

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 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.

Number of Members at this month's meeting: 35

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

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

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

Review of previous meeting's minutes: March's General Membership Meeting minutes were posted. Michael Long motioned, Cynthia Delafuente, seconded to accept the minutes as posted. Carried.

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

Jeremy Cornell (PSE - Clerk)	Ronnie McBride (PSE – Clerk)
Joshua Hathaway (PSE – Clerk)	Thomas Richardson (PSE – MVS)
Robert Andrews (PSE – Clerk)	David Hankamp (PSE – Clerk)
Angela Hodyna (PSE – Clerk)	Oscar Perez (PSE – Clerk)
Robert Stratton (PSE – Clerk)	Judith Roodvoets (PSE – Clerk)
Eileen Selleck (PSE – Clerk)	Shari Gaither (PSE – Clerk)
Daniel Messenger (PSE – Clerk)	

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending March 31, 2012 was read. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Ray Novakoski to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried

President's Report:

Thank you for sending me to the President Conference in March. The following is an synopsis of what was shared at this meeting:

APWU Legislative Director – Myke Reid. Gave an update on Senate Bill 1789.

Currently the Postal Service prefunds 100% its' retirement, this bill would drop it to 85% (from 5.5 billion to 3.8 billion annually); Would maintain delivery at six days for two years (and perform a study during that time to change it to five) (Myke stated that it is very likely that five day will occur. If reduced, the NALC would lose 26,000 members, and the Rural Letter Carriers would lose 50,000).

The APWU does not support S.1789 as currently written; but is working with Senators to amend it.

Service Standards – Postal Service is moving forward with the reduction of the delivery standards. There is nothing that says that management cannot do this. The Postal Regulatory Commission gives opinions. They are supposed to give their opinion on delivery standards in August/September. Too late!

75% of Americans support change and reduction to 5-day delivery. In Canada, they used to have six day delivery; they went to five. No one stated anything or fought back. They are now down to three day delivery. We need to stay active and inform our friends and families.

Elections have consequences. This coming year, we need to pick up 25 House seats to take it back. Darryl Issa – There is no way to beat him during an election. He is rich and has the money to win; we can win, but taking back the House and removing him from Chairmanship..

Pre-Funding. The Postal Service did not pay the Pre-Funding requirement in September of 2011; hoping Congress will give it some relief. If none comes, in September 2012, the Postal Service will be required to pay 11.1 billion to make it current.

Keep contact with your Representatives as well in the House. Two bills currently before the house can not be allowed to pass. HR 1338 & HR 7. These bills would: Increase High 3 to Hive 5; Increase the amount we contribute to retirement; Repeal the Supplemental Annuity (the one between your Minimum Retirement Age and 62 (when you would start to receive Social Security)); and Increase the multiplier used to calculate pension.

Ryan Budget – Passed the House Budget Subcommittee 19 / 18 (one vote). This would Freeze Federal Employees pay through 2015 and would require Federal Employees to pay more towards their retirement.

Hatch Act. What we can and can't do at work. You can wear clothing with a candidate face, but nothing that says VOTE FOR, Hand-out flyers, etc. If you have any questions, contact the union office.

April 17th. We will be outside the Postal Service handing out flyers to support S.1789. If you can give a few minutes to come out on Tuesday, to hand out flyers; any help will be appreciated.

Elections for the State offices are important as well.

Motor Vehicle – APWU has hired individuals to study AMPs to study the routes in connection with the AMP and Contract routes.

Chairman Goldway – has a pretty good relationship with the APWU. The APWU just hired a form Democratic Staffer (Denise Wilson) to assist on Capitol Hill (due to her close relationship/knowledge) with other congressmen.

NALC and Mail Handlers Negotiations. Both have gone to mediation. The NALC is backing the Postal Service one-health care plan (the one being floated by PMG Donahue)

TACS/Training Techs have been receiving surveys. DO NOT participate. 330 TACS jobs have been sent to 10 managers at Shared Services.

Current Disputes at National Level:

30 Hour NTFT

FMLA

NTFTs in Bulk Mail

PSE Usage in Small Offices

Non-Consecutive Days

1.6 issues (DUOs)

Art 32 – Subcontracting of Runs

MVS Drivers (PSEs) being compensated at a higher level than the negotiated rate.

PSEs in Registry Rooms in Level 21 and above.

Use of WOS Reports. E-1994 is a Job Hacker. It is the Postal Service they are using these reports to cut jobs. We don't have work standards.

EAS Audit Update. In the new contract, management and union was to identify jobs that should be returned to the APWU. 323 AMS jobs; as well as 218 Function 1 jobs have so far been identified. Audits will resume in April and continue through May.

➤ Maintenance.

- Job Audits. The USPS has not come back with information on Maintenance Job Audits. Very slow process.
- 1500 Associate Offices have been identified for Custodians. Locally: Caledonia, Newaygo, Rockford and Wayland have been identified.

Senator Stabenow – is in agreement with the APWU. Has great concern of what is coming out of the House.

The pre-Funding is actually for 125 years. Not 75. We have less career employees. The pre-funding was at the 2006 staffing levels. We are down by 200k people since then.

It is very important to get our veterans active. Iraqi/Afgani Veterans Group is one of the most vocal/active.

If the Postal Service does reduce delivery standards:

Automation may be going to Tour 2 & Tour 3. Tour 1 will be gone.

Tour 1 Manual – little or no impact

Maintenance – Reducing Tour 2 and increasing Tour 1

Nothing is for sure. However, if Congress does nothing, this is probability.

Closed Section Bidding? If the section no longer exists, thus there is no closed section bidding. Don't be a rumor spreader...Call the union office. If we have the answer, we will give it to you.

Vice-President's Report:

Welcome Mick Wilson for becoming a new steward at the P1. We appreciate it when people step forward.

Recording Secretary's Report:

1789 is coming up for a vote (from what we have heard this week, or next week at the latest). Both Senator Stabenow and Levin have given their support the Postal Workers and the Service. They both understand that while we may be a business, we are a Service, first and foremost.

Clerk Craft Report

Jobs that were posted and then pulled down . They were grieved with Jan Hueltt. Awaiting decision.

We have unassigned regulars in the stations. These were grieved and sent up to Step 2. We have residual positions. Management is under the position that we do not have any. We have those who are partially qualified for positions at the stations. Per the contract, these individuals should be placed into those residuals.

The Postal Service came the union to post 32 additional jobs, in the hopes of having 32 residual positions. This would allow those positions to be posted on E-Reassign under the 21 day criteria. Locally we did not agree with this.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

VMF – They did put up three bid jobs. They will fill Level 8s and have a CDLs posting.

Sergeant at Arms Report: Please give respect to your union brothers and sisters. Please keep side-conversations to a minimum or quietly.

Retiree's President Report:

Use your Retirees. The NALC uses their retirees; however, the APWU does not. Make sure to utilize your resources with your representatives. Retirees are not restricted by Hatch Act and can make contact.

Next Luncheon – June 6/7 at 11:30 at Russ Restaurant on 28th Street.

Committee Reports:

A&E – Casino Trip – April 29th. For \$15, you get \$30.00 back plus a \$5.00 voucher for food.

Correspondence: Thank you card from Sue Kidd and Family

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations: None, except to inform that the May General Membership Meeting date and time has been changed to Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

The floor was opened up for new business:

Motion by: Karen Hodges; Seconded by: Linda Chandler, for the local to pay for two days of Per Diem for Karen Hodges and Jennifer Gilbert to attend the POWER Conference. Carried.

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let President Puhalski, Craft Directors or Associate Office Director know.

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. Michael Moon (If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)

Union Label Coalition Pancake Breakfast Tickets: (Five pair of tickets): Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Cindy DelaFuentes. To give the tickets to the Retirees. Carried.

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$112 total collected. \$56 to the winner - #796844 – Ray Novakoski

James Sweeney Scholarship Drawings: (Five 1,000 and Five Alternates)

1. Steven Brunii (William Brunii)
2. Nicholas Covell (Kim Covell)
3. Jordan Richards (Linda Richards)
4. Justiin Pierzchala (Gerald Pierzchala)
5. Olivia Pierzchala (Gerald Pierzchala)

Alternates:

1. Amanda Gordon (Susan Gordon)
2. Stephanie Spruit (Paul Spruit)
3. Timothy Richards (Linda Richards)
4. Peter Richards (Linda Richards)
5. Maria Barbatano (Bernadette Barbatano)

10 - Twenty-Five Dollar Gift Cards for Easter

1. #5 – Lori Schmike
2. #3 – Cynthia Delafuente
3. #11 – Tom Calkins
4. #34 – Donna Adams
5. #21 – George Hendricks
6. #28 – David Janes
7. #17 – Jack Fryling
8. #14 – Lisa Borchardt
9. #20 – Dan Quillin
10. #8 – Leann Merrills

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. #33 – Shaundrea Lampkin
2. #10 – Roy Bailey
3. #2 – Tim Ozinga
4. #6 – Linda Yarnott
5. #1 – Tammy Byrnes

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary