



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!*

Stations – Branches – Optimization – Consolidation (SBOC) Update & Action Plan

We previously published the names of several Post Offices in the 554 delivery zones and one in a 553 delivery zone that were targets in the USPS SBOC venture that if realized would have served to further weaken and reduce viable retail options for citizens who rely on professional postal services. Part of a nation wide plan Minnesota reportedly had 22 post offices in the sights of the SBOC project.

Offices under the jurisdiction of the Minneapolis Area Local that were on the SBOC list and/or subject to management's scrutiny were: **Butler Quarter – Commerce – Dinkytown – Crystal - Brooklyn Park – Diamond Lake – Edina – Nokomis – Plymouth – Richfield – Golden Valley and Hopkins!**

We are pleased to announce that as of Friday, August 7, 2009, District Manager, Tony Williams, has informed the Union that all of these offices are "off the list". The District Manager went on to say that they will continue to look at possible ways to reduce costs at our Post Offices but that at least for now the focus was no longer on these offices.

Brothers and Sisters it is no accident that these offices came off the SBOC list! Once informed of the service's intent your Union immediately contacted our affiliates and legislative contacts along with requesting and receiving phone calls from many of you who work at the post offices that were targeted. The Union also followed a course of action initiated by APWU Headquarters Clerk Craft Director, Jim McCarthy, Assistant Director, Mike Morris and our National Business Agents, Lyle Krueth and Willie Mellen. The Union immediately submitted requests for information to the District Manager and the Postmaster in order to gain information that could be used to rebut the proposed actions. At some of the offices there were petitions signed by the customers for the purpose of keeping their retail services. Together, we appear to have achieved a victory in arresting what was a hasty and mostly unannounced plan that would have devastated services, jobs, and critical parts of our infrastructure!

Unfortunately, we do not have the luxury of a celebration as we have major concerns for other offices under our jurisdiction. Specifically for our retail units we will continue to take a guarded approach and to work on further development of a collaborative network that have more than a casual interest of keeping their retail services where they are presently located and performed by professional postal employees! If you are a member and

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

would like more information on what we are doing, and how you can help (just becoming a contact source at each Station is very effective) call and speak with Jerry or Peggy at 612-623-0677.

Updates Bulk Mail Center (BMC)

The Union(s) previously attended a meeting with local Management on Thursday, July 30, 2009, specifically for the purpose of addressing the upcoming changes that will impact the BMC. Effective August 1, 2009, we were informed that the BMC will be referred to as the NDC or Network Distribution Center. Information was also advertised with the initial numbers and categories of employees who would be impacted by these staffing changes.

In the initial meeting management indicated they would conduct crew meetings with the BMC employees affected and wanted to have done this on August 18th and 20th. Subsequently, we were advised by local management that the crew meetings were postponed until after the USPS and APWU could meet at the regional level and that meetings would be rescheduled probably in early September. In the interim we are continuing to gather information and more defining data so that we can assess the reported impact with all facts at our disposal. Stay tuned as we will make sure everyone impacted has factual information regarding the BMC network project as soon as we continue to meet and/or hold discussions with local management once the USPS fulfills its regional notification obligations.

Rumor Central

If you've worked for the Postal Service for any length of time you will have realized that rumors and the Postal Service are inseparable. We are aware that the present climate in the USPS is causing a great deal of speculation, anxiety and uncertainty. However, in all situations, once we have information that is verified and accurate we always put it out by either a flash bulletin, Stewards or Officers verbally, and/or the Northern Light.

We understand that even in normal times the speculation is rampant and with all the present day USPS maneuvering the speculation is in full flail. However, our advice for everyone is to try and be patient while we are moving through what is unquestionably a very uncertain period of time. As demonstrated by the SBOC project written on the front of this flash.....the Union will immediately deal with information that may impact you in the most appropriate manner possible. In that particular case, even though we did not receive advance notice of surveys and other potentially impacting data we were able to abate the action. Finally, a great place to go when you want to have most of your officers on hand and a first hand report on all issues that are out there is your Union meetings!

General Membership Meetings We have a new meeting location!

Please note that our General membership Meetings will resume when we have our September meeting. The meeting will be on **Monday, September 28, 2009, and begin at 6:30 PM promptly!**

The Union that allows us to use their hall (IBEW L-160) for our meetings is moving and their new home and our meeting location will be at:

IBEW Local 160
2909 Anthony Ln
St. Anthony, MN 55418 – 3238

This location is approximately two (2) miles from our NE Minneapolis Union Office!