

The Corner Stone

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

February 2006



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

Lost in Kansas, but still looking out for you...

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



Got myself into a jam this month. The deadline for my article snuck up on me & now here I am, in Wichita, KS at the conference, using my lunch break to try to get it done. Ain't that just great...good thing I took full advantage of the breakfast buffet earlier.

Had just enough time before we hit the road Wednesday to check on the postings that went up. Of course there were some problems and questions. Hopefully when I get back to work on Tuesday some of them will be alleviated and I'll work on the others.

We've only just started with the conference so don't have much to report yet. Heard talks by representatives from EAP, AFLAC, ABA and the APWU Auxiliary as well as Kansas officers and one legislative speaker. Also had a generic speech by Exec. VP Guffey. While he hit some important issues, he stuck to governmental subjects for the most part. Apparently Pres. Burrus is to be here this afternoon so any USPS news will come from him. Nat. Sec-Treas. Stapleton spoke for a bit on the fiscal issues. According to him APWU has cut expenses tremendously and 2005 was a good year for rebounding from what was an unstable financial situation.

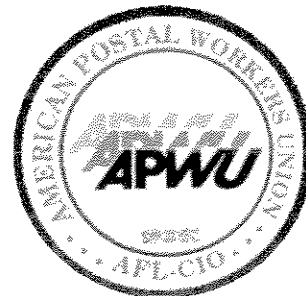
Locally, we have prime time bidding coming shortly. The notices have been posted at the time clocks and as soon as we get an idea where folks will land with the job bidding we'll get the Clerk list posted so everyone knows when to bid on vacations. The Maintenance Craft will bid as they have done in the past.

Well, we ended up second in the nation for per capita donations to COPA in 2005. I posted a notice on the board a while back suggesting the last check I sent got hung up in the mail or was delayed when it got to the National people. As it turns out that is exactly what happened, although we'll never know for sure which it was.

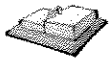
We should have been first by a wide margin but will have to live with second. As consolation, we have an \$1800.00 jump on 2006...for what that's worth. You all did a great job last year and apparently many of you realize the importance of our national officers intervening in USPS legislative issues (hopefully it wasn't just the other motive of making my chin freeze up in this cold weather). I will be asking you to attempt to hit the \$6,000 again this year but I promise we'll shut it off earlier so the money gets to D.C. on time. Remember to let me know if you're interested in setting up an allotment (the easy way) to COPA.

I had a recent discussion with the Postmaster and the subject of posting weekly schedules on the board which contained private information came up. Apparently it was one of the floor supervisors who started the trend and the Postmaster agreed it is not appropriate to post the information for public viewing. So, the practice will be discontinued except for the posting of daily schedules for PTFs and Casuals so they know when to report for work. Holiday schedules, because they differ in some respects to the regular schedules, will continue to be posted as before but will have private info expunged.

I'd better get back downstairs to the conference, so I will finish up with a reminder that the meeting is Sat. the 25th. We have quite a bit of business to conduct so we'd like you there to help with the decision making. And by the way, if you find errors in this article, please forgive me, I'm working on an unfamiliar computer under time constraints and any number of other excuses I can come up with. See you at the meeting.



Secretary's Meeting Minutes.....



Mike Burke



**APWU LOCAL 451
January 21, 2006**

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:15 am. at the OP with 17 members and 2 retirees present.

A **motion** was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Kim Karol to accept the minutes as printed in the Corner Stone. **Motion carried.**

The Treasurer's Report was read by Glenn Staudinger. A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger to place the report on file for financial review. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kemmer. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

Presidents Report:

1. PTF conversions - we are finally through Step 1 and the area has approved the conversion of our PTFs.
2. Voma Job — the person is retired that was holding this job. They are going to create a job and have someone actually work on our vehicles here at the P.O. Information on the requirements will be forthcoming.
3. The General Clerk job that was posted is history. There will be a new job posting with different duties posted in the future. Watch the bid board.
4. Thanks to everyone for the great COPA total we ended up with. It ended up at close to \$6,100.00. A **motion** by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Chris Salinas to hold the drawing to see who gets to shave off Dwight's beard after the meeting. **Motion carried.** Roseann Garvey won!!!!
5. Thanks to Don Foley and Bob Kessler for getting the causal grievances settled.

Steward's Director:

Cindy Miller just wants to remind everyone to watch your sick leave.

Old Business:

A motion by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Mike Burke to move the date of the next meeting to February 25,2006 at 11:00 am. at the OP. Motion carried.

New Business:

A motion by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to purchase a calculator with a paper tape up to a price of \$50.00. Motion carried.

Drawing:

A motion to hold the drawing was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Jerry Kemmer. Motion carried. Jenelle Brucher won the door prize!!!!

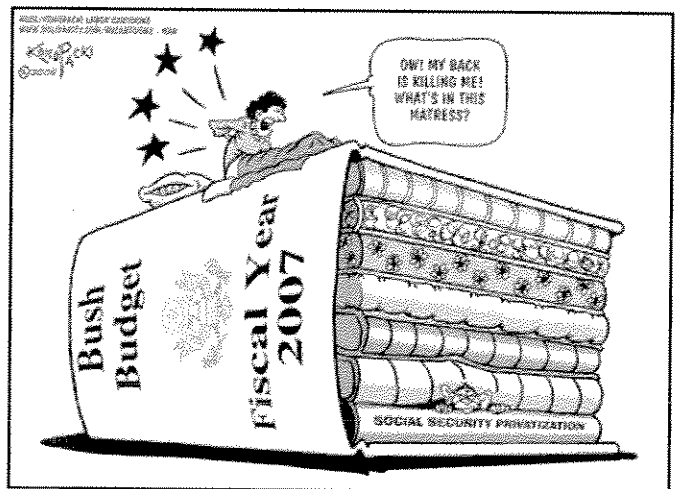
Adjourn:

A motion was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Linda Youngberg to adjourn. Motion carried at 12:06 pm.

Members Present:

Nancy Hemesath, Paulette Woods, Roseann Garvey, Mike Burke, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Gary Acuff, Chris Salinas, Greg Kuehl, Jerry Kemmer, Linda Youngberg, Jenelle Brucher, Glenn Staudinger, Meri Kay Chase, Scott Fields, Dave Knebel, Kim Karol and retirees Stan Drewelow and Paul Daugherty.

//SIGNED// Secretary Michael J. Burke



From the mailroom floor.....

DOES SAFETY MATTER?

After the safety training classes were completed, a member of my class called me on a safety issue. When I was called on it, I actually thought "good"; but unfortunately, they did nothing to correct the action. The book does take us through steps on how to handle a situation when someone is working in an unsafe manner.

A short time later, I stopped them and gave them the opportunity to go through the steps by asking them questions. They just laughed and said they were still learning and walked away. Now, mind you, this was coming from a 204B, a future supervisor. I do truly hope that they are taking their ASP training a lot more seriously than the safety training.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I expect a lot from my supervisors, and I know most of our supervisors (or 204B's) are somewhat new to their jobs. They have to sometimes learn by trial and error, and they seem to have little support or help from their uppers. But I have always found it easier to work for a supervisor who is willing to try than one who tries nothing.

Nancy J Hemesath-Tour 1



Are you looking to see if I know my
job or are you bored?

For what it's worth.....

An editorial from your editor

I just got back from the 7-state conference (trust me, we even let Burrus know that Iowa was there) and I always learn that our Union, the USPS, and Members are dynamic and always are changing with time because things do change.

Every time I go to these conferences and conventions, I learn that I can't take what I have learned previously for granted.

Arbitration Awards and Federal Legislation change and mold those things that effect our lives from one minute to the next.

The fortunate side is we know what is coming and as a Union, we are ready to handle it. Time will only tell, but our local and national union is fighting every step of the way. So I hate to remind you again that non-members are needed for this fight!

Dwight was only able to touch on certain issues because we haven't completed this conference at the time he wrote his report. So we all need to understand that many changes are coming, especially under this hardcore regime known as the "Bush Administration".

You would be surprised at what is going on in this country. Some conservatives are WILLING to let some of their liberties and freedoms be set aside for security. Forget about the issues of abortion, gun control and such. They are willing to let government do things to the average American under the veil of protection.

Thomas Jefferson once said that we deserve neither liberty nor freedom if we give these up. So I ask, why is this administration winning? Because they know what issues bothers us as Americans and can divert our attention to those things while they change rules and laws to fit their needs. Scary isn't it? And many are gullible to this, but I'm not!

I remember talking to a member about the 2004 election, and I was told that if he had to choose between his job or morality, he chose morality. He was a victim of the political games and not the issues that effect us both.

I just never asked him how long can he fight for his values when he has no job, unable to provide for his family, when the very same person he voted for took his job away. The same person that is now taking his children's future away, the dignity that binds all Americans and the fortitude that makes us all fight for what we believe.

So now, I wish I said my true feelings to my fellow brother. Not to prove a point, but to show that there is more to things than an issue that encompasses a certain feeling or belief.

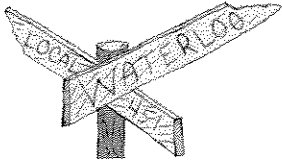
I should have responded as a fellow worker, a Christian and a friend. We have so much in common, but we are diverse in our beliefs. I respect him and I hope he respects me.

I'm here to stand for the truth! No party, being Democratic or Republican, can tell me what to do. I will fight to clean house this year because our government has forgot us, the worker, and we need those who believe in the same.

Time for us to take back what is ours, direct those who take over and regain the trust of government through us.

When I say us, it means the workers. The same workers that helped build this wonderful country of ours. Without us, there would be no country!

Chris Salinas



The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

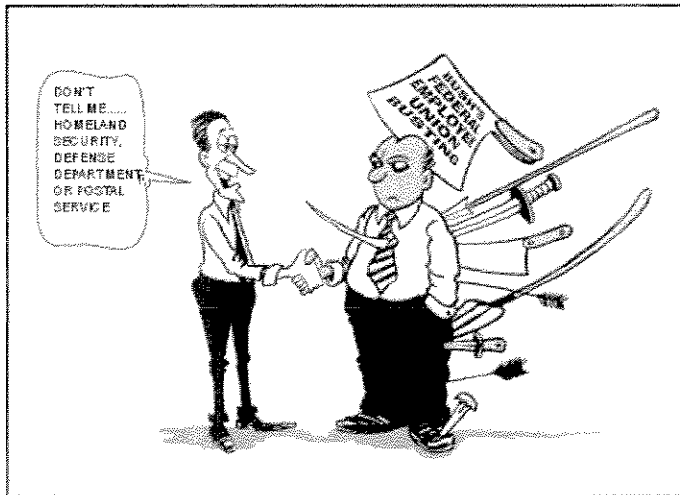
Feb. 25th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikou Trustees - Dave Knebel
Vice-President - Kim Karol Jenelle Brucher
Steward Director - Cindy Miller Paulette Woods
Secretary - Mike Burke Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Glen Staudinger

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Inside this Edition

- President's report Officers, COPA and posts, oh my!
- Meeting Minutes..... What you missed last month.
- From the Mailroom Floor.. Does anyone care about safety?
- For what it's Worth... Government and You!

GET ORGANIZED!!



SIGN UP A NON-MEMBER

Our jobs and livelihood
depends on numbers!