

The way it is . . .

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Director of Industrial Relations



Clerk Craft Awarded IPP Work Under Regional Instruction 399

The November issue of the *American Postal Worker* contained the complete text of Regional Instruction 399 setting forth jurisdictional awards made by the Postal Service. This Union is challenging a number of the primary craft designations in arbitration currently underway.

As a part of the preparation of our case for arbitration, your Union requested and obtained the implementation plans starting on Page 25 of the November issue of the *American Postal Worker*.

Our review of these implementation plans reveals that field management is interpreting the jurisdictional issuance in an inconsistent manner. For example, one of the new areas of favorable impact to this Union was the award of all distribution within Operations 110-129 and 180-189 to the Clerk Craft.

ALERTING ALL CLERK OFFICERS

Operation numbers 110-129 and 180-189 may not be understood in offices not using the PSDS system. Since there are only about 115 post offices recording employees' time ring entries under that system, this article is intended to alert all Clerk Craft officers and employees to the significance of the award for these two operational areas. We also urge that you seek aggressively to obtain this work which has been improperly performed by members of the Mail Handler Craft.

The significance of the award is contained in Item #7 of the 110-129 Operation and Item #5 of the 180-189 Operation. Those two functions award all distribution in these two operations to members of the Clerk Craft. The term "IPP" is a relatively new acronym for irregular parcel post.

Regardless of the size of your office, no mail handler employee may be assigned to rack, case, or container distribution of irregular regular parcel post, newspapers, rolls, letter or flat bundles, slugs, Special Delivery or Special Handling parcel post.

In office after office throughout the Postal Service, Mail Handlers have infiltrated this distribution function improperly for at least the past 10 years.

In these two operations, mail handlers are limited to transporting mail

and/or empty equipment to and from the operations, hanging and pulling sacks, pouches, or containers, dumping mail and cutting and facing bundles of letters and flats for subsequent distribution by the Clerk Craft. All throw-off or distribution activities are assigned to the Clerk Craft as the primary craft. This includes distribution of letter and flat bundles and other single pieces of mail including 5 digit separation in the incoming opening unit.

REGAIN CLERK WORK

We must begin an aggressive attack to regain work which has long been within the jurisdiction of the Clerk Craft. Each Local President, Clerk Craft President, Clerk Craft Steward is urged to review the propriety of assignments in these two areas and demand management compliance with the instructions contained in this portion of issuance #399.

Much of this type of work has recently been transferred to Bulk Mail Centers so that local presidents of those installations must police the assignment of Clerk Craft members to these major distribution functions.

During the arbitration currently underway, we will challenge the award of the labeling of sacks to the Mail Handler Craft in Operation 180-189.

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