

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 4, 2009

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.

Numbers of Members in Attendance: 23

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

<b>President</b> – Richard Page	<b>Sergeant at Arms</b> – Jackie Pike
<b>Vice-President</b> – Amy Puhalski	<b>Maintenance Craft Director</b> – James Smith
<b>Recording Secretary</b> – Michael Long	<b>Motor Vehicle Craft Director</b> – Mike Hill
<b>Treasurer</b> – Linda Chandler	<b>Associate Office Director</b> – Jack Fryling

The following officer(s) were not present: **Clerk Craft Director** – Bill Scutt

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** March's General Membership Meeting minutes read and accepted. Motion to accept by: Don Kramer, Seconded by: Doug Warren. Carried

**Applications for Membership:** (All accepted by voice vote of the membership)

Tim Hindenach (Clerk – Grand Rapids)  
Chris Chelt (Maintenance – Grand Rapids)

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** As of March 2009. Report was read. Motion to Accept. Carried.

**President's Report:** Thanks to the local and the Executive Board for the condolences on the passing of my mother.

New Union Hall. We took possession on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in the initial stages of cleaning it up. We have had some volunteers start cleaning, painting, arranging, etc. We made an agreement with the VFW that we would honor any prior rental agreements, with the first being on April 18<sup>th</sup>, so we are a little under the gun to ensure that it is in great shape for it.

We have some new By-Laws regarding the WMPW, Inc. If you would like a copy of them, please contact the union office. They will also be available on-line shortly.

**Vice-President Report:** We have a lot of Associate Offices and Grand Rapids which has many residual vacancies and people are unaware of the reason. The residuals are full-time positions that either went un-bid or due to people who retired, and there were no other full-time employees in the office. These must be held in suspense due to the amount of full-time unencumbered employees who are being

exceeded from other offices. We are currently under withholding for St. Louis. So that gives you an idea of the scope we are dealing with.

**Recording Secretary:** Contact your congressperson and senator regarding the Employee Free Choice Act Bill. It is expected to be voted on within the next 60 – 90 days. Contact the union office for information regarding national webinars regarding this important legislation. Additionally HR 22, the bill that will help to save the USPS by relieving it of the unfair funding obligation that are contribution to the USPS deficit and potential downfall. Make your voices heard!

**Maintenance Craft Director:** Met with the Maintenance Manager to expand the 4-10 workweek program. The maintenance manager doesn't really want this to happen; however, we have assurances that if it shows that the program works that it will be expanded by higher management. However, management is saying that people are standing around watching TV. If the members want this program expanded, stay busy and active.

A little over year now, I have been challenging staffing. As of now, we have been very successful. We have a new BEM, just hired off the street. We are done with Mechanized staffing. It started off that the Maintenance manager wanted to cut 10 positions, but we gained three (3) new ET positions. We just rapped up the custodial staffing packages. Over the past year, we have gained quite a few positions, and we might have gained a few more positions in the future.

We have two new stewards in the Maintenance craft. Brad Burrell is the Primary Steward on Tour 3 downtown, and Ken Jones, the Primary Steward at the P-Campus on Tour 1.

There are numerous grievances currently at Regional level awaiting arbitration. One of the big ones, if we prevail, will open up overtime once again. There are hundreds of hours of overtime pay in those grievances. We combined them with a lead case to be arbitrated. More will be forthcoming.

There is still a lot of confusion regarding the 5-minute leeway. We have a grievance regarding this policy. Until this shakes out, follow the directions. The same is regarding No-Lunches.

Another long fight – was form 4776. We have won grievances which requires these to be done and used and management is finally complying. There is a problem with EMRS system matching the form. Downtown and the P1 is done, but P3 is having an issue with them, but they will get done, one way or another.

Labor Charges. This local has a good history regarding Labor Charges. The local, in except two cases, have prevailed. I recently had one filed against me and in keeping with history it has been thrown out.

Times are getting tough. Mark your work correctly. Do proper paperwork. Go by the contract.

**Motor Vehicle Craft Director:** Do your job. Watch what you are doing. Management is watching and doing what they can to make our lives miserable, even if it just petty. Make sure you write it down. If you get detoured, make sure you write it in your log.

MOU. We were under the impression that they weren't going to do anything with it. WRONG! They have started to do something in certain areas. We are not one of the areas in our local; but that little pilot program is being implemented.

**Sergeant at Arms Report:** Due to the move, the sodas are in the coolers and Pizza is on the way.

**Associate Office Report:** Some changes in management: Sylvia Taylor is gone. Barb Martin is the new POOM. Doug Warner is the new Step 2 designee.

Clerks in the Associate Offices and smaller offices -- If you are being required to scan the Post Office box barcode before all the committed mail is placed in the box, make sure you contact a steward. This is a fraudulent action and is not allowed. Don't be caught.

**Retiree's Director Report:**

Reiterating the FEHB information when you retire. Check last month's meeting minutes for the information.

I am pleased that we are being involved with Labor and sending Amy to the State AFL-CIO Convention. We need to show support and remain involved with not only ours but other labor organizations.

Friends of Labor: Thursday – WPPR – 1680 am for Labor and Community Issues; from 10:00 a.m. – Noon every week.

**Committee Reports:**

Veterans: April 28, 2009 @ 10:30 a.m. – Purple Heart Monument being dedicated at the Michigan Home for Veterans on Monroe Ave in Grand Rapids.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**E-Board Recommendations:**

- To send \$500.00 to the AFL-CIO Executive Vice-President's Office, earmarked for the Turnaround America Fund media blitz regarding the Employee Free Choice Act. Discussion. Carried.
- To donate \$200 to the MPWU, earmarked for the Hospitality Room, for the 2009 Educational Convention. Carried.
- To send the local Executive Board members to the 2009 Multi-Craft conference in Las Vegas, NV to include Travel (which includes the cost of baggage), Registration, Per Diem, Lodging, Lost Time, Ground Transportation, and applicable taxes. Carried

**The floor was opened up for new business:**

- Motion by: Jack Fryling, Seconded by: Jennifer Amos to send \$1,000 to the Kent Ionia Labor Council for the Spirit of Solidarity Monument Golf Outing. Discussion. Defeated
- Motion by: Al Matchovich, Seconded by: Jennifer Amos to send \$500 to the Kent Ionia Labor Council for the Spirit of Solidarity Monument Golf Outing. Defeated (7 for, 9 against)

**Labor Management:** See your steward or officers to submit items for discussion.

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

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. # 222 – Michael Kowlinowski (If he would have been at the meeting, she would have won!)

\$25.00 Meijer Gift Cards for Easter:

#21 – Richard Fletcher  
#1 – Doug Warren  
#2 – Tammy Byrnes  
#10 – Michael Hill  
#26 – Rose Jerrials  
#17 – Jackie Pike  
#15 – Patrick Sipperly  
#16 – James Smith  
#18 – Sandy Page  
#13 – Don Kramer

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$70.00 totally collected. \$35 to the winner - #7836561 – Richard Fletcher.

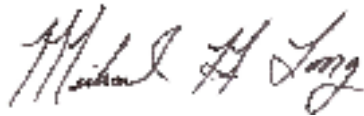
Four (4) - Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policies. When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done. If more than 40 members are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members)

#19 – George Hendricks  
#9 – Pete Brock  
#8 – Jennifer Amos  
#31 – Jack Fryling  
#11 – Beverly Jarrett

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

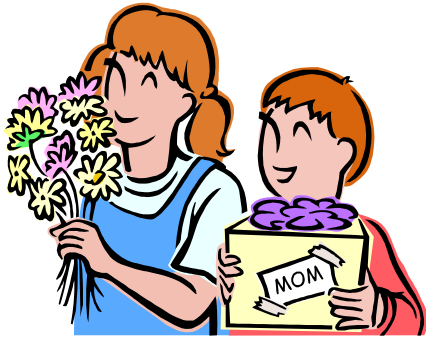
Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long  
Recording Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL WILL BE.....

***NOTE: THE LOCATION IS NOW CHANGED TO OUR UNION HALL!***



WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL #281  
 AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO  
 MAY 2009 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

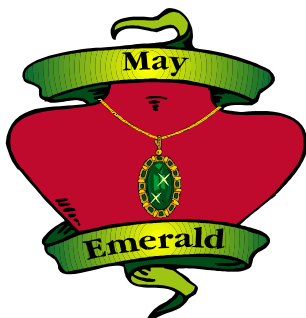
*Any Constitution Changes which were submitted at the March meeting will be voted on at this meeting.*

**SATURDAY  
 MAY 2, 2009  
 7:00 P.M.**

**AT THE NEW—APWU UNION HALL -  
 2554 BURLINGAME AVE SW; WYOMING, 49509**

***Refreshments to follow the meeting***

- \$250.00 Special Attendance Drawing (Need to be present to win)
- Four - \$10.00 Check Drawings (Need to be signed in at meeting to win)



Memorial Day Holiday: May 25

