Management finally made assignments for the abolished CFS clerks, but did it by seniority by tour, instead of overall seniority. We informed them these assignments should be made by overall seniority and they have agreed. They should meet with each employee in seniority order with a list of the assignments. There is no way to make everyone happy but the contract relies on seniority. The union has requested that management assign casuals to fill tour 1 SPBS assignments, rather than force CFS clerks to tour 1. Their response was, they want the CFS clerks because they have keying experience. Casuals could be trained for SPBS jobs & the CFS clerks could all stay on tour 3.

2006 APWU Scholarship Forms

2006 scholarship forms have been received and are available at the union offices or at the Elmhurst office. Applications must be received at APWU headquarters by March 15, 2005.

We expect management to honor agreements made, both verbal & written.