

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes  
October 1, 2011

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.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

<b>President</b> – Amy Puhalski	<b>Clerk Craft Director</b> – Roy Bailey
<b>Vice-President</b> – Ray Novakoski	<b>Motor Vehicle Craft Director</b> – Tracy Fleming
<b>Recording Secretary</b> – Michael Long	<b>Sergeant at Arms</b> – Dan Quillin
<b>Treasurer</b> – Linda Chandler	<b>Associate Office Director</b> – Jack Fryling

The following officers were not present: **Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** September's General Membership Meeting minutes were posted. Michael Long motioned, Roy Bailey, seconded to accept the minutes as posted as printed. Carried.

**Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):**

Spencer Gilbert – Clerk (Grand Rapids)  
Thanih-Mai Pham – Clerk (Grand Rapids)  
Cicely Borja – Clerk (Grand Rapids)  
Tammy Bazan – Clerk (Grand Rapids)  
Justin Vreedegood – Maintenance (Grand Rapids)

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report ending September 30, 2011 was read. Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Michael Long to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried

**President's Report:**

We had a pretty good turn-out on September 27<sup>th</sup> for the Rally at Representative Amash's office at the Federal Building. Those of you who came out and Rallied with us; thank you. As of today, Justin Amash has not jumped on board. If you go on APWU, there are tons of pictures of the rallies across the country. The rally was definitely a benefit.

We will be leaving for the Multi-Craft in another week. Ray has set up a Stewards training already upon our return. It will be an interesting conference considering the ink isn't even dry on the new contract. It will be interesting to see and hear directly from our National Officers regarding some issues.

Last month I reported that we were in the middle of negotiations for 13 different offices. We are now done. We are still in negotiation with the Plant. Out of the 29 issues that the management's negotiation's team brought forth, 13 are being sent to impasse. Their negotiating team brought forth and were not

willing to negotiate. There are some changes, most being cosmetic. Once the impasse goes through and if there are any changes, we will let you know. As soon as we get a signed copy, it will be posted on the website and sent out to the stations and respective offices.

The one big stickler item is Article 11 for the Holiday. The Pecking Order for the Holiday schedule. Currently in our local, the pecking order for the holiday schedule is Full-time volunteers whose normal day it is, followed by Full-time volunteers who's non-scheduled day, and then full-time non-volunteers by inverse seniority. Management wanted to insert PSEs in between Full-time volunteers who's normal day and the non-scheduled day and the first non-volunteers. Postal Service has taken the position that the Pecking Order states as it states. It may happen that Full-time employees may have to work and PSEs might have the holiday off. We will file the appropriate grievances if this happens. We feel that we have a pretty good past practice policy of using the supplemental prior to forcing in employees.

Thank you to everyone who was on the Negotiation team (which included the President, Vice President, Craft Directors) and the Associate Office Director at the Associate Offices. Also thank you to Dick Page for assisting at the Rockford Office. This was the first time I was the lead negotiator. It was nice to have people that you can rely upon.

Service Standards – There is a link where you can go to submit your input regarding the new Service Standards. Go to: <http://www.gpo.gov> to view and submit comments.

Maintenance – Jim has been doing a lot of staffing packages lately and been going to a lot of Associate Offices lately measuring. I wanted to thank Jim for all he does.

**Executive Vice-President Report:** Thank you all for coming tonight. President Puhalski covered everything in her report.

**Recording Secretary's Report:**

Thank you to all of who came out to the Rally on Tuesday. About 75 people showed up from all the crafts.

The Ed Show on MSNBC has taken up the Save Our Postal Service cause big time. Each day for the past week he has brought on this issue on his show.

Darrell Issa (Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform) has moved his own HR 2309 to the full committee. It is possible to be voted upon October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This bill include the elimination of Davis Bacon prevailing wage, laying off Postal employees without severance pay through a Reduction-In-Force, moving the Post Office to 5-day delivery and the termination of workers compensation payments after two years. Currently HR 1351 has approximately 216 co-sponsors. Once we get to over 218 co-sponsors, we can use the Discharge Petition in the House to bring it to the floor and substitute HR 1351 to the floor.

**Clerk Craft Report:**

With the retro-fit of the new SPBS in October and fully operational in November. Since that is being retrofitted. Jobs were reposted and there will be seven clerks who will be on the SPBS now as of the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

Issue at the BMEU. We are still dealing with a supervisor there and we are making sure that she is treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Thank you for those who showed up at the rally. We gave out a lot of handouts for those who stopped and were stopped at the Street Lights.

Multi-Craft. Hopefully we will have some kind of settlement on those Step 4 grievances from National..

**Motor Vehicle Craft Report:**

Looking forward to the Multi-Craft. Hopefully we will hear some regarding the new contract provisions.

We have three more jobs going to the VMF. We will have a total of six mechanics.

Management has stated that we are going to transfer 330 routes from Contractors to the Postal Service. We are not on the list to receive any of these routes.

Full-time Regular conversation. We have grievances filed regarding the way management did the conversations of our PTFs to Full-time.

Non-MVS employees transporting mail again. Last week, we had Clerks and Maintenance running the mail around again. Past arbitration state that this is MVS work. If you are asked to transport mail, please make sure to let your steward know who will forward it to me, so the proper grievances can be filed.

**Sergeant at Arms Report:** Make sure everyone signed the book and make sure to purchase your COPA tickets.

**Associate Office Report:**

I am glad Local Negotiations are done. It is time to put things to management to task and ensure they follow the contract and file the appropriate grievances.

We are filing grievances that our PTFs are now working 30 hours continual and according to the new contract that warrants conversion to Full-time.

**Retiree's President Report:**

September 19<sup>th</sup>, Al LaBrecque had a stint put in and the doctor punctured his Aorta. I had no idea that this went on. He is currently bed ridden at home. He spent five days in Intensive Care.

I liked the rally. Some of the comments that were made that the signage could have been bigger. It was a good rally.

**Committee Reports:**

A&E: We are going to do a Children's Christmas Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> this year. We have reached out to the Mail Handlers to do this with them.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**E-Board Recommendations:**

- To establish a policy that an Executive Board member is not eligible for the \$50.00 new member sign-up incentive. Carried.

**The floor was opened up for new business:** None

**Labor Management:** If you have anything for Labor Management please let President Puhalski know.

1. P-Campus – with Mail Handlers operating PIT equipment in unsafe manners.

**Drawings:** (The # preceding the name is either the ticket number or raffle number at the meeting it was drawn at and may change at each meeting.)

***\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing.*** Steve Austin (If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)

***COPA:*** 50/50 Drawing: \$72 total collected. \$36.00 to the winner - #973695 (Michael Long)

***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 40 or more than are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

1. #17 – Ray Novakoski
2. #24 – Shane Reynolds
3. #8 – Dan Quillin
4. #29 – Karen Hodges
5. #9 – Tim Miles
6. #22 – Bernadette Barbatano

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long  
Recording Secretary