

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Local Update by Jackie Engelhart

Five Busse PTF's Converted on 6-9-07!

Five Part-Time Flexible Clerks were converted to full-time effective 6-9-07. These conversions were the result of two separate APWU grievances, one of which was filed in 2005. Plant Manager Anderson and Labor Specialist Teresa Thadison agreed to resolve the grievances and convert these PTF's. We have asked Plant Manager Anderson to convert the few remaining PTF's and he said he will consider it. Per the new contract, all PTF Clerks in 200 Man Year offices will be converted by December of 2007.

SPBS Bids to be Posted, Flat Sorter to go...

Melvin stated he wants to keep the SPBS, but the Flat Sorter will go. We will be meeting with Melvin on June 15th to review our information as to who retains retreat rights to the tour 3 section, where approximately 10 SPBS Clerk bids will be posted. Melvin stated he would like to post the bids in July. It will run daily except Sunday.

The Chicago District

As we have heard on the news and in the papers, the Chicago District is # 80 out of 80 Districts. Postmaster General John Potter attended hearings in Chicago recently, and he promised improvements within 6 months. Headquarters and Area management are making decisions in the Chicago District, and operational changes, such as keeping the SPBS and/or removing a Flat Sorter will be decided at their level.

Jerry Kubick as ISC

Jerry was abruptly replaced as A/Senior Plant Manager for the Chicago District on May 2, 2007, and replaced by Todd Hawkins, the Senior Plant Manager from Milwaukee. I spoke to Chicago Union officials, who told me Jerry refused to take down a problem supervisor after numerous Union complaints. Jerry remains in Chicago as he is the new Plant Manager at the International Service Center (ISC). For many years he served as the Plant Manager for AMC O'Hare & Busse.

Irving Park Road (IPR) Back to Chicago?!

Rumors are flying, and the Chicago Local Union tells me that Irving Park Road will go back to the Chicago District effective October 1, 2007. The Main Post Office was replaced by Cardiss Collins (downtown) and Irving Park Road (near O'Hare). As Chicago President Sam Anderson told me, the North Side Stations had to get their mail from Cardiss Collins downtown, which was delaying Chicago mail. Before the loss of IPR, Cardiss was the SCF for the South Side and IPR for the North Side. With the abrupt change to the Regional Distribution Center (RDC) system, based on the deployment of the APPS, the decision was made to make IPR the RDC for the Northern Illinois District (NID). The plan was to move all other mail processing equipment out of IPR and move (squeeze) it into Cardiss, and excess Clerks to Mail Handler. We now hear IPR will not be getting a third APPS, and it will go to the BMC.

Floor Edition

June 12, 2007

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President
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Special points of interest:

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Gerald J. Kubick

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Northern & Chicago

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Great America in July

Northern IL & Chicago

Effective October 1, 2006, the Irving Park Road Facility was "given" to the NID as their Regional Distribution Center. Can you imagine "giving" Carol Stream to Chicago and pushing all their mail into Palatine?! That's what they did to Chicago when they took IPR and tried to send IPR mail (and machines and Clerks) to Cardiss Collins. Postmaster General Potter has promised to fix Chicago's service, and that may involve giving them back their plant. While the rumors are flying, the only thing management confirms is that it is possible IPR will go back to Chicago. If it happens, IPR will probably be a P&DC with two APPS. This will leave the NID without an APPS, as Palatine's APPS is scheduled to move to Busse by the end of 2007. These changes would require less competition and more cooperation between districts, as the NID will be dependent on Chicago for their APPS mail. While the PMG and the Great Lakes Area focus on improving Chicago's service, we have our own service problems in the NID. We continue to hear the numbers are down, and we will find out at the District Meeting scheduled for June 13th.

Carol Stream LMM Goes Well

We had a productive Labor-Management Meeting with Plant Manager Gregory Johnson and his staff on June 7, 2007. The main issues were the continued use of Clerk casuals after the excessing, the use of abolished FSM Clerks on the FSM, and the failure of management to act on APWU requests to schedule meetings to update the CS RI-399 Inventory, never updated from 1992 when the facility first opened.

Palatine is Another Story...

We requested Labor-Management meetings at all three plants on May 21st, with meetings already held at Carol Stream and Busse. We are still waiting for Palatine to give us a date, and this is where we have most of our problems. We continue to experience Senior Management's refusal to honor written and verbal agreements at Palatine. We see continuing pressure on automation Clerks to work harder and faster, but not smarter under the Standardization and Certification Programs. We know these programs are being used nationally and locally as a method to affect work and time standards for Clerks. In-Plant Support Manager Esther Smith reports "Palatine did not achieve the June 1st deadline for DBCS certification which is very disappointing." Operations is advised to "Please review and take action as appropriate." In-Plant Support staff are meeting with the automation Clerks, armed with "DBCS Performance Indicators & Targets" and "DBCS Standardization Operator Checklists." These Clerks are being given a two page checklist and a target of 39,500 pieces per hour. It seems every week there are more responsibilities placed on the automation Clerks, but the craft's input is not even considered in the process. There should be no threats of discipline for working safely, as employees are not machines. Palatine Clerks are upset at the treatment of two of their co-workers. Danny Bracket & Ron Woodall say there was no agreement on Upper & Lower, but I spoke with Tim Anderson on June 4th and he said there was an agreement for moving employees by juniority.

FMLA Problems

We continue to see many problems with FMLA approval. Cora Krause states 95% of all FMLA forms submitted are "incomplete". I find this hard to believe, but I suggested to Cora and Shirley Taylor that they provide a sample FMLA form like the APWU has done, to help the employees avoid this problem. You would think they would want to help reduce their workload, but Shirley Taylor and her new boss Gilbert Lopez were not receptive to our suggestion. They said the letters they send out serve the same purpose, but I disagree. If they want to help avoid sending out these letters then they should be willing to provide a sample form for employees to take to their doctor. Why are they so resistant to helping the employees, and yet complain that 95% of the FMLA forms submitted are incomplete?! The FMLA Coordinators work for the USPS, and they scrutinize these forms for any reason to require the employee to resubmit the certification. We have agreed to meet with the FMLA staff on this issue, and to reduce the constant FMLA backlog. If you have an FMLA problem at any office, see your area steward.

Legislative Committee Event

The Legislative Committee is sponsoring a night of **Fun & Games** on Friday, June 29th from 6 pm to ? There will be Bid Whist, Spades and Domino Tournaments, as well as food for a \$10 ticket admission, with the proceeds to COPA.

Great America Outing in July

Carol Stream & Palatine are selling tickets for this annual Social & Rec. event. For information contact Vera Wilkerson at Palatine and/or Delora Hawkins at Carol Stream at 630-260-5666. The ticket price is \$27 and/or \$32 for the Picnic Day.

