

The Corner Stone

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

October 2005



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

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



To start off this month I want to let you know that our 3 new PTFs have all recently signed on as members. They are Tina Popenhagen, Julie Schmitz & Scott Fields and we really appreciate their support.

And, speaking of support, I want to thank Meri Kay for her years of service as our Treasurer. No, she's not going anywhere so I'm sure she'll help out in other areas but has relinquished her elected position due to too many commitments. Glenn Staudinger was elected to take her place. Thanks Glenn for stepping up, and again, Meri, thanks for your help.

We've had some information on the bulletin board recently pertaining to the APWU/AFLAC supplemental insurance agreement and the representatives for AFLAC were at our last meeting to give a presentation. Any member interested in supplemental insurance should take a look at the info. We will continue to have whatever gets sent to us available for you so let us know if you want any brochures, the agent's business card or whatever.

We've been told the horrendous backlog of grievance payments presently stacked on Deb O.'s desk will be attacked this weekend. Hopefully by the time you read this they will be caught up and many of you will have signed a 2240, or maybe more than one in many cases. Sure would be nice to have that issue under control again. As with many of you (& me, too) who wish the old pink-card-job-bidding-system was back, I also wish our grievance payment system under the old "Sandy & Dave" system was back.

I'm afraid it's just another case of management saying, "We'll take this over now" and then forgetting, or neglecting, to make sure they have someone around who actually has the time for it. And since I mentioned the job bidding system, it has also taken an efficiency hit since the D.M. crew took it over. Things ran so smooth when it was all done internally.

Yes, we had a meeting the other night and the probability of some duty assignment re-postings was discussed. Unfortunately, at the time I am writing this, all I know for sure is they told us they'll be presenting a proposed plan sometime in the near future. Maybe I'll know more by the time the local meeting rolls around on the 15th.

We've had a bit of an upswing recently with people working over 12 hours a day or over 60 hours in a week. So, just thought I'd remind you, the 50% payment for going over the cap is supposed to be the penalty management pays for those *rare* times someone *inadvertently* goes beyond the limit...not a regular part of anybody's paycheck. I was told of a couple people being sent home properly at 60 hours this week so maybe the supervisors are watching it a little closer, too. If you see yourself approaching the limit, let your supervisor know so they can check it and do it right.

As I mentioned before, our next meeting is Saturday the 15th. We had enough for a meeting last month, but just barely so we really would like to see you there. This month we'll be nominating candidates for the 2 open Trustee positions vacated by D. Price and G. Staudinger. See you there...
Dwight

APWU does many things for you!



You can make it better!

Attend your Local's meetings and learn more!



Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451
Date: September 17, 2005

The meeting of the APWU Local 451 was called to order at 11:40 am. at the OP after a brief presentation on AFLAC Insurance by Ken Porter and Don Bycroft.

There were ten members present, plus retiree Paul Daugherty.

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 Treasurers Report was read by Meri Kay Chase. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Kim Karol. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

Presidents Report:

1. COPA- We are still about \$1,400.00 away from our goal of \$6,000.00 and the big beard shave off. Let's hit this goal! Cindy has raffle tickets for a hot air balloon ride. Get them while they're hot!!!
2. Our contract extension has passed.
3. If you have any questions about what is going on with our biohazard system contact Dwight.
4. A big thanks goes out to the picnic crew/volunteers Stan, Cindy, Carp and retiree Terp. More people need to come to these picnics, have some fun and just plain relax.
5. Holiday bidding- started last Thursday and runs through Sept. 25th You can bid individual days but not partial days.
6. If you want to give any money to help the people who were in the hurricane, please give to a reputable firm. Red Cross, United Way etc.
7. Chuck Konig will not be a steward after this month.

Stewards Director

Cindy Miller stated that they are trying to get new mats for the processors on the machines.

Old Business- the next meeting will be October 15, 2005 at 11:00 am. at the OP. A Treasurer election was held and Glenn Staudinger won. We now have two Trustee positions open. Nominations will be next month.

New Business- Dwight as President appointed a committee to audit the books. They are Trustee Dave

Knebel and volunteers Cindy Miller and Mike Burke for this special audit.

A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Paulette Woods to get rid of our union \$25.00 retirement gift policy. **Motion carried.**

Dwight stated that he received our yearly Adopt-A-Family letter. A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger and seconded by Paulette Woods to table the item until the next meeting.

Fall Seminar- November 5th and 6th in Cedar Rapids Ia. Rooms are \$94.00 and registration is \$40.00. A **motion** was made by Glenn Staudinger to send up to 4 people with reasonable and customary expenses and registration fees for all other members who want to go on their own. The motion was seconded by Kim Karol. **Motion carried.**

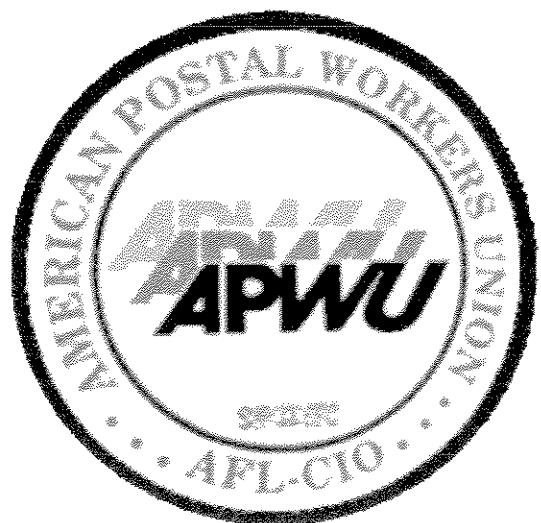
Three of the people attending are Dwight S., Jerry K. and Cindy Miller.

The Drawing- A **motion** was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Jerry Kemmer to hold the drawing. **Motion carried.** The winner was Glenn Staudinger.

Adjourn- A **motion** to adjourn was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Jerry Kemmer. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Members Present: Paulette Woods, Mike Burke, Glenn Staudinger, Rose Ann Garvey, Jerry Kemmer, Dwight Slaikeu, Meri Kay Chase, Cindy Miller, Nancy Hemesath and Kim Karol.



TALK TO NON-MEMBERS



PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN THE UNION



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

Members ARE
The Union!!

Postal Reform NEWS

Bi-partisan postal reform legislation was introduced in the 109th Congress in both chambers this year -- H.R. 22 and S. 662.

H.R. 22 passed the House by a 410-20 vote on July 26. Three amendments were defeated, including one that would have met the Bush Administration's demand that the bill be "budget neutral."

The Bush Administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy on the day of the House vote that praised some elements of H.R. 22, but also threatened a veto of the legislation if it had an adverse impact on the President's budget.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported S. 622 on June 22, 2005 with one dissenting vote. However, prospects for a Senate floor vote this year have diminished with the nomination of a new chief justice, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the appearance of renewed objections from the Administration and the Postal Service itself.

On September 13, the USPS Board of Governors wrote a letter to the Committees that they would rather have no legislation than a bill that erodes the Board's authority, adds no tools for cutting costs, and meets the Administration's demand for budget neutrality.

The U.S. Postal Service's "eleventh-hour criticisms" of postal reform legislation have surprised reform supporters on Capitol Hill, who appear adamant that the biggest change the Postal Service is seeking will not take place.

"It is very disconcerting," Robert Taub, spokesman for Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., said of the Sept. 13 letter the Postal

Service Board of Governors sent the House Government Reform Committee outlining "several issues that bear further consideration" before it could endorse either the House or Senate versions of postal reform.

"The Postal Service's eleventh-hour criticisms are disappointing," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, adding that the Senate bill had been carefully crafted and balanced.

"They are complaining that their 'primary concern' is the provisions in the bill for strong regulatory oversight. But, hello, that has to be a key component of any reform bill and has been going back 10 years to former Postmaster General William Henderson, who endorsed the idea in 1999," Taub said.

On September 20, the American Postal Workers Union also expressed concern about the bill to U.S. Senators and Representatives who have led the movement for postal reform legislation. APWU President William Burrus reiterated the union's long-standing opposition to granting excessive power to a proposed Postal Regulatory Board.

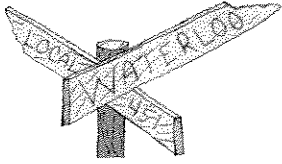
The letter was sent to Sen. Susan M. Collins (R-ME), chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware, the committee's ranking Democrat; and to Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform; Rep. Henry Waxman of California, the committee's ranking Democrat; Rep. John McHugh (R-NY), and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL).

Burrus praised the "strong leadership, insight, and determination" the legislators have shown in the postal reform debate, and expressed deep appreciation to them "for standing by the principle of free collective bargaining." He also commended them for resisting efforts to institutionalize excessive worksharing discounts.

The APWU shares several of the concerns expressed by the USPS Board of Governors in their letter dated Sept. 13. "We have consistently maintained that the legislation in both houses of Congress must leave the Governors with the authority they will need to oversee the business of the Postal Service," the union president wrote.

The union did not endorse all of the recommendations in the Board of Governors letter, however. The APWU strongly disagreed with a USPS recommendation that the legislators repeal a provision of the law that stipulates that benefits cannot fall below levels established in 1971. That provision was first enacted by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and was intended to keep postal benefits on a par with those received by other federal workers.

Both the House and Senate bills would limit postage rates based on the Consumer Price Index, and would give authority for establishing service standards to the Postal Regulatory Board. The union has long asserted that strict limits on postage rates would result in wage caps that undermine collective bargaining. The union also contends that allowing a politically-appointed regulatory board to define standards would weaken service.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

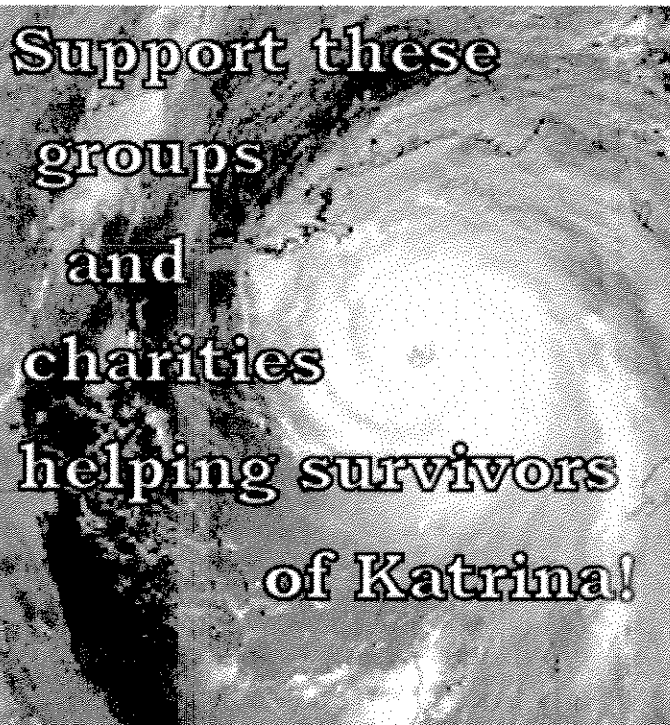
Oct. 15th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Staikeu	Trustees - Dave Knebel
Vice-President - Kim Karol	Vacant - Open Seat
Steward Director - Cindy Miller	Vacant - Open Seat
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

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The American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Postal Employees' Relief Fund
www.postalrelief.com

Network for Good
www.networkforgood.org

Habitat for Humanity
www.habitat.org

Every little bit helps!!