

The Corner Stone

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

APRIL 2006



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

Busy as always...

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



It's been a busy month but hopefully as the weather slowly changes to be a bit warmer, some of the present confusion will also straighten itself out. As you've probably heard, the last Clerk hiring request was denied...again. The last time I looked we were down 25 or so Clerks from 5 years ago. Does it surprise anyone that there are a few holes here somewhere? I guess I have a little trouble understanding how someone can say we're using too much overtime and, at the same time, say no to a hiring request. Seems to me those would sort of go hand-in-hand. Apparently I'm missing something.

Keep an eye on the bid board. We still have some strange things going on in that department so you never know what you may see pop up.

The State Convention comes up at the end of this month. We'll be electing the next round of state officers as well as working with resolutions and constitutional changes to send to National for that convention in August. If you have any questions, comments or whatever that you'd like brought up there, let me know. Also, if you have any resolution ideas to send along, I can take them.

Sadly, we have reason to take nominations for a Special Election at this month's meeting. For personal reasons, Cindy has decided to relinquish her position as Steward Director. She's been doing a great job in that position so her work will be missed but I'll bet there are a couple of you who would like to give it a shot. It's not really as difficult as you might think to catch on to but it does take some work in the learning area. Unfortunately, local training is very difficult to pull off, but there are some really good seminars at the various conventions we attend. Experience is not a pre-requisite to the position but it is helpful, of course, to be interested in learning why the contract usually works better than simple logic.

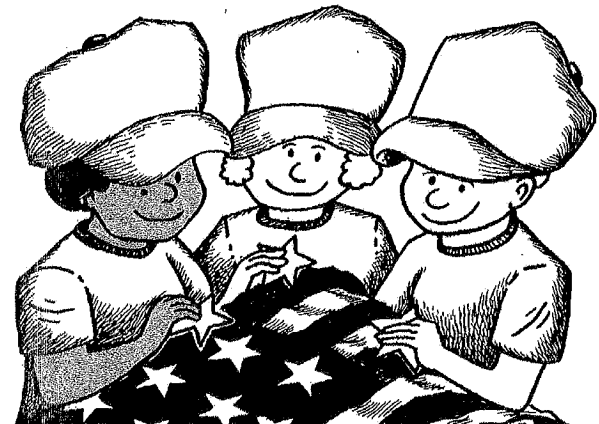
Another surprise...USPS and logic don't usually fit in the same sentence. Anyway, a willingness to get to some seminars and plans to work with management on Step 2 and Step 3 or Arbitration grievances are pretty important. Seems like you'll be going in over your head? You bet you will but then so did the rest of us. I don't know if he remembers but it was Don Hegtveldt who first suggested I jump into the deep end 16 years ago or so. (Not sure I can ever forgive him for that.) Don't let me fool you, the knowledge I carry around is only the tip of the iceberg. While I feel the years sometimes allow me to be only neck deep, I often slip back into the deep end myself. You won't be alone for sure.

Think about it yourself or talk to a friend who you think might do a good job at it. We'll be taking nominations at the meeting Saturday and the election will take place at the May meeting.

I have not been given a date for the Clerk casual case payout. Probably won't be given a date; it'll just suddenly show up one day. I do know that all the necessary information has been sent in from all the installations involved so it's just a matter of the paperwork making its way through the system. My only suggestion is to be patient, it's on the way.

That's it...see you at the meeting Saturday.

UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA



Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451
March 18, 2006

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:12 am. at the OP with 14 members present. Retiree Stan Drewelow and two guests, Bruce Braley-democratic candidate running for congress and his campaign manager Sarah Benzing also attended.

A **motion** was made to accept the minutes as printed in the Corner Stone by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried.**

The **Treasurer's Report** was read by Glenn Staudinger. A **motion** to accept the report as read was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**

President Dwight Slakieu reported at this time that the audit of the Local 451 was completed and that there was only one discrepancy found of \$100.00. It was used for the prize money at the union picnic in August. Thanks to the audit volunteers for a fine job.

A **motion** was made at this point by Chris Salinas and seconded by Glenn Staudinger to suspend the normal order of business and have our guest speaker talk. **Motion carried.**

Bruce spoke on Medicare, health care, social security, minimum wages and job security. He is for the working man and has many good ideas for the future of (we the people). His ideas sound good and we need good people like this in congress to help protect our rights and jobs. Thank you Bruce. We look forward to seeing you in congress.

Old Business:

The next meeting will be Saturday April 15, 2006 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

New Business:

1. Picnic- are we having one? A **motion** was made by Meri Kay Chase and seconded by Linda Youngberg to have a picnic. **Motion carried.** Retiree Stan Drewelow will look into the location of the picnic and get back to us.
2. Meri Kay Chase talked about putting some of our savings into some type of investing that will yield a larger rate of return. A **motion** was made by Meri Kay Chase and seconded by Kim Karol to form a committee to investigate ways of investing our savings. **Motion carried.** The trustees, along with Chris Salinas and Glenn Staudinger will do some investigating on the investing issue.

3. Stewards Director Cindy Miller brought it to our attention that we can get some new union t-shirts for the mere price of approx. \$9.00 ea. She will put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, check it out!

Drawing:

A **Motion** was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Linda Youngberg to hold the drawing. **Motion carried.** Nancy Hemesath won the door prize.

Officers Reports:

1. COPA- the hat was passed and we collected \$63.25. Good job gang!
2. The postmaster is putting out an office policy on some of the rules and regulations that pertain to our office.
3. Remember if you wave your lunch you are only allowed two breaks.
4. Dwight stated that there are new clerks on the way, however, he's not sure when or exactly how many.
5. Kim Karol wants to remind everyone to write up any new resolutions they want our union to take to nationals. Get them in before the last week in April.

Adjourn:

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Meri Kay Chase and seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried** at 12:12 pm.

Members Present: Dwight Slaikeu, Kim Karol, Glenn Staudinger, Cindy Miller, Mike Burke, Jen Brucher, Chris Salinas, Scott Fields, Dave Knebel, Jerry Kemmer, Linda Youngberg, Meri Kay Chase, Nancy Hemesath and Paulette Woods.

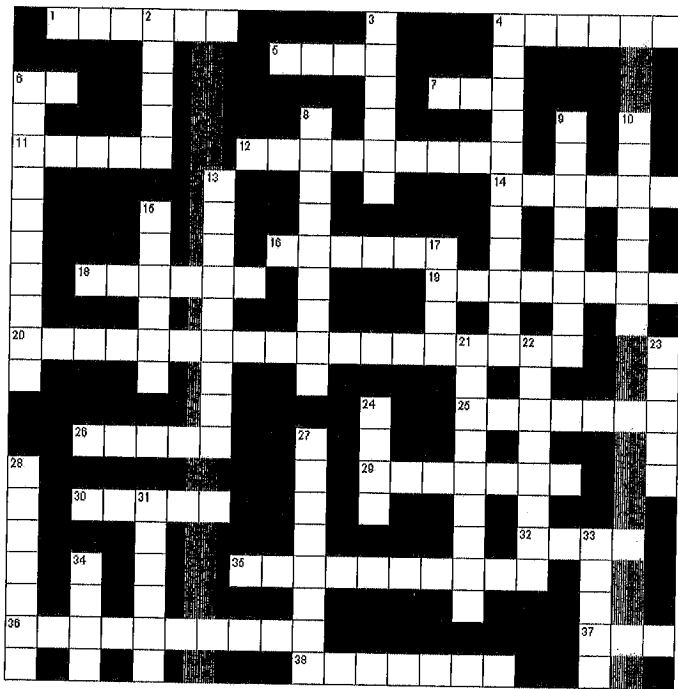
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**ATTENTION!!**

Nominations for the position of  
**Steward's Director** will be taken at the  
April meeting.

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Newsletter Crosswords



ACROSS

- 1: Beyond today.
 4: A list of things to be done.
 5: Election time action.
 6: Television, Abrv.
 7: Another name for work.
 11: A bankrupt company!
 12: Not looking to make a buck.
 14: Entitlements.
 16: To allow.
 18: A field of pursuit.
 19: Everyone has these.
 20: Big union meeting.
 25: 401K & TSP is this type
 26: Going rate per hour.
 29: It ends a meeting.
 30: Wal-Mart's import Friend
 32: Union's Political cash.
 35: Permanent Vacation
 36: Relied upon.
 37: To see out of.
 38: An employee on a ship or plane.

DOWN

- 2: Organization you belong too.
 3: Soldier arrives as ordered.
 4: A hearing for disputes.
 6: Really small.
 8: Clouseau's title in Pink Panther
 9: Getting a group together.
 10: Many made at meetings.
 13: Representatives in conference.
 15: End of a sentence.
 17: Shift you work on.
 21: Employer's workers.
 22: Binding agreement.
 23: One cent
 24: Non-Union Member
 27: Accountable Prisoners
 28: To accept as true.
 31: Surrounded by water.
 33: Write on this material.
 34: Postal service's initials.

99% of the words came from last month's newsletter.

Answers will be published next month and posted on the bulletin board a week after the meeting.

For what it's worth.....

Editorial by Chris Salinas

Everyday, someone wants a piece of the postal pie. Why not, a lot of money is there for the taking if laws are changed to their advantage. And at this very moment, they are trying.

Mailers have a big force of writers sending editorials to newspapers across this country. This is to persuade the public that

it would be good to privatize, have work sharing, cutting wages and benefits to employees so the postal service can survive.

As they write these truth-bending articles, mailers are also lobbying our congressmen and senators to make sure they can do these things in a disguise of what is best for the postal service.

At the same time, our national union is fighting for us by showing the truth and writing rebuttals. They do this because they can with our collective effort and support of being in the union. Without the strength of members, our union would fall apart and we would lose everything we have now.

This is were I get disgusted of those who are being so petty and wanting to drop out (or have dropped out) of the union because:

- They didn't win their grievance,
- They dislike one or more officers,
- The Local (or National) did this or that,
- The Union spends money that they shouldn't.

What a bunch worthless excuses to be free loading off of your union. The same union that works hard to protect you from injustices of management. The same union that fights for your wages and benefits every time the contract is being negotiated.

At the same time, the union is also mandated by federal law to do things that they don't want to do. They are mandated to represent scabs, free loaders, what ever you want to call them. They are required to represent members even when that member is guilty of doing something very wrong.

If the union doesn't follow these laws, they could be subject to a lawsuit by the member/non-member and fined by the federal government all at the same time. What a way to destroy a union.

Unions don't like representing these types of people. Especially when it's a union member that knows they did something wrong.

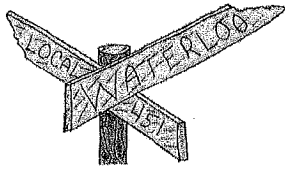
So to those who don't like some of the things your union or officers are doing, step up and get involved. This means showing up at your meetings, run for office when elections come up, write your congressman and senator to change a law and so much more.

I have yet seen those same people step up to the plate and change their union. To those who haven't, stop whining!! Nothing changes unless you take positive actions.

Don't make excuses, make changes!!



Support Your Union!



The Corner Stone

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
WATERLOO LOCAL #451
P.O. BOX 387
WATERLOO, IA 50704

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

April 15th @ 11am

THE OTHER PLACE

3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

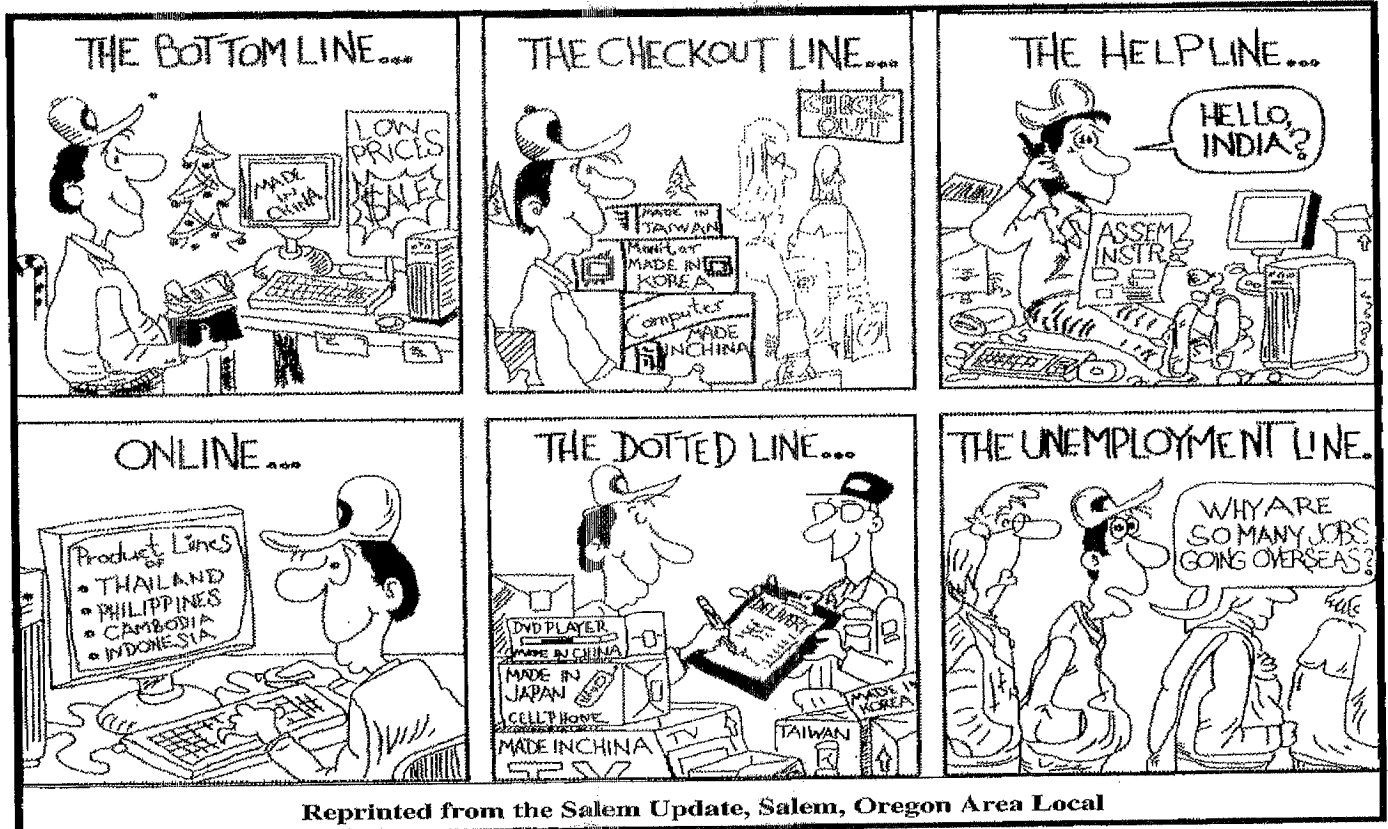
Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu
Vice-President - Kim Karol
Steward Director - Cindy Miller
Secretary - Mike Burke
Treasurer - Glen Staudinger

Trustees - Dave Knebel
Jenelle Brucher
Paulette Woods
Editor - Chris Salinas

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