

The Corner Stone

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

October 2006



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

Fall is upon us...

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikou



And all of a sudden it's Fall. I can tell because my eaves and yard are completely full of leaves. That can mean only one thing, the holiday season at the P.O. is just around the corner. We do look forward to that, don't we?

First up, I want to remind you of 2 elections coming. We will be continuing nominations at this month's meeting for our local election. Want to be an officer of the Local or know somebody who wants to be? See you at the meeting.

Then, in regards to the upcoming national elections brought painfully before our eyes with every push of the remote button or turn of the news page, I only pose a few questions...Are you a believer in the attempt to maintain Social Security for the future similar to what it is or in the attempt to slide it into the stock market to see how you can do?...Do you support our military women and men by wanting to get them all home soon or by believing we "stay the course" because the cost is worth it?...Are you a proponent of reasonable health care for all Americans or of health care for only those who can afford it?...Do you think the minimum wage is presently too far below poverty level or that it's not a bad wage under the circumstances?...(Yes, I purposely stay away from the "hot button" subjects because of my belief that, due to their divisiveness and their use as political blinders to divert attention away from other issues, they will never actually be resolved anyway.) Regardless of which side of the fence you sit, or even if you sit directly on the fence, there is only one way to have your say-get out there and vote, vote, vote, vote!! Actually you can only vote once but you see my point.

Because, arguably, the hottest contest in the country is right here in our own front yard it's even more important this time around for you and me. Whether you choose to do it by absentee ballot or personally travel to the polls in November makes no difference...only that you do it! I, too, often say it makes no difference, and many times it doesn't seem to.

We just roll along with the status quo regardless of who gets into office. But these last couple of years some pretty strange and scary things seemed to be coming out of Washington so it's imperative you look at it and do something about it. Make it a high priority, our future depends on it. VOTE!

And, along that same line, I want to remind all our members I'm trying to finish up this year's COPA drive. Get those donations to me or get yourself signed on with an allotment. It's more important than you might think. If you go the allotment route or put money directly into the COPA account at the credit union, please let me know so I can keep my records straight.

Not-so-trivial items:

*Not unusual to hear of paycheck problems (3 just recently that I know of) so check those pay stubs for errors.

*Letter machine operators finding broken rack drawers or other problems with the racks, fill out the tag and get the stub to Phil Kauten. They will get fixed if Maintenance is properly notified.

*There has been some discussion about getting anti-fatigue shoe insoles. A couple of us are testing some now. We'll let you know as things develop.

*No news on Clerk hiring; Maintenance is trying to move forward on their's.

That's it...see you at the meeting!

AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES



VOTE THIS NOVEMBER! YOUR JOBS DO MATTER ON WHO IS ELECTED!



Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke



APWU LOCAL 451
September 16, 2006

The meeting of the APWU LOCAL 451 was called to order at 11:13am. at the OP with 11 members and retiree Stan Drewelow present.

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

A **motion** to accept the Treasurers Report as printed was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Chris Salinas. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

Presidents Report:

1. COPA- We have just under \$5,400.00 so far. Today's hat pass collected \$21.00 more. Waterloo received an award for their COPA work last year, however, at a closer look the award read, made in China on it, and was returned.
2. Picnic-There were only about 40 people who attended.
3. The APWU does not have anything to do with the hiring of employees.
4. Once again, check your pay stubs and make sure it is correct.
5. Dwight has some new books on what happened at the National Convention if anyone wants to take a look at them. Some of the highlights of the convention were a) national negotiations, b) window clerk upgrades, c) the election cycle will remain at 3 years, d) the top dogs in the national wanted a pay raise, however, the members determined they didn't need it and e) working with the 204B system-they won't accrue seniority.
6. Changes of schedule -The APWU does not sign off on changes of schedule.

Vice President

Kim Karol stated that our smaller associate offices are not getting the Union Representation that they deserve.

Editor

Chris Salinas stated that Postal Reform is still very much a hot topic. Please write, call or E-mail your representatives and tell them you are opposed to the new workshare program the big mailers are pushing for. Chris will get the addresses of our representatives and post them on the board.

Member Kris Engelmann stated that we are having problems with our flat rate priority mailing envelopes, if the weight is over 16 Oz.

If anyone is interested in working with associate offices for union issues contact Dwight or Cindy Miller.

Cindy Miller expressed to the members how disappointed she

was with the turnout at the picnic. If you don't want to have a picnic then maybe we should just not have one. A lot of work goes into putting on this picnic every August. Thanks to those of you who did the work this year!!!

Thank you Vein Berry for his generous donation which paid for most of the picnic and Stan Drewelow for all his help.

Cindy Miller also stated that if you are on the overtime desired list and you are scheduled to come in early you should show up on time so that people not on the list are not forced to work. It is not fair to people not on the list to be forced to work.

Chris Salinas stated that the covers on the machines are not to be up when running unless a maintenance person is there. There is a possibility of discipline, such as letters of warning for this offense.

Old Business:

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

New Business:

1. Fall Seminar - November 18th & 19th in Iowa City, rooms are \$45.00 or \$55.00 for a double. We have 5 representatives interested in going. A **motion** was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Kris Engelmann to send all 5 to the seminar with normal and customary expenses paid. **Motion carried.**
2. The November meeting will be chaired by someone other than Dwight because of conflicting schedules. Remember we need 10 people to hold a meeting.
3. A **motion** was made by Kim Karol and seconded by Chris Salinas to not send money to Adopt-a-Family this year. **Motion carried.**
4. A **motion** was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Kim Karol to reimburse Chris Salinas for the money he had to pay for signing us up to the Postal Press. **Motion carried.**
5. Nominations for officers for the new contract term: (**SEE NEXT PAGE**)
6. Editor Chris Salinas stated that it would be nice if we could get a group to help picket at the Decorah Post Office because they want to consolidate their office. Talk to Chris if you are interested.

Drawing - A motion to hold the drawing was made by Cindy Miller and seconded by Jerry Kemmer. Motion carried. Kris Engelmann won the door prize!!

Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Salinas and seconded by Kim Karol. Motion carried at 12:23 pm. Please come to the Union Meetings and support the future of the APWU and your future. Just a reminder!!!

SIGNED Michael J Burke

Nominations for Waterloo Local Officers

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Dwight Slaikeu Chris Salinas Bob Berendes	President
Kim Karol Tom Blankenship	Vice President
Vanda Blankenship Chris Schirm	Stewards Director
Mike Burke Jerry Kemmer (declined) Paulette Woods	Secretary
Dave Knebel (declined) Glenn Staudinger	Treasurer
Chris Salinas	Editor
Dave Knebel Jenelle Brucher Bill Rice Lou Ostlie Jocelyn Druvenga Paulette Woods Julie Schmitz	Trustees

All **motions** listed next are to cease nominations in each official position:
All motions carried.

President 1st Jerry Kemmer, 2nd Chris Salinas,
Vice President 1st Mike Burke 2nd Kim Karol,
Stewards Dir. 1st Chris Salinas, 2nd Kris Engelmann,
Secretary 1st Kim Karol, 2nd Chris Salinas,
Treasurer 1st Jerry Kemmer, 2nd Mike Burke,
Editor 1st Mike Burke, 2nd Jerry Kemmer,
Trustees 1st Mike Burke, 2nd Cindy Miller.

Election Committee Kris Engelmann and possibly Nancy Hemesath.

Postal Reform Misses Deadline

Postal reform negotiations took a sharp turn because of some issues that the NALC and the APWU couldn't agree too.

One of the issues was OWCP reform that would place a 3-day waiting period on Continuation Of Pay (COP) for on-the-job injured postal employees.

Postal employees would have to use 3 days of either their personal annual or sick leave before receiving COP payments.

Both unions could no longer support the measure because it would penalize postal workers who seek workers compensation benefits.

The APWU also raised objections on the issue of work sharing as outlined in the current legislation.

Major mailing lobbyists are stating that the unions are just being unreasonable as many concessions were made in the current legislation.

Tom Davis, R-Va., who led the fight for the legislation in the House, has claimed that the bill still can win quick approval in the upcoming lame-duck session of Congress. "We're going to get it done," he said in an Oct. 2 speech. "We are conceptually 99.9 percent of the way there."

Susan Collins, R-Maine, who led the fight in the Senate, has voiced skepticism, saying that the same issues that killed the bill in the just-concluded regular session remain unresolved.

In either case, the November elections will determine where and when this legislation will head and what outcome will happen.

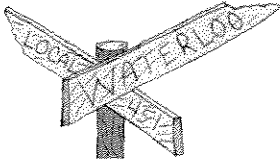
Nationwide Solidarity Display Set for Oct. 26 ~ Day of Picketing to Expose Consolidation Plans

The APWU National Executive Board has selected Oct. 26 for a nationwide day of picketing to protest ill-advised postal consolidations. The coordinated informational picketing is intended to spotlight the potentially damaging effects of the USPS consolidation plan, and to expose how Postal Service policy panders to major mailers. The Oct. 26 date was selected to give local unions the opportunity to seek support from elected officials and candidates prior to Election Day, Nov. 7.

"I urge locals and state organizations to participate in the nationwide day of picketing," said APWU President William Burrus, "and I urge them to take our message to the public; This plan will delay mail to local communities, and it is being forced on the American people without their input. We intend to change that. We will engage the public in a dialogue about their expectations and experience with postal service. These informational pickets are an opportunity to express our concerns."

The union president also urged locals to inform elected officials about the USPS consolidation plan and the negative effect it will have on service to their constituents. In a Sept. 12 letter to every member of Congress, Burrus wrote, "The Postal Service has failed to consider the concerns of the American people, denied them the information necessary to determine if the revised network will meet their needs, and excluded them from having real input in the decision-making process."

Input from individuals and small businesses is especially important in view of the fact that special interests in the mailing industry have lobbied for a reduction in the mail processing network in order to improve their own bottom line.



The Corner Stone

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

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

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

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Union Meeting

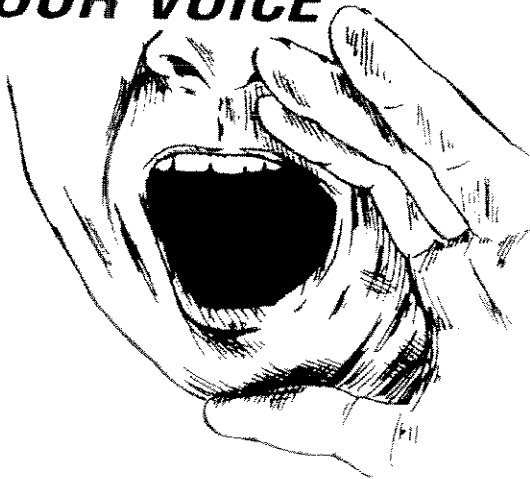
October 21st @ 11am

THE OTHER PLACE

3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
ATTEND THE MEETING!

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOICE



VOTE NOVEMBER 7th!
You have the power!

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?



"I'm a supervisor who admits it when I'm wrong... But I'm never wrong!"