

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 3, 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.

Number of Members in Attendance: 22

Without objection, NALC member Ted Courter addressed the membership regarding the FedCom Credit Union's Board Election practice. Speaking on the changes that the board has implemented regarding who can run for office, etc.

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

Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Mike Hill

Sergeant at Arms – Jackie Pike

The following officers were not present: **Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith; **Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

Review of previous meeting's minutes: December's General Membership Meeting minutes read and accepted, with the following corrections: There were 26 members in attendance at the meeting. Carried.

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

Darren Gibson (Clerk – Grand Rapids)

Joyce Sanders (Clerk – Grand Rapids)

Patrick Mondry (Clerk – Grand Rapids)

Brad Burrell (Maintenance – Grand Rapids)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report December 2008 Report was read. Motion to Accept. Carried.

President's Report:

Thank you for showing up. We do appreciate it. We have had a quorum every meeting thus far since taking office in 2008. This month, I plan to convene the Budget and Audit Committees. We hope to have this done and have all items reported to the membership by the February meeting.

We have been visiting and going to various sections within the city (Maintenance, NW Station, and Kentwood Station) about the possibility of implementing the 4-10 modified workweeks. We hope to have this effective and starting around January 17th.

I will be attending the National President Conference in February. There will be a legislative rally attached to it; thus I will be contacting and establishing time to meet with our local elected officials (Congress & Senate).

Vice-President's Report:

Deems Desirable list. It is still an issue. If you are being asked for documentation, whether when you call in or when you come back, make sure to ask for your steward. Labor Relations has taken the position that management can do this; however, the union disagrees and will file the appropriate grievance(s).

December has been a hectic month. As of Pay Period 26, Week 2, we have 111 non-members in the local. We are down to approximately 720 active members. We have lost about 37 members this last year due to retirements, transfers, etc.

They have extended the FEHB until January 13th. If you were planning on making a change, make sure you do it by the deadline.

Scholarships are now being offered/available on the APWU.org website. The deadline is March 16th. If you have a Senior graduating this year, make sure you take a look at this.

VERA. There were as three phases of it. First phase had 72,000 eligible clerks, mail handlers and initial level supervisors. Only 3,685 took advantage of it. Second phase had 67,000 eligible headquarters employees, along with rural and letter carriers. Only 4,049 took advantage of it. Lastly, the third phase had 17,000 eligible EAS and postmaster. No information as to how many took this yet.

Recording Secretary None

Clerk Craft Director:

As a new member to the A&E Committee, we had the Christmas Party that went really well. The Casino trip is coming up.

Job Summit/Postings had a few errors and thanks to Amy for catching them. If you see a problem, please let me know.

Motor Vehicle Craft Director:

Thanks for coming. Still having an issue with management letting us have stewards time to address the issues, but if you have any problems, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Committee Reports:

A&E: Christmas Party. Everything went well. Thanks to all that were in attendance. A lot of hard work goes into these events. I would like to thank the members of the committee: Dick Page, Ray

Novakoski, Jackie Pike, Nancy Emelander, Bill Scutt, Pete Brock, and Catherine Beemblossom for do any outstanding job along with their families.

Casino trip will be to Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant in February. \$15.00 a person and will receive \$25.00 back in coin. Information has been sent out.

COPA Committee: In 2008, we were down approximately \$2,000 from the previous year from what we contributed. We sent in about \$4,700. If you have any suggestions for a fund raiser in 2009, please let me know.

Veterans (presented by Don Kramer): Most people know that I am a six-day a week volunteer at the Veterans Home. It is a real joyous time there. We lose approximately 10 people each year during the Christmas period. They just give up. Out of the 10, eight of them had family right here in GR, and never showed up. If you have parents, give them a call and say Hi. If you have kids at home, give them a hug.

Correspondence:

Thank You Card from Teresa Hansen Family for the flowers at her funeral

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- To send the Executive Vice-President to the National President Conferences on February 27 – March 4, 2009 in Washington DC with Lost Time, Travel, Registration, Per Diem, Lodging, and Local Travel and applicable taxes. Carried
- To purchase a laptop for the Executive Vice President up to \$700.00. Carried

The floor was opened up for new business:

- Motion by: Jennifer Gilbert, Seconded Amy Puhalski: To Donate \$100 for each of the three families for the Wish upon a Star program for a total of \$300.00. Carried
- Motion by: Nancy Gingery, Seconded by: Brian Ratigan to: Donate \$1,000 to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services to help with their new building. Carried.

Labor Management: See your steward or officers. Next meeting will be January 15th.

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

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. # 466 – Mark Szczepanek (If he would have been at the meeting, he would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$61.00 totally collected. \$30.50 to the winner - #670753 – Don Kramer.

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)

10 – Mike Hill
#1 – Doug Warren
#17 – Jackie Pike
#24 – Bill Scutt

#6 – Lou Kintigh
#19 – Rick Veleasquez
#20 – Amy Puhalski
#25 – Nancy Gingery-Merchant

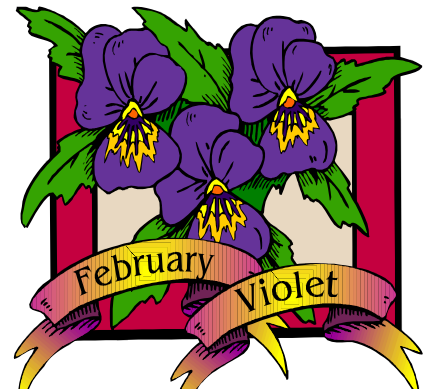
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary

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



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

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7, 2009
7:00 P.M.

UNION HALL AT 918 BENJAMIN NE; GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

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)



President's/George Washington Birthday Holiday—Feb 16

