

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 2, 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

Executive Vice-President – Ray Novakoski

Treasurer – Linda Chandler;

Clerk Craft Director – Roy Bailey

Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith

Sergeant at Arms – Dan Quillin

The following officers were absent: **Recording Secretary** – Michael Long **Motor Vehicle Craft Director** – Tracy Fleming; **Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

Review of previous meeting's minutes: To accept the January 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes. Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Roy Bailey. Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): James Wood (Hudsonville)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending January 31, 2013 was read. Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Roy Bailey to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Carried

President's Report:

We just had a lot of retirees. Locally, we had 59 of them. We have a couple of PTFs that might be leaving at the end of February. There is some issues with shared services giving bad information out.

As of Friday, we received the new Hall Assessment. Last year it was: \$241,640 now \$211,200. We did sell off an acre of land in the back. We will have to see what our taxes are for summer now that we have sold off that one acre.

We have a new (old) District Manager. Lee Thompson is going to Detroit District, and Chuck Howe is back at the Greater Michigan District.

Postal Service is accelerating their consolidation plans. That means Lansing's mail as well, and we are already getting some of their mail. They are moving fast on Lansing. Kalamazoo mail, they are talking about DPS to come to Grand Rapids sometime in March.

Gaylord is done. Some of our maintenance employees are up there now tearing down the machines. All they have now in Gaylord is five clerks for windows and the carriers. They cut the PTFs back to 2 hours, and

created some jobs in the Associate offices. They are bussing the employees to Traverse City. Please keep those brothers and sisters in your thoughts.

Primetime and Prime Choice issues. The issue has been addressed with the plant and has been rectified. Customer Service side of the house is still not willing to allow folks off.

Associate Offices. There are issues with those who retired in the Associate offices, management wants to revert those duty assignments and bring in PSEs which is in direct violation of the memo. The PTFs are calling and asking if the PSEs are going to get more hours than the PTFs; however, the contract is clear. It states that the PTFs are guaranteed all the hours at the straight time before the PSEs get hours. We will file the grievances of the reversions.

Excessing and Withholding. We should not be under any longer due to the retirements that have occurred.

Rumors of Grand Rapids realignment. Management has not approached the union regarding any realignment.

NTFTs: Rumors are flying that management is going to post Non-Traditional Full-Time assignments in the plant. Management has not approached us for this. Customer Service did approach us, specifically the box section and business reply, and they wanted to create NTFTs; and asked for input regarding this; however, management never provided us with the information need, so we did not provide any input on anything

Audit Committee met last week, and will provide a report during Committee reports.

Custodial work in the Associate Offices. All those grievances were filed over a year ago, and they are pending a National case. Our NBAs were told by Labor in Chicago that this work was returned to us. When I called the 20 offices that were disputed, only two were provided back to us.

Election Year – The year is Election year. If you would like to be on the Election committee and are not running for any office, please let me know.

MVS. About four or five months ago, there was a huge notification sent to 250 MVS drivers for the rural routes. The APWU stepped in and arbitrated this. The Postal Service has agreed not to contract out any MVS routes until the Arbitrator rules.

Vice-President's Report:

This past month, I trained John Latoscy in the MVS and he will be assigned as soon as President Puhalski and the craft director determines where to place him.

AMS job has been posted again.

Issues regarding the Lead Clerks and the General Clerks; the grievances were remanded back to us from Step 3. Will be meeting with Labor soon to hopefully resolve this.

Tables and Chairs for the hall. We found a better deal through Costco. Once we get the new tables and chairs, we will put out a flyer for the old tables and chairs.

Clerk Craft Report

Hopefully with Chuck Howe coming back into town, we can get some resolution regarding the Prime Time and Prime Choice in Customer Service. The Postmaster is not approving anything. Even two weeks out and management doesn't even know if they can give the leave.

Numerous grievance (day-by-day) have been filed due to carriers doing clerk work. Management stated they were going to make it right; however, management then denied each grievance. These will be appealed.

Kudos to Lisa Bochart. She is studying a scheme and defending two PSEs who have been put up for removal. East Paris is a hot mess and she is doing a great job.

Maintenance Craft Report

There are a lot of rumors downtown that the clerks would become custodians soon. This will not happen until we are no longer under withholding.

Under the VERA, I have asked the stewards to keep watch of all the jobs to make sure they are not being reverted.

There are two jobs that management has stated they will be changed: One was on Tour 3 downtown, and one MME on Tour 2. at the P-Campus.

The staffing package at Holland is done.

Management is trying to claim new methods with custodians.

Management was proposing that with the downsizing of the Postal Service, during a Regional Telecom a few months ago, management suggested that when offices, like Kalamazoo and Lansing were discontinued, they would be downgraded from BEMs to AMTs. However, these require different skill sets.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee reported: "Audit Report for Western Michigan Area Local – January through December 2012. The Audit committee was made up of Tammy Byrnes, Jill Kuiper, and Barbara Tubbs. The committee met on January 28, 2013 to review the Local's books for calendar year 2012. Items reviewed included the contingency account, the Visa statements, the checking account, savings account, the ABA account, the LM reports, and the meeting minutes to verify authorizations.

All expenditures were found to be properly authorized and documented. The committee noted that the present renegotiated the cell phone plan with Verizon on October 2012 for a cost savings of approximately \$214 a month. All accounts were found to be in good order.

The ABA account had a discrepancy of 40 cents because one of the member's checks that was deposited was debited for \$62.40 rather than \$62.80, resulting in a shortage of 40 cents. This has been resolved."

Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Roy Bailey to accepting the Audit Committee report for the 2012 year. Carried.

Correspondence:

1. John Farnsworth – Thank you card for retirement.
2. Tom McDonald – Thank you for retirement.

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- Motion to authorize a eight hours of union LWOP for Jim Smith to do a staffing survey for the Lowell Post Office. Discussion. Carried
- Motion to send ten stewards and officers (to include the three craft directors and President or vice President) to the 2013 Michigan Postal Workers Union Educational Assembly, April 25 – 27, 2013 to include Registration, Hotel (two nights), LWOP (up to three days), mileage, per diem. Carried.

The floor was opened up for new business: None brought forth from the floor/membership.

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let your Craft Directors 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: Joshua Hathaway (If he was at this meeting, he would have won)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$94.00 total collected. \$47.00 to the winner - #958737 – Lori Schmike

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. #31 – Barb Tubbs
2. #8 – Jeff Schellinger
3. #17 – David Janes
4. #34 – Michael Thomas

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary