

*Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO*

General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at 918 Benjamin NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Short Invocation.

Number of Members in Attendance: 26

The following officers were present:

President – Richard Page
Recording Secretary – Michael Long
Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling

Clerk Craft Director – Bill Scutt
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Mike Hill
Sergeant at Arms – Jackie Pike

The following officers were not present:

Vice-President – Amy Puhalski
Treasurer – Linda Chandler

Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith

March's General Membership Meeting minutes were accepted as written. MSC

Applications for Membership:

Colleen Lomonaco – Grand Rapids (Maintenance)
Jeffrey A. VandenBosch – Grand Rapids (Maintenance)
Tracey L. Oswald – Hudsonville (Clerk)
Tamara D. Vos – Grand Rapids (Clerk)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report was read by President Page and accepted for March 2008. With the recent contractual increases, dues have went up to: \$20.23 (Level 6 and above); \$19.69 (Level 5 or below); and Retained Membership is: \$11.37. Motion by: Jack Fryling, Seconded by: Roy Bailey to accept as written. Carried.

President's Reports: Welcome, Thanks for coming. I attended the Secretary Treasurer training in the beginning of March. Everything went smooth except for the flight going down there (had some issues with the airlines). Once there though, I learned Quick Books, how to navigate it and bring up reports. I should be able to assist the Treasurer once I become even better at it. I also learned helpful tips on how to protect the local, especially the insurance. They also had some good suggestions on Stewards training. I did get a chance to have some face to face time with our National leaders. It definitely does help when you meet them. We recently had a Holland Labor Management meeting. Jack Fryling and Bill Scutt and I attended it, along with Kevin May (new Steward in Holland). We sorely needed a steward in Holland. Labor Relations – Phil Luce and Rich Howard attended this meeting too. Actually Labor Relations assisted the APWU with some of the information and corrected local management's errors. My laptop is no longer working. Unfortunately, everything I and others have tried has not worked. The other officers have loaned their computers to the President to try. Thanks to all.

I attended the Michigan Regional Carpenters and Millwrights dinner. Over 26k was raised by fellow union activist. I was able to meet and talk with Representative (Speaker Pro-Tempore) Michael Sak. He has been a strong supporter of labor in the past and know our local, even addressing previous President Jennifer Amos

and Executive Vice President Amy Puhalski by name. Spirit of Solidarity Monument has raised over 1 Million dollars since the beginning.

April 16th, here at the hall, there will be a political meeting regarding health care. You now have access to your own Personnel Folders now via your home computer. You can not use the Postal Computers to access it. Go to <http://liteblue.usps.gov> to access it. All transitions should be done by April 18th. Most are done now, but just in case.

I was contacted by a Private Firm regarding Long Term Care Insurance. We are not promoting any plan, but we are all getting older. If you would like a meeting with this company, please contact Dick.

Recording Secretary: If anyone has any recommendations for changes to the National and/or State Constitution or changes they would like to see in the contract, the time is now to submit those. The State Convention will be taking place May 15 – 17, 2008 here in Grand Rapids. If anyone has any Resolutions they would like to submit, or an idea for one, please forward them to your stewards and they will forward them to me. If you would like to serve on the Resolutions committee, please let Dick know. We will be voting on the ones we currently have; however, if you have anymore before the convention, please let us know. April is EAP Month. Everyone should have received a Life Happens Magnet and Postcard in the mail within the last couple weeks from the District Advisory Committee. Make sure you put this information where you will have it when you need it.

Clerk Craft Director: Not a very long report since I was in the hospital for a week with Pneumonia. I wish to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. President's Day grievance. I filed for those that left early that weren't sick or for an emergency, as per the contract. Still awaiting a decision. Casuals were scheduled to work the other holidays, and we have filed the appropriate grievances. We have had discussions regarding the entry of the P-1 Campus. We don't know why they didn't put it in the SE area.

Stewards are supposed to help organize non-members. A non-members list is posted. Everyone can organize. There are benefits to signing up new people and becoming involved. Get out and organize.

We still have a hundred cases waiting that are being held in abeyance, awaiting other grievance resolutions that have a direct effect on these. We are definitely getting through the backlog. Thanks to Ray Novakoski for arbitrating grievance. RI-399 has been scheduled for April 11. April/May/June I have been committed to Jury Duty in Ottawa County; so I might be a little busy from time to time.

FYI – I read somewhere that Speedway buys 17 million gallons from the Middle East. BP & Sunoco doesn't buy any. Keep this in mind when you buy yours.

Motor Vehicle Craft Director: Thanks for showing up. Management is still taking mail away from us. Management gave away a trailer from the Main Office to the P1; by going directly to Detroit. We are still waiting for new hires. We only have a one new PTF. If you see a contract carrier driving one of their trucks with our trailers, please report it. However, make sure it is one of ours. They must have a License plate on it. Postal ones don't. Also, ours has Registration numbers on it; they are required to take them off.

Sergeant at Arms Report: COPA Tickets

Associate Office Director: Real short one. Yesterday was my first Labor Management in Holland. It was a very effective meeting. We had a lot of grievances being held in abeyance waiting for this meeting, and they will be going forward. Thanks to Kevin May for stepping up.

Committee Reports:

A&E: Detroit Tigers game is set for June 29. Information is here for you to view and take.

Solidarity for Charity. Everything is moving along. If you would like to sign up, we will be picking four names from those who put in their names at this meeting.

2008 Michigan Postal Workers Union Convention Committee: As stated previously, the Convention will take place May 15 – 17, 2008. If you would like to help at this convention, either by helping in the hospitality room, at the bowling event, or during the convention with registration, etc., please let us know. We will be looking for help. Sign up sheets will be posted on union bulletin boards.

Correspondence:

Auxiliary will be seeking support from the delegates for the 2008 National Human Relations Project. Also, make sure you collect any hotel toiletries for our service men and women.

Old/Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- To be a Gold Sponsor at the Labor Heritage Society - Spirit of Solidarity Golf Outing at a cost of \$1,000. Discussion. Motion by Ed Lesiewicz, Seconded by: Sally Lesiewicz to lower the amount to the Silver Sponsor at the \$500 limit. Discussion. Amendment defeated. Discussion on the original motion as read. Original motion – carried.
- To spend up to \$2,000 for pins and trinkets for the 2008 National Convention. Discussion. President handed over the chair to the Recording Secretary to address this motion. Defeated Division (8 for, 14 against). Chair handed back over to the President after the vote.
- To spend up to \$600 for the purchase of a new laptop computer for the President. Discussion. Carried.

The floor is open for new business:

Motion by Bill Scutt, Seconded by Mike Hill to: Donate \$250 to the OK Hoops Girls Basketball Team. Discussion. Carried.

Motion by: Nancy Gingery, Seconded by Bill Scutt to: Donate \$200 to the Deaf and Hard Hearing Services. Discussion. Carried

Point of Personal Privilege: For those members, who wish to be on the Golfing for Hope (Solidarity for Charity) golf tournament, please raise your hand and be given a ticket. Drawing will take place during drawings segment of the Membership meeting.

Point of Personal Privilege: Sally Lesiewicz would like to know about the new bidding procedures especially when people fail to qualify, relinquish. It just takes for forever to post the results. President Page stated that the union is now receiving information from management/Shared Services as to who bid on a job, etc. This information will be sent to and be available from the Union Office.

Point of Personal Privilege: Beverly Jarrett. Are we getting new T-Shirts this year? The Nixie issue at the P1. Mail Handlers are doing the work (President's response: There have been no motions regarding t-shirts. We are filing the grievances. Unfortunately we can only file a grievance and await a decision).

Point of Personal Privilege: George Hendricks: There are still bricks available at the Spirit of Solidarity. June 13th is the 10th Anniversary of the Retiree's Chapter (Where is the charter?)

Motion by Bill Scutt, Seconded by Mike Hill to: Remove our boycott of Coca Cola products from our policies. Discussion. Carried

Motion by Jack Fryling, Seconded by: Roy Bailey to: To sponsor one team (foursome) of WMAL Members for the Labor Heritage Society - Spirit of Solidarity Golf Outing on May 10, 2008 at Tyler Creek Golf Course up to \$75.00 per person for a total of \$300.00. Discussion. Carried

Motion by Jack Fryling, Seconded by: Bill Scutt to: Have those who wish to Golf at the prior motion (Spirit of Solidarity) to be drawn in the same manner of the Solidarity for Charity and be drawn during tonight's drawings. Discussion. Division (14 for, 6 against).

Labor Management: Labor Management meeting is scheduled for April 17th. Get your items to your stewards.

Drawings: (The # preceding the name is either the ticket number or raffle number)

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. #635 – Shirley Ingersoll (If she had been present at the meeting, she would have won.)

Golf #1 (Golfing for Hope):

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. #822 – Ray Novakoski | 2. #826 – Richard Fletcher |
| 3. #825 – Sally Lesewicz | 4. #821 – James Stoddard |

Golf #2 (Spirit of Solidarity)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. #836 – Ray Novakoski | 2. #835 – Dan Quillin |
| 3. #833 – Jackie Pike | 4. #834 – Roy Bailey |

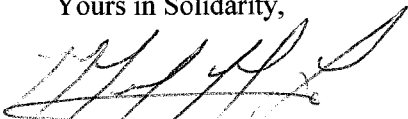
COPA: \$88 totally collected. \$44 to Winner (670234 – Jackie Pike). \$44 to COPA

Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes:

1. #11 – Beverly Jarrett
2. #31 – Jack Fryling
3. #1 – Andy Kupraszewicz
4. #35 – Nancy Gingery-Merchant
5. #8 – Sally Lesewicz

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary

LEGEND:

- - denotes a motion or discussion from the floor/membership.
- - denotes a motion from the Executive Board

HELP WANTED

The WMAL is hosting the Michigan State Postal Workers Convention
on May 14,15, 16, 17TH at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 28th Street

PLEASE SIGN BELOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE YOUR TIME FOR THE HOSPITALITY ROOM

WED NIGHT MAY 14TH	
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.	
1	
2	
3	
9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT	
1	
2	
3	

THURS NIGHT MAY 15TH	
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.	
1	
2	
3	
9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT	
1	
2	
3	

FRI NIGHT MAY 16TH	
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.	
1	
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3	
9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT	
1	
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3	

SAT NIGHT MAY 17TH	
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.	
1	
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SAT NIGHT MAY 17TH	
9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT	
1	
2	
3	

ASSOCIATE OFFICE MEMBERS

As it is difficult to collect these forms back from all the different Associate Offices, please take note of the times of service needed, and call Catherine Beemblossom at 776-1489 if you would like to volunteer your time, please leave a message to include your name and home phone number so that Catherine may call you back. Also, help is needed in making snacks and desserts.

HELP WANTED

DESSERTS & SNACKS

The WMAL is hosting the Michigan State Postal Workers Convention on
May 14,15, 16, 17TH at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 28th Street

PLEASE SIGN BELOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE YOUR TIME BY EITHER MAKING A
DESSERT OR SNACK FOR THE HOSPITALITY ROOM.

NAME	PAY LOCATION	SNACK OR DESSERT
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Western Michigan Area Local

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

P.O. Box 2706 • Grand Rapids, MI 49501 (616) 776-1489 • Fax (616) 776-1536



D Detroit Tigers Bus Trip D

The WMAL A & E Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to a Detroit Tigers vs. Colorado Rockies baseball game on June 29, 2008.

Tickets will be \$55.00 which includes:

- A ticket to the game located behind home plate (upper deck).
- A ride to and from the game on a luxury motor coach.
- Access to the upper deck suite for pizza and beverage (soda).
- Beverages and snacks on the bus.
- A chance to win the 50/50 COPA drawing.

There will be 52 tickets available. Because interest in this event is anticipated to be very high, we will be selecting participants by lottery. Full dues paying members and one guest will be allowed to go.

The bus will be leaving the parking lot across the street from the Riverview Building, 678 Front Ave, Grand Rapids, Mi (Sixth St and Front St NW) at 8 AM sharp!

Make checks payable to: WMAL

Send checks to: WMAL-Tiger Tickets, PO Box 2706 Grand Rapids Mi, 49501

Postmarked by: June 1st 2008

Names will be announced on June 7th 2008 at the general membership meeting. Please call (616)776-1489 with any questions.

