

# The Corner Stone

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

## April 2005



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

From the President's chair...



**Dwight Slaikeu**



First thing up this month is a reminder, with more to come, of the ongoing COPA drive. Although it continues year around, this is the time of year I emphasize it. Those of you who are local members have received my letter and a big thank you to those already responding, as well as those having donations deducted from paychecks or bank accounts. Thanks, too, to the retired members who have responded to our request. We really appreciate it and truly envy you every time we have to come to work. Although there won't be much time left, we are having a raffle in addition to the normal drive this year. The drawing will be held at the upcoming April meeting so see Cindy quickly if you're interested. No, you don't have to be present to win, though you should be, ya know.

At last month's Tri-State Convention in Dubuque we had a couple days of seminars. FMLA took up a whole day. The Univ. of Iowa Labor Center can always somehow seem to make what can be a very dry subject interesting. And with a somewhat complicated area like FMLA, a person always comes away at least updated and most generally has learned something new. I spent the second day in Advanced Steward's Training with NBA Foley doing the training and a session listening to the Nat. Legislative Director speak. The Steward's Training dealt mostly with getting cases ready for appeals to Step 3 and how to have them prepared for arbitration. The Legis. Dir., of course, spent a lot of time on postal reform and related subjects. He's the guy we help out with our COPA donations, and with the onslaughts coming at him (us), your help is highly important. And, no, party affiliation is not important. They deal with all parties on the subjects of postal reform and all areas of workers' rights within the workplace. A job well done by the Dubuque Local in putting the convention together, thanks.

When you get the chance, please welcome our newest member, Custodian Rick Wyatt. He transferred over from the Mail Handler Craft, was a member there, and once we get all the paperwork shuffled will officially be an APWU member. Thanks Rick.

Sometime between me writing this and you reading it, I'm

supposed to be involved in a meeting to discuss what I hope will be the last push to get some very old Clerk jobs posted. I'm having a really hard time understanding the long delay, as I'm sure you are, but maybe when we sit down to go through it someone will shed some light on it??

I've also been told there really is a hiring request in for 3 new Clerks. Don't know what the time frame might be on actually seeing them, though. Let's see, this is 2005...

And, although adding Mr. Wyatt to the custodian crew helped there, we're a little shy of bodies in the Maintenance Craft, too. Wouldn't you think that in a craft not directly tied to the rise and fall of mail volumes, if you lose an E.T. you need to hire an E.T.? Yes, you busted me. I was trying to think logically again.

Speaking of thinking logically, our next meeting is Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Don't you think you ought to be there? See ya then...



**"If management does so much,  
why are we called workers  
and your not?"**

## Secretary's Meeting Minutes.....



**Mike Burke**



**APWU LOCAL 451**  
**Date: March 26, 2005**

The March meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:10 at the OP with 13 members present.

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

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mike Burke. A **motion** to accept the report was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Vanda Blankenship. **Motion carried.**

### Officers Reports:

#### Presidents Report:

1. COPA - The raffle for the chocolate Easter egg and the hat pass netted \$80.27. Great job gang!!!  
!!!
2. Last year was a good year for COPA with \$6000.00 for a goal in 2005.
3. There is a MCA drivers strike going on right now so support them any way you can.
4. The Tri-State convention involved a full day of FMLA training. If you have an FMLA situation please use it to protect yourself.

#### Old Business:

The next meeting will be April 16, 2005 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

The State Convention is May 6th and 7th in Sioux City, Ia. Registration is \$25.00. Rooms are \$60.00.

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to have the four delegates be Cindy Miller, Jerry Kemmer, Glenn Staudinger and Mike Burke with Kelly Schneiderman and Dean Price as alternates. **Motion carried.**

#### New Business:

Coming up in August are the Craft Conferences in Las Vegas, NV. Registration is \$50.00 and rooms are \$99.00 plus tax. Normally we send 2 people. This subject will be discussed at next months meeting.

A **motion** was made by Chuck Konig and seconded by Stan Drewelow to send \$500.00 to the Truckers Strike Fund. **Motion carried.**

#### Drawing:

A **motion** to hold the drawings was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Chuck Konig. **Motion carried.** Greg Kuehl won both the door prize and the chocolate Easter egg.

#### Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:54 am. by Greg Kuehl and seconded by Stan Drewelow. Motion carried.

**Members Present:** Dwight Slaikeu, Glenn Staudinger, Greg Kuehl, Cindy Miller, Gary Miller, Chuck Konig, Stan Drewelow, Jerry Kemmer, Vanda Blankenship, Kim Karol, Paulette Woods, Mike Burke and John Robinett.

**APWU does many things  
for you!**

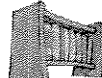


**You can make  
it better!**

**Attend your Local's  
meetings and learn more!**



## Steward Director's corner.....



**Cindy Miller**



### A CHALLENGE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

I'm throwing out a challenge to all of you. Dwight has agreed to this verbally. He has a goal for COPA this year. It's \$6,000. Right now we are sitting at approximately \$2500. He has agreed if we meet our goal that a member at one of our meetings can SHAVE OFF HIS BEARD. That's right! He hasn't been without a beard since his daughter was three years old. Now his granddaughter will be three this year and he is willing to do away with the beard again. I believe it won't stay off, but it would be fun to see what he's been hiding all these years. So lets try and see what the baby face looks like. Please give to COPA this year, even a few bucks extra will help us achieve our goal. If you're writing a check, make it to COPA or Kim, Dwight or I will be collecting any donations. SHAVE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

Also, I'm still selling raffle tickets for an overnight stay at the DAYS INN in Dubuque. It's a king size, whirlpool room. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00. The winner will be drawn at the April meeting. Need not be present to win. This is also a COPA donation and will go towards our goal. So, see me at break or lunch for the tickets.

That's it for now, see you at the meeting and LET'S MAKE OUR GOAL!

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

**UNION YES**  

## **MCA Mail Drivers Continue Strike.**

About 100 truck drivers represented by a Des Moines Iowa union, APWU Local 44, went on strike on March 23rd. The union is in dispute over a new contract with Mail Contractors of America, a mail hauler for the U.S. Postal Service. Negotiations stopped when MCA presented a "Take it, or leave it" offer and left the table, never to return.

About 40 Local 44 drivers live or work in Iowa. The local represents drivers who work out of terminals and offices in about 20 Midwestern and Western cities, including Urbandale, Cedar Rapids and Dubuque.

Representatives of the Postal Service and MCA said the strike would not disrupt or delay mail delivery. The USPS stated that if there was any disruption, they would seek another contractor to supplement the routes.

MCA spokesperson stated that they have planned on this strike and had replacement drivers ready since. MCA reports that all trucks have been on time with no delays.

"The mail has been delayed two to three hours, not all of them, but there are a lot of runs that have been that way," said Kansas striking truck driver Tony Olson.

Lance Coles, president of Local 44, said the union didn't want to harm postal delivery, but went on strike to get a better contract offer from the company. Coles said that members reported several Des Moines area transport trucks were delayed when the strike began.

APWU truck drivers who work for MCA in Jacksonville, FL, have joined the strike that began in Des Moines and Kansas City, KS. Seventy-nine members of the union's First Coast Local began striking at 7 a.m., March 24<sup>th</sup>, with a picket line in front of the MCA terminal.

Like the union members in Des Moines and Kansas City, they are protesting working conditions the company imposed in September 2004. They have been working without a contract since September 2003.

"We will stay out until the company goes back to the old conditions or comes to the negotiating table where we can negotiate a fair contract," said Local union President Russ Gallion of Jacksonville.

"We were tired of working under the imposed conditions," he said. "When we saw that Kansas City and Des Moines went out, we decided to go out along with them." The issues in dispute in Jacksonville are similar to those at stake in Des Moines and Kansas City.

"MCA switched health insurance carriers", Gallion said, "resulting in an increase in insurance premiums for the Jacksonville truck drivers from \$140 per week to \$284 per week for family coverage."

The MCA also denied the truck drivers pay for rest breaks they are required to take by law, as it did in the other cities. The unpaid breaks will cost the trucks drivers thousands of dollars a year, the local president said.

APWU field organizer Mark Dimondstein said MCA is trying to crush the union. "This strike is protesting a long list of unfair labor practices," he said.

"We support our striking union members 100 percent," declared APWU President William Burrus. "They are engaged in righteous struggle to protect their livelihood and their future. I urge APWU locals to support them financially as well as on the picket lines if they are able."

### **200+ truck driving union brothers and sisters are on strike and they need your help and support!**

Truck drivers are asking for help and support from their APWU brothers and sisters. They will need financial, food and picket line support. These drivers will be setting up pickets anywhere MCA trucks show up as well as the main terminals and relay points.

There may be pickets set up at the Main Post Offices; BMC's, as well anywhere MCA does business – such as Ford in Kansas City and any Lowe's and General Dollar stores.

If you would like to help or have any questions contact, Lance Coles, President, DMI APWU Local – 44, 1200 East Euclid, Des Moines Iowa, 50316. 515-265-7372 or e-mail [apwulocal44@msn.com](mailto:apwulocal44@msn.com).

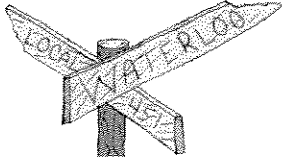
For contact in Jacksonville call Russ Gallion, Local 8002, PO Box 61423, Jacksonville, FL. 32236; call - 904-813-4182 or e-mail [russgallion1965@aol.com](mailto:russgallion1965@aol.com).

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**The Cornerstone is looking for comments from our union members. Make your voice heard!!**

You can send your comments to the Editor by email at [local451editor@mchsi.com](mailto:local451editor@mchsi.com). You may also hand deliver it or mail it too  
**The Cornerstone, P.O. Box 387, Waterloo IA, 50704**

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## The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Union Meeting

April 16th @ 11am

### THE OTHER PLACE

3904 Lafayette Rd  
Evansdale, IA

### Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu	Trustees - Dean Price
Vice-President - Kim Karol	Glen Staudinger
Steward Director - Cindy Miller	Dave Knebel
Secretary - Mike Burke	Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Meri Kay Chase	

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cedar Falls, IA  
Permit Number: 41

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

Who works to prevent the  
Postal Service and the Government  
from paying you \$5.50 per hour,  
taking away annual and sick leave,  
and  
eroding your job security?

This message brought to you by the

# APWU

TALK TO NON-MEMBERS



**PERSUADE THEM  
TO JOIN THE UNION**

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

**UNION YES** ✓



Members ARE  
The Union!!