

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

September 2004

President's Report

By: Dwight Slaikeu



Having just returned from the National Convention, I'm attempting to get my notes, books, CDs, etc. organized. I do want to thank you local members for sending me out there. I take the opportunity seriously and although the days tend to get a little long for an old man, I tried to get as much information as possible, as well as taking part in the general sessions deciding on resolutions for contract negotiations and for Constitutional changes.

The seminars I attended were Disabled Veterans' Benefits, Retirement Planning and Advanced Stewards' Training. I have a CD available for the Veterans' Benefits. If you would like to take a look at it let me know and I'll get you a copy. They also put together a CD on Lifecare. I haven't looked at it yet but I'm sure it has all sorts of info on it. The program is a terrific referral-type service that was negotiated by APWU and is free for our use. Check out their site at www.lifecare.com to see what's available. Another place to go is www.apwu.org for all kinds of information. They've changed the format recently and include links to many other areas and agencies.

I guess the most controversial subjects during the general session were the ones dealing with extending the cycle for National Conventions to 3 years, extending the cycle for national elections to 4 years and dues increases. All 3 attempts were defeated. Although the national officers have made great strides in controlling expenses there is still more work to be done, but the delegates at this convention were not willing to separate the local members and national officers further by adopting any of the resolutions I've mentioned.

Speaking of national elections, all members should be receiving ballots in the next few days. If you don't receive one, please let me know as soon as possible so we can get it corrected.

We also have our own local election this year. Nominations will be taken at the upcoming meeting and the October meeting. If you, or someone you know, wants to run for election, be there for the nominations.

At the last Labor/Management meeting I was informed that at present they plan to only bring one more Clerk in. You and I all know we need more than that but as yet our local management team has not been able to convince the powers-that-be differently. Don't worry, my immediate questions were if we're not hiring any more career employees then why are there Casuals on the roles, and why do I continue to see Supervisors (mostly 204Bs) performing Craft work. The OIC told me that we'd be meeting on some of these issues as soon as I get back from my AL. With another recent retirement, an additional one probably coming shortly and an FSM Clerk transferring out I see it only getting worse. Guess I have a problem understanding why they're having trouble justifying more hiring.

Our local meeting is the 18th. Remember we'll be taking nominations for the election, as well as answering whatever questions you might have, so I'll see you there.

Dwight Slaikeu

★ APWU COPA APWU ★

APWU COPA APWU

**LET
YOUR
VOICE BE
HEARD**

APWU COPA APWU

★ APWU COPA APWU ★

Steward Director's Report



By: Cindy Miller



Hello everyone,

I'm BAAAAAACCCCCCKKKKKK!

A very special thanks to everyone who has helped me out after my accident. Also, words cannot express how thankful I am for the gracious contributions from all of you.

It's a godsend that I can reply to you and that my accident wasn't worse than expected! I'm alive, breathing, walking, etc... just a quickie to let you know to be grateful for your breath, legs, brain waves and so on. I've noticed a little changed in my outlook on life, so I hope you do too.

As far as my trip to Los Angeles, WHAT an experience! The flight was great, sympathy was great (except for Dwight's). He was my bodyguard along with 3,000 other people. All around, it was a super convention.

Took classes on FMLA, Due Process and Just Cause, Safety and Health and my favorite..... Coping with STRESS! This class was amazing. They made us take a test at first for 20 minutes, to see how stressed we actually were. I scored an average of Balanced and Strained. At least I wasn't Burnt Out. A lot of people were!

You have to learn how to identify, evaluate and reduce your stress. Since you spend over 1/3 of your lives working and that work may involve difficult people, it is important to understand who they are and why they stress you out. (Management comes to mind) Stress is created when you don't have enough resources to match your needs. We all know the causes of stress, so let's do something about it!

Reduce procrastination. Make a decision and do not feel guilty about it. Try physical activity, exercise (...eek), write a daily journal for about 15 minutes (you're worth it), talk about your feelings in a positive way and most important, LAUGH. This word has become a major part of my life. Look at the positive instead of the negative, it's alot more fun.

If you want more information about my seminars, please just ask. I'd like to spend more time explaining the fun part of life instead of the bad. For now, I'll see you at the meeting.

HAVE A GREAT DAY! :)

RoboClerk,
Cindy Miller
Steward Director



For what it's worth.....

Excerpts From the AFL-CIO Newsletters

JOB CREATORS AND JOB LOSERS

In the past 58 years, no president has had a worse job record than President George W. Bush. U.S. jobs have disappeared at a rate of 27,000 per month. Herbert Hoover was the last president who had a record of actually losing jobs during his administration.

Monthly job gains for previous presidents were:

Truman +58,000 (1st Term), +114,000 (2nd Term)
Eisenhower +57,000 (1st Term), +17,000 (2nd Term)
Kennedy +123,000
Johnson +205,000
Nixon +129,000
Nixon/Ford +106,000
Carter +215,000
Reagan +111,000 (1st Term), +225,000 (2nd Term)
Bush Sr. +54,000
Clinton +240,000 (1st Term), +233,000 (2nd Term)

The economic situations faced by previous presidents varied greatly. Yet each of the previous leaders created new jobs. The economic policies of the current Bush administration, which favor corporations and the wealthy, have abruptly ended a history of job growth in the United States.

CAN YOU HEAR THAT BIG SUCKING SOUND?

A strong country starts with a strong working class. The policies of the last 4 years have placed an economic burden on the working class. This has widened the gap between the rich and the poor, threatening the very existence of the American middle class.

Americans need jobs here, with good wages, overtime pay and benefits. They don't need jobs that are located in India or China.

Americans can't afford the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy that has created the largest federal deficit in history and threatening the future viability of Social Security.

Americans need affordable health care. They don't need schemes like Bush's Medicare Plan that rewards insurance companies and pays off the drug companies.

Americans have been squeezed economically and have actually lost ground. Many have tumbled from the middle class into poverty. The average family income fell by over \$1000, while the cost of health insurance rose by 36% and that the average college tuition went up by 28%.

The question is clear: Can working families continue to bear the burden of the policies of George W. Bush?

Secretary's Report

By: Mike Burke

Date: July 17, 2004

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

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

The **Treasurer's** report was read by Chris Salinas. Motion to accept was made by Mike Burke and seconded by Kim Karol. Motion carried.

Officers Reports:

President's Report:

1. Dwight asked Secretary Burke to pass the hat for COPA. We collected another \$18, Thanks!

2. Both local and national elections are coming this fall. Keep your eye on the bulletin board for information. Local nominations will be in Sept. and Oct.

3. Contact Paulette Woods if you want to help on the Election Committee.

Old Business:

Next meeting will be held Saturday Sept. 18, 2004 at the OP at 11:00 am.

Picnic Report: Stan reports that everything is still a Go for picnic next month.

New Business:

The IFL or Iowa Federation of Labor convention is coming up August 11-13 which is a wed., thurs., and fri.. A motion was made to send Vanda Blankenship to the convention w/expenses by Kim Karol and seconded by Paulette Woods. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Paulette to send a money gift to help out Cindy Miller and seconded by Vein Berry. However, this motion was withdrawn and a new motion was made by Paulette Woods after discussion. The new motion was seconded by Jerry Kemmer. The motion was to take up a collection by Tour and have the Union match this amount up to

the amount of \$250.00. For T-1 see Rose Ann Garvey, T-2 see Jerry Kemmer, T-3 see Paulette Woods, and Chris and Tom will take care of the Maintenance Craft.

Dwight commented that if you see a 204B working write it down. Also if you sign a pay greivence form get a copy of it and watch your pay stub.

A motion to hold the drawing was made by Jerry Kemmer and seconded by Mike Burke. Motion carried. The winner was Tom Blankenship.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paulette Woods and seconded by Vein Berry. Motion carried. We adjourned at 12:10 am.

Members present: Dwight Slaikeu, Rose Ann Garvey, Vein Berry, Paulette Woods, Gary Purcell, Jerry Kemmer, Chris Salinas, Stan Drewelow, Kim Karol, Patsy Millerman, Mike Burke, Tom Blankenship, Vanda Blankenship, and Steve Adsit.

Secretary Michael J. Burke

Vice-President's Report

By: Kim Karol

I am going to keep this pretty short, because I am certain space will be needed by others to relay all the information from the National Convention.

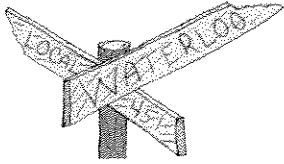
Remember to file requests for leave in triplicate, you need a copy that it has been received by your supervisor, they will need a file copy once it has been acted upon, and you will need a copy for your records to assure that you are paid properly.

Watch your clock rings. It is important that you keep track of the amount of time you work each day. Then make sure that time has been properly entered comparing your notes with your pay stub.

Make sure you are registered to vote. This election is pivotal for Postal Employees. The future of your jobs will depend on the people in office who decide what to do with the recommendations of the Presidential Commission. Hopefully you will choose to cast your vote for someone who realizes the importance of the service that we provide to communities through out the country. Choose carefully.

See ya' at the meeting!

Kimberly Karol,



The Corner Stone

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Union Meeting

Sept. 18th @ 11am
THE OTHER PLACE
3904 Lafayette Rd
Evansdale, IA

Waterloo Local #451 Officers

President - Dwight Staikeu	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

