

# The Corner Stone

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

## January 2006



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

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



I guess I'd be remiss if I failed to start out by wishing everyone a happy new year. I, like most of you, wonder every year how the last 12 months blew by so fast.

OK, so you got me...as most of you know, the beard comes off at this month's meeting. I really thought I had set the goal high enough to avoid it, but you showed me wrong. Congratulations and thank you to those who participated in making 2005 what I believe was the second highest COPA year we've ever had. The year of the Clerk Craft settlement was somewhat higher if I remember correctly. We need another settlement like that so we don't have to work so hard convincing people a donation to COPA doesn't really hurt that bad. And while the idea of having to pay off our Representatives in order to get them to listen sucks, at least the money goes to those who are willing to discuss postal issues and, hopefully, support our work and our jobs. Yes, I will be starting the 2006 campaign before long so be prepared. Remember, too, that the best way to donate in my opinion is through an allotment. Have them pull a few bucks out every pay period & I'll leave you alone entirely. Can't beat that for a deal.

The membership elected 2 new Trustees at the last meeting. Congratulations go to Jenelle and Paulette and I thank you for your willingness to take the job. We also have a change in the Maintenance Craft, with Chris taking over as Steward in the place of Tom. Thanks to both of you for your time and efforts both past and future.

We're still trying to get some movement on getting our long over due PTFs converted to FTR. Des Moines has the info needed, all they have to do is do it. Is that so difficult? Also, I've had discussions with the Plant Manager about getting the jobs posted that went vacant prior to December. He says they are supposed to be getting posted shortly. I've been told they are again working on a hiring request so we'll see in time what that brings, if anything.

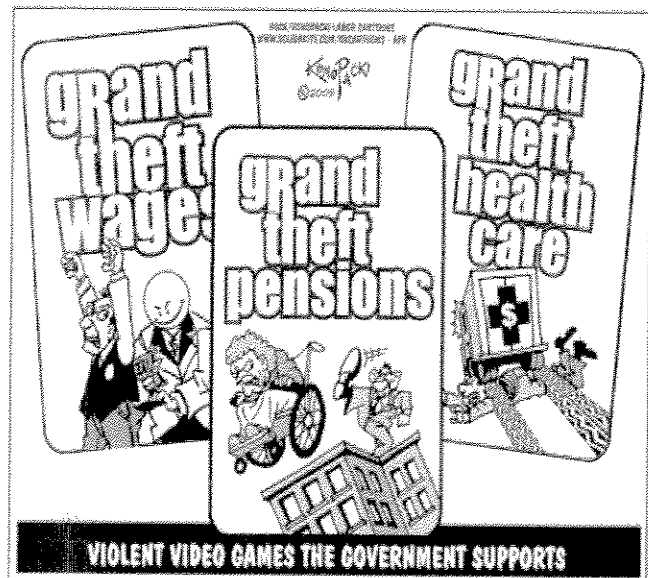
Plant consolidations, or at least feasibility studies, are beginning to hit the news all over the country now. The

closest to us that I'm aware of are in Sioux City and Illinois. It appears we'll be seeing a lot of that within the next year or so.

We've noticed some problems with the FMLA coordinators lately so want to bring that to your attention. They're making some decisions in Des Moines that we don't entirely agree with so if you've requested FMLA and feel they aren't responding correctly, let us know. Please don't wait until you're so buried in jumbled up paperwork that we can't sort it out.

You all know we have a couple holidays coming up. I just want to throw in a few words about that subject. Do I think they have a tendency to over-staff for them, especially in certain areas? Yes, I do, but that's not the only problem causing some to work who haven't in the past. Keep in mind, as people resign, and we've had several lately, especially those who volunteered for holidays, and they're not filling in below, the forced-to-work line appears to move up. That doesn't make you feel any better, I know, but it's a physical law that will have its way.

See you at the meeting Saturday.



# Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451

Date: November 19, 2005

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:12 am. at the OP with 15 members present.

The COPA drawing was held at this time and was won by Chris Salinas.

A **motion** was made by Chris Salinas and seconded by Jerry Kemmer 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 Cindy Miller. **Motion carried.**

## Officers Reports:

### Presidents Report:

1. Dwight has an informational sheet he received on the way the postal inspectors are handling criminal aspects of postal wrongdoings. If you want to read this information check out the bulletin board.
2. Bruce Braley is a lawyer in town and is running for congress. He appears to be worker friendly. He spoke at the Fall Seminar and seemed to be quite knowledgeable. Dwight has a brochure about Mr. Braley if you are interested in reading about him. Keep him in mind for the upcoming elections.
3. The MCA drivers who belong to the union are handing out fliers at some of the businesses to help their cause (to get management to come to the bargaining table). Dwight has information on this matter if anyone is interested.
4. There is more AFLAC information on the bulletin board for anyone who is interested.
5. Dwight has a Holiday Pay information sheet with lots of questions and answers he will post on the board also.
6. The holiday overtime exclusion period is Dec. 3rd through Dec.30th.
7. Under no circumstances are we allowed to work in open-toed shoes.
8. COPA update- we now have \$5,663.06 We are close to our goal of \$6000.00 and seeing Dwight and Steve Adsit shave their beards off. Let's hit that goal!!!! There is only a short time left. We now have a new raffle going for a basket of goodies that is being held by Cindy Miller. We also have a 50/50 raffle going. The winner gets 50% of the pot and COPA gets the other 50%.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2006 at 11:00am. at the OP.

A **motion** was made by Chris Salinas and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to send Randy Weverink to the Tri-state convention with all normal and customary expenses paid. **Motion carried.**

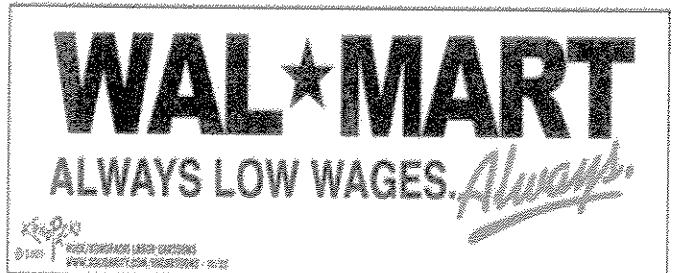
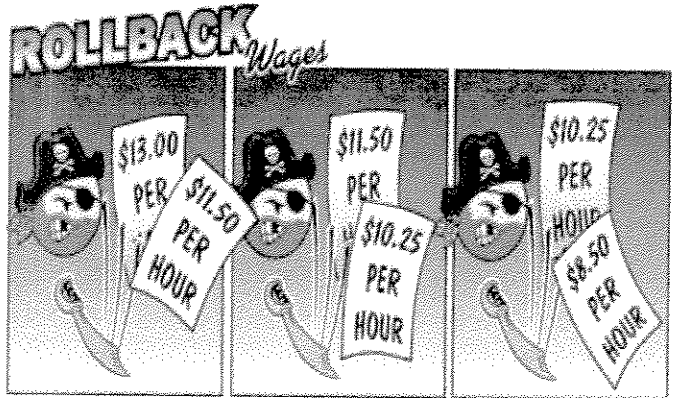
The Trustee election was held and Jenelle Brucher had the most votes while Paulette Woods and Louis Ostlie tied. In a runoff vote Paulette Woods won. Our Official trustees are Dave Knebel, Jenelle Brucher and Paulette Woods. Congratulations!!!!

**New Business:** Dwight had no new business.

Drawing: A **motion** was made to hold the drawing by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Kim Karol. **Motion carried.** Glenn Staudinger won the door prize.

Adjourn: A **motion** to adjourn was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Kim Karol. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Members present: Jen Brucher, Jerry Kemmer, Glenn Staudinger, Kim Karol, Cindy Miller, Meri Kay Chase, Dave Knebel, Patsy Millermon, Dwight Slaikeu, Paulette Woods, Stan Drewelow, Mike Burke, Scott Fields, Chris Salinas and Rose Ann Garvey.



Old Business:

# From the mailroom floor...

S. T. O. P.

## *SAFETY--TRAINING--OBSERVATION--PROGRAM*

This program is designed to teach us how to see and correct safety problems before accidents occur. The course is offered to supervisors and safety captains for whom participants are paid for their time. I became aware of the program and asked permission to attend, thinking it would be good to have the understanding and knowledge of the safety routine that is to be used.

All and all this is an excellent program, but there is no real accountability. This was demonstrated to me again and again throughout the course. I feel that if upper management wants us to take safety seriously, then they should be accountable for the training of this course.

This course is designed to use three types of training methods—self-study, group discussion with videotapes, and on-the-job training. Listed below are areas where I think management dropped the ball:

- Attendance: started with 7 members in our class, but after the first class, only 2 or 3 showed up. Reasons: too busy, forgot, didn't feel like it (the same reasons the book states we don't practice safety!)
- Class Preparedness: class members would show up with no books, pencils or pens (the right tool for the right job)
- Stop Cards: we were to complete 4 per unit (we were lucky if one was handed in)
- Group Discussions: there were questions at the end of each unit to help prepare us (we never actually went through them)
- Videotapes: usually the equipment was faulty (everything in proper working order)
- On-The-Job Practice: to be done after each unit (never had any on-the-job practice)
- Course Length: 1 unit per week, 1 hour for 7 weeks (completed in 5 weeks due to the holiday)

The final card fell for me when the instructor stated for any classes missed, you could watch the video at your convenience and would receive full credit for the entire unit. This left me with the feeling that an excellent opportunity to learn was just lost. It is evident that *numbers* are more important to upper management than *knowledge*.

Disappointed,  
Nancy J Hemesath-Tourl

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...



Come one, Come all!!!

See a feat never before seen by  
any Postal Worker!!

See Dwight lose that beard!!  
January 21<sup>st</sup> @ The Other Place

Get there early and tease the man  
who said it couldn't be done!!

Thanks too all who contributed to  
COPA!!

P.S. We will be drawing on who will shave Dwight.

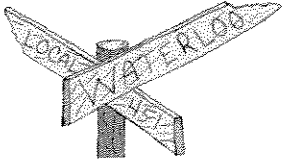
 Treasurer's Books...   
By: Glen Staudinger

### October Expenses

Federal withholding SEPT	\$325.73
Meeting	\$50.00
Cornerstone	\$190.58
IPWU	\$119.38
IFL	\$122.20
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$807.89

### November Expenses to Date 11/1/05 – 11/18/05

Adopt a Family	\$250.00
Federal withholding OCT	\$28.24
Office Supplies	\$21.28
Cornerstone	\$134.70
Fall Seminar	\$972.98
IPWU	\$118.11
IFL	\$120.90
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1646.21



## The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Union Meeting

Jan. 21st @ 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	

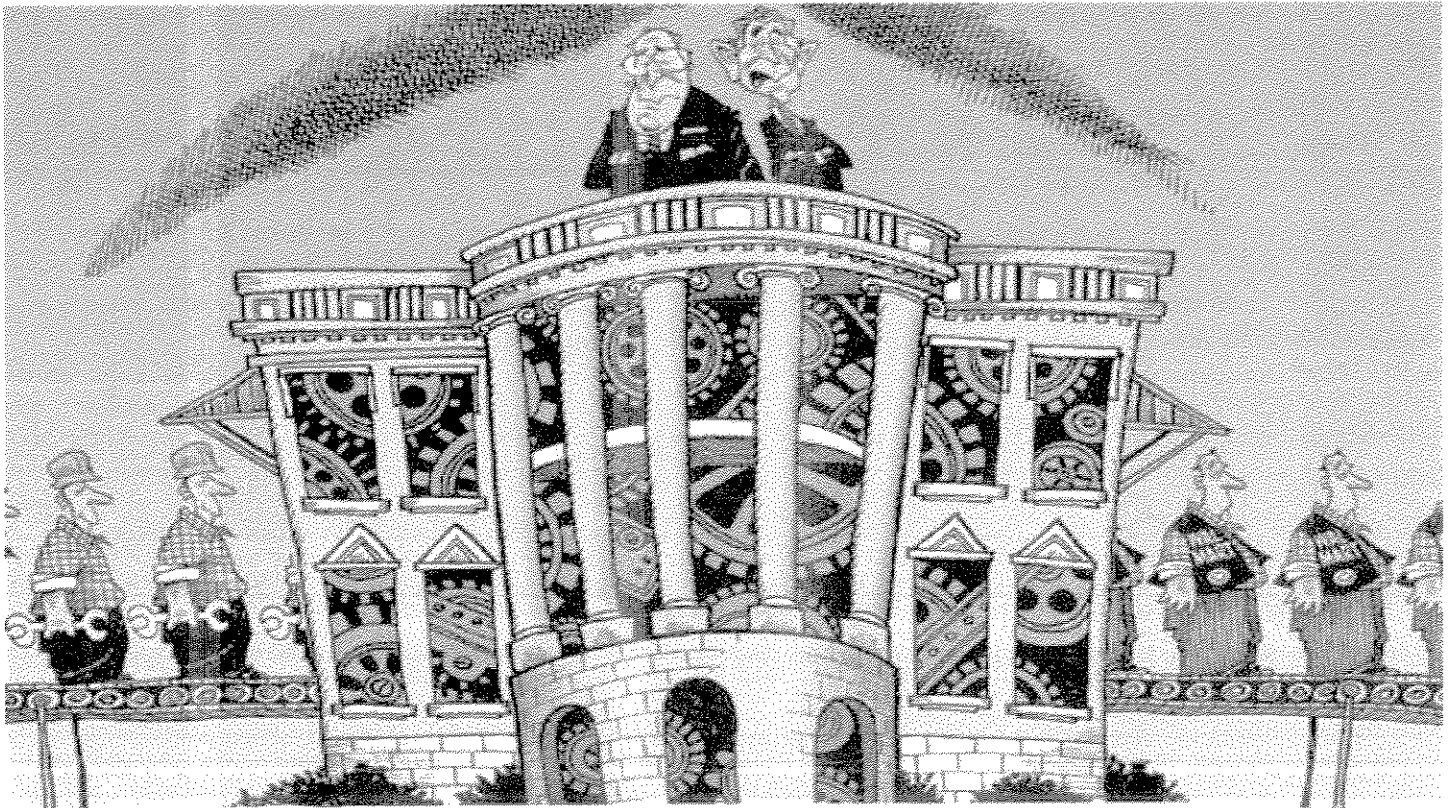
ALL OPINIONS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITER  
AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE  
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WATERLOO  
LOCAL #451

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Cedar Falls, IA  
Permit Number: 41



"AND THEY SAY AMERICAN MANUFACTURING'S ON THE DECLINE."