



The Corner Stone

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

February 2007



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

Kind Of Lost In Here....

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



As you all know, the new contract was ratified. Information gets posted on the APWU bulletin board as it comes. The main item there now is the first pay raise. It will kick in March 3, showing up on your paycheck March 23. The catch-up check covering the interim period will show up at a later date not yet known.

Lots of furniture moving going on right now so pay attention when walking around. It appears to me there are places a person could get lost for days & nobody would know...somewhat reminiscent of the old, "Anybody know where Stanley went?" Anyway, be very careful, there's a good chance things have moved around since you were in there yesterday. The new system will take a lot of room, room we don't really have, so besides being careful, be patient. If you see something that's not working, write it down and give it to Deb or Lee. But remember, it does no good to simply say it won't work, be imaginative & include a fix-it plan. We all know what work has to get done in our area & it doesn't hurt to offer ideas of how to do it better. I want to mention one other item involving this equipment. It's supposedly a scanning wonder. So it becomes necessary to clean up our act regarding labels and label holders. If you notice label holders on both ends of a tub or tray, take one off. Also, don't leave labels in the trays or tubs...of any size or shape. Those things, if not taken care of properly, can cause your mail to detour through NY City or somewhere. The Carriers and AOs have allegedly been informed of this, too, so if you continue to see problems in those areas as we have in the past, pull the labels, get them to a Supervisor & ask them to notify the offender.

If you're a member interested in COPA, let me know. I'll be coming around to you sooner or later, unless, of course, you're one who's already signed up for automatic donating. And thanks Bud for your help in this area.

WATCH YOUR PAYCHECK AND COMPARE IT TO YOUR HOURS!! Once again an eagle-eyed member spotted

an error that would have cost her hours of overtime had she not been paying attention. We're not in this place for our health...be sure you're being paid correctly.

When you get the chance, please welcome newest member Dave Leisinger to APWU. You'll see him, mostly on Tour 3, on the automation maintenance crew.

With any luck at all, our PTFs should all be converted shortly. "Shortly"...just what does that mean? Depends on who you ask, but let me just say this, the conversions are being worked on and hopefully won't take too long.

Prime time vacation bidding is right around the corner. I'll be putting the charts together shortly (there's that word again). OK, as soon as I get time I'll get started on what's necessary to get it done.

If you see a Supervisor performing duties that we normally do, please see your Steward about it. We're not always around so we need your eyes. No reason you can't politely ask him or her why they're doing it so you can include their response in your report. Who, what where, when & how long...it's that simple.

See you at the meeting on the 17th





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Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



APWU LOCAL 451
January 20, 2007

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:18 am. at the OP with 16 members and retiree Stan Drewelow present.

A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Glenn Staudinger to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Corner Stone. **Motion carried.**

The Treasurers Report was read by Glenn Staudinger. A **motion** to put the Report on file for review was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

President's Report:

1. COPA-Once again, the total for last year was \$6,960.00 from our Local. We need to get going for this year!!!! The hat pass at this meeting netted \$53.00 Good job people!!
2. Dwight would like to thank the Election Committee for their work on the election. This includes, Kns Engelmann, Meri Kay Chase and Terry McEntee.
3. Remember to check your pay stubs to see if you received your administrative leave for working the

Presidential Holiday, in memory of President Gerald Ford. If you did work that day you must use it within 6 months and must all be taken at once (all 8 hours).

4. The new contract has been ratified.
5. OWCP-There is a new law that states if you are injured on the job you have to wait 3 days before you get C.O.P. According to Kim Karol the Postal Service is the only people that have to wait the 3 days to start collecting your C.O.P. The OWCP also has a program going on for a National Reassessment Process if you are a long term OWCP employee. If you get any information on this let Dwight know about it.
6. The new tray take-away system will be here soon whether we need it or not so be patient and see how things work out.
7. Holiday scheduling-Dwight will be getting together with the plant manager or someone when they make it out and make sure they get it right.
8. The question was raised about the PTFs being assigned to a certain section, job or tour. They (management) can be put them anywhere they are needed, so please keep this in mind.
9. When you are upset about something and need to talk to Cindy, Dwight or a steward and feel you need to approach them on the floor, make sure you are not so upset that you need to use profanity. Take a cooling off period first because this will not be tolerated anymore. These people are your co-workers not your verbal punching bags!!!! Get it!! Got It!! Good!!

Old Business:

The next meeting will be Saturday February 17, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the OP.

Chris Salinas will be getting a rep. from the Black Hawk Labor Council to come to a meeting and speak in the future.

We will be needing volunteers for the State Convention. Think about it and tell Dwight or Cindy if you can help.

New Business:

The Tri-State Convention will be March 15-18 in St. Louis Mo.

A motion to move the March meeting because of the Convention was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Gary Acuff to Saturday the 24th of March. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Mike Burke to send 4 people to the Tri-State Convention with customary expenses paid. **Motion carried.**

A **motion** was made by Bonnie Salinas to have the APWU get involved with the MDA drive which she will get volunteers for. The motion was seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**

Drawing: A **motion** was made by Paulette Woods and seconded by Linda Youngberg to hold the drawing. **Motion carried.** Meri Kay Chase won the drawing.

Adjourn: Cindy Miller made a **motion** to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mike Burke. **Motion carried.**

Members present:

Rose Ann Garvey, Patsy Millermon, Randy Weverink, Gary Acuff, Cindy Miller, Glenn Staudinger, Linda Youngberg, Dave Knebel, Dwight Slaikeu, Mike Burke, Jen Brucher, Bonnie Salinas, Paulette Woods, Marna Creery, Kim Karol and Meri Kay Chase.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Most workers who have entered the workforce over the past several years come from families that have no prior history of unionism.

Through no fault of their own, most have no knowledge about unions or the purpose and necessity for them.

Adding to this dilemma is the lack of labor education in the schools and the mostly negative impressions generated by the mainstream media about unions.

A majority of people entering the workforce mistakenly believe that by law they are guaranteed such benefits as paid holidays, vacation and sick leave among other benefits and protections.

In reality, absent a union contract, workers aren't guaranteed anything, but instead are classified as "at will" employees --- serving at the will of their employer.

A comment by Tony Carobine, President APWU Postal Press

BUSHISM 101

Bushism is any of a number of peculiar words, phrases, pronunciations, semantic or linguistic errors that have occurred in the public speaking of United States President George W. Bush.

The following helps identify the characteristics of bushisms and provides examples after the definitions:

1: Adding endings to words not usually accustomed to such treatment (such as "suiciders")...

*"These people don't have tanks. They don't have ships. They hide in caves. They send **suiciders** out."* — Speaking about terrorists, Portsmouth, N.H., Nov. 1, 2002

2: Constructing neologisms such as "tacular" (a mixture of the words "tactical" and "nuclear") or "misunderestimated" ("misunderstood" and "underestimated")...

*"I want to thank the dozens of welfare to work stories, the actual examples of people who made the firm and solemn commitment to work hard to **embetter** themselves."* — Washington, D.C., April 18, 2002

** In this case "empower" and "better" are the 2 words.

3: Use of words that sound similar to intended words but are wrong in the context (i.e., malapropism). "Nuclear power *pants*" instead of "Nuclear power *plants*"...

*"And I want those who are questioning it to step up and explain why all of a sudden a Middle Eastern company is held to a different standard than a **Great British** company."*—Defending a plan to allow a company from the United Arab Emirates to manage ports in the United States, aboard Air Force One, Feb. 21, 2006

4: Redundant or odd sentence construction, such as "We had a chance to visit with Teresa Nelson who's a parent, and a mom or a dad."...

"My administration has been calling upon all the leaders in the—in the Middle East to do everything they can to stop the violence, to tell the different parties involved that peace will never happen." — Crawford, Texas, Aug, 13, 2001

5: Folksy pluralization of, or addition of articles to, familiar terms ("Internets", "the Google")...

*"I hear there's rumors on the **Internets** that we're going to have a draft."* During the Bush-Kerry debate, October 8, 2004

6: Change of subject mid-sentence, such as, "I am here to make an announcement that this Thursday, ticket counters and airplanes will fly out of Ronald Reagan Airport."...

"But the true threats to stability and peace are these nations that are not very transparent, that hide behind the—that don't let people in to take a look and see what they're up to. They're very kind of authoritarian regimes. The true threat is whether or not one of these people decide, peak of anger, try to hold us hostage, ourselves; the Israelis, for example, to whom we'll defend, offer our defenses; the South Koreans." — Media roundtable, Washington, D.C., March 13, 2001

7: Or just has problems reading a speech...

"And so, in my State of the—the my State of the Union—or state—my speech to the nation, whatever you want to call it, speech to the nation—I asked Americans to give 4,000 years—4,000 hours over the next—the rest of your life—of service to America. That's what I asked—4,000 hours." — Bridgeport, Conn., April 9, 2002

I hope this gives you more insight on Bushisms because he is confusing enough at just being the President.



Waterloo Local #451 Officers

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Vice-President - Kim Karol	Jenelle Brucher
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Secretary - Mike Burke	Editor - Chris Salinas
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P.O. BOX 387
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Union Meeting

February 17th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

**MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
ATTEND THE MEETING!**



WHAT IS IT?

Labor Bowl Challenge is where local unions get together to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the Cedar Valley and (for an added bonus) just have a fun day bowling.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

Contact Bonnie Salinas (Tour 3) if you are interested in bowling or you just want to give a donation. You can reach Bonnie at 827-3313 (Jesup#) or 296-5733 (Waterloo#)

Let's help Jerry's kids!!