

The Local Line

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The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Local Update by Jackie Engelhart

OIG Issues Audit Report on the AI & ATHS
On September 10, 2007 the Office of Inspector General issued an Audit Report on the AFSM-AI. It confirms what APWU has been saying locally about AI, which is the supposed savings of AI is not there. The OIG report states "We determined the Postal Service did not fully realize expected work hour savings, as specified in the respective DARs and field budgets. While we found the Postal Service reduced overall mail clerk staffing as planned, work hours for mail preparation operation have increased beyond DAR projections. In addition, we noted a decline in AFSM 100 throughput although the Postal Service expected an overall increase of 6.6 percent. The increase in mail prep work hours and reduction in throughput negatively impacted the realization of projected savings. On average, the flat mail prep operations we reviewed were over staffed by 19 work hours per machine, per day."

AI Mail Prep Savings ?
"A reduction in preparation work hours through adequate management of the mail preparation operation is necessary to achieve the full benefit of potential work hour savings. **Overstaffing the mail preparation operation is avoidable by adhering to established standards and methods, therefore, we will report \$80.3 million associated with over staffing as funds put to better use in our Semiannual Report to Congress.**

AI Maintenance Hours
Lastly we found management had used maintenance work hours within DAR expectations, but maintenance work hours for preventive and corrective measures were lower than expected. A summary maintenance performance report showed some preventive maintenance completion rates were as low as 10 percent. These partial completion rates, to some degree, explain work hours being lower than expected." **Why are routes not completed?**

Clerk Reductions Significantly Impacted by Increases in Mail Prep Hours & Throughput.

"We found the Postal Service has achieved substantial reductions in mail clerk work hours due to the AI and ATHS enhancements. Daily reductions of 44.8 clerk work hours per machine per day were expected and management realized 118 percent of the projected reduction. However, excessive work hours incurred for the mail prep operations and an overall reductions in throughput have offset a significant portion of the clerk work hour reductions and will continue to impact savings unless management emphasizes adherence to the process. Post Phase I deployment data show a net work hour savings of 22,000 hours for the AFSM 100 operation. These net savings are from a decrease of over 852,000 clerk work hours and an increase of over 829,000 mail preparation work hours for the period reviewed." **The OIG report is the "smoking gun" on AI!**

Floor Edition

October 23, 2007

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Special points of interest:

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AI Mail Prep Savings?

AI Maintenance Hours

Clerk Reductions Significantly Impacted by Increases in Mail Prep Hours & Throughput

Report Confirms Everything

The Other FSM (1000)

Fall Mailing Season Casuals

Melvin Anderson Leaving Busse for IPR

New Members

Still Working on PTF Conversions in Several Offices

Human Relations Retirement Seminar on November 17th

Report Confirms Everything

We have said all along that the AI is still a mail processing and not a mail prep unit, and management is calling it a prep unit to get rid of Clerks. It is no reflection on the Mail Handlers who are working out of their element on a mail processing machine that the AI has not met the targets for work hours and throughput. Management is crossing crafts to save money and trying to force a square peg in a round hole. It seems likely that management will now be trying to address the OIG findings and increase the throughput and the efficiency on the AI, and this will fall on the Mail Handlers who staff the machine. I noted that AI "prep station" staffing when running tray volume only (what I call Secondary Towns) is reduced from 3 to 2. Running Secondary Towns involves no prepping at all and negates the reason for assigning a Mail Handler on AFSM-AI. We requested production information for the AFSM before and after AI to compare the throughput. We received this information at Carol Stream, but not at Palatine because In-Plant Support at Palatine refuses to provide almost all APWU Information Requests. The Carol Stream data shows the throughput went down from approximately 1400 pieces per hour to 1200. The OIG report confirms on a national basis what we are seeing locally. The OIG says USPS wasted 80 million dollars. Was the goal to save money and work hours, or was the goal to get rid of Clerks. The only goal achieved was to get rid of Clerks and reduce throughput. This was all about getting rid of Clerks and giving our work to Mail Handlers.

The Other FSM (1000)

Last week I was at Palatine on tour 2 and 3 and spoke with several upset FSM-1000 bid employees who told me that they are hearing the last machine will be gone by the end of the month. We were told by management that one FSM-1000 would be gone by the end of the year. This is according to notes taken by VP Dave Baskin at the District meeting on June 13, 2007 and per Ron Woodall. I was able to speak with Senior MDO Bracket about this on October 22nd, and we agreed to meet on October 25 to discuss posting bids in flats.

Fall Mailing Season Casuals

For the second year in a row management has hired casuals in August at both Carol Stream & Palatine for the "Fall Mailing Season". Carol Stream management did not even bother separating Clerk casuals before excessing Clerks to Mail Handler, and Palatine began hiring Clerk casuals within 30 days of excessing 40 Clerks effective July 7, 2007. Why did management hire casuals when they had already told us at the June 13th District Meeting that "the fall mailing season would not be as big this year"? I recently spoke to a senior manager who said they're still waiting for the fall mailing season, but its got to come. Management says they are hiring casuals for an expected seasonal increase in volume that does not materialize then they should separate the casuals. It looks like they are going to hire casuals even after they admit the volume is down. The real reason is they excessed Clerks to Mail Handler and their goal is to get rid of Clerks and replace them with Mail Handlers, Clerk casuals and the Mail Handler casuals are now working on the AFSM. Then management tell us "that's why you're losing work, because you file too many grievances!"

Melvin Anderson Leaving Busse for IPR

We have been told unofficially that Melvin has been appointed the Plant Manager at Irving Park Road and his last day at Busse will be October 29th. As IPR returns to the Chicago Cluster, Melvin Anderson is replacing A/Plant Manager Melvin Dean. We still have many problems at Busse and we hope the new Plant Manager will work with us to improve working conditions.

New Members

In the last Local Line I listed the new members, and also wrote that sometimes people join when they get discipline. It was pointed out to me by one of our Stewards that it read like some of the new members listed joined because they had discipline. The point I made concerning discipline did not apply to any of those new members I listed.

Still Working on PTF Conversions in Several Offices

We know PTF Clerks are working full-time in most of our AOs and are working on conversions in several of these offices.

Human Relations Retirement Seminar on November 17th

APWU's master on retirement is John R. Smith and he will be with us again to inform and educate. National Legislative Director Myke Reid will address us on the 2008 national elections. Veteran's information will be provide by Bob LaFoe. The seminar is free to all NWIAL members, and we are requesting a \$10.00 donation to COPA. Lunch will be served and the seminar hours are 9am to 4pm. To register, stop in or call the Palatine or Carol Stream Union office.