

The Corner Stone

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



Retiree's Get-Together
Mondays at 1:00pm
University Ave HyVee

July 2003

President's Report

By: Dwight Slaikeu

First of all, mark your calendars if you haven't already...the annual Local 451 picnic is just around the corner. Sunday, July 27th we'll be at Deerwood Park at noon. Bring along a favorite dish to share if you'd like but the meat, drink, and table service will be provided.

Had some folks who thought the whole gist of my article last month was aimed at bashing supervisors. That wasn't my intent. I only had a few questions that I felt the need to ask "Why?"

Just so you know, I haven't had anybody step forward to answer any of those questions. Actually, all that's happened is I've come up with more questions. For instance, why are so many employees still being harassed with multiple copies of 3971s being sent up from the RMO? Don't those people know that it saves a lot of paper waste to only sign one copy? Sooner or later one would expect that someone down there might wake up and say, "Boy, this is really foolish to send copy after copy of the same 3971 to the same person for the same date for the same signature."

But, no, they just keep on doing it. There were stacks of them handed out again the other day. Many of them matched copies that were signed originally (usually 2-3 months ago), or just the day before, or the best one, 2 exactly identical copies, wanting signatures on both and have both sent back to the RMO. Hello, is anybody home? One signature is enough already! Is it possible for someone down there to get a bit of bookkeeping training? There seems to be an awful lot of wasted time, energy, and trees going on here.

My suggestion, if you receive one or more of these errant 3971s and if you already have a signed copy, why bother signing another? Just ask your supervisor to kindly "Return to Sender". If you wish to sign multiple copies, and that's certainly up to you, I'd suggest you look them over carefully to make sure they're accurate.

I saw one recently that listed an 8 hour absence but the dates and times covered 2 full days. How does that work? Make sure you were actually gone on the dates listed and that the proper leave type is checked off, etc. Protect yourself!

I don't know what these people are up to and there is apparently no one in local management who has questioned the practice or who has tried to figure out why it's happening. So, I guess we can expect that it'll continue.

I also recently ran across another misunderstanding that I need to clear up. Actually it was only a supervisor and a non-member who had problems with it but I'll explain anyway.

After the holiday schedules gets put up, you and I both know that there is a good chance there will be some changes made. In the past there were supervisors, or possibly others, that would make the changes without notifying the Union and without initialing or signing the changes. Consequently, in the last local negotiations, there was language added that requires notification of changes and initialing off by the Union.

When I put my initials on the changes it does not necessarily mean that I made the changes. While I may have been involved in the actual change, it probably is only to make sure other officers are aware that I was shown those changes. Follow all that?

If you see my initials on a holiday schedule, feel free to ask me what happened, but please don't assume that I made the change.

Congratulations to our newly elected Secretary, Mike Burke, and Editor, Chris Salinas. Thanks to both of you for jumping in to help out.

Guess that's it for this month. Remember the meeting the 19th and the picnic the 27th. There's no meeting in August so this is your last chance until Fall. See you there... Dwight

Vice-President's Report

By: Kim Karol

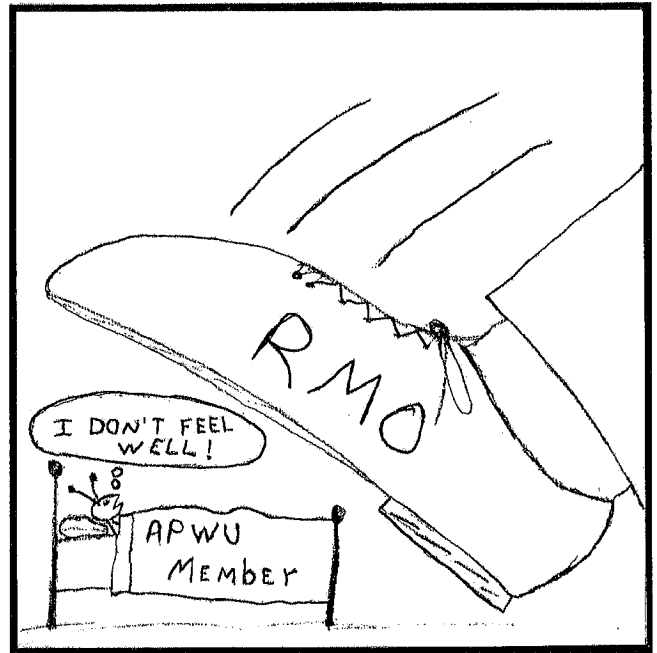
Boy the new editor is sure earning his salary, and failing to provide an article is not an option (Just kidding Chris). Congratulations to Chris and to Mike for being elected at last months meeting. I am sure they both will serve our local well in the performance of their duties.

Things have been uneventful in recent weeks, but I am sure that is only the lull before the storm. New people in management positions always means that the "wheel" must be re-invented, not merely repaired. As always you are strongly encouraged to watch out for yourself and others. Make sure that you are keeping copies of everything that you submit to your supervisor or other USPS Personnel, changes give people excuses for misplacing 3971's or medical documentation. Follow the directions of your supervisor(s), don't get up tight, and eventually someone will notice that the supervisor was being stupid. Be very careful when asked to contribute your ideas, you may not realize the true nature of the questions you are being asked. (Management can twist your words around or take credit for your ideas? That wouldn't happen at the Post Office.) CAUTION is recommended now more than ever.

I believe that this week's postings should start showing up about early retirement options. I am not sure when eligibility letters will actually arrive, but I wouldn't be planning on getting out of here much before February of 2004. It sounds like lots of hoops have been created to slow the exodus down. (My opinion not based on hard fact.)

That's all I can think of for now. I hope everyone is planning on attending the meeting and our annual picnic at the end of the month..... Kim

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Treasurer's Report

By: Meri Kay Chase

The following report is for June 2003:

Beginning Balance	\$3030.32
Deposits (+)	\$3725.82
Expenditures (-)	\$ 395.47
Ending Balance	\$6360.67

From Meri Kay

NOTE

The following minutes, from June's meeting, is at the best of my knowledge. I did not receive the minutes, but was in attendance to the meeting...

The Editor

Minutes from the June meeting follows:

The June meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order on June 21st, 2003. There were 15 members present.

The motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from May's meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried on the vote. The Treasurer's report was read. The motion was made to approve the report and was seconded. Motioned carried on the vote.

The President made a request to delay any other union business to allow a guest speaker to present his business to the local.

John Padget, representing the Black Hawk Labor Council made a speech to the members at the meeting. He expressed the benefits of joining the council. Questions were asked on cost, what representation was needed from our local and the benefits. The presentation was ended.

Discussion consists of the cost of being affiliated with Labor Council. Several options were considered:

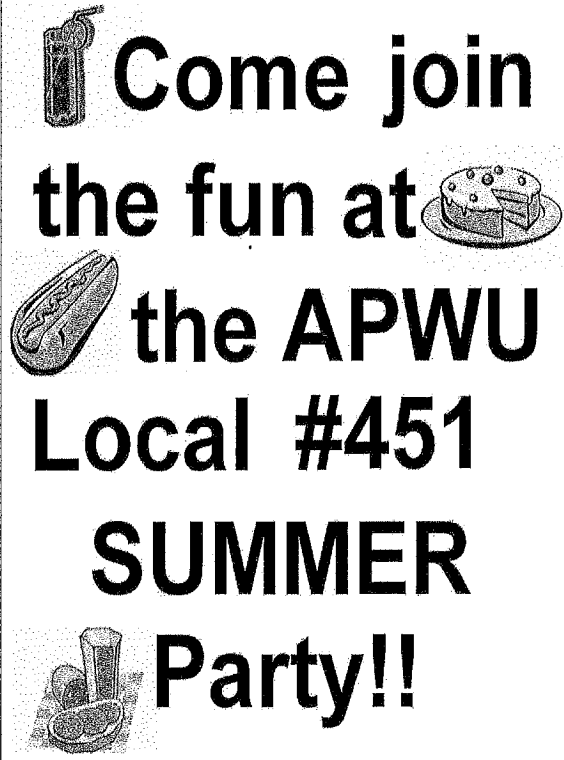
- (1) To not join;

- (2) To have the Local absorb all costs and cut back on items like the newsletter and/or summer party and other such items;
- (3) To have the Local absorb half of the cost and have members pay the difference.

Also discussion was made to the referral services of this Council versus LifeCare. Cindy Miller made the comment from her experiences with LifeCare, that LifeCare may not have the same resources as the Labor Council referral services would.

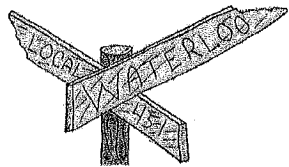
Chris Salinas made a motion to suspend the vote on this subject until July's meeting, to allow the union membership to decide if this is the best for the local. Motion was seconded and carried by the vote.

Motion was made to end the meeting and was seconded. Motioned carried by the vote.



**Come join
the fun at
the APWU
Local #451
SUMMER
Party!!**

**Sunday, July 27th @
Deerwood Park**



The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

July 19th @ 11 am
Johnny Poppers
910 W 5th ST.

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu	Trustees - Eddy Berry
Vice-President - Kim Karol	Stan Drewelow
Steward Director - Cindy Miller	Jenelle Brucher
Secretary - Mike Burke	Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Meri Kay Chase	

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WATERLOO
LOCAL #451

Letter from the Editor..

I want to thank those who attended the last meeting and participated in the election.

It surprises me on how many members decide not to show up at the meetings, considering how many of you are members of this union. As a new officer, I personally won't have an excuse not to be there, barring any major life changing events or schools.

I know, I know, it's summer time. There are more fun things to do than show up to a local union meeting. But have you considered this?

These meetings are more than just some boring comments or lectures. It's a good time to get together with your fellow workers. The same people who have to endure the same pressures as you at work. Plus, you'll be able to talk to your fellow union brothers or sisters, without some supervisor deciding

to breath down your neck while you talk or while you're feverishly trying to get the mail out on schedule. It's a chance to see those people you work with in a calmer situation and better circumstances.

There are things at these meeting that effect us locally and nationally as well. We all pay our dues with our hard earned money, so why not have a voice in it?

So I challenge anyone to come up with a good excuse why they can't attend a meeting once in awhile. That's right, I don't expect you to be there at every meeting. It would be nice to see you there at least a couple times a year and you can see what is going on with your own local.

This month I would recommend attending this month's meeting. Last month, we were asked to become affiliate with the local labor commission. We may vote on it, we may not. But you won't know unless you attend.... CHRIS