



The Corner Stone

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

September 2007



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

Prime-Time give and take...

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



I know you're tired of hearing it but for those of you who still wish to get a COPA donation in, now is the time. Please put it on your high priority list because I'll be sending the last installment in for the year shortly after this month's meeting. Any donations now will get you entered in both remaining raffles.

A bit of a safety issue; if you see something broken or unsafe (not including managers), please tag it. Believe it or not, they will fix it if you follow the procedure. Write up the tag, hang it on the broken equipment, then give Phil Kauten the stub. The last part is extremely important because I've been told he can't read minds. If he gets the stub, he assures us it will get fixed.

You'll notice there won't be any job postings showing up this month. Everything is being transferred to North Carolina so the system is shut down until October. Our first round in the bidding cycle is scheduled for October 3rd.

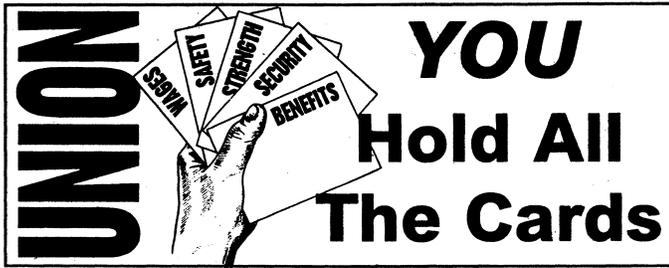
I've heard that everybody has an opinion; the real trick is whether anybody else will listen. Here are my opinions on a couple of issues...take them for what they're worth.

Did you ever wonder why we post turned back prime time AL when the slots were full? In most cases it's probably not really necessary, but once in awhile it becomes important. The basic reason is to protect seniority bidding and to keep people from submitting an avalanche of 3971s. For example, senior Dave bids the last slot. Second senior Jack wanted that slot but since it was full, put in for a different one. Nobody else knew Jack wanted it. After bidding is completed, third senior Tom puts in for the time period Dave has but, of course, is denied because it's full. Dave turns the AL back. Does Tom get the time off because he was the only one putting in for it after the bidding period? Nope, sorry, we need to find out if there are any Jack's out there and you can bet if Jack wants it bad enough, he'll turn

back that second choice he took and bid on Dave's turned back period when it gets posted. The darker side of not posting the AL again, and I'm sure this has never happened here, is what if Tom threw a \$100 bill at Dave and asked him to bid the slot and then turn it back, meanwhile putting in for the leave himself as soon as the bidding was completed? If the time goes to Tom, haven't we just blocked Jack out of a rightful bid? We have, unless Jack, and any other Jack's out there, race to put in the avalanche of 3971s I mentioned earlier. Think about it, I believe you'll see its importance. The names above are, of course, purely fictional and any perceived connection to real people is totally coincidental.

How about our local practice of not signing off on personal changes of schedule...ever wonder why? The practice predates my postal career, which puts it sometime in the '80s. The problem was, and could easily still be, managers picking and choosing by friend and foe who was allowed changes and who wasn't. I suppose one could attempt to negotiate language with management allowing any change that was requested. But, who then controls the one, or the few, who abuse the privilege to the detriment of all others? I don't know if we have any around here now who might do that, but in the very recent past we sure did. So if that won't work, then we need someone who will decide, on a case-by-case basis, who's allowed a change and who's not. Do you wish to carry that burdensome headache? I don't think I do. Four of the five acceptable reasons for a change in schedule listed in Item 22 of the LMOU have been in place since the present practice began but were only just added to the language of the LMOU. The fifth acceptable reason is new and merely takes away the necessity to burn leave if moving between duty assignments causing a scheduling problem. Other than that fifth new one, the local position on this issue has not changed since the '80s.

Feel free to bring up any issues like these at a meeting...see you at the next one.



Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



APWU LOCAL 451
July 21st 2007

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:11am. with 19 members present.

A **motion** by Chris Salinas and a second by Jerry Kemmer to accept 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 Gary Acuff. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

Presidents report:

1. The hat pass for COPA collected \$47.00.
2. National Officers elections will be coming up. Ballots should be out by Sept. 15, 2007. Watch the board for info.
3. There is no information on the review of officers' salaries yet.
4. Fall Seminar - it will be in Davenport Ia. toward the end of Sept. We are authorized for 6 people. So far Dwight, Kim K., Vanda B., Randy W., Gary A. and Glenn S. are going.
5. If a supervisor forces you to go beyond 6 hours without a lunch contact your steward ASAP.
6. There should be 3 jobs coming open for bid soon Kelly S's, M. Turner's and Dave Hickman's. Watch the bid board.
7. Once again, we have had people with mistakes on their paychecks so make sure you watch them closely.

Old Business:

The next meeting will be Sept. 15, 2007 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

New Business:

The State IFL Convention will be Aug 15, 16, and 17th 2007 here in Waterloo, Ia.

Registration and necessary costs are \$80.00. A **motion** was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Gary Acuff to send Chris Salinas to the IFL Convention, with Kim Karol as an alternate and with all customary expenses paid. **Motion carried.**

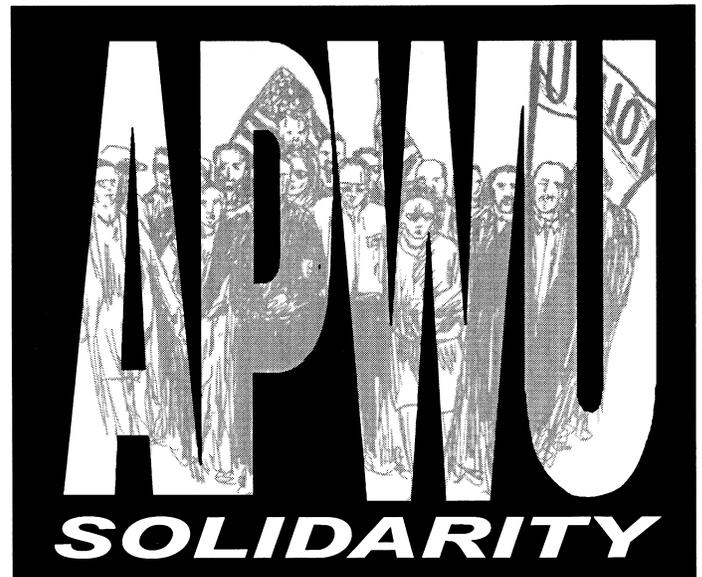
Drawing: A **motion** was made to hold the drawing by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.** Bonnie Salinas won!!!

Adjourn: A **motion** to adjourn was made by Chris Salinas and seconded by Paulette Woods. **Motion Carried.**

Members present:

Terry McEntee, Bonnie Salinas, Mama Creery, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Gary Acuff, Chris Salinas, Mike Burke, Rose Ann Garvey, Lora Thompson, Dave Knebel Steve Adsit, Glenn Staudinger, Paulette Woods, Randy Weverink, Jeny Kemmer, Bill Rice, Linda Youngberg and Stephen Fields.

Great turnout gang!!!!!!



COPA Raffle being held at the September meeting!

Get your tickets before it's too late!





Iowa's "Right to Work" law is bad for our children and the American way of life.
 By Chris Salinas

It is surprising to see how many people don't understand the "right to work" law in this state and the arguments surrounding it and when the Fair Share bill was introduced. The current law should really be called "Right to Suffer" or "Right to Starve" as many non-union workplaces make on average %50 and less than unionized workplaces.

Many non-union workers in this state, under the current law, actually cost taxpayers more money by paying more for services provided for workers that don't make a livable wage. These services include food stamps, low income housing and so on.

This in turn means that these workers can't afford health insurance for their families, especially for children of single parent households. This places those children into the state health program that cost tax dollars as well.

Basically the taxpayer is subsidizing business that won't pay livable wages or provide adequate health care insurance. While these same businesses reap profit after profit. Wal-Mart is a great example of this, having the majority of their workforce in Iowa on some type of welfare roles.

Workers that are tired of living in this state of existence at their jobs start looking for alternatives like a different job, work more hours at a second job or they may try to unionize their workplace.

When workers decide on unionizing their workplaces, many go through tough fights for their right to bargain for better wages, health benefits and the like. It's not easy to unionize under the current circumstances we live in, but when they do unionize it is a well fought fight.

But because of the federal law, those who don't believe in the union that is established, they have the right to choose not to join. In turn, those non-members get all the benefits the union provides for its members. These non-members are the first to use other services of the union as well.

To add insult to injury, Iowa's "right to work" law doesn't allow the union to charge a fee for services provided like grievance filings or contract negotiations. These services do cost the union money and the membership of that union were paying for these freeloaders. Is that fair?

In the last session of the Iowa legislature, there was a chance to remove a portion of the law to allow unions to charge a fee for services provided to non-members. It was the Fair Share bill that would have done this, but was demonized into something it wasn't.

The Fair Share bill was simple, it amends the "right to work" law to allow unions to charge a fee to non-members if negotiated in collective bargaining only. The fee amount would be determined by negotiations with the employer and the union. The non-member would have had the right to contest any portion of the fee if he/she could show they don't use those services being charged.

But, with the misleading ads, the fear factor being generated by business groups and many people not understanding the state law as it is, the Fair Share bill went to the wayside. A blow to workers, children and those who would have benefited.

In the next Iowa session, this issue may come up again. If it does, take the time and read the law. Don't rely on those who say it is a bad thing. Those that say it's bad, must dislike the American way of life.

It's the American way of life to fight for what you believe in and have the tools to help you in the fight. Under the current law, predatory companies have the upper hand. We, as union workers, need to change that. We need to take an active approach in letting our representatives know we want this law.

It is also the American way to make sure our children can be taken care of and for them to have just as good (or better) way of life in their future. If not, our children will be trampled on by these same companies.

Our children need our help to provide them the security and livelihood for their future that we have enjoyed. In turn, these same laws will help them when they have their own children.





The Corner Stone

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



RAFFLE DRAWING BEING HELD THIS MONTH!

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	

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



Meriam-Webster College Dictionary terms union members should know:

Freeload : *intransitive verb* : to impose upon another's generosity or hospitality without sharing in the cost or responsibility involved.

Freeloader: *noun* : a person who freeloads.

Sponge: *noun* : one who lives on others benefits.

Parasite: *noun* : a person who exploits the hospitality or benefits of others and earns welcome by flattery or deceit.

Leech: *noun* : a person who seeks advantage or gain from others.

Do you know someone that fits any of those terms?

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

