

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

February 22, 2011

Statements Needed for Administrative Leave
VP Dave Baskin asked that employees who were unable to report to work on 2-1-11, 2-2-11, and /or 2-3-11 submit a witness statement to the union for documentation of grievances filed for administrative leave due to the 20 inch blizzard. Dave filed the Palatine grievance so those statements should go to him. Management gave no administrative leave at Chicago Metro Surface Hub but administrative was given for 2-2-11 in the Northern IL District and at the International Service Center (ISC). We asked CMSH A/ Plant Manager Mitchell why administrative leave was not given at Busse and he said that decision was made at the executive level and he is not an executive. If the decision was over his head then it came from either IPR/CMSH Lead Plant Manager Melvin Anderson or Chicago District Manager Gloria Tyson, with help from GLA VP JoAnn Feindt.

Excessing Update
On 2-14-11 I was notified by the Area that 23 more Clerk jobs will be added at Chicago Metro Surface Hub (CMSH) and details will be created until the newly created jobs result in residual vacancies. That was good news as we had been trying to get these jobs posted since being told that more jobs were needed in October. We thought the jobs would be offered to Clerks at Carol Stream and Palatine since those impacts were issued back on 9-3-10 and 9-4-10. Later on 2-14-11 I got a call from Northern Illinois District Human Resource Manager Phyllis Lingenfelter and Labor Specialist Cathy Porter, who told me the Busse jobs would be offered to all impacted Clerks in the NID. The list they faxed had 248 impacted Clerks. Many of the impacted Clerks are from offices not in our Local so the jobs we thought would help out impacted Clerks at the plants may go to senior impacted AO Clerks outside our local.

Casuals to Staff APC machines in AO's?!
A few weeks ago Phyllis had told me management was considering using Part-Time Regulars to staff Automated Postal Centers in the Associate Offices. On 2-14-11 she told me that she was told to hire casuals to staff the APC machines! With 248 impacted Clerks in the NID and impacts in just about every AO, they want to hire Casuals to perform Clerk work in the Associate Offices. I have requested information as to what offices will have Casuals on the APC's and will use that information to file grievances in all affected NWIAL AO's. Whoever is making the decision to hire casuals while excessing is aware that this is a violation but they don't seem to care. CS Plant Manager Sciorba opened this can of worms by stating he will keep 20 Clerk casuals while excessing 67 career Clerks. When we told him that Article 12 says management must reduce casuals to the extent possible prior to excessing he said "we agree to disagree".

Jackie Engelhart
President
Alan J. Czerwinski
News Director
Dave Baskin
Vice President

Special points of interest:

Statements Needed for Administrative Leave
Excessing Update
Casuals to Staff APC machines in AO's?!
Mail Handler Jobs at Plants
Current Numbers and Where Will They Go?
What About Other Districts?
Unions Under Attack!

Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248
Email: nwialapwu@hotmail.com
Web: www.nwial.com

Mail Handler Jobs at Plants

Palatine told us they will have 44 residual Mail Handler jobs for the impacted Palatine Clerks but they have yet to offer any of these jobs. Carol Stream says they will have about 8 MH jobs for CS Clerks but the jobs are not available yet. The MH jobs will go to impacted Clerks within each facility and the senior-in-lieu of provision does not apply so the jobs will go only to impacted Clerks in the facility.

Current Numbers and Where Will They Go?

The latest information is that the list of 248 impacted Clerks is now 225 Clerks. Palatine's combined impact for BPI and CFS closing (67 & 22) is down to 66 Clerks and 9 impacted NRP Clerks based on attrition. The 44 senior Clerks should get MH jobs so that still leaves 22 Clerks and 9 NRP.

Carol Stream's impact is down to 39 Clerks and with 8 MH jobs that leaves 31 Clerks to be excessed out of the facility. Management has identified 58 jobs (including the 23 detail jobs at CMSH) for 225 Clerks so they do not have enough jobs for everybody. (This does not include the 44 Palatine MH jobs and the 8 CS MH jobs). The senior 23 Clerks on the list of 225 are all AO Clerks so the only way these jobs help the plants is if Clerks bid in lieu of. Subtracting the 23 CMSH jobs that leaves 35 mostly out of the local commuting area jobs. Management says if those jobs are not bid on they will place the most junior impacted Clerks in those jobs, so the most junior 35 Clerks on the list of 225 are facing relocations. The senior 44 at Palatine and 8 at CS should get MH jobs and the rest will sit until management figures out what to do with them.

What About other Districts?

For the last few years there have been more impacts in the Northern IL District than other districts in the metro area and yet the NID is doing worse than other districts. When I ask why I am told (off the record and by different sources) that the NID is responsible for 1/2 of the over-budget hours for the whole Great Lakes Area, and that our managers don't know how to manage. Recently I read an article by the President Marcotte of the Michigan Postal Workers Union that may affect the NID/GLA budget problem. He states that "in BPI an hour = an hour regardless of how much money that hour costs." Some facilities attain good BPI by working lots of overtime, so the office may have great BPI but be over-budget. CS Plant Manager Sciruba likes to talk about an overtime hour not being a bad thing because there are no benefits attached to that hour. An overtime hour may be good for BPI but too many overtime hours cannot be good for the budget. Maybe that's why the NID is responsible for half the budget over-run for the entire GLA while excessing more Clerks than any other GLA district besides Detroit. Is management so concerned with BPI that they would rather call high overtime rather than staff the number of Clerks called for in the Palatine AMP Study? The high CS overtime and 20 Casuals working 30+ hours per week show more Clerks were needed. NID cannot get the mail out at either plant with overtime, with no impacted Clerks placed on stand-by, and with 20 CS Clerk casuals. So after all this Function 4, AMP and BPI excessing, why is the NID on the chopping block?!

Unions Under Attack!

State workers are under attack in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Michigan. Madison is ground-zero as a Republican Governor (Walker) and a Republican Legislature attempt to strip collective-bargaining rights from state employees. The unions have stated they will agree to the concessions the Governor called for requiring them to pay more for their retirement pension-funding. What is happening in Wisconsin and other states by newly elected Republicans is Union-busting and is an ominous sign for all union members. That is why the APWU joins the AFL-CIO "We Are One" campaign and pledges solidarity with state employees in Wisconsin who are the first to feel the attack. President Obama negotiated with the newly elected Republican House majority to extend tax cuts for the super-rich in exchange for not cutting off unemployment benefits while national unemployment rates still stand at 10%. After Presidents Bush and Obama increased the deficit with the Wall Street bailout, it is clear that the budget will be balanced at the expense of working people. Unions are always the target of the party that caters to Wall Street, Big Business and the rich, and as the man said "We won, you lost". Union employees get better pay, benefits and working conditions than employees without a union. We have taken this for granted as our negotiated contracts moved us into the middle class since 1970. 15-20% of the APWU bargaining unit are not even members and refuse to pay their fair share in support of the union, but they would not want this job without it. For that 15-20% who don't care, you should start to care right now.

JE