

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

February 8, 2014

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.

Motion to suspend the order of business to allowing for voting of delegates for the conventions. Carried.
(Without Objection)

Returned to Regular Order of Business

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – Amy Puhalski

Executive Vice-President – Michael Long

Recording Secretary – Jennifer Gilbert

Treasurer – Linda Chandler

Maintenance Craft Director – Joe Hall

Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Chris Fisher

Sergeant at Arms – John Hansma

The following officers were absent: **Clerk Craft Director** – Jeff Schellinger; **Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

Review of previous meeting's minutes: To accept the January 2014 General Membership Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Chris Fisher. Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Welcome new members of the WMAL! Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Linda Chandler Carried

Nathan Host – PSE (MVS – Grand Rapids)

Kenshawna Roberson – PSE (Clerk – GR)

Audrina Contreas PSE (Clerk - Alto)

Lois Barnes – PSE (Clerk – Byron Center)

Timothy McAllister – PSE (Clerk Cannonsburg)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending January 31, 2014 was read. Motion by: Ray Novokoski, Seconded by: Mike Long to accept report. Carried.

President's Report:

Thank you to Joe Hall and Jennifer Gilbert for stepping up to fill the vacant positions.

PSE conversions – Remanded back from Step 3. Have met with management at Step 2. There was a request from the Grand Rapids Installation and Associate Offices to convert 40 PSEs. This is currently at Headquarters level awaiting approval. Right now at the Show Cause level at Washington DC. Approval has to come from DC. Request was for 40 PSEs to be converted. Have to make sure all eligible employees who can be assigned are assigned to residual vacancies before they move forward with conversions.

Spoke to the NBA of the maintenance craft. Currently trying to work through the case files and address them. Starting to do arbitrations for the locals. Had some clarifications on packages for the maintenance craft and Amy will get with Joe.

Mailhandlers filed a dispute on APWU craft members transferring to the Maintenance craft. NPMHU cannot come over as transfers because there are residual vacancies under withholding. Hiring too many may cause excessing. NPMHU wanted APWU to help with the transfers into the maintenance craft at this time. Joe Hall is aware of it and the two residual vacancies will remain vacant until they are properly filled and will be backfilled with overtime from the list.

Article 1 rules don't change for lack of staffing. Doesn't give management the right to work

Question from member on equalization of overtime. Tour 3 early listers not getting as much overtime as the later BT listers. Mail is not being worked because they don't bring in the early BT listers for OT. Late listers are being kept regularly. Member wants to know how they are going to address consistency of administration of overtime between tours. NBAs have told the Local that equalization of overtime between tours is hard to prove. Listers are often working the same hours on regular work hours when others are working overtime. Will have the craft director start tracking the overtime hours on Tour 3.

The case for overtime for Tour 3 is still up waiting to be heard in arbitration. Cases such as discipline take precedent are slated for the docket before some contractual issues that is why it is taking so long.

Seymour Square. Closed due to safety issues. Hoping that the repairs are going to be made for it to be suitable for workers and customers to enter. Clerk is currently working at the main office. Waiting to see if postal service is going to resume services at Seymour Square. Union's position is that they find a suitable alternate building to accommodate customers.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs approved an amended version of a postal bill (S. 1486) that faces vehement opposition from the four postal unions. The committee with oversight responsibility for the Postal Service passed the measure by a vote of 9-1 on Feb. 6. This bill would threaten 100,000 full- and part-time postal jobs; Lead to pension cuts; Weaken workers' position in upcoming contract negotiations; Require the USPS to pre-fund workers' compensation by \$17 billion, further strangling USPS finances; Permit the USPS to close and consolidate mail processing facilities after two years; Allow the Postal Service to further reduce service and delivery standards; Eliminate Saturday delivery after 2017; Eliminate door-to-door mail delivery for new businesses and households, and Expose injured workers to impoverishment once they reach retirement age.

Resolutions – Need input from all members regarding changes they would like to see in the Contract, constitution (state and national).

Recording Secretary Report:

Thank you to the Executive Board for appointing me to the Recording Secretary Position. I will do my best to represent the membership.

Maintenance Craft Report:

Thank you to the Eboard for appointing me. A lot of issues with the grievances in the maintenance craft. Asking stewards to continue to file grievances even though they are slowly going through the grievance procedure at the arbitration level. New carrier annex opening, trying to determine number of jobs needed for that annex. Looking forward to working with the maintenance craft to address staffing and grievance issues.

Member states having issues at the stations. Second relief person is not being utilized out at the VMF, not staffed for a whole week at times. Staffing needs to be covered at the VMF.

Staffing has to be covered by frequencies. Daily maintenance work required is frequencies and covering the routes must be done. Previous determinations have been resolved in the union's favor. Grievances must be filed if the work needs to be done. March 1st is when the carriers are supposed to be moving to the carrier annex. Management has changed their minds about the dates more than once.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

MVS director is saying that March 1st is the date he was given that the carrier annex will be operational. Routes are being determined.

Retiree President – Chapter Report

480-481 Communicator talked about the carrier who was killed in the line of duty delivering mail after dark. Unions need to come together and address issues. USPS contracted with Staples to have mailing services. People will choose to go there instead of using the USPS stations and windows for mailing services. Need to have the work done by postal employees.

C-SPAN – Listened to the various National Officers regarding Congressional testimony about doing away with the pensions for new hires.

S.1486 needs to be voted down. We have to take action about what the postmaster general is trying to do and that is dismantle the postal service. Asked Mark Dimondstein to be strong.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee: Reported. (Members included: Lisa Borchardt, Barb Tubbs, Jill Kuiper)

Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Jennifer Gilbert to accept the Audit committee report as read. Carried.

POWER Committee: February is Women's Health Heart Health month. Go Red for Women. It doesn't matter how old you are. Recognize the signs for Heart disease, and have yourself checked out by your doctor. February is also Black History Month.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

To change the policy of the local (re: cancellations of the meeting): - Not Later than 2 hours prior to the start of the General Membership meeting. Carried.

To donate \$500 to the MPWU in support of the 2014 Hospitality Room. Carried. (Without objections)

The meetings for April and May meetings: April 12th and May 10th (6:00 E-Board; 7:00 p.m. General Membership)

New Business:

Motion by: Jennifer Gilbert, Seconded by: Rickey Jackson Motion to post on the union boards informing members how to find out if a meeting has been canceled. Carried.

Results to the elections for convention Delegates

National:

MVS – George Hendricks
Maintenance: Michael Long
Clerk: Linda Chandler
Ray Novakoski
Tammy Byrnes
Jennifer Gilbert
Lisa Borchardt
Ann Hill Graves
Geraldine Davis (tie)
Rickey Jackson (tie)

State:

MVS – Mick Wilson
Maintenance: Michael Long
Clerk: Linda Chandler

Ray Novakoski
John Hansma
Tammy Byrnes
Jennifer Gilbert
Lisa Borchardt
Joe Hall
Ann Hill Graves

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let your Craft Directors know.
Ice Machine at the Plant.

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: Pam Bohn (If she was at this meeting, she would have won!)

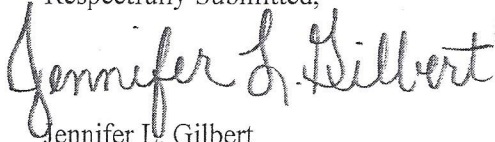
COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$75 total collected. \$37.50 to the winner -# 380701 Cathy Strunk

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. #20- Shaundrea Thomas
2. #30- Chris Fisher
3. #25- George Hendricks
4. #9-Lisa Borchardt
5. #19-Joe Hall
6. #23-Mike Long
7. #12-Amy Puhalski
8. #3-Dessa Long

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer L. Gilbert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer L. Gilbert
Recording Secretary