

The Corner Stone

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

September 2005



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

From the President's chair...



Dwight Slaikeu



Between going to the Craft Conference and taking some A.L. I'm having a little trouble catching up but I'm getting closer. As usual, there seem to be a lot of weird things going on but we'll get them all checked out as soon as we can. If you have recently talked to me about something you needed me to do & it appears I'm not getting it done, please swing back by & ask me about it. When we have so many things going at the same time I always get the feeling something is being overlooked...old age memory loss, I think.

The trip to the Craft Conference was productive, as usual. There was, of course, talk about the extension of our contract and the effects, both positive and negative, it has. Also learned the grievance backlog has dropped dramatically so it's not nearly so long now to get cases processed. Credit goes to our Business Agents for the most part as they spear-headed the attempt to get the numbers down and then to all the arbitration advocates and local officers involved in it. I had classes in Article 37, the use of the Joint Contract Interpretation Manual, Problems with Arbitrability, as well as sat in on parts of a Casual seminar and one that dealt mostly with the workings of TACS. Thanks for sending me out there, it actually can be more interesting than you think it sounds.

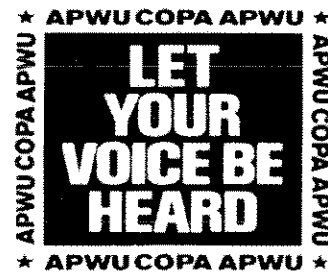
As far as local stuff, by the time you read this we are supposed to have had another meeting or two with the Postmaster and Plant Manager. We still have several technical problems with the postings going up and as you know there have been some changes as people shift around from one place to another and another recent retire... congrats Dean, good luck.

Keep an eye on the bid board, you never know what's going to pop up there next. And a reminder, if going on A.L. and you want to keep up with what's posted, you can have the postings mailed to you or have a trusted friend keep up with it for you and do your bidding through the *Postal Ease* phone bidding system.

Thanks to those involved in setting up another successful picnic. Stanley, Carp & Cindy come to mind as the main contributors with others of us filling smaller parts. And thanks also to our traditional bingo caller, the retired Charles Terpstra. Another fine job, sir. Terp did want to pass a message to those of you who didn't show up. He'd like to see more of you active people there in the future so he can meet those who see to it every day that his mail gets to his Carrier. We normally have several retirees come to the picnic which is truly appreciated.

The COPA drive is still ongoing. Gary Acuff & his brother kindly put up a hot air balloon ride for us to raffle...see Cindy for tickets. We're still \$1600 away from our \$6000 goal so keep working on it.

We found out in July that you're needed at the meetings. Not enough showed up so we couldn't have one. I much prefer that you make the decisions affecting your union rather than leaving it up to the Executive Board so come in & help run the thing. This month we're supposed to have a representative of AFLAC there to give a presentation on the program we now have access to. We usually have 15-20 at the meetings and believe me, I appreciate those who regularly show up. Become one of those...see you at the meeting on the 17th.



OUR LOCAL'S GOAL:
\$6000

WE CAN DO IT!!

Secretary's Report



By: Mike Burke

APWU LOCAL 451
Date: July 16th 2005

The July meeting of the APWU Local 451 was not called to order due to the lack of a quorum. There were seven members present and retiree Vern Berry.

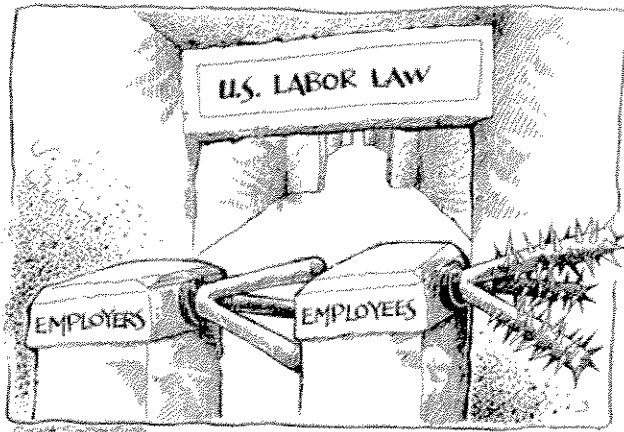
The next meeting will be September 17th 2005

Remember the picnic is August 21st 2005 at Exchange Park.

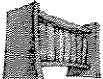
Members Present:

Vern Berry, Jerry Kemmer, Dwight Slaikeu, Paulette Woods, Kim Karol, Mike Burke, Nancy Hemesath and Kris Engelmann.

Secretary Mike J. Burke



Steward Director's corner.....



Cindy Miller



Attitude and Gratitude

Have you looked at your attitude lately?? Is it Good or Bad.

Most of us are in the Bad category. Thanks to management and the constant lying they do and the stabbing in the back. C'mon folks, don't stoop down to their level. Be the better person! Here are some memorable e-mails sent to me that I'd like to share with you:

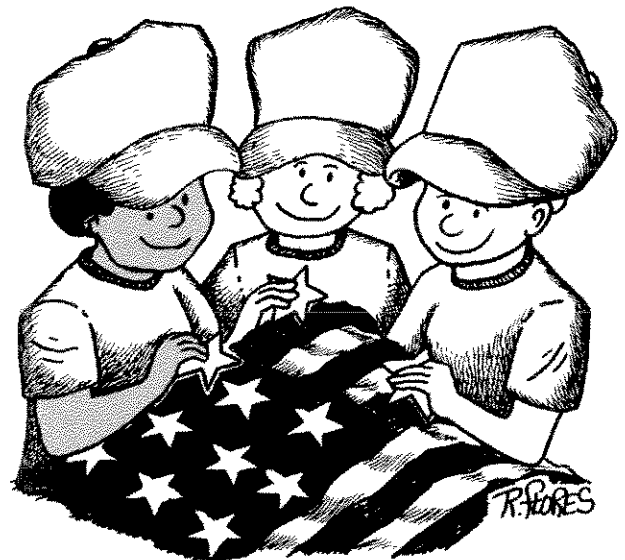
- Life - Don't cry because it's over - Smile because it happened.
- Pain and suffering is inevitable, but Misery is optional.

- A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up.
- Life is what you make of it - kinda like silly putty and play-doh.
- The bubbling brook would lose its song if you remove the rocks.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Everything is always okay in the end - if it's not, then it's not the end.
- If all my friends jumped off a cliff, I wouldn't jump with them. I would be at the bottom to catch them.
- (my favorite) Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery, Today is a gift, that's why it's called The Present.

So, with a change in attitude, you can achieve gratitude. Let's be the better person. Be grateful for what you have Today - It could be gone tomorrow.

Don't forget COPA!!! I think we need about \$1500 more to reach our goal. Let's shave that beard!!! We will be raffling off at our Oct. meeting a Hot air balloon ride, compliments of Gary Acuff and his brother. Tickets are 6-\$5. See me for tickets and I'll see you at the Sept. meeting.

UNIONS BUILD A BETTER AMERICA



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

What have you done for your union?

You're employed ,

You have a livable wage,

You have benefits and more!

All because our union keeps fighting
for US!

All the union asks from you is to
support it and be a part of it!

TALK TO NON-MEMBERS



**PERSUADE THEM
TO JOIN THE UNION**



AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY ...

UNION YES ✓

Members ARE
The Union!!

NON-MEMBERS

Nancy Huffman
Nancy Kannegieter
Jacqueline Murray
Kevin Bash
Norman Tolliver
David Palmer
Kimberly Mettner
Kathy Leyen
Marcella Turner
Tammy French
Steve Kramer

From the mailroom floor....

Nothing gets your attention quite like being backhand-slapped upside the head. This is how I felt the other night during our meeting with Christine Schirm, our SDO on Tour 1. Chris told us that while the Waterloo Plant had just dodged a bullet, the Sioux City Plant was not so fortunate and is slated to close.

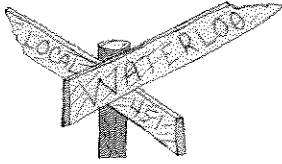
I will say this was the most attentive and quiet meeting I have ever been to. It got me thinking — how well do we really know or care about our jobs? I have heard some say they know their jobs as well as their ABC's. I wonder if they can say them backwards? Most of us don't really think about our jobs. We just come to work and go on autopilot.

What I'm trying to say is no matter how long we have been running our machines, maybe we need to stop and pay closer attention to how, what, and why we do what we do and the way we do it. There is always a different way to do things. Let's take the time and try to find them. For the next week or so let's concentrate on our jobs. Is there a simpler, easier or more efficient way? If you see room for improvement, remember that Chris opened the door for suggestions, thoughts, and ideas, and said she would take them in verbal or written form. No matter how small it may seem, talk to her. It may be your job you're saving. I know I don't want to double my drive time to work in the event of our plant closing. How about you? It is up to each and everyone of us to make the Waterloo Plant productive.

Think about it!

While my perspective is from one who works in automation, with a slight tug, twist or turn it could fit any job assignment in any craft.

Nancy J Hemesath-Tour 1



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

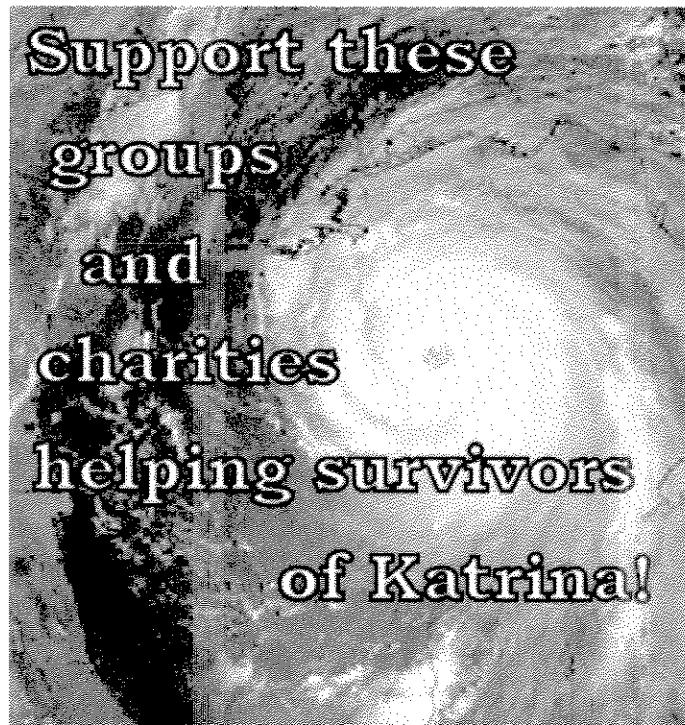
Sept. 17th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Slaikeu	Trustees - Dean Price
Vice-President - Kim Karol	Glen Staudinger
Steward Director - Cindy Miller	Dave Knebel
Secretary - Mike Burke	Editor - Chris Salinas
Treasurer - Meri Kay Chase	

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LOCAL #451

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



Support these
groups
and
charities
helping survivors
of Katrina!

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!!