

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. McDonald's
Across from HY-Vee

JUNE 2004

President's Report

By: Dwight Slaikeu



I'm just finishing up a week off as I write this so it could be somewhat difficult to put my brain in the mood to think about work but I'll give it a shot. Seems it's pretty easy to shut everything off for awhile and except for 2 or 3 minor connections to work, I've been fairly successful at it this week. But your Editor says it's time for the paper to go out so we'll see what I can come up with.

Just before I left I was told we may have lost our buffer between your Supervisor and your paycheck. If true, and if you haven't listened to us before, you'd better hear us now. Watch your paychecks carefully! Those of you who work overtime, any out-of-schedule hours, double Sundays, without lunch or anything else outside the perfect 40-hour workweek are especially at risk. Past experience shows there were pages and pages of errors being caught every week. If those errors make it through to the PDC, several of us won't get paid correctly. I heard the other day that according to the Tour 1 Supervisor there was a problem with entering Administrative Leave into the system. Think about that in regards to the recent Mourning Day situation. Will it be a total mess, or is it only the Tour 1 Supervisor who doesn't understand the process? Will your Supervisor remember to authorize your overtime and catch the "fatal errors" every day of every week until you retire? Only you will be able to catch it if they don't.

Now, let's pretend you've found an error and you got shorted a couple hundred on your check. What do you have to do? Go right back to the same Supervisor who made the error and try to get them to make a proper adjustment so you get "all" of the monies you were shorted. Sounds a little scary in some cases, doesn't it? Keep in mind, too, that a shortage of hours paid could include more than one category. Maybe it was straight time hours that were missing. So, did it also include the night differential or the Sunday pay if they were involved? Do you ever take a partial day of SL, including maybe FMLA or Dependent Care? The possibilities are endless.

Assuming your Supervisor does make the adjustment correctly, now you need to watch for it to show up on a later check someday down the road, all the while trying to pay your bills without the missing cash. And at the same time you need to watch subsequent checks for errors.

Is it possible to have multiple adjustments in the works at the same time? You bet it is.

Yes, we could find out that the problem doesn't get as big as all that but you won't know if you don't look at your pay stub. Please, take our advice and live by the motto, "Check Your Check" every payday. Also, let us know when you discover problems so we know just how bad it is.

Another subject that I consider just as bad but am waiting to hear your reactions to is the new call-in system. It looks long, involved and confusing to me and I'm looking at it as a healthy person. I can't imagine trying to maneuver through it when sick. I'll probably have more on this subject in a later article, after the opinions and problems surface.

See you at the meeting Saturday the 19th.

Dwight

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

DATE: August 8th @ Noon

Location: Exchange Park
By the Waterloo Women's Softball
Diamonds and Riverfront Stadium.

Tableware and side dishes are requested.

Softball will be available, so is the skate park, volleyball, etc.

Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



APWU Local 451 Date: May 15, 2004

The May meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:03 am. at the OP with 12 members present.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Corner Stone was made by Meri Kay Chase and seconded by Jerry Kemmer. Motion Carried

The Treasurers Report was read by Meri Kay Chase. Since last months report was not officially accepted Paulette Woods made a motion to accept both April and Mays' treasurers report. Motion was seconded by Chris Salinas. Motion carried.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Presidents Report:

1. Dwight stated by the end of the year we will be at about \$3600.00 for COPA. \$71.25 was collected at todays meeting.
2. Labor management meetings are supposed to be the third Tuesday of every month. If you have anything that should be dealt with, get it to Dwight ASAP before those days.
3. We are supposed to have two more PTF~s coming in June and July.
4. The Presidents Commission: The House bill was fairly favorable this time. The Senate hasn't laid theirs out yet.
5. If you are disapproved for annual leave make sure the percentages are correct for the ratio/number of people that can be off at a time. Any questions, get them to a steward or Dwight.
6. Dwight received a letter from Sue Carney which refuted a claim that she endorsed an insurance company calling themselves Security Life/Whitlen Agency. If you receive any materials from this company remember the APWU nor the USPS did not endorse it.
7. The present contract expires in 2005. Our local contract is negotiated by the negotiating committee. Neither the existing process nor time allotted for local negotiations will allow for a ratification vote by the members.
8. Our local election is this November. Nominations will take place at the September and October meetings.

Vice President:

Kim Karol reported that 23 constitutional changes come to the table at the state level. Only three made it to the floor. She also stated that some of the things coming out of the Presidents Commission are actually favorable for us. Retirement is a big issue to deal with for the Commission because it involves big money. Kim stated that they could take your CSRS or FERS with the stroke of a pen, therefore, it is not really guaranteed. Civil service funds are in an escrow account and they are trying to get at those funds as well. Kim also slated that if you have a request in for your (OPF) and have not heard anything in a short time period, put in another request.

Treasurer: Meri Kay reported that Chris Salinas had a resolution passed at the State Convention.

OLD BUSINESS: The next meeting is Saturday June 19 2004 at 11:00 am. at the OP.

Picnic Report: Stanley says all systems are go on the picnic for August 8, 2004 at 12 noon at Exchange Park.

New Business: Secretary Mike Burke made a motion to give a check to our local APWU members in the amount of \$25.00 who retire as a gift from the Union Members. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kemmer. After brief discussion the question was called for by Secretary Burke and seconded by Kim Karol. Both motions carried.

Drawing: A motion was made to hold the drawing by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Linda Youngberg. Motion carried The winner was new member Nancy Hemesath. Congrats!

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Chris Salinas and seconded by Vern Berry. Motion carried.

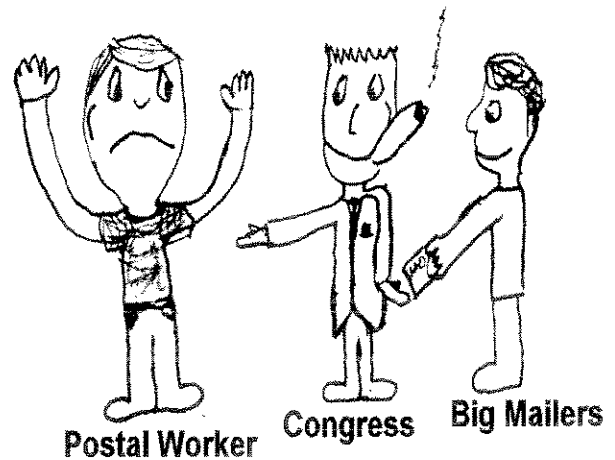
Members Present: Dwight Slaikeu, Kim Karol, Vern Berry, Jerry Kemmer, Stan Drewelow, Mike Burke, Chris Salinas, Paulette Woods, Jim Anderson, Linda Youngberg, Meri Kay Chase, Nancy Hemesath

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES



Legalized Theft



Vice-President's Report

By: Kim Karol 

You know the APWU has been sounding the alarm about privatizing the Postal Service for a long time. Many of you have stopped listening because it appears like nothing is really happening. You are not being directly affected in some manner. The unfortunate thing is that you are being directly affected and you don't yet realize it.

It is a very complicated situation that would take up too much space in this publication to try and explain. (I started and it was several paragraphs long for the introduction.) Basically my feelings are that for many years the American public, those of us who are not among the top 5%-10% earnings bracket have been slowly conditioned to expect less. The stores that you can afford to shop in provide products of lesser quality. The foods you can afford to purchase are of lower nutritional value. The jobs that are available are for lower wages. This has been happening very slowly for a long time. It has skewed the American dream. You can no longer afford a home, good education, and good health. Now you hope to only have to work two jobs, or just a little overtime just to make ends meet.

Your job is not immune. The Presidential Commission's Report on Postal Reform is due out any day now and we are the big targets. Check out the website for the public to see the statement that was issued in support of all the changes. (Sanitized so that it will be easy for the public to understand.)

"Provide strong guidance for costs over which we have no control, such as the price of fuel our expanding delivery network, growth in statutory employee benefits, and wages."

Now the first part I can understand, but to link that to employee benefits and wages that are negotiated; how is that out of their control? Your income is on the line.

Repeal the escrow requirements in the Postal Service Civil Service Retirement System. Eliminate CSRS military service payments. Your retirement is on the line. And don't think just because you are a FERS employee you are safe. You're not! Your contributions to FERS and any matching contributions can be eliminated in the swipe of a pen. One signature! Don't think it will happen? Talk to postal managers that banked their bonuses. One swipe wiped out all their money too!!

This is not craft vs. management. Everyone loses if we don't get our head out of our @\$\$!! I know that I haven't been able to do justice to this issue in this article. Please pay attention to what you hear about this reform. It is the back door approach to getting Privatization.

There is so much money to be made that it will be spun, and sugar coated so that we won't know what hit us until it is too late. The public has gotten so accustomed to the lower standards that it will seem reasonable to them to make changes lowering your wages and benefits. It is going to happen.

Just my opinion.

Kimberly Karol-VP

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Due to a technical glitch with last month's newsletter, April's Treasurer's report is being printed. An updated Treasurer's will be provided in the July's addition.

Treasurer's Report

By: Meri Kay Chase 

APRIL 2004 Report

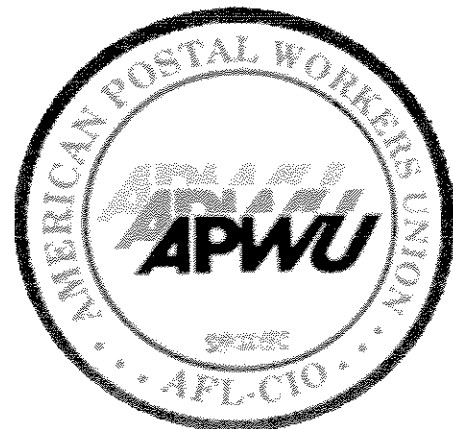
It's been a busy month between union and political activities. I see the per capita checks to our affiliates, Iowa Postal Worker's Union and the Iowa Federation of Labor, have not been paid this month but they are a patient bunch. I'll catch you up in May.

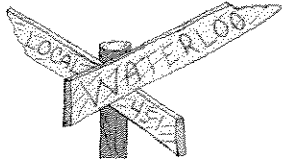
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$820.23
Phone:	\$44.24
Tri-State:	\$235.39
Postage:	\$31.63
Office Supplies:	\$10.65
Meeting:	\$85.00
Cornerstone Printing:	\$101.32
State Convention (advance)	\$312.00

Next month you can expect to see higher per capita, as explained above. We will have Federal taxes to pay and expenses for the State Convention in Muscatine, as well as the regular monthly bills.

As always, I welcome any questions and suggestions. Next meeting is June 19th, 11:00 a.m. at The Other Place in Evansdale. The pizza is hot and good, as well as the conversation.

Meri Kay





The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

June 19th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

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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LOCAL #451

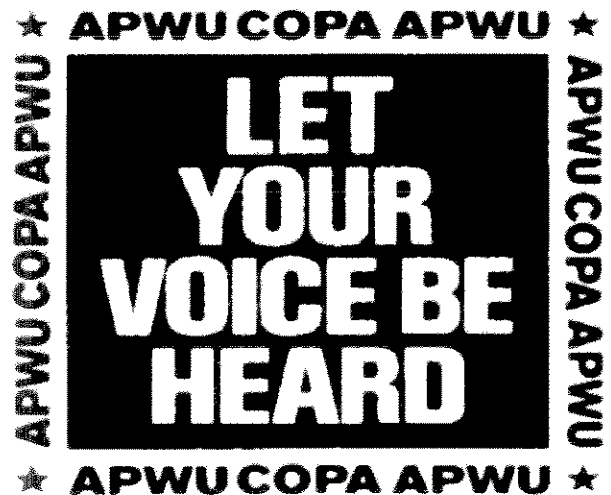
Have you contributed to COPA?

It's a way to let your voice be heard with the help of the APWU. It will let many in Washington know you mean business when it comes to your job, health care, retirement and many other things you take for granted.

Don't sit back and hope for the best, stand up and fight for what is right!

There are many ways you can contribute to COPA. Your local union officers can provide you information on how you can help contribute.

Take a stand and fight back. Your voice and thoughts matter.



It's our fight, let's bring it to them!