

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
November 4, 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. Moment of Silence for Wes Kroondyk (Clerk at the GMF who passed away) and the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Number of Members at this month's meeting: 24

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	Treasurer – Linda Chandler

The following officers were not present:; **Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith; **Sergeant at Arms** – Dan Quillin; **Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Due to no October's meeting, September's General Membership Meeting minutes continued to be posted. Michael Long motioned, Robin Nielson seconded to accept the minutes, with the following correction: September's Treasurer's Report was Seconded by: Ray Novakoski, not Roy Bailey. Motion to accept as amended . Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Linda Chandler to Accept. Carried.

John L. Lastocy (PSE MVS)	Pamela B Veach (PSE Clerk)
Clayton J. McEwen (PSE Clerk)	Walter J. Reed (PSE Maintenance)
Michael A. Zone (PSE Clerk)	Steve J. Holman (PSE Maintenance)
Nicole M. Klenk (PSE Clerk)	David Teusink (PSE Clerk)
Sylvia Rodriguez (PSE Clerk)	Diane L. Johnson (PSE Clerk)
Levi D. Schwartz (PSE Clerk)	Curtis L. Hayden (PSE Clerk)
Anjanette L. Hatchett (PSE Clerk)	Karen S. Davis (PSE Clerk)
Patrick J. Riggs (PSE MVS)	

Bills: None

Officer's Report

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

President's Report:

(President Puhalski asked those Veterans in attendance to stand and to be recognized). As a nation, we seem to take veterans for granted and the upcoming holiday as just another day

AMS Jobs. Five jobs were posted. There are currently seven EAS doing the job. They are Level 7 positions with weekends off.

AFCS 200 Jobs. The Postal Service at Headquarters met at the National Level with the Unions; and assigned Jurisdiction to the Clerk Craft. There are Seven jobs for clerks to bid with Saturday/Sunday, Sunday/Monday SDOs. They are part of Automation, but with a Primary Duty Area of the AFCS.

Retirement Seminar (from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) on Monday, November 5th. Those who are eligible for retirement under this incentive, has to make their decision by December 3rd.

Budget Committee. Per the Constitution, the committee will meet this month and propose a Budget to the membership. However, due to the Retirements coming in January (due to the VERA incentive), this Budget may need to be tweaked to reflect actual membership levels afterwards.

Michigan AFL-CIO put their recommendation on the upcoming vote. Make sure to get out and vote.

Children's Christmas Party is December 9th at the Union Hall. There probably will not be an Adult Christmas Party this year.

We have a new manager of Labor Relations. His name is Derek Storm.

Upcoming District Labor Management meeting is scheduled for November 9th. This is District wide; not just for Grand Rapids. Management presents a review of Postal Finances and their plans for the upcoming year to the union and those in attendance.

PSEs. I am going to put together a Q&A where they can come up to the Union Hall and get information on their rights. We recently had a couple of PSEs removed from the Postal Service, because management believes (mistakenly) they don't have Just Cause provisions. There are misconceptions out there and what PSE rights are.

COPA solicitation mailing. COPA sent money to Steve Pestka and to other candidates who support Postal issues. Please consider giving if you don't already do so.

Stewards training is being held on November 8th.

E-Grievance process. Will try with the Craft Directors and President/Vice-President first and roll out to the Stewards after and once we get an idea and handle on how this will work, costs, etc.

Thank you to Dessa for performing the duties of Sergeant at Arms tonight.

Vice-President's Report:

October 3rd was my last day of work and have retired; but remain as a Full member of the union and have kept access to perform my duties as Vice-President. I plan to keep doing my duties as Vice-President until the end of this term.

Get out and Vote on Tuesday. The union has supported Pestka. We have been at meetings with Amash and our position on Postal Issues. His response was to call his aide; he gives the impression that he is unaware of what is actually happening (and he is on the committee which oversees the Postal Service).

Veterans – There is a Veteran’s day parade on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Come out and show your support.

Recording Secretary’s Report:

Election is this Tuesday. Make sure to vote.

The AFL-CIO has sent out a list for those they support and the position on the ballot initiatives. You are allowed to bring this list to the voting booth with you.

A short 10-minute video (We are the 99%) was shown to the membership in attendance.

Clerk Craft Report

Labor Charge Agreement – we have agreed with management that if we can prove that the Clerk Craft Director has forty (40) hours of Union work, he will be allowed to have 40 hours of union time. The Labor Judge has a six month retention, in case, management tries to go back on their word.

Level 7 Expeditor at GMF on Tour 3. Management has agreed to post a new Level 7 Expeditor/Dispatcher on Tour 3, with the hours of 15:30– 12:00 (Midnight) with Saturday/Sunday off. This will be on the November 16th posting.

Downtown Carriers. I have had a lot of people coming to me regarding the carriers doing our work. We have 17 grievances so far.

Stewards training. There is a lot of stuff going on. If you are a steward, please make plans to attend.

P-Campus. Between 3 – 7:30 p.m., it seems that management and Mail Handlers are working/doing our work. I appreciate it when I am called on this.

Upcoming Election – On Halloween I got a phone call from Justin Amash to join his town hall meeting. When I asked the person taking the call about Postal Issues and Senate Bill 1789, for some reason, the connection/line was dropped.

Health Plan Open Season – November 12 through December 15th. We are trying to work with District to get an Open Season Health Fair. I will send out items to be put on the bulletin boards.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

I have been out of the loop for a while; and will be out through November due to my On-the-Job injury. Thanks to Chris Fisher for doing a great job while I have been out.

There has been a couple of retirements, those jobs are up for bid.

On August 9th, I went up to talk to Justin Amash regarding Postal Issues. When I spoke to his representative (Justin Bush), I was told Amash is the co-chair of the committee under Issa and knows everything that is going on about Postal Issues.

In light of those employees that just retired, and the one person who transferred to VMF, the next two PSEs that are hired, will cause the senior PSEs to become career employees. This is a positive step.

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Kris Haywood
- CFC Letter from President Guffey
- Thank you letter from Steve Pestka

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

December General Membership Meeting on December 2nd at 11:00 Executive Board, and 12:00 (noon) General Membership Meeting.

- To expend up to \$575 for Christmas Cards for our membership. Carried

The floor was opened up for new business: None

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. Kelly VanValkenburg (If she was at this meeting, she would have won)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$64 total collected. \$32 to the winner - #958467 – Karol Imanse

Ten (10) - Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Dollar Door Gift Cards for Thanksgiving:

1. #18 – Irene Erickson
2. #6 – Tom Calkins
3. #4 – Tammy Byrnes
4. #8 – Tim Thomas
5. #37 – Mick Wilson
6. #12 – Amy Puhalski
7. #13 – Doug Warren
8. #14 – Linda Chandler
9. #23 – Michael Long
10. #5 – Karol Imanse

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. #9 – Lisa Boarchardt
2. #28 – Chris Fisher
3. #15 – Chris Iberra
4. #16 – Geraldine Davis

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 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" and "L".

Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary