



The Corner Stone

PUBLICATION OF WATERLOO LOCAL #451
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO
MEMBER OF APWU POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

MAY 2007



Retiree's Get-Together
Mondays at 1:00pm
University Ave. McDonald's
Across from HY-Vee

Casuals and the Contract....

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



So, where were you last month? That's right, we didn't have enough for a quorum so we didn't have a meeting, although there were 9 of us who sat it out until noon waiting for number 10. I know, I didn't get the notice up like usual, but is it that difficult to keep in mind we meet the 3rd Saturday unless there are circumstances discussed at the previous meeting? I've already printed out the notice for this month and I see it says we're meeting the 19th so put that date on your calendar & we'll try again. Thanks.

Another State Convention is now history and a big thank you goes to Fort Dodge for doing a good job setting it up. We, of course, spent quite a bit of time on the new contract basically going through to see where the changes are. The main area discussed was the Casual and PTF conversion section. As I've said before, the changes in that category did us no favors and, in fact, hurt us tremendously in my opinion. As we've already seen, Casual usage is higher than it was before and our PTFs aren't going to be converted any faster than they would have been anyway. If we're ever able to hire career employees again, they will come in as full-time; I guess that's worth something. While talking to other people at the convention it's pretty clear we're not the only ones with those opinions. On Sunday we spent the morning learning and/or re-learning FMLA issues.

There are a couple things to keep in mind regarding the Casuals. Although they don't get overtime until they go over 40 hours, we're checking their printouts weekly so when they do go over 40 we're aware of it. We've already filed grievances in this regard to get it corrected. Also, at least for the time being, Casuals will not be working between the hours of 0500 and Noon and they will not be performing work in any specialized areas.

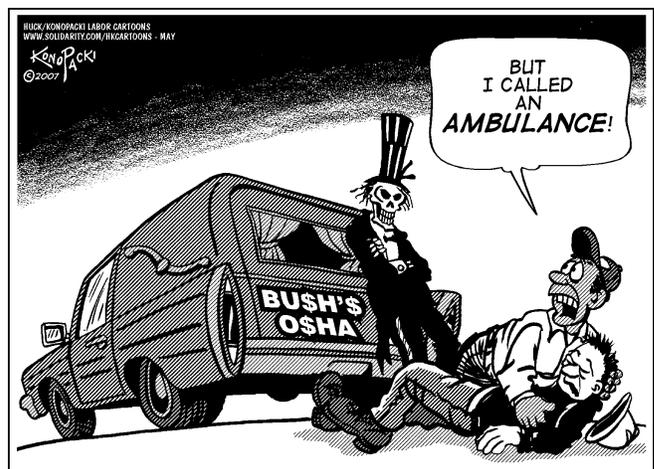
I know I told you last month local negotiations should have been completed by the time of the meeting (the one we didn't have) but I was wrong.

We had one item holding it up but I will go out on a limb and say we will surely be done by this month's meeting. We'll see. If we do get it finished, we can discuss it at the meeting. When you get the chance, please thank the committee for their time and the work they did on it; Kim, Cindy, and Chris (Salinas) with Dave (Knebel) and Paulette as our Rank & File Committee checking over the work we did.

Don't forget, as if I'd let you, we've got the COPA campaign going full steam ahead right now for our members. I've been reminding people but if I miss you, you can always get it to me on your own. We did an excellent job last year and right now are approaching two-thirds of that total for this year. Keep it coming and you'll be entered in whatever raffles happen to be going on at the time.

We've still been having trouble with the ½ hour (actually 25 minute) notice for end-tour overtime. If you're notified of the need for overtime with less than 25 minutes left until your clock-out time, the overtime is at your option. No, you will not get make-up overtime, you only have the choice of whether you stay or not. We have discussions with managers pretty regularly on this matter so let your Steward know when it happens.

See you at the meeting...



Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

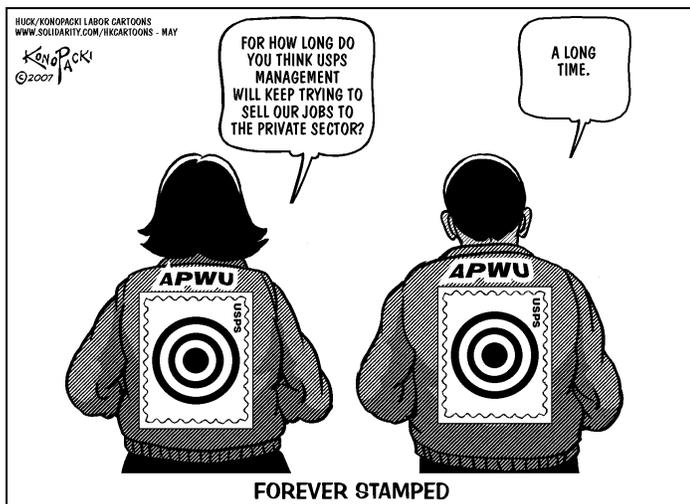
APWU LOCAL 451
April 21st, 2007

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was not called to order do to a lack of a quorum. There were 9 members and 1 retiree, Cary Purcell, present.

The next meeting will be May 19th 2007 at 11:00 am at the OP. We collected a total of \$40.00 for COPA. Good job People!!

Members Present:

Bonnie Salinas, Chris Salinas, Terry McEntee, Dwight Slaikeu, Glenn Staudinger, Paulette Woods, Mike Burke, Randy Weverink and Kim Karol



From the VP's desk...



By: Kim Karol



I am taking a moment to report on the business conducted at the recent APWU meeting in Fort Dodge. As many of you know the meetings in the Spring are either strictly business and elections or in the off year an educational program. This spring was an off year and dedicated to education. The bulk of the discussions focused on the changes that are taking place as a result of the new contract. For many this was new information, and the business agents fielded a variety of difficult questions.

The program followed the same outline as the program given in St. Louis, but this time the program was not rushed. We were told that as time passes additional situations/problems have developed requiring clarification. As the questions arise, the business agents are trying to keep everyone informed so that we can be watching to see if similar situations develop in our office.

The meeting also hosted several guest speakers; the first speaker informed the group on the importance of joining and participating in NARFE, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. This association closely monitors legislative

activity that may effect federal employees' retirement. If you recall I have written several articles telling you that your retirement is not guaranteed, Congress could erase everything in a single pen stroke.

The current economy is creating a very volatile separation between the "haves or the top 1%" and the "have nots or everyone else". If something doesn't change this, federal employees will become the political target for making changes to make things "more equal". What that means is that federal employees' benefits will come under attack, because the rhetoric will espouse that if you don't have this benefit then they shouldn't have the benefit either. This has been happening in the private sector for a long time.

NARFE is working in Washington DC to neutralize this type of toxic atmosphere on behalf of all federal employees. I bring this to your attention because I feel it is so important for people to change their mind set. We have been hypnotized to believe the government will fix our problems. The government has not had your best interest in mind for several decades.

Case in point the p_____ matches in Washington. When the people sent new representatives to Congress to make changes in our policies, the President basically thumbed his nose at all of us and said he was going to do whatever he wanted anyway. Our Founding Fathers would be horrified if they could have seen the democracy they created being crippled by our current politics and President. What is worse is the people allowed it! I digress, what is important is that you have to find some means for protecting your future.

Most of us have contributed to COPA, but you may not have joined NARFE yet. I would hope that you consider participating in this organization as well. The more voices that we can have fighting for our needs in Washington, the harder it will be for the messages to be ignored.

Speaking of Politicians, John Edwards sent a representative to address the group. I won't spend a great deal of time detailing his message. I did want to mention it, because I was surprised by the message his campaign is sending. I have been going to political speeches since I was a kid... many years. Most of the time you don't hear any solutions to problems, you only hear the outcome that the candidate is promising. It is tied up into nice little sound bites that the crowd can cheer for, and the press can latch on to. This message was very down to earth, and different from all of that. Maybe it was because it was not the candidate himself, but I hope that it signals a change in politics as usual. I hope that all of you will take a second look at this candidate.

With that I will jump off my soap box... until next time.

Kim

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED AND DONATED IN THE 2007 MDA LABOR BOWL. CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR! CONGRATS TO KRIS ENGELMAN FOR WINNING THE WOMENS HIGH SERIES!

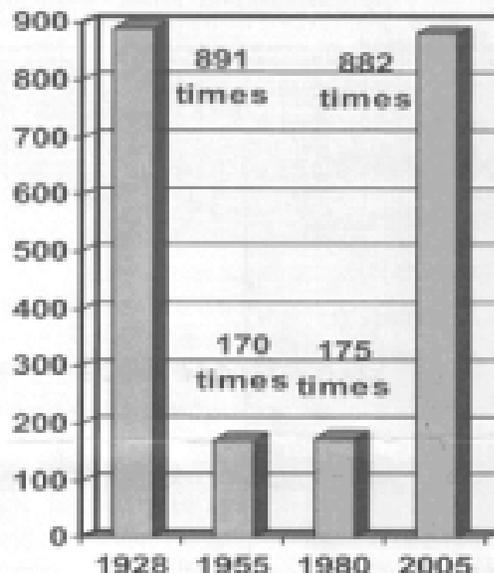
BONNIE SALINAS

"We love our President! Don't you wish you had one?"

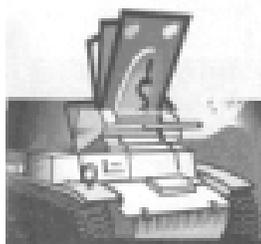


"We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both." *Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis.*

How much wealthier are the top 1/100th of US families than the average family?



The vast wealth of today's rich hasn't been seen since just before the great Depression.



What are our priorities?

Health Care? Housing? Schools? Or the Iraq war?
National Priorities Project releases
annual tax day report



The Cost of the Iraq War to Your Congressional District

The following table lists the cost of the Iraq War, including a portion of the \$100 billion current proposal, for each congressional district in the state of Iowa. Alongside the cost is what the people of Iowa could have if the money was spent locally instead.

<i>Congressional District and Representative</i>	<i>Cost of the Iraq War</i>	<i>Number of children that could have been provided with health care for the length of the Iraq War</i>	<i>OR Number of affordable housing units that could have been built</i>	<i>OR Number of elementary schools that could have been built</i>
<i>01 Braley</i>	\$678.64 million	76,198	8,444	80
<i>02 Loebsack</i>	\$702.99 million	78,932	8,747	83
<i>03 Boswell</i>	\$756.6 million	84,952	9,415	89
<i>04 Latham</i>	\$670.14 million	75,244	8,339	79
<i>05 King</i>	\$644.25 million	72,337	8,017	76



Waterloo Local #451 Officers

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 Vice-President - Kim Karol
 Steward Director - Vanda Blankenship
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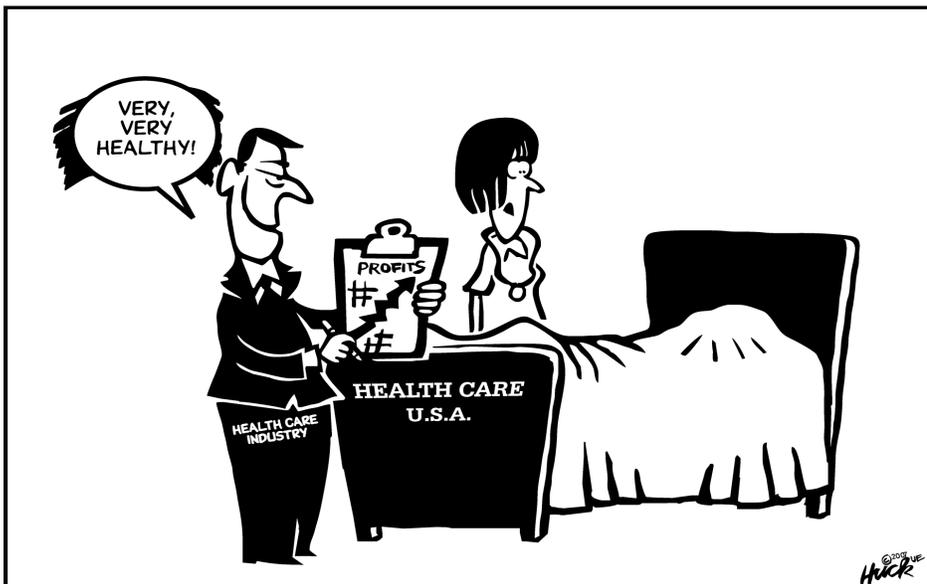
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN THE ACTION
 ATTEND YOUR
 UNION MEETING!**
 May 19th @ 11am
 THE OTHER PLACE
 3904 Lafayette Rd
 Evansdale, IA



Let's get Health Care Reform going!!

NON-MEMBERS of Waterloo Local 451

**Marcie Turner
 Nancy Kannegieter
 Tammy French
 Jackie Murray
 Blake Tolliver
 Dave Palmer
 Kim Mettner
 Betty Murphy
 Kathy Leyen**

**A UNION IS ONLY
 AS STRONG AS
 ITS WEAKEST
 LINK!**