

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

President's Report by :Jackie Engelhart

Labor Scheduler Bids posted at Palatine.

The Labor Scheduler bid results were posted for posting # 005-08 on May 27, 2005. Most clerks were able to stay on their tour with different non-scheduled days. These bids are effective June 11, 2005.

69 Bids Posted in June

69 clerk bids were posted for posting # 005-12 on June 7, 2005. There are 9 tour 2 bids, 21 tour 3 bids, and 39 tour 1 bids on this posting. Employees who fail to bid will be placed in residual vacancies.

40 Clerks to MH Delayed until July 9,

2005. Management has delayed moving 40 clerks to the MH craft for two more weeks, until July 9, 2005. Most of these clerks are coming from tour 1 automation and there is concern about tour 1 staffing.

Bid Pending Medical

Approximately 11 senior bidders were not awarded bids on the May posting because they are currently on restrictions. Management has agreed to award bids

pending medical as we have in the past. Per the Burrus Memo, injured employees who provide a doctor's statement saying they will be able to perform the bid within 6 months will be awarded the bid pending medical. This was agreed to by the parties and a grievance was avoided.

FSM Closed Section

For closed section bidding, the excess employees should be removed from the section first. For closed section bidding bids will be posted for employees in the section first, for the retreat right employees, and then to the facility.

Carol Stream Casuals in Lieu of Grievances

Employees at Carol Stream were promised big money was coming for casuals in lieu of grievances. I have requested a list of all "live" Carol Stream Casuals in Lieu of grievances from management. I have 10 grievances in my possession. Before actually reviewing these grievances I checked with our Business Agent office to con-

firm that these grievances were properly appealed to step 3. I received a fax back from that office saying "no record" of them. I will be investigating further to determine if these cases were appealed, and if not, what happened. I will share this information with the membership.

\$150,000.00 Settlement for Carol Stream Signed on May 25, 2005.

On May 25, 2005 a pre-arbitration settlement was signed for \$150,000.00 to be paid to Carol Stream clerks. This settled 10 grievances, including one for casuals in lieu of. This settlement was made by a National Advocate assigned to settle and/or arbitrate these grievances.

I am now being told by Labor Relations that there are no more casuals in lieu of grievances to discuss for Carol Stream. Carol Stream clerks were led to believe a million dollar settlement was imminent. I have requested a list of all live Carol Stream casuals in lieu of grievances from management. I am waiting for this list and I will inform you.

June 12, 2005

Jackie Engelhart.
President
Alan J. Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

Labor Scheduler Bids
Carol Stream Casuals in Lieu of

Northwest Illinois Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
194 W. Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-833-0088
Fax: 630-833-0248

Labor Management Meetings

A Labor Management Meeting has been scheduled for June 17, 2005 at Chicago Metro Surface Hub. There will also be a complement meeting that day. Bob Petrowski is the new Acting Plant Manager and he has informed me that the Labor Scheduler will be run at Metro. Metro will be receiving a second APPS in July to be accepted in September. We have requested the complement meeting because of the recently hired casuals and T.E.'s in the clerk craft at Metro. Management can only use casuals as a temporary supplemental workforce and they must have a reason for using them.

Letters Sent to all NWIAL Offices Requesting Meetings

We intend to schedule bi-monthly meetings at all NWIAL offices in an effort to address problems in each office in a timely manner. We have scheduled a meeting at the Wheaton Post Office for June 30, 2005.

Incidental Leave Problems

While management has said we have too many clerks, they continue to refuse incidental leave to clerks requesting days off. The reason given is high sick leave use and the number of light and limited duty clerks. Management states they do not have to allow 14% off for incidental leave and that the 14% applies to vacations only. The negotiated LMOU language states "The number of employees granted leave during the choice vacation period shall be 14% by tour and section, in the Clerk, Motor Vehicle, and Maintenance Crafts, based upon the needs of the service."

Union Wins Holiday Grievance!

On April 12, 2005 National Business Agent Lynn Pallas-Barber arbitrated a holiday grievance at Palatine P&DC. It was a holiday grievance I filed in 1999 for the Labor Day Holiday Schedule. Management refused all tour 2 volunteers for Saturday but drafted in all sections on tour 1 for Saturday, September 4, 1999. The Union grieved that management was obligated to work the tour 2 volunteers on tour 1 in lieu of some of the drafted tour 1 clerks. On May 4, 2005 Arbitrator Simon sustained the Union's grievance with the remedy that all of the tour 2 volunteers be paid. Approximately 40 clerks will be paid as if they worked. This was a representative case which means that all other grievances that we have pending arbitration for this same violation will also be settled. Management argued that in spite of the fact that holiday volunteer form have always had a box for employees to check if they wish to work "my tour only", that they had never taken volunteers from another tour. The arbitrator agreed with the Union, that per the holiday volunteer form, management must allow holiday volunteer to cross tours before drafting on a holiday schedule. I have requested a list of all cases pending this representative case, so we can pay all of the affected employees.

New Shake-Out Begun

Vice President Dave Baskin has begun meeting with Labor on a new grievance shake-out for all NWIAL clerk grievances. This includes Palatine, Carol Stream, and the Associate Offices. Maintenance Director Chuck Olson will be doing the same for maintenance grievances in these offices.

Social & Recreation Events

Social & Recreation Director Vera Wilkerson reports that tickets are now on sale for two popular events. Tickets for **Great America** are \$24.00 and do not include food or parking this year. Dates are July 28-31 and tickets are good for any one of these days. There is no limit on tickets. Tickets may be purchased at Carol Stream and Palatine on all three tours on Wednesday and Fridays on lunches and breaks. Tickets are also on sale for the **4th Annual Moonlight Cruise on the Odyssey Cruise Liner**. "Don't go to bed! Come wear your red" Cruise date is Saturday, August 27, 2005 and boarding time is 12 midnight. Cruise is from 1230 to 230 am. Red attire is optional. There is a limit on these tickets so buy early. Ticket price for the cruise is \$25.00 (cash only). Come out and enjoy these Social & Recreation events!

Voice of the Employee Surveys

APWU has long opposed the VOE survey as a management attempt to circumvent the Union. Management uses positive responses to show that employees are happy with their working conditions. You do not have to fill these out, nor do you have to be questioned as to why you do not want to fill them out. You may even take the survey with you and mail it. Contract Negotiations with APWU begin on August 29, 2005.

Three New Plant Managers

We welcome Ron Woodall as the new A/Sr. Plant Manager at Carol Stream, Melvin Dean as the A/Plant Manager at Palatine, and Robert Petrowski as the A/Plant Manager at Chicago Metro Surface Hub.

Jackie Engelhart