

The Corner Stone

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

JUNE 2006



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

A RARE CLERK BIDDING ISSUE....

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikou



First off I want to thank a couple of people. Vanda has stepped forward and was elected to take over as Steward Director and will be handling the Step 2 and 3 work. And, Gary Acuff has been appointed to the Tour 1 Steward position. Thanks to both of you for jumping in to help out. As always, training is a long and difficult process so I ask both them and all members to be patient. Don't expect that just because a person becomes an officer, they then know everything there is to know about the contract, etc. If you get involved in an issue for which you need help or answers, don't wait till the last minute to ask. Make sure we have time to find the right answer or at least as accurate an answer as possible.

Speaking of knowing the answers...we have come upon 2 Clerk Craft issues that, until recently, were extremely rare in our office. Over the years, and I'll use the same words again, it was extremely rare that someone bid an assignment and then withdrew or failed to complete training prior to the end of a deferment period involving scheme training. Suddenly we've had what I'll call a rash of instances of exactly that. When it happens there are situations that may surface. I will attempt to outline them here so if you find yourself in the middle of one you'll react appropriately.

1) *You are a junior bidder on a job requiring scheme. The senior bidder starts scheme study. During their study time you bid and are awarded a different job. You are no longer considered a bidder on the first job, unless, within 10 days of being awarded the second job you notified management in writing of your desire to remain a live bidder on the first job. If the senior bidder withdraws, fails or for any other reason relinquishes the scheme job, you will be considered a bidder only if you gave that notification.*

2) *You have been named the senior bidder on a job requiring scheme training. At some point after starting the training you decide to withdraw, or something causes you to*

not complete the training. Once you have withdrawn, you cannot bid another job for 90 days. It is very important that the 90 days start as soon as you know you're not going to finish the training so if another posting shows up that you want to bid, hopefully your 90 days is done.

I know this was just a quick sketch of the 2 issues but hopefully I gave enough information that you'll at least recognize it. If you have questions or find yourself in these situations, ask about it immediately. As I indicated before, don't wait until it's too late to correct.

Keep in mind the picnic is just around the corner in August. If you wish to help out or have questions about it, contact Cindy Miller or Gary Acuff.

I know I've been missing quite a lot recently and that will continue throughout the summer but I really am working on the COPA drive, just not as actively as in the past. Feel free to get me your COPA donations without my asking. I'll see they get where they belong.

See you at the meeting Saturday the 17th.

 **Come join the fun**

 **at the APWU** 

**Local #451 Union
Picnic!** 

**August 6th @ 12pm
Exchange Park**

**Volunteers Needed!
Bring your favorite dish too share!**

Secretary's Meeting Minutes.....



Mike Burke



**APWU LOCAL 451
May 20, 2006**

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:08 am. at the OP with 13 members and retirees Vein Berry and Stan Drewelow present.

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

A **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by President Dwight Slaikeu was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Mike Burke. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

1. COPA-so far this year we are standing at approx. \$5, 193.00. The hat was passed and \$43.00 was collected. Great job people!!!
2. At this point a **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Vanda Blankenship to get Bob Kessler a \$40.00 gift card. **Motion carried.**
3. Waving of overtime- if you know that you can not stay for overtime on the end of your tour, get a 3971 filled out right away.
4. Cindy Miller is checking out some pricing on some light weight Union jackets.

Old Business:

1. The next meeting will be Saturday June 17th 2006 at 11:00 am. at the OP.
2. The picnic is still on for Aug. 6, 2006 at Exchange Park at 12:00 pm. Please bring a favorite dish, salad or desert.
3. Nominations have been carried forward from last month to this month for the position of Stewards Director. Vanda Blankenship was nominated by Chris Salinas and seconded by Cindy Miller. A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Chris Salinas to cease nominations. Both **motions carried.** Vanda Blankenship is now the new Stewards Director. Congratulations!!!!

New Business: No new business.

Drawing:

A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to hold the drawing **Motion carried.** Kim Karol was the winner!!!!!!!

Adjourn:

A **motion** was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Kim Karol to adjourn at 11:54am. **Motion carried.**

Members Present:

Vanda Blankenship, Dwight Slaikeu, Bob Berendes, Chris Salinas, Cindy Miller, Mike Burke, Nancy Hemesath, Keith Kirkland, Jerry Kemmer, Gary Acuff, Jen Brucher, Paulette Woods and Kim Karol.

/S/ Secretary Michael J. Burke

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES

One sticking point removed in postal reform measure.

By Jessica Brady, National Journal

House and Senate members meeting with White House officials on the Postal Service overhaul bill might have found common ground on how the agency should spend its growing escrow fund.

After meeting with White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten last week, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she felt "confident that we've reached a solution" on the escrow fund, one of the issues that has stalled final approval of the sweeping bill.

Collins said language in the Senate bill allowing the Postal Service partial access to the fund to pay for future employee health benefits and operating costs probably will be included in the conference report.

The Senate bill that passed in February requires the agency to use 88 percent of the escrow account for health benefits, while the House version calls for a minimum two-thirds contribution. The remainder would be used for operational costs to offset possible rate hikes.

The White House objected to both versions, arguing that the entire escrow -- holding about \$3 billion and growing -- should pay for benefits.

The White House also opposes proposals in the House and Senate versions that would shift to the Treasury Department the costs of postal workers' military pensions. The move would add a projected \$27 billion to the federal deficit, and President Bush has said he would not sign a bill that is not budget neutral.

Talks among Bolten, Collins and House Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., also seek to reconcile the pension issue. The Postal Service contends rate increases are inevitable if it is forced to maintain the liability.

Continued next page....

Davis said "we're close" to naming House conferees and approving the first Postal Service overhaul bill in three decades. He said he expected conferees to be named and the conference report voted on by the July 4 recess.

Labor News

Trade union members face growing violence.

Trade union members round the world face a growing risk of incarceration and violence for defending workers' rights, an international labor organization said in an annual study published on Wednesday.

About 1,600 union members suffered violent assaults last year compared to the 704 tortured, beaten or injured in 2004, while the number of arrests doubled to 9,000, the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) said.

The number of labor activists killed fell to 115 from 145, said ICFTU. Colombia again topped the list with 70 recorded cases of killings, but this was down from 99 the year before.

"The (global) death toll was slightly lower in 2005 than the previous year, but we are nevertheless witnessing increasingly severe violence and hostility against working people who stand up for their rights," said ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder.

ICFTU says it represents 155 million workers in 236 affiliated organizations in 154 countries and territories. The survey was conducted across 137 countries.

The confederation said Latin America remained the most perilous region for trade unions and that there was a "climate of continuing impunity for the assassins and deliberate targeting of trade unions by armed groups" in Colombia.

In Asia, child labor, sexual harassment, unpaid overtime and dangerous safety conditions were rife in the export sectors of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the Philippines as countries sought desperately to undercut each other on cost, it said.

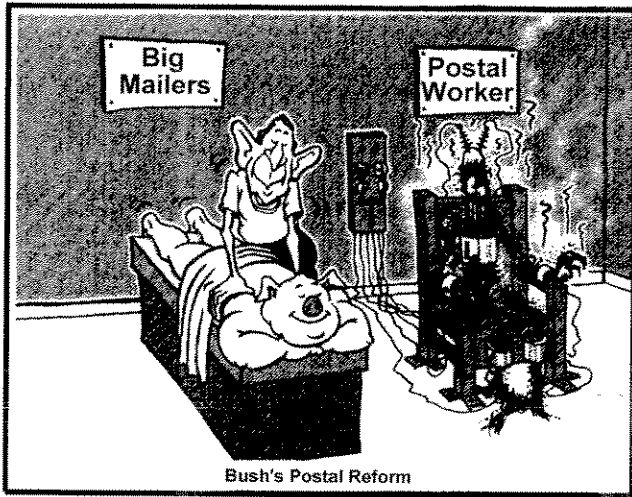
ICFTU accused Turkish authorities of using violence to repress protests by teachers in a long-standing labor dispute, and of being slower to apply international labor standards than other reforms required for Ankara's EU membership bid.

Several richer countries were singled out for criticism. ICFTU condemned new Australian labor laws for restricting workers' rights to union representation and said labor rights were being undermined further in the United States.

It noted moves last year by two Republican governors in the states of Missouri and Indiana to strip public employees of collective bargaining rights, and criticized New York University for denying teaching assistants the same possibility.

Migrant workers suffered exploitation in Middle East states, including Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Jordan, said ICFTU.

The introduction of a new labor code in Qatar was seen as a modest advance in allowing the creation of free trade unions.



Postal News Summary

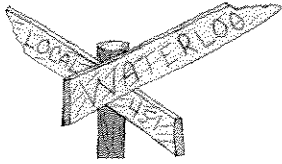
In order to improve and enhance its supply chain capabilities through proper matching of Postal operational requirements with transportation carrier service offerings, the USPS is seeking suppliers to provide one-way transport within the continental United States for routes selected by Area Distribution Networks offices or by Headquarters Network Optimization.

#####

The USPS is currently seeking information on available technology and supply sources, in the area of mail processing technology for the USPS Mail Recovery Centers incoming Undeliverable Letter Mail. The USPS will seek and determine what sources exist which will meet the USPS requirements for this purpose of procuring two Mail Recovery Systems (MRS). The notice states that delivery and installation of the two MRS machines will be required on or before September 29, 2006. The automated processing of this Undeliverable Letter Mail would result in savings in man hours.

#####

A federal jury awarded a fired Langhorne postal worker \$500,000 in compensatory damages and ordered that he be reinstated. The verdict was reached after a two-day trial. A Counter Clerk at the Langhorne Post Office, claimed that his firing was the result of discrimination and harassment by his bosses. According to court records, friction between the worker and his supervisors began in late 2002 when the worker, who had been with the postal service since 1981, assisted a co-worker in bringing charges of discrimination against her male supervisors. The suit demanded that Brown's employers end their discriminatory conduct and reimburse Brown for back pay, salary increases, bonuses, insurance and other benefits lost since the time he was fired.



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	

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

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Falls, IA
Permit Number: 41



Union Meeting

June 17th @ 11am

THE OTHER PLACE

3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
ATTEND THE MEETING!

Inside this edition....

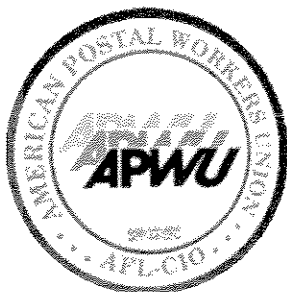
The Local President finds rare bidding issues.

The union elects a new Steward Director.

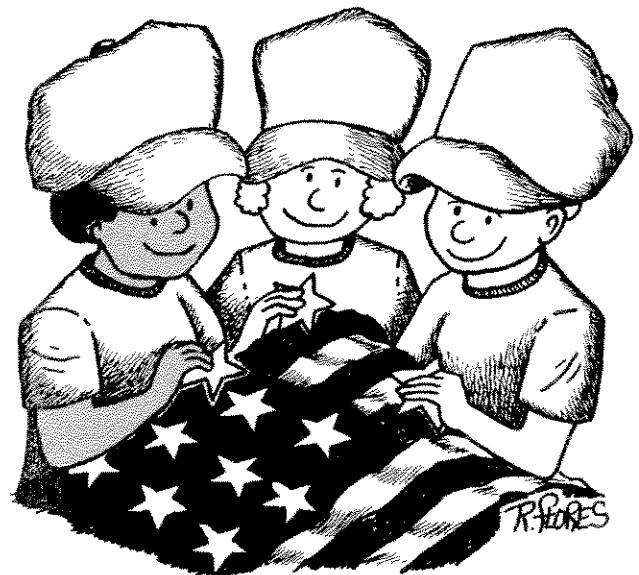
Postal reform is making headway.

Postal service looking to automate Mail Recovery Centers.

Growing violence with Trade Unions.



UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA



Buy products made by unions!