

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2013

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:

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

Review of previous meeting's minutes: To accept the November 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Ray Novakoski. Carried.

Motion to suspend the order of business – No Objection to allow the Election Committee to provide the report:

Election Committee Report – Ray Novakoski (Committee Chair) thanked the committee for their work and presented the election results (numbers are available on the website).

The following members have been elected to the 2014 – 2016 Western Michigan Area Local Executive Board:

President – Amy Puhalski
Executive Vice President – Michael Long
Recording Secretary – Pam Bohn
Treasurer – Greg Carlson
Clerk Craft Director – Jeff Schellinger
Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Christopher Fisher
Sergeant at Arms – John Hansma
Associate Office Director – Lynette Sturgill

Motion by: Michael Long; Seconded by: Cindi Delafuntes to accept the committee's report. Carried

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Welcome new members of the WMAL! Motion by: Roy Bailey, Seconded by: Cindy Delafuntes. Carried
Kevin Grossenbacher (PSE - Clerk – Grand Rapids) Lavelle Lindsay (Maintenance – Grand Rapids)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending November 30, 2013 was read. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Ray Novakoski to accept report. Carried.

President's Report:

With the local elections are now complete, I would like to thank the membership for their support and assure that the board will move forward with best interest of the membership. Thank you for all those who have ran.

Thank you to Linda Chandler, Ray Novakoski, Roy Bailey, Dan Quillin, Jack Fryling for your service to the local.

Dues Increase: \$.89 cents for careers and \$.86 Postal Support Employees with the recent Pay Increase on November 16th. This goes along with the 1.5 and 2.5 percent increase (respectively). PSEs do not receive Cost of Living, thus the additional 1.0%.

November 30th – December 27 – Exclusion Period for Penalty Overtime.

Open Season for FEHB open until December 9th.

Budget Committee will give their report tonight in accordance with the Constitution tonight.

DAS Award regarding Associate Offices. Back in October, we received notification of an award of Postmasters and OICs doing bargaining unit work. We received the award a year ago, but management didn't adhere to it; so Arbitrator Das stepped in and clarified it. Management has until December 6th to provide the information to the APWU and the award/money is coming. This is a National Dispute.

Michael Long is now doing the local website. Thank you to Jennifer Amos for doing it for many years.

Bid Notices on the websites. Currently – only the Grand Rapids Installation is on the site. We start receiving bid postings from Associate Offices, we will post those on-line as well.

On November 10th, USPS is putting window operations into Staples. APWU President Dimondstein has stated that if USPS continues, it must be staffed by USPS Career employees. National has asked its unions to address.

Management Changes – We have Greg Chanski back. Michael Blackport – Transportation; Brandy Lane – Sparta Postmaster; Chris Lloyd – Grant Postmaster; Ed Downs – Jenison Post Office.

PSEs conversions. The grievance has been filed and is pending at Step 3. The carriers that were converted have specific language in their contract to convert. We can hope that the 2015 new CBA that the language is put in their to convert.

HELP OUT and Get Involved! – We are looking for stewards and committee members. It takes a lot of work to represent and plan activities for the union.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

Been with the Postal Service for 39 years, with the union for the past 30. Thank you to everyone for allowing me to serve.

With the new members coming on board, please support them.

Recording Secretary's Report: Merry Christmas to everyone! Have a happy and great Holiday season.

Clerk Craft Report:

Congratulations to Jeff Schellinger – I am going to be on vacation for the week of Christmas. We are going to start transitioning next week.

Thank you to the local for allowing me to serve.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Maintenance Craft Report:

Happy Holidays to everyone. Merry Christmas.

Congratulations to those who won in the local elections. Wish you all the best of luck.

Everyone I have served with on the board since 1996, even with the different dynamics, has put the membership and representation first.

Jobs – In the spring, we will have the new Annex on Division; and will also have to start looking at the WEP staffing.

Management is shuffling around as well. Some are going out to the P-Campus.

Thanks for your confidence in me. We have got some good things done in this time.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

Thank you for providing information to when people run around with the mail. We were just paid for 29 hours at the overtime rate for this. Keep the information coming.

Sergeant at Arms Report: Congratulations to the new officers.

Associate Office Director Report:

Thank the local for allowing me to serve at the Associate Office Director. Thank you to Lynette Sturgil for stepping up and wish you the best of luck.

Retiree President – Chapter Report

As in conjunction with the local union – the Retiree election is going on. It is going well.

As we celebrate Pearl Harbor day today. I attended the ceremony today.

ByLaws Change: National Constitution and ByLaws – Bylaws and changes must be allowed to the body due to the restrictions of time.

Payback of my funds. Apology to Linda Chandler. It was not an attack to her regarding me not being paid.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: The budget committee had the 2014 Budget available for the members to view. The budget committee gave their report. (Budget Committee report available on-line).

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: Michael Long; Seconded by: Linda Chandler that: “The WMAL General Membership Meeting of December 7, 2013 approve as an authorization for the expenditure of funds from the local treasury, the report and budget presented by the Budget Committee dated December 7, 2013. Furthermore, the Budget Committee of the WMAL has the authorization to shift monies, if needed, between categories, as long as the overall disbursement amount does not exceed the overall income of this report.” Carried.

POWER Committee – Tree for Christmas. On November 25th we had a bake sale at the GMF – We raised \$387 dollars. We had many people donate baked goods. Thank you everyone who donated. Thank you to Jack and Crystal Kimble and Lou Kintigh for their help at this bake sale. We purchased some items with the funds for these families during the recent Black Friday sales.

The Tree for Christmas is located on the Union Bulletin Board at the P-Campus. Please give generously.

A&E Report - Christmas Party on December 14th at the union hall. If you plan to attend, please let me know ASAP – sign up not later than December 9th.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: George Hendricks, Seconded by: Roy Bailey to untable the motion: Carried

³⁵/₁₇ That the local reimburse George Hendricks for \$44. Defeated

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations: None

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: Jennifer Gilbert; Seconded by: Cindy Delafuntes: the WMAL donate \$1,000 to the POWER committee to be disbursed to the Wish Upon a Star families. Carried

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: George Hendricks; Seconded by: (None) that President Puhalski pay me \$44.69 that the (Ruled Out of Order)

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: Steve Austin, Seconded by: Linda Yarnott that the local reimburse George Hendricks for \$44.69. Motion Withdrawn by maker and seconder.

³⁵/₁₇ Motion by: James Smith, Seconded by: Steve Austin to recognize those who presented George Hendricks with the \$45.00. Carried (Phil Marckini, Mick Wilson, Shaundrea Thomas).

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let your Craft Directors know. Heater in the Smoke Shack (upstairs); Replacing the Ice Machine

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: William McClymont. *(If he was at this meeting, he would have won!*

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$150 total collected. \$75.00 to the winner - #380535. Dana Mclean

Voice of the Employee Drawing: (Five \$100)

1. Kathy Irwin
2. Michael Moon
3. Cathy Strunk
4. George Folk
5. Page Griffin

Christmas Drawing:

1. #26 – Gealdine Davis
2. #31 – Jack Fryling
3. #3 – Lisa Borchardt
4. #35 – Tina Lane
5. #14 - Linda Chandler
6. #44 – Linda Monroe
7. #1 – Doug Warren
8. #8 – Shaundrea Thomas
9. #5 – Lynette Sturgill
10. #41 – Jeff Schellinger

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. #42 – Robert Britt
2. #10 – Roy Bailey
3. #19 – Kathy Strunk
4. #2 – Steve Austin
5. #36 – Nancy McCall

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary