

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Floor Edition

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

John Colao Detailed to Champaign, IL

For the last year In-Plant Support Manager John Colao has served as the Carol Stream Plant Mgr. while Greg Johnson was on a detail to Chicago. Now, abruptly John was sent to Champaign, IL and Quintin Mayberry is detailed as the CS Plant Manager. Quintin was at Carol Stream as tour 1 MDO about a year ago, and is accessible to the employees on the work room floor as John is. John plans to be back in three months He was asked to go to Champaign to help them as they have lost a lot of supervisors and need to fill supervisor positions. The USPS moves it's managers around on details and pays to keep them in hotels. Chuck Sciorba just got titled as the Senior Plant Manager for Lakeland in Milwaukee and they detailed him to St. Louis. Bob Prahl just got titled as the Plant Manager at Palatine and he was detailed to Milwaukee to backfill Chuck's job. For an organization that does not have money to spare they must spend a lot of money on hotels.

Problems in Scheduling Clerk Arbitration...

I spoke with NBA Linda Turney on 3-3-14 and she said they are still having problems scheduling arbitrations because in many districts no dates are being made available by management. She was able to schedule a Busse discipline case last month but for a few months has gotten no dates to choose from for Carol Stream in the Central District or for Palatine in Lakeland. They cannot schedule arbitrations if dates are not agreed to by USPS. NBA Mike O'Hearn agreed to bump up the Palatine Dobry Award non-compliance grievance but has not been able to get it scheduled for arbitration due to a lack of dates from USPS. Management is not scheduling arbitrations and this will be discussed with our national officers. We are also trying to get the non-compliance case for Busse SPBS Clerks scheduled but USPS did not want to schedule it with Arbitrator Stallworth who issued the original Award, and would be the best person to determine what he meant in his Award.

Kenis Award Part 3

Clerks who went senior in lieu of to the Mailhandler Craft at Palatine in 2007 came back as the result of an Award by Arbitrator Ann Kenis. A second grievance was filed when management refused to pay the Clerks, and the third was filed for not paying them Guaranteed time. NBA Linda Turney agreed to move that case up.

Update on Settlements

Labor Relations Specialist Mary Ann Gocho finally said she agrees that there should be out of schedule (OOS) pay for Palatine grievance # P11100699 for tour 1 Automation. We have gone through over half the clockrings for this grievance but I don't think MaryAnn has looked at the them and she is not getting back to me. We were ready to file on non-compliance until she said she said she agreed they should be paid OOS. I have been in touch with NBA Linda Turney who has the grievance for the Clerks who retreated back to Palatine to NTFT jobs. She has met with the Area Labor Specialist twice to determine the amount of OOS to be paid but she's in no hurry to pay them.

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Waiting for Mr. Hudson...

Tour 3 MDO Stephanie Harbison is not approving incidental leave for Clerks at Busse for dates where the required 15% is not met, and is disapproving the 3971 saying they must resubmit later. Item 9 of the Busse LMOU states *"When requested, 15% of the employees will be granted leave in accordance with item 4 of this Memorandum"*. Item 4 is formulation of the local leave program. I have left two messages for the Senior MDO Bernie Hudson to get this corrected. I also called about an overtime issue where SPBS Clerks are not allowed to work overtime when the call is for Distribution Clerks. He said that the Stewards should talk to me. Item 14 of the Busse LMOU lists the sections for overtime which must be called by section and tour. 1. General Expeditors, 2. General Clerks, 3. Distribution Clerks, 4. SPBS Clerks, and 5. Data Collection Technicians. I called and left a message for Mr. Hudson to ask if he had the authority to change the sections in the LMOU. I have not heard back from him but if he can't change them then why does he want to talk to me? Does he want me to violate the LMOU sections for overtime? I understand why the SPBS Clerks are upset as management works Distribution Clerks on the SPBS on straight time and then calls overtime on the Distribution Clerks but not the SPBS Clerks. That really does not seem fair. The Union files grievances when management works Distribution Clerks on the SPBS because SPBS Operators must be qualified to get a bid and to work on the APBS. New A/Plant Manager Adam Nelson disagrees because they are not keying but there has been no change at the national level as to the staffing of the SPBS/APBS, and its still SPBS Operators.

Management Won't Pay PSE Higher Level to Supervise

We have been filing grievances at Palatine for PSE Clerks who are detailed to 204 B Supervisor but not being paid at level 17 pay. NBA Linda Turney called me about these grievances and said management is taking the position that the Union cannot file grievances for employees when they are out of the bargaining unit. They say their system does not allow them to pay PSEs higher level 17 pay but they continue to use them to supervise at Palatine. Linda wanted me to inform PSEs that management will use you to supervise but will not pay you.

Palatine PARS Unit...

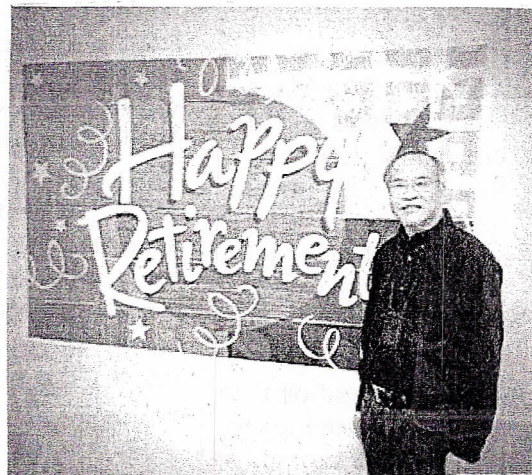
I spoke with A/Plant Manager Gary Kaiser to confirm or deny a rumor going around that PARS mail will be moving from Palatine to Milwaukee and he said "no".

CS Maintenance Time Changes

We were recently notified by CS Maintenance Manager Halfman that all maintenance employees will have their starting times moved up by one hour effective 3-22-14. This was done with very little discussion with the Union as he mentioned it to Maintenance Craft Director Joe Golden when Joe met with him on another issue. The reason give for this change is "operational needs" and because Palatine did it. Grievances were filed at Palatine on all three tours. Some employees may want the change but it may cause a hardship for others with childcare etc. We asked John Colao if we could meet with the employees to see how they feel about the changes. John told us to set it up with Dan and we will meet with tour 1 and 2 employees on Thursday, 3-6-14. Management can change starting times by one hour either up or down but they should have a good reason for making this change and so far they have not given us one.

Hugh Fung Retires, to Remain the NWIAL Webmaster...

CS tour 1 Chief Steward and NWIAL Webmaster Hugh Fung retired on 2-28-14 and he will be missed by all who knew him. Hugh served as an NWIAL Steward since 1987 which is 27 years. His used his excellent research abilities to help other Stewards and was 601 CCD Calvin Taylor's right hand. Hugh was respected by everyone for his intelligence, hard work, and his wonderful sense of humor. Calvin recently shared with me an example of Hugh's humor and I have not laugh that hard in quite a while. Hugh was always there to help with the Retirement Seminar., and he has volunteered his services for future Retirement Seminars. He was the I.T. guy, setting up and fixing computers for the Local, and saving us tons of money. He was the Webmaster ever since we had one and did a great job of maintaining our Local Website. We are fortunate that he will continue as Webmaster and remain a part of the Local in his retirement. We wish Hugh well in retirement and hope he will not be a stranger. Hugh will have more time to spend with his family as he and his wife eagerly await the birth of their first grandchild. Congratulations to Hugh on his retirement and thanks for all you did for us.



JH