

The Corner Stone

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



Retiree's Get-Together
Mondays at 1:00pm
University Ave HyVee

October 2003

President's Report



By: Dwight Slaikeu



My first topic this month is the file with your name on it that resides upstairs in the personnel office. Were you aware that every important document controlling who and what you are in relation to the USPS is in that file? How long has it been since you took a look in it? Yes, you have every right to see what's in there, and to request the removal of anything that doesn't belong. Do you see a Letter of Warning from 1998? Write a quick note to the Plant Manager or Postmaster to request its removal. Then follow through, get back up there to see that it was removed. See any notes written by some Supervisor? They shouldn't be in there at all. Get them removed. The only items in that file should be official documents relating to your employment with the USPS. Did you have some form of discipline overturned through the grievance procedure? Get up there and make sure the disciplinary letter gets removed.

You also have the right to copy everything in the file if you so desire. Why would I need to do that? Well, I hadn't thought about it before either, but what happens if there is a fire and the personnel office is destroyed? Suppose anybody else has all those records stored away? Nope. As far as I know, our personnel office is the only place all those documents are together in one file. It's probably not a bad idea to have a file at home with all the same information in it. Then get up there every year or two to make sure your file matches theirs. It's a good way to protect yourself and also it keeps you looking into the file every so often to make sure there are not any "extra" pages showing up. Thanks to the guy who mentioned this to me.

The end of the month brings the National Clerk Craft Conference. We'll be heading to Vegas on the 26th so if you have any questions, concerns, etc. that you'd like checked out, let us know. For those of you who have been put off for the VER, I would guess that will be a topic of conversation already.

Don't forget the 15th and 16th of November we're hosting the Iowa Fall Seminar. You've seen on the bulletin board a couple of requests for volunteers of one kind or another. If you can help us out in those regards, it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a hospitality room running Friday and Saturday evenings. All local members are invited to stop in. It's a good time to meet some of the state officers, other local officers, national officers, or it's also just a good time for a plain old good time. The seminars will take place on Saturday and Sunday. The last membership meeting voted to authorize payment of the registration costs for any local members who wish to attend the seminars. An itinerary and sign-up list have been posted on the board. (A huge thank you goes out to D.M. Pres./State Editor Lance Coles for his tremendous help in putting the schedule together.)

That's it for this month. The meeting coming up is Saturday the 18th, hopefully that's this Saturday if all went well with the printing and mailing of this *Cornerstone*. If you have problems and/or questions, that's a good place to bring 'em. We always have a good group of folks who like answering questions and giving opinions on any subject brought up. Hope to see you there.

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES  



Treasurer's Report

By: Meri Kay Chase



Report not filed.

If you would like information of the accounts, please see Meri for this information.



Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



September 20, 2003

The September meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:23am. at Johnny Poppers with 10 members present.

The minutes were read by Mike Burke. Motion made by Cindy Miller, Seconded by Jerry Kemmer to accept the minutes.

Treasurers report was given by Meri Kay Chase. Motion made by Mike Burke, Seconded by Cindy Miller. There was a comment by Cindy Miller to take some of the money from our checking account and transfer it to our savings. This was not put into a motion.

Presidents Report: Dwight mentioned to remember the family of our late Union President Moe Biller.

We have a dues increase coming up of \$.60 per pay period per member. This is based on our year 2000 salary.

A BIG Thanks goes out to Stanly and Bob Berendes on the work they did on the picnic.

The RMO as we all come to love is on its way out. Yeah!!! Instead we will have to call a computer. If we can't get through on the phone, then we should call our supervisors at the P.O. This should start around Jan. 21st 2004.

Old Business: Our next meeting is Sat. Oct. 18, 2003 at Johnny Poppers.

Fall Seminar is coming up Nov. 15th & 16th . Some of the topics covered will be Health plans, the RMO and FMLA. Three of our business agents have been authorized to come to Waterloo.

State President Bruce Clarke is trying to get

someone from Washington D.C. to attend this seminar, possibly Roy Bronstein Legislative Director of the Presidents Commission.

Jerry Kemmer made a motion to send All officers and stewards to this Nov. 15th & 16th seminar with necessary and usual expenses. Motion was second by Cindy Miller. Motion carried.

Dwight stated all members, other than those mentioned above, who wish to attend will only have their registration paid for.

New Business: Cindy Miller made a motion to send a Check for \$500.00 to the Family Service League this year for X-mas. Second by Randy Marks Motion carried.

Cindy Miller has APWU Can Coolies for \$1.00. Get them while they last.

A motion was made by Jerry Kemmer to change the November meeting to Nov. 22nd at 11:00am. At Johnny Poppers due to the fall seminar. Second by Cindy Miller. Motion carried.

Motion to have drawing by Jerry Kemmer, Second by Bob Berendes. Randy Marks won the big bucks!

Motion to adjourn by Jerry Kemmer, Second by Bob Berendes. Motion carried at approx. 12:30 pm.

Members Present: Kim Karol, Jerry Kemmer, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Bob Brendes, Randy Marks, Dave Knebel, Stan Drewelow, Mike Burke and Meri Kay Chase.



Iowa APWU Fall Seminar Waterloo, IA



**November
15th & 16th**

Ramada Inn

Sullivan Brothers CC

**Come and learn what the
APWU does for you!**

**Seminars,
Speeches,
and best of all**



Friendship!

**Registration will be
paid for by your Local
for Member's of Local 451**

Vice-President's Report

By: Kim Karol



Do as I say not as I Do. Everyone has heard, or said it millions of times, and I am saying it again. Don't be like me. In recent months I have had to make many changes, one of which was my choice to change my name. I have also relocated. That requires a lot of notices to family and friends, and yes creditors. One could expect that I probably forgot a few things along the way. I did forget, and subsequently was not able to vote on October 7, 2003. Please don't let that happen to you.

Elections are going to be increasingly important for all postal workers. The political atmosphere in the state and in Washington D.C. is becoming more hostile towards unions and working people. Your jobs depend on the choices that these people make on your behalf. If you are not a registered voter you will have no say in the types of people making those

choices on Election Day. Remember, if you have had a name change, moved, or your status has changed in any way, you are probably no longer a registered voter. Even if you have never missed a voting opportunity, these changes nullify your voter registration. You can pick up a voters registration form at the DOT office in the Crossroads Mall, at the Courthouse on the second floor, or you may already have a registration form in your phone book at home.

I encourage you to get as much information as you can about the people you choose to make those decisions. Don't expect that every Republican is out to get you, or that every Democrat is your friend. That just isn't true. Roy Braunstein is scheduled to speak at the Fall Convention of the Iowa Postal Worker's. This meeting is being held in Waterloo at the Convention Center. Roy is our national legislative director and has been a tireless advocate for postal worker's and working people in general. He will have the latest information on all the issues being discussed in Washington, he will have information on candidates seeking election and their positions on those issues, he will be able to answer most of your questions regarding the President's Commission Report. This man is sharp and approachable. No question will be ignored. I hope you plan to take advantage of all the speakers attending the Fall Convention, but especially make the effort to hear what Roy has to say.

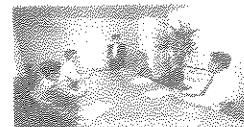
**MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO
VOTE! BE AN INFORMED VOTER, GET THE
FACTS BEFORE YOU CAST YOUR VOTE!
VOTE!**

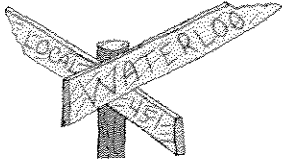
APWU does a lot for you!



**You have
the power
in numbers,
USE IT!!**

**Attend this month's
meeting and learn more!!**





The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu	Trustees - Eddy Berry
Vice-President - Kim Karol	Stan Drewelow
Steward Director - Cindy Miller	Jenelle Brucher
Secretary - Mike Burke	Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Meri Kay Chase	

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ALL OPINIONS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITER
AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WATERLOO
LOCAL #451

Union Meeting

Oct. 18th @ 11 am
Johnny Poppers
910 W 5th ST.

Steward Director's Report



By: **Cindy Miller**



HELP !!!!! help !!!!!!!

We need some help!! Volunteers for our Fall Seminar on Nov. 14th and 15th. What is that HELP? FOOD! Food for the Hospitality room. Crackers, chips, veggies, cheese, desserts, WHATEVER!. I have a sign up list on the board and I'll get back with you on how much to bring and what day. Either Friday night or Saturday night. Please help us out.

Now, on another note.... Have an accident at work lately? Well, don't!! I recently did and have had someone alter my accident report. Is this legal? Don't know! The acting supervisor filled out the report and then someone (**I know who**) crossed out what the supervisor wrote and filled in their own non-factual information. So be careful and make sure you get a copy of WHATEVER management is sending to Des

Moines. I don't want to be negative, but this is a warning! Report your accident, but make sure you get a copy of what is being sent!

End of subject!

UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA

