

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2010

Meeting was called to order, by President Page, at 7:00pm at the WMAL/APWU Hall, located at 2554 Burlingame Ave, Wyoming, MI 49509 with a pledge of Allegiance and a Invocation.

Number of members present – 37, Guest – 3, Retiree's – 1

Roll call of officers taken and all were either present and/or accounted for, Recording Secretary Mike Long was absent and excused.

Prior to getting into the business of the meeting if nobody objects we have a guest who would like to say a few words. The guest was Dave Baskin, out of the Northwest II Local of the APWU, and he is running for Clerk Craft Business Agent for the Central Region. Dave gave a brief explanation as to why he wants the position and of his history with the union and had some hand outs available.

President Page asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the April General Membership Minutes as they were posted, seeing none they were accepted as posted, Carried.

Applications for membership – None

Bills – None

Officers Reports - President Page has asked all officers to limit their reports to five minutes as we have a lot of business to attend to tonight.

Treasurer Report ending April 30, 2010. Motion, Second and Carried to accept the Treasurer report as read.

President's Report - reported that he will be using the 3-3-3 rule for the constitution amendments that is 3 minute speeches, 3 for and 3 against. He reported that the MPWU constitution convention was well represented by the local; we had 15 delegates and submitted 14 resolutions. He still has some concerns with the state but felt with the new board it will move in the right direction. He congratulated new state officers – Jack Fryling (Area 9 Director), Mike Long (Editor), and Jennifer Amos (Human Relations Director) and wished them well in their positions. He also stated the local will have an informational picket with our Brothers and Sisters from the NALC on May 24, 2010 from 3pm – 6pm in front of the main post office in Grand Rapids opposing the USPS plan to reduce service to the five day delivery plan.

Executive Vice President – Recently she filed a labor charge on the USPS for denying information, Medical information, and all of a sudden I started receiving the info. Article 1 issue, with the recent realignment we will have to pay close attention on supervisor doing our work as staffing is going to be reduced. If you see a supervisor doing bargaining unit work contact your Steward or an Executive Board Member as we do not know this is going on unless you tell us, we can't be everywhere. The National Reassessment Process is starting in our area. Management has a list of affected employees, and the union has requested a copy of this list to see who will be involved and affected. So, within the next couple of weeks they will be calling you up for an interview. Be sure to request a steward, and he/she be present during this process. We are still in need of a steward at the P-1 on Tour 3. The union has been sitting in a few of the service talks on the realignment and is surprised at the members that think the union is taking this action, Management takes this action the union only makes sure the action is done contractually. Don't blame your union for this. Management should be the one doing these talks as it is their action, however, they just shift the discussion over to the union -- bad management. We will file the appropriate grievances. Members need to contact their congressman to support the bill keeping the 6 day delivery and opposing the 5 day HR 173. Make plans to attend the upcoming picket on May 24th.

Clerk Craft Director – Ray Novakoski thanked everyone for sending him to the MPWU convention and stated we had a good showing and participation by our delegates. He is working on the Hallmark issue in retail units and is pursuing it to get all the work to the clerk craft. Encouraged the window clerks to put in all their transactions into the POS system it may save your job. Talked briefly about the excessing, abolishment's and realignments, also encouraged members to buy USA and Union Made products as it is our family, friends and neighbors that will be affected by the loss.

Maintenance Craft Director – Jim Smith Reported he recently attended WEBNR training on Article 12 and 38 and found it very interesting and helpful. Done with excessing in the craft except, for a few with retreat rights. Congratulate John Collison and Doug Morris on their recent promotions. Possibly another promotion so it will open up a few vacancies. Recently had a grievance meeting with Rich Brown to go over staffing and they withdrew the withholding. Recently did a staffing package for Grand Haven and Holland had a step two meeting on staffing in Holland and we should prevail. Tom Horgan and Jim have gone over mechanized staffing and everything seems to be ok and in fact it showed additional hours.

President Page announced the new steward Joe Hall for the Maintenance Craft.

Motor Vehicle Director – Tracy Flemings thanked everyone for the opportunity to go to the state convention. He also stated that supervisors are on the rise for transporting mail as positions are being reduced and that it will continue to increase, so if you see any of it contact him or leave a note for him. Still need a steward for tour three. Recently management has taken away a run that ran LCTS mail from the P-1 to the GMF so the mail will now sit on the dock, if contractor start running it please let him know so he can file if needed.

Associate Officer Director – Jack Fryling thanked everyone for sending him to the convention. Talked briefly in the NRP process out there and encourage them to contact a steward. In the 493/494 area, there were three offices which had clerk employees impacted and gave a brief description of this and if managers pick up the slack contact him so he can file the proper grievance.

Committees – A&E Meeting Monday at 5pm to plan the local's picnic. COPA raffle is now in full swing tickets are \$5 with a \$1000, \$500 and \$500 prizes.

President Page announced the Constitution Committee report will be given under Unfinished Business as they are presented.

Unfinished Business –

Constitution changes – It was noted by President Page that the members will be voting on the recommendation of the committee, and that it takes 2/3 to pass a amendment. Sergeant at Arm announced we have 37 members present. He also stated he would read the committees recommendation and then vote on each change. Also wanted to thank the committee besides himself, Amy Puhalski, Tammy Byrnes and John Hansma. Catherine Beemblosom was unable to attend due to illness. The committee found the amendments had been signed by 7 members in good standing and that they were properly posted.

The members decided that the Chair will summarize the change, give the committee recommendation and then open discussion and vote.

Karen Hodges wants to withdraw proposal # 2 (Article 7 Section 5), but since her name was not listed as one of the signatories on the amendments, this request was denied and thus it will be presented and voted upon.

#1 Article 5 Section 1 Dealing with local dues structure, Committee recommendation, Concurrence, after discussion and the voice vote, division was called, the vote was done by a hand count by the Sergeant at Arms and had 26 yes and 8 no, the committee's recommendation carried. Amendment carried

#2 Article 7 Section 5 Dealing with President's salary. Committee recommendations, Non-Concurrence, after discussion and voice vote the chair ruled the committee's recommendation, carried unanimously. Amendment was defeated.

#3 Article 7 Section 5 Dealing with Officers LWOP usage, Committee recommendations, Non-Concurrence, after discussion and voice vote the chair ruled the committee's recommendation, carried. Amendment was defeated.

#4 Article 11 Section 2 Dealing with automatic delegates to the convention, Committees recommendation, Concurrence, after discussion and a voice vote the committee's recommendation was defeated, Amendment was defeated.

#5 Article 11 Section 7 Dealing with pay for delegates to conventions, Committee's recommendation , Non-Concurrence after discussion and a voice vote, division was called for, the vote was taken by hand count by the Sergeant at Arms , the vote was 22 yes and 8 no's committee's recommendation was carried, amendment defeated.

#6 Article 16 Section(New) 10 Dealing with the POWER committee and election of officers, Committee's recommendation, Non-Concurrence, after discussion and a voice vote, division was called for, the vote was taken by hand count by the Sergeant at Arms , the vote was 22 yes and 10 no's committee's recommendation was carried, amendment defeated.

New Business:

Board Recommendation: Motion to expend up to \$500 to offset charges, for the informational picket, on May 24, 2010 from 3pm – 6pm in front of the main office in Grand Rapids MI. Carried

Board Recommendation: Motion to give Don Gray a \$50.00 Meijer gift card for his help in repair of one of the local's laptop, Carried

Motion by Karen Hodges, Seconded by Jennifer Gilbert and Defeated that the President repay the local for the extra cost of his ticket at the cost of \$156 for a exit row seat, as reported by the audit committee. Discussion took place.

Motion by Jennifer Gilbert, Seconded by Karen Hodges, Withdrawn, That all delegates to the national convention that use 8 hrs of LWOP on any day and are not receiving LWOP reimbursement from the local will be compensated \$50, per day.

Motion by Jennifer Gilbert, Seconded by Cindy Delaflunte, Defeated, That WMAL delegates attending the national convention, which are not on local union LWOP, and use 8 hrs of their own LWOP will be compensated \$50, per day for every day they use 8 hours of their own LWOP to attend the national convention. An amendment was presented by Karen Hodges, properly seconded and defeated, to increase the amount to \$100 per day instead of \$50. Amendment by Scott Achterhoff to add the words after" 8 hrs of their own LWOP" each day, it was properly seconded and defeated. Division was call for on the original motion, with 13 yes and 19 no's.

Motion by Jim Stoddard, properly seconded and carried, that the President form a committee to explore the issue that was just discussed, the compensation of LWOP for delegates to the National Convention.

The issue of Bill Scutt's letter asking for reimbursement to the local for training the local paid for him prior to him going into management and they wondered if we received any money yet. No response was received and we don't expect any but, we do consider him devoid of honor and destitute of integrity.

Motion by Kathy Strunk, Seconded by Jim Smith, and Carried, that the one employee who is a level three, and with the recent constitution change it would increase his/her dues, that at the end of each calendar year they will be reimbursed that difference of the increase.

Labor Management – Please see your steward or officers to submit items for discussion.

Drawings - \$250 Attending the Meeting Drawing was #346 Shawn Rabidoux. (Unfortunately, he was not at this meeting).

COPA – 50/50 \$130 collected, \$65 to the winner #972832 – Tammy Byrnes

Four – \$10 Door Prizes - #15 Jennifer Gilbert, #25 Carrie Caskey, #32 Jessie Dewitt, #33 Donna Obrien.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Novakoski
Clerk Craft Director