

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

June 30, 2005

Contract Extension Talks

President Burrus announced on June 20 that APWU is in discussions with the Postal Service to extend the current contract by one year. Extending the contract would mean that the contracts of the four largest postal unions would expire at the same time, November 20, 2006. The four unions are APWU, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Union. Any extension must be approved by the members.

COLA Update

Subject to fluctuation in the next two months, the next COLA adjustment is projected to equal an annual raise of \$582.00, 28 cents per hour, or \$22.40 per pay period. This eighth COLA will be based on the July 2005 Consumer Price Index and will be effective September 3, 2005. The most recent

COLA increase was \$208 and took effect March 19.

Casual Update (Carol Stream)

In the Local Line floor spread dated June 21, 2005 I informed Carol Stream clerks that the millions of dollars promised for casuals in lieu of is not a reality. The fact is the only casual in lieu of settlement we have was a \$150,000.00 pre-arbitration settlement signed on May 25, 2005 by National Advocate Rod Thompson. As I stated, after looking at the case file I believe the settlement was a good one. I also stated that the rest of the casual in lieu of grievances I have found were not appealed to step 3 and are dead. I have 10 (well documented) tour 2 grievances filed in 2000 during the time we were in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedure (ADRP) agreed to by former President Slupik. When former President Miles ended the ADRP in June of 2002 these cases should have been ap-

pealed. At Palatine the Clerk Craft Director was responsible for appealing the clerk grievances and the Maintenance Craft Director for the Maintenance grievances. I knew that 601 Clerk Craft Director Gerry Giddens became ill shortly after taking office, but she was not replaced by current 601 CCD Calvin Taylor until October of 2002. I have since talked to Calvin Taylor, Gerry Giddens, and Bob Miles in regard to the appeal of these grievances. Calvin told me neither he or Gerry had them. Gerry Giddens told me that then Vice President Lindsey Jefferson Jr. had been discussing the casual in lieu of grievances with Labor and that he was continuing to discuss them.

ADRP Appeals

Both Calvin and Gerry told me the same thing, that they did not have these grievances. I was responsible for appealing all of the ADRP clerk grievances at Palatine P&DC. I assumed the 601 Clerk Craft Director was responsible at Carol Stream.

Jackie Engelhart
President
Alan J. Czerwinski
News Director

Special points of interest:

Contract Extension Talks
Cola Update
Casual Update Carol Stream
Casuals at CS & Metro
Officers Hard at Work
Good News on Incidental Leave and Holiday Scheduling at Palatine

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The President is ultimately responsible to ensure that grievances are appealed per contractual time limits because the President is responsible for ensuring that all other officers and stewards do their jobs. I do believe Lindsey Jefferson was discussing the casuals in lieu of grievances during his term as Vice President and that this task was assigned to him.

President's Report in March of 2005

In the Local Line home edition for March of 2005, Lindsey Jefferson referred to the casuals in lieu of grievances in "The President's Report". He stated "Management has agreed to settle all casual in lieu of grievances of the Carol Stream facility. An approval is pending and expected from Washington D.C. for expenditure (within 30-60 days); the district can't cover the expense." This statement seems to confirm the fact that Lindsey had assigned himself to settle these grievances both as Vice President and President. In the previous Local Line I stated "Gerry Giddens became ill shortly after taking office and her duties were assigned to Calvin Taylor by Vice President Lindsey Jefferson. Calvin was not assigned these duties until October of 2002. President Miles and Vice President Jefferson were responsible for assigning these duties in the absence of Gerry Giddens.

Casuals at Carol Stream & Chicago Metro Surface Hub

During the lowest mail volume period of the year management has continued to hire and maintain casual staffing in the clerk craft at Carol Stream. I spoke to an MDO today about the low mail volume and I asked why we need casuals during the historically low volume

summer season. I was also told that employees should be able to get leave now because of the low mail volume. I have requested a list of all casuals and T.E.'s and the reason for hire at both Carol Stream and Chicago Metro Surface Hub. The situation at Metro appears to be temporary as the second APPS is scheduled to arrive July 5th to be accepted September 5th. Once the APPS is accepted the clerk T.E.'s and casuals will not be needed and we have been told no more clerks will be excessed out of the clerk craft. The situation at Carol Stream appears to be more business as usual with casuals being worked year round or as the saying goes "in lieu of". This will be the first order of business at the Carol Stream Labor Management meeting scheduled for July 12, 2005.

Officers All Hard at Work

As I work on this floor letter (as the phone rings frequently) I have signed off on several holiday grievances today, talked to the National about our Local's participation in a July 24th AFL-CIO rally, researched some Labor Board charges I filed against management, and I have a pile of grievances and letters to work on. Dave Baskin is here discussing the grievance shake-out and pulling and reviewing the grievances. 600 CCD Pyssler and MVS Director Imburgia were here working for awhile. Treasurer Modi was here most of the day working in his office and Chief Trustee Wience and Clerk Trustee Kwon were here all day training newly elected Maintenance Trustee Mulligan. All of our officers have been working hard to perform their duties. Secretary Retel, 601 CCD Taylor, and Maintenance Di-

rector Olson were not here today but they are here working on a regular basis. I believe we have a group of dedicated officers.

New Steward Appointments

New stewards were appointed effective June 12, 2005. New clerk stewards at Palatine are Randy Bolden and Karen Salmond on tour 1, Vera Wilkerson on tour 2, and Keith Gosu and Mark Johnson on tour 3. Dan Mulligan is the new maintenance steward on tour 3. New clerk stewards at Carol Stream are Elaine Bartlet-Walker on tour 1, Derrick Glascoe on tour 2, and Doreen Motley on tour 3. Ron Joseph is the new maintenance steward on tour 3 and George Toben is the new MVS steward on tour 3. New steward training was held last week by myself, Dave Baskin, Jack Pyssler, and Calvin Taylor.

Good News on Incidental Leave and Holiday Scheduling at Palatine

New A/Plant Manager Melvin Dean has stated that he wants to reduce the holiday drafting at Palatine. He believes that it doesn't make sense to draft over the weekend and ask employees to go home Tuesday because there is no mail. (We have said that for years). Melvin also is making an effort to increase the number of employees management has been allowing off for incidental leave at Palatine. While he is not promising 14% every day he has stated he would like to allow 14% of the section schedule in per each day of the week. We do not agree on the meaning of 14% but we do agree Melvin is making an effort to improve working conditions at Palatine. Good (or bad) morale starts with the Plant Manager.

Jackie Engelhart