

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 28, 2005

Associate Offices Targeted for Excessing.

On December 13, 2005 the union was notified at the area level, that management "anticipates" excessing 67 full-time clerks & 22 PTF clerks from post offices in the Northern Illinois District. Management has authorized the withholding of an equal number of positions (PS level 5 and below) within a 100 mile radius of the impacted offices. Management at many of the affected offices do not agree with the planned reduction in staffing. These numbers are worst case scenario.

Targeted Offices with NWIAL in Bold are:

- Arlington Heights (4)
- Bartlett (3)
- Buffalo Grove (5)
- Des Plaines (6)
- Crystal Lake (3)
- Glen Ellyn (5)
- Glenview (7)
- Highland Park (4)
- Lake Forest (5)
- Lombard (7)
- Maywood (7)
- Mt. Prospect (7)
- Mundelein (3)
- Palatine (9)
- Schaumburg (12)

Priority Shipped out of Busse during Xmas.

During the week preceding Christmas, Chicago Metro Surface Hub experienced a massive plan failure. Mail was diverted to Carol Stream, Palatine, and several other facilities. I spoke with employees and managers to find out what happened. I was told that management would not call overtime on the regulars (to save money), and they did not hire enough casuals. When a large group of casuals walked out because their pay was messed up, management could not get the mail out. Normally, management maximizes the ODL for Xmas at Busse. This year there little overtime for the regulars, while T.E.'s were sent to the "AMC" Annex to work overtime. TE's should not be working overtime if the regulars are not getting it. The Plant Manager assured me the TE's were "changed to casuals effective December 6th. This was not true but if it was true, it would have been in violation of the contract. Plan Failure!

Priority is a Clerk Unit

Manual distribution of priority mail is clerk work at both Palatine P&DC and Carol Stream P&DC. Management at Carol Stream decided to assign some of this work to mailhandlers and the appropriate cross craft grievances will be filed. Priority (clerk) bids were abolished after Priority mail was sent to Busse.

Jurisdictional Disputes

The next threat to jobs at the facilities will be the Automatic Induction retrofit of the AFSM-100's scheduled for 2006. The results of jurisdictional disputes on jobs at the Automated Facer Cancellor Machines, APPS, and the AFSM 100 will affect a large number of clerk craft jobs. These decisions/disputes are all national level.

Low Cost Tray Sorter

A meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2006 with Carol Stream A/Plant Manager Woodall, to discuss the second Low Cost Tray Sorter. Management states "no decision has been made", despite the existence of a signed tripartite agreement.

Jackie Engelhart
President
Alan J. Czerwinski
News Director

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Carol Stream CFS unit Closed

Wheaton & Arlington Heights Unit Also Close in December

Holiday Consolidations

Reprinted from "101 Facts"

Per President Burns

Scholarship Applications

Congratulations Retirees!

50-50 Drive ends on 1-31-06.

Happy New Year!

Carol Stream CFS Unit Closed

The last day for the Carol Stream CFS Unit was December 17, 2005. The unit is now history, with mail consolidated to Palatine P&DC. I sat in with Walter Elerby, Mary Alexander, and John Colao when the employees chose by seniority from available assignments. Every CFS clerk I met was unbelievably nice when they came in, and left wishing us all a Merry Christmas.

Wheaton & Arlington Heights Units Also Close in December.

All Wheaton clerks were assigned to same or similar schedules without any problem. At Palatine, 8 Arlington clerks assigned to manual letters, are not only having their days off changed, but are being assigned split starting times of 2350 Tuesday through Saturday and 2150 on Sunday & Monday. While Carol Stream consulted with the union and kept us informed as the assignments were made, I cannot say the same occurred at Palatine P&DC. All bids in mail processing have one starting time and I have no idea why the Arlington clerk would be assigned with split start times. I spoke with Plant Manager Melvin Dean and he assured me he would take care of this.

Holiday Consolidations

Mail was consolidated to Carol Stream for Xmas and will be consolidated to Palatine for New Year's. The reason for this is to save money. At Palatine, clerks who wanted to work Xmas were not allowed to work, but they are drafting for New Years, in some sections back to 1976. Once again, management has shown that they have no intention of allowing as many employees off as possible on the holiday.

(Reprinted from "101 Facts")

"As of December 15th, the USPS announced a total of 42 separate facilities that will be either consolidated into other facilities or be "reviewed" for possible consolidation into other facilities. The list grows almost daily. The USPS has announced that any and all consolidations will be "reviewed" under an Area Mail Processing program. This means that the Area Vice Presidents will be the ones making decisions on consolidations. They will essentially get an automatic approval from headquarters in Washington. The consolidations are the result of the END (Evolutionary Network Development) program. The END's stated mission is to migrate to a flexible network that increases operational efficiency, reduces costs and improves consistency of service. The network infrastructure changes include closing over 50 annexes, closing 38 Remote Encoding Centers, converting BMC's to Regional Distribution Centers for bulk Standard Mail, and converting Priority Mail Processing Centers to Logistics & Distribution Centers that process multiple types of mail. In addition, the END will involve mail processing performance between tours and among plants and post offices. These plans will be implemented nationally in 2006 and will set critical entry & clearance times by operation. Plant equipment & floor layouts will be standardized at plants and post offices. Manual letter distribution will be reduced by 10% and flat distribution reduced by 45% by the end of 2007."

"Per President Burrus"

"The long-expected USPS network consolidation is now in progress, with individual offices being notified of changes to their mail processing operations. Plant consolidations represent one of the most important challenges facing the union. It is imperative that local

and state unions organize a grassroots effort, with civic groups and community organizations, to stop the USPS from closing facilities or consolidating operations in their area."

Scholarship Applications

Forms for the Hallbeck Memorial, The Hill, and the Vocational scholarship programs are now available. The applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2006 and be received by March 15, 2006. Applicants must be the son, daughter, stepchild, or legally adopted child of an active or deceased member of the APWU. The applicant's parent must be a member in good standing for one year preceding application deadline.

Congratulations Retirees!

Congratulations to the following APWU members who are retiring: Winnetka steward Ro Harr, Carol Stream Clerks Shirley Jackson, Joe Urbanik, Nora Parker, Lillie Thomas, and Yvonne Bass. Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for being APWU members.

50-50 Drive ends on 1-31-06.

With the continuing attrition due to retirements, etc, we need to continue to organize the non-member among us. The 50-50 Organizing Drive will end on 1-31-06. We have signed up approximately 50 new members during this drive, but we need to continue our efforts to bring our co-workers back into the union. "In solidarity there is strength" is not just a slogan, it's reality. From all APWU officers & stewards to all APWU members & retirees:
Happy New Year!