



The Corner Stone

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

October 2008



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

Too much at stake....

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



OK, OK, so I've been MIA for most of the summer. And, at this writing, I'm not totally back up to speed, but I'm back to work, at least for the most part, until the holidays. Just for the record, the most recent week off was for surgery, not play time. Nothing serious but it did let me use up 40 of my hard-earned SL hours.

Those of you who read the stuff on the bulletin board already know this and most who don't read the board probably don't read my articles either, but I'm going to say this anyway so the rest of the world knows. It has recently become apparent that the folks at the National level are indeed watching the percentage cap put on Casual usage in the present contract. We've been notified USPS exceeded the cap for Waterloo and we've been awarded \$5763.20, or \$69 and change (less taxes, of course) for each Clerk in the office for most of 2007 through July of 2008. We've lost the "Casuals in lieu of" cases of the past but at least we'll pick up a few bucks here and there if they hire too many. Don't spend it all in one place.

You may see the meeting notices this month mention discussions about a Waterloo/Cedar Falls Area Local. We've had contact with those in Cedar Falls, 3 of them attended our last meeting, and there is interest in pursuing a merger of the 2 cities into an Area Local. I'm working on figuring out just how it all works, but eventually there will be elections by both Locals to see if the members desire the merger. Initial contact was prior to the National Convention in August and then at the convention a Constitutional resolution was passed to nudge smaller Locals into mergers with larger ones or with their State organization. If there is a right time for this, I guess now would be it, but it will be up to the members of both Locals. So, if you're interested in being involved in the discussions, be at the meeting. I'll be inviting the Cedar Falls members to attend again this month.

The latest update on the new building for the Carriers...some folks from the Area level were to be in

Waterloo today, the 7th, to get together with project leaders. The intent is to set timelines and discuss final plan issues. I've not been given a groundbreaking date yet but unless they scuttle the whole idea (wouldn't be the first time), I'd guess it's not too far in the future. Apparently, because these things assume there's a Flat Sequencing Sorting Machine involved (not here obviously), the building is not designed to hold as many Carriers as we have. Sounds to me like some of them may be staying in the main plant. Stay tuned on that one.

One last item and the last time this year you'll see it on this page. While you need to hear the news that APWU has endorsed Obama, I am not here to try to tell you how to vote, but I will say, make darn sure you do

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See you at the meeting on the 18th.



Secretary's Meeting Minutes.....



Bonnie Salinas



APWU LOCAL 451
September 20th, 2008

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:09 a.m. at the OP with 18 members and 3 guests Lillian Novak, Mary Shinstine and Jessica Struck of the Cedar Falls Local were present.

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

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

Officers reports:

President's Report:

- 1) COPA – Right now we are at \$4825.00. The hat pass netted \$74.21 – Great job everyone. We did receive an award from National for our COPA efforts; it will be in the office.
- 2) We recently signed up 2 new members, ET – Brad Downs and MPE Brent Bochmann please welcome them when you see them.
- 3) From the National Convention – Dwight and Kim Karol were there for the Local and Chris Salinas for the State (Bonnie was there as guest). a) Dwight has the Resolution Books we worked with at the convention if you want to see them. Dwight took a class on Financial Responsibility and one on Limited Duty. b) Waterloo Local members lucky - There were 2 drawings daily (for American Express 100,000 points) for all members present and not present who gave to COPA. Dwight was drawn the very first drawing and the next day, out of the members not present a Local member was drawn (their choice to share who they are, Secretary's note: By her permission the winner was Marna Creery. There were other raffles for COPA that you could enter at the convention and Bonnie Salinas won a big basket from the San Francisco local, which featured Rosie, the Riveter. (Note from Secretary: I will be donating some of the contents of basket towards our next COPA Local Raffle).
- 4) Holiday and Overtime sign-up – If you want to work your holiday and/or Overtime please sign sheet. If you don't want to work then don't put anything this will cause less confusion for those doing the schedule. 5) We now have a new Laser Printer in the office thanks to Glenn Staudinger.

Vice Presidents Report:

- 1) Casual employees – they cannot perform skilled work ie..window clerk, bulk mail acceptance and city mail etc...There is a cap on how many casuals can work in a District and the union is keeping an eye on this., including the use of a Post Master Relief for one office being used as a casual in another office and the work they are performing.

- 2) This election is very important to us the working class and Kim wants to encourage all members to volunteer at least a couple of hours between now and the election. Glenn Staudinger stated that on Oct 2nd an office for Political Education will be opening in the Black Hawk Labor Council building for union members.
- 3) Please check out this website nlcnet.org, this site has to do with labor issues overseas, sweatshops and the facts that these products are being sent to the USA. There is a bill in the House on this issue to not allow products to come to the USA if they for example were made in sweatshops.
- 4) Kim took a class at the convention on FMLA and now have certification forms approved by the Dept of Labor and will be taken by the FMLA coordinator. If you, the member, have an FMLA issue please come see Kim for this form to take to your Doctor. If you have non-contractual issues such as FMLA, EEO's or OWCP etc... and you want union officers to help you those issues you have to be a member. "I am taking the position and going on official record that I am only going to be providing those services to members."

Cindy Miller stated that we need to work safely and though we are short handed you can only do the work of one person safely, trying to do the work of 2 people is unsafe. Also we had an EAP service talk at work, they help with many issues and would like to encourage any needing help please contact them. If you need the number come see me. Kim Karol stated that she is on the Advisory Council so if you have questions, concerns or problems with EAP let me know so they can be addressed.

Old Business:

- 1) The next meeting will be Saturday October 18th, 2008 at 11:00 am at the OP.
- 2) This is further discussion on Cedar Falls local merging with Waterloo local. Dwight stated he obtained the information from national on how to become a local. This is a somewhat time consuming event, we have to abolish both locals and create an area local if the membership votes yes at a later date. We will schedule a meeting with Cedar Falls members to discuss further what the merger will entail.

New Business:

- 1) The IFL Convention is Sept 24th – 26th in Des Moines. Kim Karol made a motion to send Glenn Staudinger to the IFL convention with all customary expenses, seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried.**
- 2) We also have the Fall Seminar in Dubuque Oct 11th and 12th. Dwight as President automatically is going. A motion was made by Chris Salinas to send Meri Kay Chase with all customary expenses, seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**
- 3) Nominations for Election of Officers will be taken today and also at the October meeting with the voting in November. The nominations are as follows: For **President:** Chris Salinas nominated Dwight Slaikeu seconded by Kim Karol.

Meri Kay Chase made the **motion** to nominate all presently standing officers to their positions, seconded by Steve Adist. **Motion Carried.**

For **Vice President:** Kim Karol nominated by previous motion.
For **Steward Director:** presently vacant - Dick Helling (not present) but in writing nominated Chris Salinas, seconded by Steve Adist. Cindy Miller nominated Gary Acuff seconded by Kim Karol.

For **Secretary:** Bonnie Salinas nominated by previous motion.
For **Treasurer:** Glenn Staudinger nominated by previous motion.

For **Editor:** Chris Salinas nominated by previous motion.
For **Trustee: (3) positions:** Dave Knebel, Julie Schmitz and Janelle Brucher all nominated by previous motion. Glen Staudinger nominated Lou Ostlie seconded by Chris Salinas. Cindy Miller nominated Dave Hickman seconded by Kim Karol. Cindy Miller nominated Doris Rueber seconded by Steve Adist. Cindy Miller nominated Mike Burke seconded by Steve Adist. Cindy Miller nominated Mike Brown seconded by Steve Adist.

4) Dwight stated he will be looking for an election committee next month, because these members cannot be on the ballot. Cindy Miller, Paulette Woods and Meri Kay Chase have volunteered to be on the committee. There was some discussion of the election of Chairperson for election committee. Kim Karol made the **motion** to add to the nomination list Election Committee Chairperson seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried.**

Nomination For Election Committee Chairperson: Kim Karol nominated Paulette Woods seconded by Chris Salinas. Kim Karol nominated Meri Kay Chase seconded by Chris Salinas. Steve Adist nominated Nancy Hemaseth, she declined nomination.

Secretary's Note: All nominations were asked for 3 times per Robert's Rules of Order.

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol to suspend nominations until October meeting, seconded by Steve Adist. **Motion carried.**

Drawing: Cindy Miller made a **motion** to hold the drawing, seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried.** Meri Kay Chase won the door prize.

Adjourn: A **motion** was made by Chris Salinas to adjourn, seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**

Members Present: Terry McEntee, Mike Burke, Lou Ostlie, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Chris Salinas, Steve Adist, Kimberly Karol, Lora Thompson, Bonnie Salinas, Paulette Woods, Meri Kay Chase, Glenn Staudinger, Nancy Hemaseth, Jerry Kemmer, Bill Rice, Kris Engelmann, and Scott Fields.

From the VP's desk...



By: Kim Karol



By the time this issue arrives in your mail boxes, I anticipate that many of you will have already made your decision regarding the upcoming Presidential elections. If you have then you are also getting really tired of all the political commercials, news reports,

etc. that is dominating the airways. I will try to keep this article very brief, and it is principally directed to those of you who have not made a decision or do not intend to vote at all.

In recent weeks I have been working with other union leaders, trying to decide how to get good information out to our membership regarding the elections. This is not an easy task. Many union members have become complacent regarding the election process. I find it amazing that people believe that what is happening to this country is inevitable and there is nothing to be done. I am also surprised by how many people can be easily distracted with snappy sound bites. The most annoying to me presently is the response to a Presidential candidate equating himself to Maverick. For those of you who are familiar with the television character, Maverick was a Con Man, someone who thumbed their nose at the rules and authority. While that was entertaining as a fictional television character, it certainly should not personify the type of person that we elect to the Presidency. This office is the highest office in the land with the responsibility of assuring that the laws are being upheld and fair for all the citizens. I find it ironic that he would label his campaign in this way, probably hoping that no one noticed the sub text associated with the term. (His back handed way of having truth in advertising I suppose.)

I am also very disappointed with the recent vote to Bail Out of Wall Street. I am fundamentally opposed to rewarding bank robbers for stealing all the money and then agreeing not to prosecute them and replace the money so that they can repeat the crime! What a bunch of crap! Why isn't the government convening the special counsel to investigate the wrong doing surrounding the activity that lead to this crisis? Why isn't the public demanding the heads of the people who profited from this deception on a stake-medieval I realize, but I find this consequence to fit the crime! They weren't using their heads in the first place! I am also opposed to allowing the politicians and lobbyists to capitalize on the situation by attaching a bunch of crap funding for programs that are not directly associated with the financial crisis. It is my opinion that the legislation should have specifically addressed the financial crisis, not Puerto Rican Rum and all the other superfluous provisions that were added to the final legislation. It is like being seriously injured in a car accident and the paramedic tying your shoes and making certain that your hair is combed before treating the hemorrhage in your gut; it should never happen but that has become the norm. No wonder nothing ever gets done on Capitol Hill!

It is my hope that you agree with some of my observations. I hope that you will take the time to express your dissatisfaction with the status quo and vote to change the way this Nation conducts business. It has happened in the past, and can happen again if enough people take the initiative to vote. Inaction is your acceptance of the current situation.

If you are not outraged, then you are not paying attention!



Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu
 Vice-President - Kim Karol
 Steward Director - Vanda Blankenship
 Secretary - Bonnie Salinas
 Treasurer - Glenn Staudinger

Trustees - Dave Knebel
 Jenelle Brucher
 Julie Schmitz
 Editor - Chris Salinas

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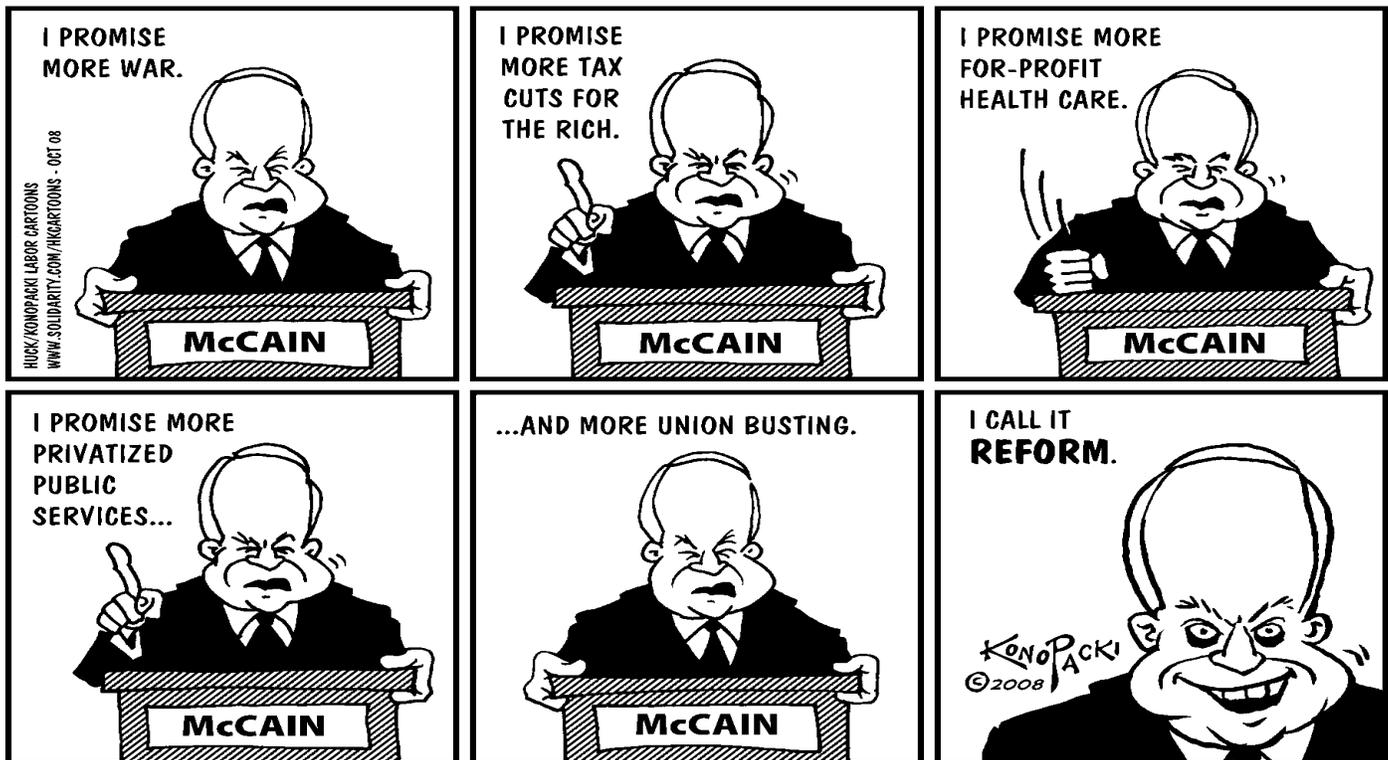
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN THE ACTION
 ATTEND YOUR
 UNION MEETING!**
**Oct.18th @ 11am
 THE OTHER PLACE
 3904 Lafayette Rd
 Evansdale, IA**



**IT MAY BE YOUR CHOICE, JUST MAKE SURE IT'S THE RIGHT ONE!
 VOTE FOR HOPE AND CHANGE IN NOVEMBER!**