



THE UNION VOICE

APWU FLASH BULLETIN



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*Flash Bulletins are paid for by members of the APWU.
 Information contained in these bulletins is intended for APWU members only!*

Update on USPS Plans for Facilities within Minneapolis Jurisdiction!

The flash bulletin of June 24, 2009, brought your attention to a project the Minneapolis Postmaster was launching that would call public input meetings for the purpose of reviewing the continuation of the Butler, Commerce & Dinkytown Post Offices. On June 29, 2009, we received a call from the Postmaster to let us know that they had moved too quickly and that for the time being those reviews were being cancelled.

This was welcomed news; however, we have subsequently learned that many facilities within our jurisdiction will continue to be under the microscope in the upcoming months, including Butler, Commerce and Dinkytown.

On June 30, 2009, District Manager Tony Williams held a telephone – web conference to discuss a new USPS endeavor called the “Station Branch Optimization & Consolidation” (SBOC) project. Besides the Minneapolis Area Local, there were APWU and NALC local and state representatives from other area jurisdictions invited to participate in the tele/web conference

We (the local) believe that along with the present financial woes of the USPS the genesis of the SBOC most likely comes as a result of field hearings the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) had throughout the country in 2008. During those field hearings many of the “Postal Stake Holders” who were invited to testify told the PRC that they felt the USPS could save significant costs by reducing certain offices within the USPS infrastructure. The offices they suggested to the PRC were retail facilities that were in close proximity to each other within dense metropolitan areas along with inner and outer ring suburbs.

Following is our understanding of what the District Manager had to say regarding facilities that might fall under the SBOC project: **Edina** – the carriers would be moved out to the Elmwood PO and the retail portion would be reviewed to determine whether it would stay, be relocated, or be discontinued. The **Plymouth, Brooklyn Park** and **Hopkins** Post Offices would also be under the same review as identified for Edina with Lost Lake, Brooklyn Center and Minnetonka Annex respectively receiving those carrier functions.

Butler, Commerce, Dinkytown & Crystal Post Offices will all be under review as to whether they will stay, be relocated or discontinued. Hopkins will also go under the same process. There was no definitive time line given but from what the District Manager said these reviews would start within the next several months.

COPA 2009
\$15,000 -
\$12,500 -
\$10,000 -
\$ 7,500 -
\$ 5,000 -
\$ 2,500 -
\$ 0 -

Richfield, Nokomis and Diamond Lake may see the same review process but this would probably not begin before 2011.

As with many initial notifications, this one lacked many details that will need to be defined before any of these changes can be completed. The District Manager has said frequent and periodic updates will be forthcoming to all involved. Please watch for all flash bulletins and call us with any questions. However, also realize that until the USPS more clearly identifies all the details they will need to establish before changes can proceed we will not be able to do any more than speculate on many issues we know are important.

APWU Headquarters have initiated a Step 4 dispute due to recent USPS changes in hand books that appear to be related to their recent announcement regarding the review of over 3,000 Post Offices. Additionally, the APWU believes that if management backfills the stations and branches it closes with contract postal offices (CPUs), this would violate the procedural requirements on subcontracting in [Article 32.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), per National Clerk Craft Director Jim McCarthy.

Golden Valley

Management and the Union continue to meet on the discontinuance of Carrier Sequence Barcode Sorter (CSBCS) operations at the Golden Valley PO. The CSBCS will be locked out as of July 20, 2009, and this will result on an impact to the staffing. When details have been finalized we will apprise all affected.

The USPS Network Distribution Center project at the Nations Bulk Mail Centers.

We have been informed that the USPS implementation of its NDC project which involves the nations BMC network may be accelerated with significant impact occurring as soon as December of this year! The NDC project involves the USPS classification of a BMC as either a Tier 1, 2 or 3 BMC which is decided by the location. Tier 3 BMC's will see increases in work load while Tier 1 BMC's will see significant reductions.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul BMC has been designated as a Tier 1 and (provided there are no changes in the USPS plans) will realize significant reductions as a result if the USPS proceeds with their plans. While we have not received any "official" notification locally we have it from good sources that the USPS will go into accelerated implementation of this program. The local has notified our National Business Agents and they will be discussing this situation with our Regional Coordinator and resident APWU officers at headquarters. We will report on this as we become aware of any details as they are officially passed on to us.

USPS Taking Unparalleled Actions in Response to Current Economic Conditions!

We are beginning to see the USPS formulate radical plans to deal with the enormous loss of revenue. We are all aware of what the USPS must do under normal operating procedures when addressing most situations including their staffing. We are presently seeing some evidence of a systemic departure from normal protocol and as a result the Union will assess all options that are available to us in challenging these actions. Please watch all flash bulletins and make it a point to pay close attention as we move through these unprecedented times.