

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

July 22, 2005

Jackie Engelhart
President
Alan J. Czerwinski
News Director

Ballots Mailed

220,000 ballots were mailed between July 18 and 20th to APWU members as the proposed contract extension must now be voted on by the members. The votes will be counted on August 5, 2005. If you do not receive a ballot by July 25th contact APWU headquarters at 202-842-8505 and request a duplicate. You may also request via fax at 202-216-2650. You must provide your name, address, craft, and Social Security number or employee identification number.

Recommend Approval

We recommend approval of this one year extension negotiated by President Burrus and his team. He states "Throughout this process, my criteria has been consistent: Will the extension provide more to APWU members than we can expect to achieve in full-scale negotiations or arbitration? This tentative agreement passes that test." The agreement extends no lay-off protection and does not

increase employee contributions for health benefits. The extension provides for a 1.6 percent wage increase effective March 18, 2006 and two COLA's, one in March 2006 and one in September 2006. The agreement also calls for upgrades in 14 duty assignments, in the clerk, maintenance, and motor vehicle crafts. Bulk mail clerks will be upgraded to level 6.

AFL-CIO Rally

You should have seen flyers for the July 24 th rally to support the AFL-CIO. The rally is scheduled for 12 to 2 pm at the downtown Sheraton Hotel. A bus will leave the Elmhurst Union Hall at 10:30 am on Sunday and will return at 2:30 pm. Lunch and drinks will be served on the bus ride. National Officers will be attending and some will be riding the bus with us. The APWU is participating in this rally because several labor unions are threatening to break off and form a separate organization thus splitting the labor movement. We will be at the rally on Solidarity Sunday.

New Appointments

On July 11, 2005 Nancy Horan was appointed Legislative Director for NWIAL. She has shown a strong interest in legislative affairs and COPA. Since this appointment I have received several letters from members to be added to the Legislative Committee. Legislative issues are important for us as citizens and as postal employees. Diane Leighton and Bob LaFoe were appointed Palatine stewards on July 11th. **APWU Wins FMLA Case in Federal Court** Headquarters announced on July 20, 2005 that APWU has won a major victory in the federal appeals court on FMLA. The court ruled that the USPS return-to-work requirements for absences of more than 21 days conflict with FMLA. USPS had required employees to provide a detailed medical including diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, and medication upon return. The court ruled that a medical from the employee's doctor stating they are able to return to duty is sufficient.

Special points of interest

Ballots Mailed for Contract Extension.

Recommend Approval

New Appointments

APWU Wins FMLA Case in Federal Court

New BA Lynn Pallas Barber Gets Rave Reviews

Alan Czerwinski Appointed Arbitration Advocate by President Burrus

VP Barkin Continues Shake-Out

AO Labor Management Meetings

Busso Labor Scheduler Meeting

Carol Stream Labor Management Meeting

Casual to Lieu Settlement List Ready

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New Business Agent Lynn Pallas Barber Gets Rave Reviews!

Our newest Clerk Craft Business Agent for the Central Region is Lynn Pallas-Barber and she has impressed us with her skill in arbitration. She successfully arbitrated a representative holiday grievance on management's refusal to schedule volunteers from another tour prior to drafting during a holiday schedule. Recently she returned to our Local to arbitrate a removal grievance. The steward who prepared the case described her as tremendous and I agree. She joins our two experienced B.A.'s Percy Harrison, and John Clark from NWIAL. I believe we have a very good group of Business Agents for our region.

Alan Czerwinski Appointed as a Local Advocate

Palatine Tour 2 Chief Steward and News Director Alan Czerwinski was recently appointed an Arbitration Advocate by President Burrus. Alan will be available to arbitrate grievances from our Local as scheduled by the Regional Coordinator. Alan has the skills necessary to perform at this level and we thank him for serving.

VP Dave Baskin Continues Shake-Out With AO Grievances

Dave continues meeting with Labor Relations on the grievance shake-out. He is currently discussing Associate Office grievances and reports that he is working on PTF conversion grievances for Franklin Park and Glenview.

AO Meetings Scheduled

We have scheduled Labor-Management meetings at most of the Associate Offices and the number one issue is staffing. This includes posting of bids, PTF

This past week we met with Postmasters at Glencoe, Northbrook, and Glenview. Next week we have meetings scheduled in Lake Forest, Highland Park, Wilmette, and Winnetka. We are attempting to schedule meetings in all AO's on a quarterly basis.

Withholding Lifted on June 30.

Management notified the Unions that full-time withholding actions were cancelled due to attrition at Cardiss Collins P&DC and Chicago Metro Surface Hub. All positions withheld for this impact are released. This means vacancies must be posted for bid and PTF's who meet conversion requirements must be converted to full-time. Our first item at each office will be PTF conversion.

Labor Scheduler Meeting Held at Chicago Metro Surface Hub

600 CCD Jack Pyssler and I met with In-Plant Support Manager Adam Nelson and Area Labor Scheduler staff. The proposed numbers show an increase in full-time clerks from 111 to 117 and an increase in PTF's from 13 to 29. Once the second APPS is accepted the 30 TE clerks and 36 casual clerks should be eliminated. We agreed that bids will be posted for the manual flats unit.

We will be meeting again when the Labor Scheduler is approved. The next Labor-Management meeting will be August 22nd.

Labor Management at Carol Stream on July 12, 2005

We also met at the Carol Stream Post Office with Postmaster Mike Mayes and his staff. We discussed the possible conversion of the four PTF's in the CFS unit. We discussed the possible conversion of the last seven PTF's in the plant with Plant Manager Ron Woodall and his staff. We in-

formed him that we request to be kept updated on Labor Scheduler and the status of APPS deployment for Carol Stream. The information at this time is that Carol Stream's APPS is going to Irving Park Road and some of the outgoing volume will follow. We agreed that the 11 custodial vacancies will be filled in-house as soon as possible. If you are interested in becoming a custodian write a letter to Plant Manager Ron Woodall. We agreed to set up a committee to review long-term injured employee bids that are currently being back-filled by casuals. If an employee is permanently injured and holding a bid for a job they cannot perform, that employee should be given an assignment and the bid posted. Casuals may only be used on a temporary basis. We agreed that the FMLA office will be given help to catch up. We agreed that tour 3 incidental leave problems will be discussed by Mary Alexander and tour 3 Chief Steward Walter Elerby. We agreed that an interpreter would be scheduled on a regular basis.

Casual in Lieu of Settlement List Ready for Signature

601 CCD Taylor reviewed tour 2 ODL's and prepared the list of grievants for the casual in lieu of pre-arb settlement made on May 25th. Ray Wience and I reviewed the list and I prepared the settlement. We are ready to take it to management for signature and implementation. All grievants listed will receive a lump sum of \$1,000.00 and they should be notified within the next week or so.

Jackie Engelhart