



The Corner Stone

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

October 2007



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

Autumn Time Brings News..

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



We just recently attended the State Fall Seminar in Davenport. The Davenport folks did a fine job of setting it up, with the only real problem being Waterloo didn't win enough of the COPA drawing prizes. We cleaned house on the drawings for a few conventions then all of a sudden we seem to have dried up. Maybe the other people are buying more tickets to ace us out which is fine, too, I guess. Besides the hundred or so subjects discussed outside the classroom, we made our way through some legislative/caucus training, updates on Article 13 dealing with the assignment of ill or injured employees, updates on the National Reassessment Program which entails the reassessment of employees on OWCP, and a fine presentation on the workings of "past practice"; what it is, how it works and how to use it. Nat. Business Agents Don Foley and Dennis Taff were involved in the training, as were State President Bruce Clark and State Leg. Dir. Chris Salinas. Good job, guys! Missing this trip was NBA Bob Kessler. He's one of the staples of our various conventions so when he's not around it's very noticeable. We missed ya, Bob!

Our local COPA is still open for donations from any last minute Mollys. As it stands now, my records show we will hit \$4700+ at the end of the year. We've had better years recently but you all did a fine job regardless. I thank you and the National COPA committee thanks you.

We were notified at the Fall Seminar the State has opened up a website for your perusal. You'll find it at apwuiowa.com. Spend some time seeing what they've done and if you have comments, good or bad, let me know and I'll forward your message on. I'll also use this to remind you of the National website, apwu.org. You'll find a lot of pertinent information there, too.

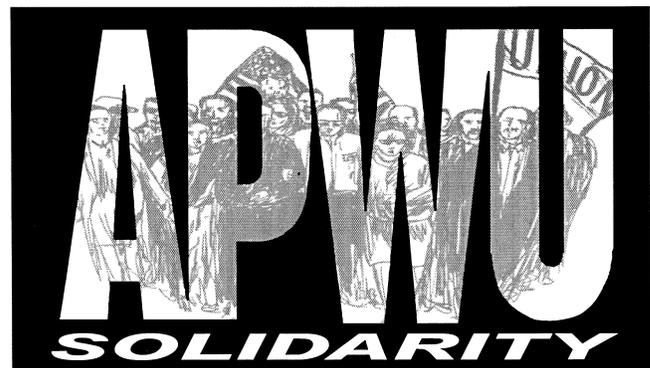
Waterloo is hosting the State Convention in April of next year. We'll be looking for a few volunteers to help out with registration, hospitality room and such so if you're interested, please let me know or better yet, come to the next meeting and let us know there.

Another Fall Seminar tidbit, the State Executive Board has endorsed John Edwards in his bid for the presidency. This is not to say they are trying to tell you how to vote, only to let you know that they, as a body, are endorsing Edwards.

Next, a bit of 3971 advice...when you fill out a 3971, it is suggested you give it to your Tour Supervisor, not the Supervisor of a different tour, even if some of your hours overlap into the hours of the other tour. Several Tour 1 employees gave their 3971s, requesting AL in lieu of holiday pay, to the Tour 3 Supervisor the last holiday and rather than taking care of them, they sent them upstairs where they were promptly forgotten. Yes, we know your Supervisor loses, forgets or otherwise fumbles the ball sometimes, too, but at least your odds are better. And yes, we can, and did, file a grievance to get it corrected, but it's a lot easier if done right the first time.

By the time this is printed the results for the APWU Nat. election will be out. The last I saw, for the positions we were involved in, the incumbents for the most part, had a sizeable lead.

Out of room, see you at the meeting...



Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451
September 15, 2007

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:12 am. with 12 members present.

A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Chris Salinas to approve the minutes as printed in The Corner Stone. **Motion carried.**

The Treasurers Report was read by Glenn Staudinger and he made a **motion** to put the report on file for review. The motion was seconded by Mike Burke. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

President's Report:

1. COPA- We have \$4600.00 plus today's hat pass, which was \$42.00 in our COPA account.
2. National Election Ballots are due out today so watch for them in the mail. If you don't get a ballot let Dwight know about it right away.
3. Thanksgiving and Christmas bidding starts today.
4. The COLA raise starts this pay period.
5. Beginning Oct 1, 2007 is EAP Week. There should be service talks on this. Please let Dwight know if you get a service talk that week.

Vice President:

Kim Karol states we are having trouble with FMLA. If you are denied FMLA coverage or are constantly being asked to re-certify or continually being asked for more information, this constitutes one of these problems. Remember they have 3 days to process your paperwork. If anyone is having these problems, please contact Kim. K. If you mail anything to FMLA it would be very wise to certify it.

Old Business:

1. The next meeting is Saturday October 20, 2007 at 11:00 am. at the OP.
2. Chris Salinas reported on the IFL. He met with some of the Presidential Candidates and got the feel that John Edwards might be the better candidate as-far-as postal workers are concerned.
3. Dwight mentioned that the trustees talked about the officers salaries report. Glenn S. is going investigate this subject more. 4. State Convention (2008) – the exact date will be announced at a later date.

New Business:

1. Dwight mentioned that he received a letter from Adopt-a-Family, and wondered if we were going to do anything this year. Last year we voted against it. If you have a suggestion and want it heard, come to the meeting and bring it up. Nothing about Christmas donations was voted on at this meeting.
2. If we get 100% of our members to vote in the APWU Election our Local 451 could receive a prize up to \$200.00.
3. A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Paulette Woods to have a \$100.00 raffle for those who vote in

our APWU Election coming up. **Motion carried.** You must show it to Kim, Cindy or Dwight to verify that you are voting.

4. A **motion** was made by Chris Salinas and seconded by Kris Engelmann to authorize money to buy JCIMs. for our stewards and officers. **Motion carried.**

5. A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Chris Salinas to join the Black Hawk Labor Council. There was brief discussion on the issue then Meri Kay Chase called for the question. **Motion carried.**

Drawings:

A motion to hold the Drawings was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Paulette Woods. Motion carried.

The door prize was won by Kim Karol!!!

The following people won the following prizes for the COPA Raffle.

1. Dave Rabe – Game beads & key ring, key ring, key ring
2. Greg Kuhl – Game beads & key ring, Iowa travel bag
3. Lisa Henriksen -- Miller Lite jacket, Iowa travel bag
4. Dave Hickman -- Miller Lite jacket, hooded jacket, Iowa travel bag
5. Patsy Millermon – Hawkeye football
6. Dave Carpenter -- Key ring/chain
7. Kris Engelmann--- Sirius satellite radio

Congrats to all who participated!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Patsy Millermon to adjourn. Motion carried.

S-CHIP



We vs. Me in the Days of Lean and Mean

By Peter Rachleff, Professor of History Macalester College

In early August I had the good fortune to attend the 2007 Postal Press Association National Editors' Conference in Reno, Nevada. I presented a workshop on "Linking the Past to the Present," a way to think about what we can learn from the labor movement of the past and how editors can incorporate such insight and information in their newsletters. As is typically my experience in such settings, I learned more than I taught.

The high point for me came outside of my workshop. One night, about twenty of us went into downtown Reno to see Michael Moore's important new film, "Sicko." After the film, we sat down together in one of the classrooms and engaged in a prolonged, intense discussion. I found it eye-opening.

As most of you probably know, "Sicko" examines the American healthcare system from the experience of people with health insurance but who have been denied the care they need. Moore places the American system in a comparative framework, taking his viewers to Canada, England, France, and Cuba. In all of these places healthcare is universal, provided free of charge by the government, which relies on taxes for funding. Moore demonstrates that these systems are anything but "bureaucratic" or "impersonal," as U.S. critics have suggested. The French system even includes free house calls and nanny assistance for new mothers!

This much seemed so obvious to my APWU editor colleagues that little more than five minutes of discussion was necessary to declare ourselves convinced by Moore's case for universal health care. That's when our conversation got really interesting.

Underlying Moore's argument is a deep, deep question: Why have we become a society in which "me" is valued so much more than "we"? Time and again, his interview subjects in other countries justify their system in terms such as: "Well, of course we take care of each other. What else would people do?" But the American system seems grounded in a welter of selfishness and individualism, where we think about "Number One" and, as they used to say, let the devil catch the hindmost. This was the issue that grabbed my APWU sisters and brothers.

Our conversation carried me quickly back to labor history. In the late 19th century, when the ideology of "the self-made man" was sweeping the United States, propagated by the dime novels of Horatio Alger and the "rags-to-riches" biographies of the likes of Andrew Carnegie, the labor movement put forward a vision of "the group-made man," the worker whose job description, working conditions, hours and wages were the results of collective struggles and collective bargaining. Rare was the worker, even the most skilled, who imagined that he had the strength to make a favorable deal with the boss on his own.

At the heart of my workshop presentation this summer was the story of the building of the City Hall in Richmond, Virginia, in 1886. The Knights of Labor had petitioned the conservative-dominated City Council that the new hall be built of local materials with local labor, that workers be paid union scale and employed on the eight hour day, and that African American workers be given access to skilled as well as unskilled jobs.

When the City Council rebuffed their request, the local Knights organized themselves into the Workingmen's Reform Party, ran in the spring 1886 municipal elections, and swept to control of the city government. They then oversaw the building of that new City Hall just as they had imagined it. For me, the icing on the cake was the hand-carved gargoyles which adorned each corner of that handsome building. The stone cutters, Black as well as white, who carved those symbolic faces, who left their handiwork for generations of citizens to appreciate, got their jobs because they had participated in a collective movement. Their opportunity rested on a group effort.

We have been living for more than 25 years now in an era in which the ideology of individualism, of looking out for me, has dominated our culture. "Lean and mean" has been the order of the day, from reductions in workforces with greater pressure on the surviving workers to cuts in government spending on infrastructure. When I made my travel arrangements to Reno, I chose to fly anyone but Northwest Airlines, where reductions in their pilot and flight attendant workforces led to the cancelling of thousands of flights at the end of June and July. And while I was in Reno the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis over the Mississippi River collapsed, killing more than a dozen people and injuring more than 100. The chickens hatched by decades of "lean and mean" were coming home to roost.

My APWU colleagues and I discussed the costs of the "me" response to the "lean and mean" agenda. It turned us and our fellow workers into shoppers at Wal-Mart, seeking the cheapest goods (and getting what we paid for), into critics of government spending and the taxes on which it relies (thereby undermining our schools, our bridges, and the rationale for our own jobs with the Postal Service), into overtime hogs (desperate to take home more wages even at the expense of our excessed brothers and sisters), into men and women with inadequate time for our children, our families, our communities, and our unions.

The PPA National Editors' Conference gave me a great opportunity to reflect on these issues. Frankly, we all must confront them if we are to turn our society out of this "lean and mean" framework. It's not only no way to run a health care system, it's no way to work and live.





The Corner Stone

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

**JOIN THE ACTION
ATTEND YOUR
UNION MEETING!**
Oct 20th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

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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GET SIRIUS WITH COPA!

Don't forget to donate to COPA by November's meeting. You can do this by using Postal Ease and have it come from your paycheck or by giving cash/check to Dwight.

You get 1 chance to win a Sirius Satellite Radio with a year's subscription for every \$5 donated. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

1st day in November a list will be posted on the bulletin board showing those people who are in the drawing.

Thank you for giving to COPA!

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**LET
YOUR
VOICE BE
HEARD**

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NON-MEMBERS of the APWU

Waterloo Local 451

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

