

The Corner Stone

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

July 2006



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

Getting lucky lately.....

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikou



I guess I got lucky last month when I got out of Washington D.C. the week before they had huge flooding problems. I had the pleasure of being a committee member in preparation for the National Convention coming in August.

The committee I was on was the Screening Committee. I and 13 other members from various states, went through all the resolutions sent in from across the country to determine which main committee they had to go to. Those committees will be meeting between now and the end of this month and all the resolutions will end up in a book we will use at the convention. Our job involved constant reading and re-reading resolutions trying to find duplicates, check spelling and such as that. I'll get to see many of them a couple more times before I'm done as we'll go through relevant ones at the Clerk Craft meeting the 2 days prior to the convention and then again during the convention.

Kim will also be at the Clerk Craft meetings going through those with me. And we have the good fortune to have 2 Maintenance Craft members, Meri Kay and Chris, as State Delegates so they will, of course, get to go through, and vote on, the Maintenance resolutions prior to and during the convention. Follow all that?

I know, for most of you it all sounds incredibly boring but I, being a somewhat strange duck as you all know, find most of the process pretty interesting. The idea, of course, is that we are taking part in attempting to guide the National Union in both the way they work, with Constitutional changes, and the things we wish to be negotiated for upcoming contracts.

One might ask what good is one vote, the National machine is going to do what they want anyway. Well, I guess that's true to a point but I have seen, as recently as the last convention, the delegates override huge issues backed by that National machine. Anyway, it can be fun when you get involved enough.

In regards to the convention, I want to repeat one thing I mentioned before. We have been hearing some complaints about the APWU Health Insurance and I want to take those complaints to the Health Plan Director in August. So, if you happen to be one of those with problems in that area, get your information to us and we'll take it along.

Keep in mind the picnic is next month also, Exchange Park on the 6th. Cindy and Gary could probably use a couple people to let them know they'll be around that day and to see if they need any help. Otherwise, bring along a favorite side dish or two and we'll have a good time. That will also be about your last chance to get information to us in regards to the paragraph above, or anything else for that matter that you want us to take to the National Conv.

One more item before I close: If you haven't re-cycled your latest state paper, there's an article in there that is one of the best, and most informative, articles I've run across. On page 7, *Mega Scribbles* by Bryon Preminger, he has several short paragraphs on various subjects...he calls them tips and tidbits from his mental junk yard. I'd call it a little bit about a whole lot. He hits very relevant subjects in a sort of rapid-fire fashion. If you're paying attention at all you will find items in there of interest to you.

That's it, see you at the meeting Saturday.

GET ORGANIZED!!



SIGN UP A NON-MEMBER



Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451

June 17, 2006

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:14 am. at the OP with 14 members and retirees Charles Terpstra and Jim Anderson present.

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

The Treasurers Report was presented by Glenn Staudinger. A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger for the report to be accepted for review and seconded by Jerry Kemmer. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

Presidents Report:

1. COPA-We have \$5,235.00 so far this year. The hat pass total was \$36.50.
2. There are certain rules you must follow for bidding a job. If you have any questions about job bidding please contact Dwight or your steward before you put in your bid. Also make copies for the union and have your supervisor sign and date a copy and keep it in your own file.
3. Dwight made a decision to go ahead and get our two other MBAs \$40.00 gift cards for all the work they do for us. A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Gary Acuff to repay Dwight for the cards. **Motion carried.**
4. Keep it in mind that if you are involved in a criminal activity within the postal service or accused of something by the postal inspection service, always ask for a steward no matter if you are at your home or where ever you happen to be at the time you are approached.
5. Please request in writing to see your personnel folder to make sure that nothing is in there that shouldn't be. If there is something in there that needs to come out, you must request it in writing. Do this very soon as the USPS is going to be shipping them to another location out of state.

Cindy Miller wanted to let everyone know that the jacket deal was cancelled do to lack of interest and a high cost per jacket. She's still checking for cheaper ones.

Vice President:

Kim Karol mentioned that we have an arbitration coming up soon dealing with improper hiring practices. A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to reimburse Kim for LWOP for the two days of the arbitration. **Motion carried.** Kim also brought up the fact that there is going to be an open house at the Post Office on June 22, 2006. There will be 2 three hour sessions and if you plan to go it has to be on your own time. Check on the times. We think(check around for the times) they are from 6-9am. and 1-5 pm. This is something that is very important to all of us as it deals with the

many types of our benefits such as, retirement, change of address and just about everything that effects you within the Post Office. There will be 6 computers on hand for you to learn how to check on your benefits. You only have to stay as long as you want to or feel comfortable on how to access all the information you will need in the future. At this point you will also be able to use this for your home computer.

Cindy Miller mentioned the Ergonomics Team that will be looking for suggestions on how to ease the wear and tear on our bodies. Cindy is currently training for this team.

Old Business:

1. The next meeting will be Saturday July 15, 2006 at the OP at 11:00 am.
2. The picnic is still set for Aug. 6, 2006 at noon at Exchange Park.

New Business:

Dwight stated that he volunteered our Local 451 to host the APWU State Convention in 2008. It will be April 25th and 26th 2008 at the Ramada Inn. A **motion** was made by Kns Engelmann and seconded by Cindy Miller to host the 2008 APWU State Convention. **Motion carried.**

Dwight stated that if we are not sending anyone to the IFL-CIO convention in August, we need to proxy our votes to Chris Salinas or Bruce Clark. A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to proxy our votes for the IFLCIO Convention. **Motion carried.**

Drawing:

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Cindy Miller to hold the drawing. **Motion carried.** Dave Knebel won!!!!!!!!!!!!

Adjourn:

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Cindy Miller to adjourn at 12:06 pm.. **Motion carried.**

Members Present:

Rose Ann Garvey, Gary Acuff, Glenn Staudinger, Bill Rice, Randy Weverink, Tina Popenhagen, Cindy Miller, Dwight Slaikeu, Jerry Kemmer, Mike Burke, Kim Karol, Kris Engelmann, Paulette Woods and Dave Knebel.

Secretary Michael J. Burke

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES  



Postal News Summary

The Office of the Inspector General of the USPS concluded that the consolidation of the Sioux City plant with Sioux Falls plant is not cost efficient and does not improve service locally or to other parts of the nation.

The APWU plans to have a meeting with the Postal Service to discuss problems with the IVR (Interactive Voice System) that is used to schedule sick or unscheduled leave. Problems have arisen when the system malfunctions.

The Postal Service is modifying the ELM, section 514 to state that LWOP can only be taken for 1-day increments, unless the employee is covered under FMLA.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued proposed regulations to rewrite the existing Federal regulations governing Payment of Health Premiums for Periods of Leave Without Pay (LWOP) or Insufficient Pay. According to the notice: The proposed regulation is "to ensure that employees who are entering LWOP status, or whose pay is insufficient to pay their FEHB premiums, are fully informed when they decide whether or not to continue their FEHB coverage."

Business mailers spin-doctors continue their assault on postal workers as the cause of Postal Services financial woes. The writers have been urging congress to allow outsourcing and work-sharing of the services needs.

Steward Director's corner.....



Vanda Blankenship



Hi. This is my first piece for the union newsletter. I've been asked to be the Step 2 Union Steward for our local. Some of you will remember I was a union steward for Tours 1 and 2 for a while a few years ago. Plus I have been a local and state trustee. I have a lot to learn, but I will give it my all!

Dwight and I have already had a couple of meetings with Jeff Foreman. We're working on getting the runs straitened out and a couple of other things done.

A problem came up a month ago that made me realize that not many of you members know about staying a live bidder on more than one job. If you are a successful bidder on a job, but there where other jobs you bid on, and if you still want to be considered a live bidder on one of those jobs you need to notify management in writing within ten days to remain a live bidder on it.

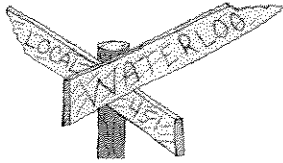
It's in the National Contract on page 186 under Article 37, 8.a. Failure to notify within the ten days will cancel the other bids.

I have done this more than once. If someone doesn't full fill the requirements of a job it can go to the next qualified bidder. To do this now, I would make two copies of the request and get Jeff Foreman or your supervisor to sign it. Keep one copy and give the other one to your supervisor. It used to go to personal. I'm not sure where it will go now. But make sure you keep a signed copy.

Well, that's all for now. Vanda



*"I told the boss to go to hell.
But he said he'd already taken a vacation this year."*



The Corner Stone

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

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Waterloo, IA
Permit Number: 401

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



Union Meeting

June 17th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

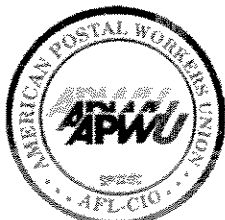
MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
ATTEND THE MEETING!

TALK TO NON-MEMBERS






**PERSUADE THEM
TO JOIN THE UNION**

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...
UNION YES ✓



Members ARE
The Union!!

 **Come join the fun**
 **at the APWU** 
Local #451 Union
Picnic! 

August 6th @ 12 pm
Exchange Park

Fun for the whole union family!

Volunteers needed!

Bring something to share with
everyone if you like!