



The Corner Stone

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

JUNE 2007



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

YOUR LMOU HAS ARRIVED...

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



Two months in a row with no quorum for the meeting...I don't believe that's happened since about 1992. We'll try again the 16th, OK?

For those of you who skipped the meetings as a sort of silent protest because our new local contract was not yet signed can now relax & show up this month. It got signed on the 30th and will take effect right away with one exception I'll hopefully remember to mention later in this article. While there were no earth-shattering changes as most were just a clean-up of old, out-dated wording, there were changes and I'll highlight a few you might be interested in...

Item 12: Our local memo requiring supervisors to act on a 3971 within 5 days or it is assumed approved was incorporated into the LMOU. **This does not release us from the need to prove we requested the leave. Get that third copy back, signed as received by a supervisor, immediately upon handing them the request!**

Item 13: Once we get a workable form put together, the sign-up sheet for holiday volunteers will show the number of employees needed in each section.

Item 13: APWU Craft employees will not normally be detailed as a 204B during the holiday period unless they wouldn't be forced otherwise. This isn't a guarantee but at least there will be discussion before it happens.

Item 14: Beginning next quarter, the OTDL for Flat Sorter and Letter Automation Clerks will be separated. Hopefully this will end some of the confusion. I realize not all folks on the OTDL will be happy with this but overall I believe it will be better. This is the one exception I mentioned earlier, as it doesn't take effect until July 1.

Item 14: There are changes to the OTDL pecking order but as with most things tied to overtime, it's too difficult to explain in a few lines. Take a look at it & ask questions if you don't understand something.

Item 14: Agreement was made for the workings of overtime during the December no-penalty period. Again, be sure to read through it so you know what it says.

Item 21: A Maintenance agreement to involve APWU in training decisions was included in the LMOU. It's a bit lengthy so take a look at it.

Item 22: Due to past problems with employees wanting changes of schedule, we incorporated a written agreement as to when a change is allowable. Look at it close as there is one that is quite different from the past. I'll let you find it.

You'll find all changes, except any deleted wording of course, are in **bold print** so they're easy to find. As I said before, if there is something you don't understand, just ask. Hopefully once all officers have copies and have had a chance to digest it themselves, you'll get basically the same answer from any of us. We'll get a copy to all members as soon as possible.

Well, it's been a long enough day & I'm about out of room anyway so I'll let it go for now...see you at the meeting.

HOW MUCH IS THE UNION WORTH TO YOU?!?

- Job Security?
- Benefits?
- Paid Vacation?
- A Livable wage?

If these are just some of the things the union means too you, shouldn't you take the time to attend your union meeting?

Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451

May 19, 2007

The May meeting of the APWU Local 451 was not called to order due to being 1 person short (9 members) of a quorum, again!! We had one retiree/guest show up. Thanks Cary Purcell!! We collected \$31.00 for COPA.

The next meeting will be June 16, 2007 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

Members Present: Dwight Slaikeu, Terry McEntee, Cindy Miller, Kim Karol, Glenn Staudinger, Linda Youngberg, Mike Burke, Rose Ann Garvey and Gary Acuff.



Legislative Priorities for the APWU!

The following information is for our membership to help our National Union with bills in the federal congress. Take the time and write to your Congressman/Senator on the following legislation:

Get the Employee Free Choice Act passed this year! It is stalled in the Senate. The bill has already passed the House. The Senate bill number is S.1041. Write to your Senators Harkin and Grassley! Tell them to pass this important bill.

This bill allows workers to use a card check system as an option to the antiquated NLRB ballot system. It helps prevent employers from harassing employees when they want to form a union. Makes employers recognize a union once it is determined. Fines employers that use illegal practices to stop a union.

There is more to this bill that helps working people form a union. But we all know from news reports how hard it is to form a union.

Your voice is needed!! Write your Senators and tell them we want this bill. Information is posted on the bulletin board.



Treasurer's Books...

By: Glenn Staudinger



	Income	Expenses
March	\$2277.10	\$5924.56
April	\$3517.04	\$1406.08
May (unreconciled)	\$2888.43	\$1521.85
=====		
Totals	\$8682.57	\$8852.49

For more information, come to your Monthly Meetings. Only with your participation can things change!

Legislation takes fear out of unionizing

Friday, May 25 at 12:01 AM By **Jessie Ulibarri**

Before he was fired, Errol Hohrein worked as a boilermaker at the Front Range Energy ethanol distillery in the northern Colorado town of Windsor. Like many of his co-workers, Hohrein was hired with the promise of good pay and affordable health-care benefits. Despite the distillery's monthly million-dollar profits, the company callously reneged on their pledge of wage increases and benefits. Hohrein and his co-workers came together to form a union with the Steelworkers to bargain for better working conditions. The company fought the workers' efforts tooth and nail, threatening the workers with lower wages and even threatening to fire Hohrein — a vocal union supporter.

Sure enough, after the union election, Hohrein was fired.

In Hohrein's words, "It was revenge for my talking up the union." The National Labor Relations Board's office of general counsel agrees. In February of 2007, it charged Front Range with violating federal law by firing Hohrein.

Sadly, Errol Hohrein's story is not unique. Every day corporations deny employees the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for better wages and benefits. In 2005 alone, there were 31,358 cases of illegal firings and other forms of discrimination against workers for exercising their federally protected labor law rights.

Twenty percent of union activists are likely to be fired when trying to form unions, according to a new study by the Center for Economic Policy Research.

Seventy-eight percent of employers force supervisors to meet with the people they supervise, and urge them to vote "no." Fifty-two percent of employers threaten deportation or other forms of retaliation during organizing drives that include undocumented- immigrant employees. In more than half of worker campaigns, employers threaten that the workplace will close if workers unionize, although 99 percent of plants remain open after organizing drives.

As a working-class person born and raised in Colorado, it has become painfully clear to me that working people in this state are being squeezed. The costs of housing, education and health care are on the rise. Household income in Colorado has dropped over the past five years.

If we add to this list the destructive effects of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, it's clear Americans are being forced to carry the burden of a broken state budget while struggling to make ends meet.

For decades, unions have given workers a toehold in the middle class when everyone else has failed them. Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than those who don't and are much more likely to have employer- provided health coverage and pensions, according to government statistics. Beyond being good for workers, unions are good for communities. Better wages and benefits mean that more families can make it on their own — thus shifting the cost burden off the taxpayers' backs.

But for too long now, working people have been denied the opportunity to have a union because employers routinely violate workers' freedom to form unions and the law lacks the power to stop them. The result is an America where CEOs are showered with lavish pay packages while everyone else is struggling to get by.

Approved by a bipartisan majority in the House, the Employee Free Choice Act would protect workers trying to form unions by enacting new penalties when employers threaten workers' rights and by bringing in an outside mediator to settle a first contract when the employer and workers can't agree. The bill restores balance to the process of forming unions by giving workers, not bosses, the option of deciding how they will choose whether to form a union — either through ballot elections or majority sign-up, a process that enables people to form unions when a majority of employees indicate in writing that they want one.

We're counting on our US Senators to stand up for working people like Errol Hohrein and his co-workers. They deserve better, and the Employee Free Choice Act is a solid first step to righting this terrible wrong.

Jessie Ulibarri is the director of the Colorado Progressive Coalition's Campaign for Economic Justice (www.progressivecoalition.org).



The Corner Stone

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

**JOIN THE ACTION
ATTEND YOUR
UNION MEETING!**
June 16th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

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

ALL OPINIONS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITER AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE OFFICERS OF WATERLOO LOCAL #451. ALL ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND EDITING.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Waterloo, IA
Permit Number: 107



Sign Up That Non-Member

Time to be ANTI-FREELoader... Don't you think?
JUNE IS PRO-UNION MONTH!!

NON-MEMBERS of the Waterloo Local 451

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

**A UNION IS ONLY AS
STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST
LINK!**

They make us WEAK!