

# 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

## September 2003

### President's Report



By: Dwight Slaikeu



I've been gone 3 out of the last 4 weeks and you really expect me to come up with a topical report? It's hard enough just coming back to work, let alone...OK, I'll give it a shot and we'll see what I can come up with.

How about we start with a big thank you to all those involved with the picnic? You all did a great job, as usual. Thanks especially to organizer Stanley and to the cooks, it was really good stuff! And I would be remiss not to mention that I always take a sort of twisted pleasure in seeing people with egg on their face from the egg-toss game.

As I've mentioned before, our Local is hosting the State Fall Seminar this year. We've been working on getting the seminars in place, otherwise it's all pretty much ready to go. We'll be determining our own delegates to the convention at the meeting this month. We will be needing a few volunteers so if you're available to help out with things like the hospitality room, registration, or most important, food for the hospitality room (we'll be deciding for sure how that'll be handled at the meeting also), please let me, Cindy, Kim, or Meri Kay know as soon as possible. The dates for it will be Friday night, November 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Notices to other Locals and whatever Associate Offices we have on our mailing list will be sent out shortly. **Any member loaners/small office Clerks who see this article and wish to attend, contact me and we'll see that you get all the information.**

I guess one of the big topics of the day is the recent change in the way some duties are being

performed. I've noticed that there are some Mail Handlers who have chosen to make this an "us against them" battle. I would throw out a reminder that this decision was not made by you or me, but by Management. Please do not take part in any arguments or problems that may arise if someone decides to take it upon themselves to tell you what you should or should not be doing. Direct the person to their nearest Supervisor to take it up with them. If you are being unduly hassled or ordered around by any other Craft employee, regardless of which Craft they may be in, notify me immediately so appropriate action can be taken. Please keep it in the first person, I really can't act on what you think happened to someone else, and provide details as specifically as possible. I'll assume there will eventually be a RI-399 meeting requested so we can iron some of this out. In the meantime, follow the normal rules of the USPS, unless it in some way puts you in harm's way, follow the instructions of your Supervisors.

I am still hearing reports of Clerk Craft employees trying to perform maintenance on machines. Most prevalent would be the removing the cover from the WABCR on the automation equipment and fixing various bander problems. Those of you doing it don't realize this, I'm sure, but you're screwing up the equipment. While you think you're somehow saving time and money, you're causing more damage than you know. If you wish to be trained on how to perform maintenance, please notify Kauten and Spaethe that you'd like to switch Crafts.

Yup, my long-winded fingers have once again come up with something to type (lucky you), but that's it...see you at the meeting.



# Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



## MEETING MINUTES

The July meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:09 am., July 19, 2003 at Johnny Poppers with 16 members present.

The minutes from June's meeting were read by Kim Karol. Motion made by Jerry Kemmer, seconded by Bob Berendes to accept.

Treasurer's report was given by Mary Kay Chase. Motion made by Kim Karol, seconded by Chuck Konig to accept.

Presidents Report: RMO Information- if you call in sick and tell them your illness is likely to last 2-3 days, you don't have to call in again until that time period is up. You may report back to work anytime earlier unless RMO requires documentation. At this point ask why they are requesting documentation and get their name. Next see your steward so you can get your bills and time paid for. Keep track of your 3971's very closely and save them for possible future discipline actions if needed. Also keep them because the RMO generated copies may be different. Keep a close eye on your pay stubs as well. Check for correct overtime, LWOP, higher level pay etc.

Dwight commented on what needs to go in each issue of our Local 451 paper.

- 1] Presidents report
- 2] Vice Pres. report
- 3] Steward Directors report
- 4] Treasures report and
- 5] Minutes from previous meeting.

Dwight reported that the Waterloo Local has a higher percentage of attendance than most other Locals in the state. He also commented on how to change meeting times if necessary, both temporarily and permanently through the Local's constitution.

Chris Salinas brought up the fact that some people might want to change the meeting times to 10:00am. Cindy Miller said it could be checked into as-far-as what time we could get the meeting room.

The National Executive Board of the APWU approved an \$8 assessment per member, to be taken out in \$2 Increments over 4 pay periods. Dwight reported this may or may not happen. It would be

used to fight the National Presidents Commission.

Old Business: The next meeting is set for Saturday Sept. 20, 2003 at 11:00 am. It will be held at Johnny Poppers.

Picnic Update: It is still on at the time of this meeting.

IFL Convention: Chuck Konig is going on our treasury, we're footing the bills etc.

Black Hawk Union Council: Brought back to the table via a motion by Chuck Konig second by Jerry Kemmer. Motion made by John Clark to decline membership, second by Stan Drewelow.

Fall Seminar: Keep this in mind for September's meeting and be thinking of delegates. Plans for the seminar are going smoothly according to Dwight.

New Business: **No new business this month!**

Jerry Kemmer motioned to hold the drawing, seconded by Cindy Miller. Jerry Kemmer won!

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Konig, seconded by Cindy Miller.

Members Present: Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Chuck Konig, Chris Salinas, Paulette Woods, Dave Knebel, Stan Drewelow, John Clark, Paul Dougherty, Ed Berry, Kim Karol, Jerry Kemmer, Bob Berendes, Meri Kay Chase, Mike Burke, Tom Brown.

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

**UNION YES**  

**ATTEND YOUR MEETINGS!**

### *Editor's Comment...*

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any comments or suggestions from the membership on what they would like to see in this newsletter. I'm also accepting articles from the membership as well. Articles would be on a space available basis only.

YOUR input is very much appreciated! This is your newsletter, make the best of it!

## Treasurer's Report



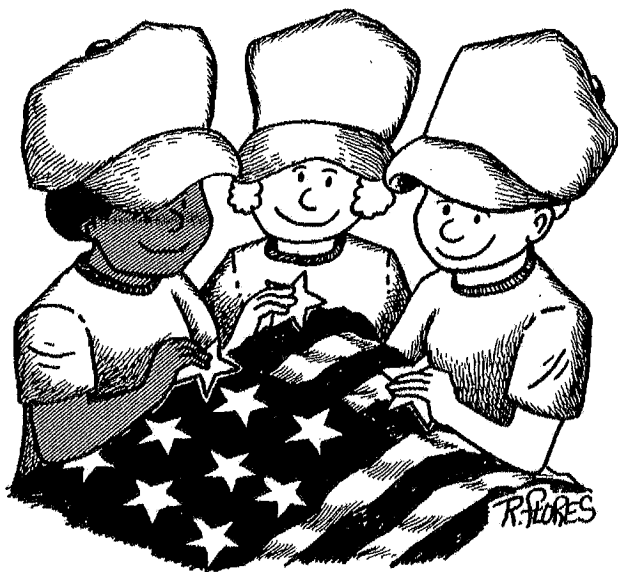
By: Meri Kay Chase



### REPORT NOT SUBMITTED

Information can be obtained directly from the Treasurer or you can also attend the meeting (recommended for many other reasons as well) to find out this information.

## UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA



## Vice-President's Report



By: Kim Karol



You know I have been thinking about the subject of this article for a long time. Each time I start to write about something, I think to myself "They already know this, or, this sounds really stupid." Well this is the last time that I am going to attempt to write this, so if it sounds stupid, oh well.

I wanted to share a recent experience with the RMO. As some of you already know I was hospitalized last month for a few days. As an officer or steward I have assisted others through the process of providing the correct documentation to return to work. So knowing the rules, I requested that a Return to Work Certificate be brought to me while I was in the hospital.

Prior to being released I had the treating physician complete the paper work. One thing should be noted was this little stay was due to an emergency admission. I did not know the doctor that was treating me, so it was important to me to have

everything filled out prior to being released, because I was not going to see him again. Normally a return to work is to be processed within 24 hours of submission. So I made arrangements to have my documentation brought to the Waterloo Post Office the morning after my release.

Now to be completely fair, I did not submit the paperwork in person, still not being able to drive, and that the paper work was given to a delivery supervisor and not a distribution supervisor. However the paperwork was submitted.

When I had not been returned to work within the 24 hours, I called and made inquiries to the RMO. The supervisor answering the phone reprimanded me, saying that I could not have submitted the paperwork because no one at the RMO had been notified that I had been hospitalized. They had not had the opportunity to send me the standard RMO Packet that everyone gets for an unscheduled absence. I was being told that I could not think on my own. So I had to wait for instructions from my babysitter, the RMO.

Now if I had waited, it would have taken at least a week for me to get the paperwork and have it completed by the doctors, something that I was trying to avoid.

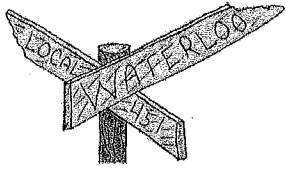
After this little hassle I called Waterloo to find out why the papers had not yet been sent to the RMO. This starts a wonderful little game of pass the buck. No one seemed to be able to locate the papers. I was called and told they had found it. They then called 90 minutes later and I was then told that I needed to resubmit the paper work.

This little game took 2 days, now I have lost 3 days of leave. Finally, on Friday I called my union steward. He was chastised because I did not submit the paper work properly. Waterloo believes that the doctor is responsible for getting the documents to the RMO. Has every doctor in the state been given these instructions and the FAX number? Since when are you not held personally responsible for providing documentation? Six hours later, I had been notified that I could return to work the following Monday.

The moral of this story, don't wait to call your steward! Who knows, maybe I would have been returned sooner had my steward been notified.

Remember that the USPS is a black hole sucking all the common sense from the universe. There is always someone who feels it necessary to interpret rules and regulations to fit their job description and cover their ass.

**Editor's note:** Maybe we need to ask for some type of return receipt from management or the RMO.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Union Meeting

Sept. 20th @ 11 am  
Johnny Poppers  
910 W 5th ST.

### Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikou      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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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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

## Steward Director's Report



By: Cindy Miller



Since when is my name "Pete n' Repeat!!?"

Since today! 3971s Tsk, tsk, tsk...Shame on you!

How many times must I REQUEST that you fill out a third copy of your 3971s for AL, SL, LWOP, waived lunch (because some 204bs and supervisors aren't giving them back) and waive 8 hours on your N/S days?

May I also REQUEST that you fill out the time of request, too. I know I'm asking a lot, but if you want your request approved, this just might be beneficial! Also, do not leave it on the Supervisors desk and walk away. Make them sign it as received and take that third copy. Give them a little responsibility (Even though we know they'll pass the BUCK)

\*Note\* (or threat) If I don't see any improvements on third copies, this article will be "Repeated" next month.

\*\*\*Something to ponder: Do you ever have to sign your checkbook checks twice or three times? How about your credit card receipts?? Then WHY do we have to sign 3971s two or three times??? What kind of organization is this???

