



The Corner Stone

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

APRIL 2007



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

A prime time for bidding?

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



As I'm writing this, your local negotiations team has been working on our local contract in preparation for upcoming meetings with management. By the time you read it, we'll either be involved in negotiations or possibly already done. When you get to the meeting on the 21st, we should definitely be done unless we run into unforeseen problems. We are to begin negotiations on the 17th and, with any luck at all, will be done in 2-3 days. Most of the items being addressed are clean-up type items, which shouldn't be cause for any real excitement. Kim and Cindy from the Clerk Craft and Chris from the Maintenance Craft are working with me on it. Thanks for the help gang.

The COPA drive is going on, as usual, so jump right in when you're ready. I'm always here to help you with your donations. We have quite a ways to go to match last year but I have confidence in you, I know you can do it. Remember I can help you set up an allotment for it if you want to go that way. In my opinion, that's the best way to do it; a few bucks a pay period and Dwight doesn't bug you about it anymore. Keep in mind the raffle that will be drawn for in November. Talk to Chris Salinas if you need any information as to what it is for or how the raffle works. Thanks for your help, and be sure to thank yourself, too; after all, this money is your money donated to help your position in labor related issues.

When you get the chance, be sure to welcome our 2 newest members, Josh Gruber and Kevin Bash. Thanks for the support guys.

My next subject is very important so please take note, and pass it on to your friends when you see or hear of the situation coming up. We have finished prime time bidding now. There are a few of the weeks that filled up and are now closed to anyone else except by supervisory discretion. If you are a part of any of the full weeks and you plan to

turn back any of the leave you've bid, please do it right away and notify one of your union officers when you do it. We have to make sure it gets posted for someone else to have if they want. Don't play games with this, it's hard enough to police as it is. We need to know what people are doing in this regard in order to see that it's done right. Also keep in mind, if weeks do get re-posted due to someone turning them back, the first bidders to get them will be, by seniority in the section, those who have not used both of their bids already.

I've seen a message that the national contract has now been signed off so they will be printing them soon, if they haven't started already. Within the next week or so, I will be sending in our order so if you want one, put your name on the list that's hanging on the union bulletin board. We used to order one for everyone but after handing them out we found them laying all over the building. Consequently, we now order only for those who want them.

There should be some job postings going up shortly so keep an eye on the board. Three recent retirements and one transfer, what are the chances they'll hire somebody to replace them? About the same odds as winning the lottery I'd guess.

See you at the meeting.





Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451

March 24, 2007

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:15am. at the OP with 15 members and retiree Stan Drewelow present.

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

The Treasurers Report was read by Glenn Staudinger A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger to put the report on file for review. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kemmer. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

Presidents Report:

1. COPA-Dwight received a notice from the COPA Coordinator in New Jersey, that Waterloo was indeed the top donor in the nation (per capita). Also, we were at the top for all offices of our size. Get your COPA raffle tickets. There are many nice prizes to be drawn for in the months to come. You do not have to be present to win.
2. Tri State- Dwight learned that we are supposed to end up with 9 casuals. Most of our (PTFs) should be converted soon or by now.
3. New hires will now all be full time regulars. They will be unassigned regulars for 120 days, then a duty assignment will be posted for them.
4. By the end of the year there should be no more loaners coming into our office except at the window.
5. Dwight stated that hopefully there will soon be a passport and claims job posted.
6. Our 2 remaining PTFs will be converted soon.

Vice President:

Kim Karol stated that in 1970, 90% of the population was responsible for 2/3 of the GNP of the U.S. The top 10% grew in 1970 from 33% to 48%. The top 1% of the national incomes grew from 1% to 5%. Of this 1% the

top 100 make \$24 million dollars a year or 560 times more what we are getting paid. They are trying to correct this national trend through legislation. Watch for HR300 or Employee Free Choice Act. We the people need to reverse this trend so that we are not paying for everyone.

Editor:

Chris Salinas commented that HR300 is stuck in the Senate right now so we need to contact our Senators and let them know how you feel. Also, we need to send E-mails to the White House at:
comments@whitehouse.gov

Chris also stated that we need to contact our Representatives at the State House and tell them that we want the (SF413) Fair Share Act passed. Cindy Miller stated that she received a phone survey concerning the Fair Share Act If you get a call like this please take the time to answer their questions, they are very general in nature.

Kim Karol stated that we need to be watching for legislation concerning Healthcare Tax. We do not want our Health Care Benefits taxed no matter what our incomes are. The employee's voice needs to be loud and vocal.

The web site to contact the State Legislators is www.legis.state.ia.us. Chris will post it on the board.

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Gary Acuff for the union to purchase the few extra sweatshirts needed to get the cheaper rate. **Motion carried.**

Cindy Miller stated that we need to get along with the casuals. She also stated that we are responsible for watching our paychecks.

Old Business:

The next meeting will be held on Saturday April 21, 2007 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

New Business:

1. Dwight stated that we are supposed to get our retroactive pay sometime in May. A **motion** was made by Paulette Woods and seconded by Chris Salinas to waive our portion of union dues out of our pay for the retroactive time period. **Motion carried.**

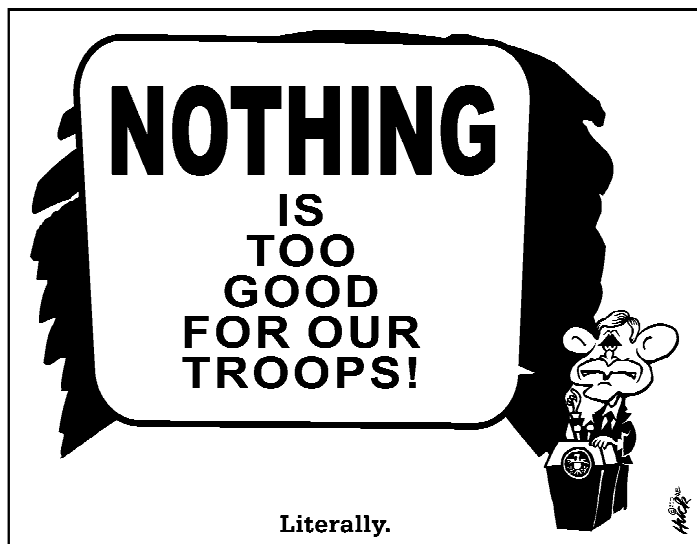
2. The postmaster has decided he wants to open negotiations for our local contract. He will let Dwight know when within the period of April 2 through May 31st. A motion was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Gary Acuff to authorize up to 7 people established by the president for LWOP for participating in the local negotiations. Kim accepted a friendly amendment by Chris Salinas in which he wants one of the representatives to be from the maintenance craft. Kim Karol called for the question to end discussion. **Motion carried.** The main **motion carried** also.

A **motion** was made by Bonnie Salinas and seconded by Kris Engelmann for the union to donate \$100.00 to MDA. The motion was defeated 5 for - 8 against 1 abstained.

Drawing: A **motion** was made by Paulette Woods and seconded by Chris Salinas to hold the drawing for the door prize. **Motion carried.** Julie Schmitz won !!!!

Adjourn: A **motion** to adjourn was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Kim Karol to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at approx 12:45 pm.

Members Present Julie Schmitz, Terry McEntee, Kim Karol, Jerry Kemmer, Dave Knebel, Glenn Staudinger, Chris Salinas, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Gary Acuff, Mike Burke, Bonnie Salinas, Paulette Woods, Bill rice and Kris Engelmann.



\$ Treasurer's Books... By: Glenn Staudinger 

These figures are for the end of March 2007.

ASSETS:

Interest	\$11.34
Payment from National	\$2265.76
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Total of additional Assets	\$2277.10

These totals do not include balances available in checking or savings accounts.

LIABILITIES:

Total Liabilities	\$5924.56
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These liabilities can include Salaries, Seminars, postage, etc. It is the cost of the union to operate.

Additional information will be provided at the April meeting.



The Corner Stone

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



Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu Trustees - Dave Knebel
Vice-President - Kim Karol Jenelle Brucher
Steward Director - Vanda Blankenship Julie Schmitz
Secretary - Mike Burke Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Glenn Staudinger

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**A union is only as strong as
its weakest link!**

NON-MEMBERS of Waterloo Local 451

**Marcie Turner
Nancy Kannegieter
Tammy French
Jackie Murray
Blake Tolliver
Dave Palmer
Marsha Swanson
Kim Mettner
Betty Murphy
Kathy Leyen**

