

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes  
December 5, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the APWU Union Hall, located at 2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Short Invocation.

Numbers of Members in Attendance: 35

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

**President** – Richard Page  
**Vice-President** – Amy Puhalski  
**Recording Secretary** – Michael Long  
**Treasurer** – Linda Chandler

**Clerk Craft Director** – Bill Scutt  
**Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith  
**Motor Vehicle Craft Director** – Tracy Fleming  
**Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling  
**Sergeant at Arms** – Jackie Pike

The following officer(s) were not present: None

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** November's General Membership Meeting minutes read and accepted. Carried

**Applications for Membership:** Dahlia Stevens (Custodian – Jenison)

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report ending November 30, 2009 was read to the membership. Motion to accept. Carried.

**President's Report:** Welcome to winter. We have a contract with a Snow Removal Service. We purposely did not include salt since it would triple our costs. We have salt at the door, but please watch your step.

We have a very loud Heating and Cooling unit here. We are in the process of accepting bids to replace it. We currently have two bids, and waiting on two more. We are looking at the heating unit that heats the larger side of the hall.

We will be having an A&E Committee meeting immediately following the meeting to finish decorating the hall for the children's Christmas party tomorrow. If you would like to assist in this endeavor, please feel free to lend a hand.

This past week, Ray Novakoski and I went to a public meeting down in Kalamazoo regarding the AMP. There were approximately 120 people in attendance, and not one person spoke in favor of the

AMP (even the mailers). We have correspondence from Kalamazoo thanking us for attending and supporting them.

We received a letter from Wyoming that our Water meter is not functioning properly. We have made arrangements to meet Monday morning to make sure that our water meter is read.

We are receiving some correct data regarding the operation of this building. We are beginning to know what the cost of our local. You may have noticed that we are accepting public rentals. We have approximately nine inquiries from the public regarding renting the facility. We hope to have a few public rentals forthcoming. We still have some money in the account from the initial monies that the local used to purchase the building; however, once the heating/cooling unit is purchased, this money should be about used up.

I would like to announce happily that we have had some step up to become stewards at the Associate Offices and in Grand Rapids. We thank everyone who has stepped up to join in the struggle.

We recently had an incident where Postal Inspectors were involved employee who was escorted out of their office because this employee had problems. If any member has personal problems that may affect their employment. Please contact their union steward or officers. We do not want to see you fired from the Postal Service or serve Jail time. Please let us know. All your information will remain confidential.

**Vice-President Report:** Adult Christmas Party is next week. If you plan to attend please RSVP as soon as possible.

**Recording Secretary:** No report. Happy Holidays.

**Clerk Craft Report:** In AOs, there are crazy check writer going and buying stamps with no money in the account. Clerks in the AOs are getting Letter of Demands, but there are huge mistakes in these Letters.

I signed a settlement last month to be rebuild the smoke shack at the P1 Campus. They are replacing it with a three-season (more of a solid building) with wooden roof.

All the pay adjustments have been put in for those who are receiving settlement from the Casuals/Holiday grievance.

They got rid of the training techs. President Page specifically said that we would have a problem. We are trying to collect all the problems we are having. If you are aware of any training problems, please make sure you contact me, you can call me or go to the website and e-Mail me.

Hallmark. If Hallmark is coming into your office; they are only allowed to stock their items. They are not allowed to stock/touch any Ready-Post supplies. If you know that Hallmark is doing this, please contact your steward.

There are a lot of jobs being reverted currently. We are grieving everyone of them. There are certain steps that management must follow to revert positions, for which they are not doing. There were some jobs that we agreed

Welcome to Therry Dyksterhouse at the new steward at the P1.

**Maintenance Craft Report:** Happy Holidays. I settled a grievance this week which I feel is pretty important. They had stopped posting whether the work is Machine Side and Building Side. They had hoped to mix them. The settlement states that all bids will state if you work on Machines or Building side, not mixed.

I did some shake-outs since the last meeting I attended. The majority of them were placed under an umbrella. Almost all of the custodians received \$100 - \$200 depending on their availability. One we could not come to agreement with is the 7.2 grievance is where management states that they don't have to clean if they don't want to. This will be placed on the arbitration docket in the near future.

Staffing reductions. We have grieved due to the changes with staffing reductions. Management's arguments are not that good.

4776 – I went through about 800 of them; about 75 or 80 hours for custodians that were not there.

Safety and Hazard Forms. I would like to ask for help from the clerks as well. Under the new cleaning program. An area was taken out. If you come into work and find it unsafe, make sure to file a Safety and Health Report. Don't be afraid. It will help us; it won't hurt us. The custodians are now being forced to clean while you are working. Fill out Safety/Health forms.

I would like to welcome John Collison and Greg Carlson as new stewards of this local in the maintenance craft.

Wyoming and Kentwood are no longer on the Consolidation list.

**Motor Vehicle Report:** We have settled a few grievances regarding others hauling mail around. If you are asked to haul mail around, try not to do it. If you are directed to, make sure to let your steward know who will in turn let me know.

We are trying to get a radio system set back up to help facilitate the transportation of mail.

**Sergeant at Arms Report:** None.

**Associate Office Report:** Person writing checks. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, there was one person that went to Sparta, Kent City, Casinovia, Cedar Springs, Belmont and Rockford, he wrote a check for \$880 for 100 books of Forever Stamps. Management was directed from finance to And on another day, a person from the same address wrote: \$1760 for 200 books. This other person went to Rockford and an astute clerk in Rockford felt it was a little suspicious and called the bank and found out that there was no money in the account. The problem is that the person accepting the check did not write down the Drivers License number.

I met with one of the Postmasters at Step 1, and was told that it was out of her hands and would not settle at Step 1.

Jonathon Wilderon & Jacobs Phillips with a 19 Mile Rd address out of Cedar Springs is the people writing these checks. If you see a check from either of these individuals please be aware.

I have done some inquiring with various Postmaster and clerks regarding the handling of checks; most of them told me that it is the office practice not to write the Drivers License number down. The POS machine did not even catch the check error.

The F-101 states that you should write down the check, but the F-1 doesn't. We don't get Drivers License numbers from everyone (e.g. Stamps by Mail, Rural Stamp purchases, etc.) Things will be changed. Make sure you follow the procedures and how you were trained no matter how much of a pain it is. We have already been informed by one Postmaster that they won't change their practice.

President Page reiterated to follow procedures. Take your time and make sure to follow procedures.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Veterans Committee:** Happy Holidays. Greenville's large contingency of Army left yesterday. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers.

At the Veterans Home we have 720 veterans, out of these, 55 are women and 10 are couples.

The Governor just took ½ million dollars from our budget. We can't even buy Popcorn and Hot Chocolate right now for them. At the same time that governor took this money, she had her office remodeled at a cost of 90k.

Right now there is a Wish upon a Star tree posted at the Home for Veterans. If you have time, come down and take a star

We lose at 200 – 250 veterans a year in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. That is a lot of veterans to lose from one facility.

Also Monday is Pearl Harbor Day, we have 2 Purple Heart members still living from WWII. They will be at the Naval Reserve Center downtown at noon. If you have time, come down and shake their hands.

**POWER Committee:** We are still selling our Junk Mail T-Shirt. We have another order going out.

Wish-Upon-A-Star Tree. We went down to the Veterans Home and took 80 some stars from the Home for Veterans and placed them on the board. We have also adopted a family with a single mother who lost her husband to cancer two years ago.

**Budget Committee:** The Budget Committee met last month and a proposed budget was handed out to the members in attendance. This is a very preliminary report. We are still crunching numbers from this year.

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: David Janes; that this budget is authorization to expend funds, and the budget committee has the authority to move funds in between categories up the amount listed in the budget. Discussion. Carried
- Motion to by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Amy Puhalski to accept the Budget Committee Report. Carried

**Correspondence:**

1. Christmas Card from Glen Smith c/o Wheeler Upham, PC
2. Thank You card from Alice Zawojski
3. Thank You card from Paul Dornbos

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**E-Board Recommendations:** None

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

Motion by: Al Matchovich, Seconded by: Amy Puhalski; to purchase a one-page ad in the Purple Heart Convention book at a cost of \$100. Discussion. Carried

Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Jennifer Amos to donate \$500 to the Wish-Upon-Star tree. Discussion. Carried.

Motion by: Jennifer Amos, Seconded by: Al Matchovich to contribute \$100 to the National APWU Human Relations Office to be used for Veterans Stand-down program. Discussion. Carried.

**Labor Management:** Request to change the TDD at the main office and change it to a Video Phone. Any other items, please see your steward or officers to submit items for discussion.

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

***VOE Survey Drawings (5 drawings for \$100)***

- #957528 – Robert Gage (NE Station)
- #957370 – Deb Spaulding (Rogers Plaza)
- #957476 – John Rinvelt Jr. (P3)
- #957459 – Richard Miner (Dispatcher)
- #957538 – Tim McCann (Retiree)

***\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing.*** # 447 – Mark Szczepanek (If he would have been at the meeting, he would have won!)

***COPA:*** 50/50 Drawing: \$114.00 total collected. \$57.00 to the winner - #972293 – Beverly Jarrett

***Ten (10) Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Checks (for Christmas):***

- #18 – John Niswonger
- #11 – Beverly Jarrett
- #22 – Carol Grysen
- #15 – Mila Webb
- #3 – Dessa Long

#31 – Jack Fryling  
#23 – Michael Long  
#5 – Nancy Emelander  
#37 – Carolyn Manion  
#28 – Jackie Pike

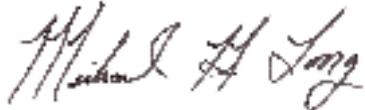
**Four (4) - Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes:** (NOTE: According to local policies. When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done. If more than 40 members are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members)

#2 – Tammy Byrnes  
#20 – Amy Puhalski  
#16 – Nancy Gingery  
#12 – Jim Smith  
#21 – Carol Imanse  
#33 – Linda Kindle

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long  
Recording Secretary