

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 1, 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.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

**President** – Amy Puhalski

**Executive Vice-President** – Michael Long

**Recording Secretary** – Jennifer Gilbert

**Treasurer** – Linda Chandler

**Clerk Craft Director** – Jeff Schellinger

**Maintenance Craft Director** – Joe Hall

**Motor Vehicle Craft Director** - Chris Fisher

**Sergeant at Arms** – John Hansma

**Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** To accept the February General Membership Meeting Minutes with the following corrections: Date of minutes should read February 8 2014. Also Amy wanted it reflected in the minutes that in her report the conversions were only for the Grand Rapids Installation...remove language about conversions saying "associate offices". Change the word "eligible" to "unassigned" about all unassigned employees to residual vacancies. Also wants the comment "no issues with audit committee report" moved to the audit committee report. Motion by: Mike Long Seconded by: Joe Hall Carried.

**Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):** Welcome new members of the WMAL! Motion by: Mike Long Seconded by: Lisa Borchardt to accept into membership. Carried

Terry Smith - GMF

Kevin DeWeese- Transfer From MH GMF

Tonia Orłowski - Zeeland

Senada Jusupovic - CS

Dominique Carey – GMF

Nicole Muratori – Zeeland

Miranda Sidock – Bitely

**Bills:** NONE

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report ending February 28, 2014 was read. Motion by: Ray Novakoski Seconded by: Mike Long to accept report. Carried.

**President's Report:**

Thanks to Mike Long and Jeff Schellinger for taking over while she was on vacation. Still in conversation with HR on conversions of PSEs , wants to make sure it is done properly locally. Filed labor charges against a 204-b, was called by the 204-b on a Saturday morning and if she didn't drop grievances they were going to issue discipline to the employees involved. Let Postmaster and Labor know that she would not tolerate threats or coercion then followed through with a labor charge against the postmaster.

New carrier annex is moved back to March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Was supposed to be open in February, date has been moved back several times. Zone clerks chose to move to the new annex with their assignments. Postmaster wanted to post a NTFT job 6 days a week. Amy protested that, waiting to see if management goes forward with that. There are no MH in the stations and branches. Postmaster and Mgr. of Customer service stating they don't want mailhandlers at the carrier annex. After protest from the NPMHU, management decided to assign an MHA to the carrier annex. Amy will file a grievance if this happens. Not four hours of work for a mailhandler duty assignment.

There was an error in the delegate election to the national convention. Amy to send letters to delegates on the election of delegates error. If all delegates are still going, at the next union meeting we will pull names from a hat from the tied delegates unless one of the tied delegates defers to the other. This meeting is for constitutional changes, if anyone has a constitutional change please bring it forward at this meeting.

**Executive Vice-President's Report:**

EAP rep is here. Good service to use, free and confidential. Please take advantage of this program and take any information.

Resolutions – Need input from all members regarding changes they would like to see in the Contract and/or the constitution (state and national). Have a lot of suggestions for changes to PSE language to benefit the PSEs.

**Recording Secretary Report:**

Laying foundation for the members as the legislative director. A rule in my family that my kids must register to vote when they turn 18, and must vote. Took my kids several times when I went to vote so they could see what it was like and how to do it. Asking the membership if they know someone that does not know how to vote or has no transportation please take them with you and show them. A lot of people don't go because they don't have transportation or they have a fear of the unknown. Let family members and friends, young people, it is their right to vote and to have their voice heard no matter what their view is on an issue. Want to talk about voting, getting family members involved.

**Clerk Craft Director Report:**

Interesting couple of months. Getting to know both CS and Plant side of the operations. Finally have the board filled with people who want to serve the members. Thank you for stepping up. To the employees who resigned...best of luck. Even if you become a 204-b and are trying to get into Labor...thanks and good luck. Thanks to all the stewards we have already. We need new stewards. We have added stewards, thanks for the support I've had.

**Maintenance Craft Report:**

New Carrier Annex to be opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> now. Need to get out there and do a staffing package. Greg Carlson is the only one available that Joe knows that can do a staffing package. Told him that they want to take the office space in the front and make it inactive storage. Joe doesn't see that happening. Office personnel are supposed to go in that area. Need to get in there and view it to see how many people are going to be stationed there including administrative offices and storage. They did put up one job with a one hour lunch. No job in maintenance has a one hour lunch. Improper.

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March 2014 General Membership Meeting

Hearing things on the floor about occupational groups. Mgmt wants to assign higher level skilled jobs to lower level employees. Lower level not supposed to be doing level 9 and 10 jobs. Lower level than that are semi-skilled. Not supposed to determine why as to the function/failure of the machines. On the website that management is going to review the MS-047 handbook. Last time this was done was 2001. They lost 48 million dollars last time they did that. Do not want to see them do that again. Will have to see where that leads. Question about stations: Custodian only has a few clicks at Centerpointe mall so nothing gets done out there. Joe says they probably don't even have enough time to cover all of the stations assigned to them. Staffing packages in the city have been grieved. Frequencies are at a minimum and management is using these to provide custodial work to the maintenance craft which is resulting in the work not being done or being done very little. Issue with work orders for Riverview. No response from maintenance on these issues. Amy asks that employee faxes the work orders down to the union office and then can be addressed by craft director. Emailed Rich Brown that we need to fill the jobs which were formerly under withholding. No response for copies of info (route sheets) from Rich Brown. Been in withholding since June of 2012 so jobs were not filled. Heard that the jobs that are opening up are going to the mailhandlers who put in for them.

### **Motor Vehicle Craft Report**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> when the Annex opens there will be two or three new duty assignments with weekends off. Mgr. says she will be converting three MVS PSEs to FTR. Hopefully that happens soon.

### **Associate Office Director Report-**

If management asks you to come in to the office for a discussion you need to ask if it can lead to discipline and if the mgr says yes then you need to ask for a steward to be present. Please ask for representation.

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Applications” have to be in by March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

### **New Business:**

### **E-Board Recommendations:**

To authorize Greg Carlson up to 16 hours of LWOP to assist in forming a staffing package for the new Carrier Annex. Discussion. Carried

Just an FYI changed the GM meeting to June 8<sup>th</sup> 2 PM on Sunday.

**Constitution Changes:** Changes were read for proposed constitution changes. Proposed change is to Article 9: Duties of Officers. Those changes will be posted for review to be discussed on and voted on at the May General Membership Meeting.

**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: #191 Karen Koch** (If she was at this meeting, she would have won!)

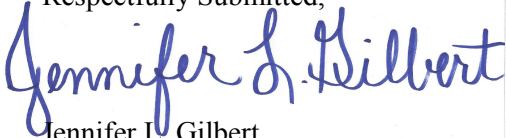
**COPA:** 50/50 Drawing: \$ 62.00 total collected. \$31 to the winner -# 380774 Jack Fryling

**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 are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

1. #31 Chris Fisher
2. #14 Linda Chandler
3. #20 Christine Ibarra
4. #18 Dessa Long
5. #13 Doug Warren
6. #12 Amy Puhalski
7. #17 Jack Fryling
8. #23 Mike Long
9. #5 Joe Hall
10. #11 Jeff Schellinger
11. #2 Mary Thompson

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer L. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary