

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2016

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. Also, a short moment of silence for members Jennifer Gilbert and Linda VanderMarkt who passed away since the last meeting.

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – Amy Puhalski	Clerk Craft Director – Jeff Schellinger
Executive Vice-President – Michael Long	Sergeant at Arms – John Hansma
Treasurer – Linda Chandler	Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Chris Fisher
Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling	

The following officers were absent: **Recording Secretary** – Vacant; **Maintenance Craft Director** – Joe Hall.

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion by: Michael Long, seconded by: Jeff Schellinger to accept the November 5, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried

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

Charles Lunsted – GR	Laurie Barszewski - GR
Lemaro Stevens – GR	Stephen Hathaway – Spring Lake
Natalie Bair – GR	Brandon Pierece - GR

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending November 30, 2016 was read. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Jeff Schellinger. Carried

President's Report:

Passing of Jennifer Gilbert and Linda VanderMarkt – all within a week of each other. For those who didn't have the ability to go to the funeral, they are having a memorial this Sunday. They are accepting Toy for Tots donations too. Sunday – 3p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Budget Committee – will report later in the meeting.

Election Committee -

Prime Choice Impasse – still don't have a decision. When we started this case in 2012, we requested multiple times to move this to the top of the docket. Was finally able to put up in 2015, and management tried to argue that it wasn't improperly in front of the arbitrator. Management lost this appeal and it was arbitrate. This came out in January 2016 and then a date was scheduled for the case. Management then became mad that they lost this argument so they started to deny

everyone. In February, we met, and management argued that they didn't have the documents (which we did previously). Then we didn't get another date until May 2016 – we made the arguments then. We only got through one witness and still had more. We had a second day in July, and then the Postal Service put on their side (15 witnesses). We had on date in August, and then two dates in September. Management didn't submit their briefs until the end of October.

When the remedy comes out; unfortunately, we have to wait for the arbitrator. (NOTE: Since the meeting, the ruling has come down and we were sustained in the grievance in part.)

Retirements – Lee Fennema and Julian Stroh. We wish them luck in their future endeavors.

Young Workers – Josh Gray is also the National Committee co-Chair. We are proud of Josh for being on this committee and standing up for the young workers.

Thank you to the current board. Jack Fryling and Joe Hall will still be a steward but thank you for what you did for the membership.

Stay Informed. WMAL.org, APWU.org and Western Michigan Area Local on Facebook. Keep informed of things coming up.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

New Raise last week – will see money on December 16th check

Penalty Overtime Provisions – as of December 3rd, we are under the exception period for December.

Was able to attend the OWCP training a couple of weeks back in Detroit as the MPWU Executive Secretary. Will be providing more information to the stewards.

Clerk Craft Report:

Local Elections – Congratulations Amy and John; and thank you to Steve and Ann for stepping up and running.

Local Negotiations – This was the first for most of the board. Was a definite learning experience to see how things happen to get what we have.

Thanks to the board and those who aren't returning.

OTDL – have to sign it once a quarter! We get a call saying someone forgot. The only time your name can go on it

Holiday – you need to sign up if you want to work. Before, if someone was forced, then they would allow someone to sign up and take someone forced...this no longer will happen. Management doesn't actually know who the senior person.

Postal Service reports the FY2016 Financial Report – we have shown a profit. If it wasn't for the Pre-Funding mandate, we would be totally in the black.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

MOU – Motor Vehicle doesn't have PSEs, and only one PTF. Management wanted to include PTFs into the list; however, that was withdrawn.

If you see a supervisor or another person transporting mail, please let me know.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Associate Office Director Report

Wanted to thank the Executive Board and the membership. I have tried to help out where I could. I am pretty happy how things have turned out.

Associate Offices – every month, a list is published for transferring to. For the PSEs there are canvassing opportunities as well. Continue to check the website for more information.

Committee Reports

Election Committee:

Thank you committee. Was a great pleasure working with you. Thank you Ray for being the advisor to the committee. You were always there. Barb Tubbs – Thank you.

When you talk to someone that didn't vote and complains – tell them they were mailed a ballot with return postage and they couldn't take a moment to fill out a sheet of paper.

The Election committee picked up the ballots from the Fruitport Post Office box at 1:00 p.m. per the rules and immediately transferred the ballots to the Union Hall at 2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI. The election committee: Rickey Jackson (Chair), Pam Bohn, Geraldine Davis, Lisa Stockdale, Michelle Leach, and Jennifer Rizzon (with assistance from retiree Ray Novakoski) started to count the ballots. The following is an official recap of the count:

Total Ballots Mailed: 714
Total Ballots Returned: 274

Ballots replaced: 3
Returned To Sender: 14
Ruled Invalid: 2 (no return address)
Empty Secret Ballot: 1
Ballot not in Secret Envelope: 1 (was counted)

Results were as follows:

President: Amy Puhalski – 198; Steve Austin: 76
Sergeant at Arms: John Hansma – 171; Ann Hill-Graves – 96

Motion by: Michael Long, Second by Jeff Schelling to accept the Election Committee report. Carried

A&E Committee – Yesterday was the last day to RSVP. We have 63 kids and 58 adults coming. We need volunteers and help to make this even a better success. It is next week Saturday from Noon to 3.

Young Workers Committee:

Mission statement: The APWU Young Members goals is to educate, mobilize and organize young APWU members through training and education in order to empower our next generation of leaders and activist to take on the challenges of the past, present and future.

My goal is to increase the membership and activity of the young membership. Another goal is to have workshops at the upcoming All-Craft conference. We got approval from the Regional Coordinator. We have to start getting local committees done. This was one of the Resolutions that was passed at the National Convention in August in Orlando. If you know of anyone, please contact Josh Gray or someone on the board. One of the goals is to have a mentor program as well.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee met on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Members of the Budget Committee were: Amy Puhalski (chair), Linda Chandler, Michael Long, Pam Bohn, and Joshua Gray. We were able to add an additional \$37,200 to the budget for 2017 due to an increase in membership and the contractual raises. This will allow us more room for additional areas in the budget. Copies of the budget are available. (Amy went through where the monies where allocated)

Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Jack Fryling that the WMAL at the General Membership meeting on December 3, 2016 approve as an authorization for the expenditure of funds from the Local treasurer, the budget reported by the budget committee on December 3, 2016. 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, including additional income. Carried.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations: None

The floor was opened up for new business:

None

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let your President or 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: Teyarra Nathan (If She was at this meeting, she would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$101.00 total collected. \$50.50 to the winner – Michael Long

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. Suzi Boyd
2. Hattie Mitchell
3. Lisa Stockdale
4. Geraldine Davis

Ten (10) - Twenty-Five (\$25) Dollar Checks for Christmas:

1. Michael Long
2. David Jane
3. Linda Yarnott
4. Debbie Ohanesian
5. Pam Bohn
6. Barb Tubbs
7. Ashley Saganski
8. Samantha Kunst
9. Joshua Gray
10. Bernie Schimke

Five VOE/Postal Pulse Surveys:

1. Katie Sunken
2. Michelle Wilson
3. Kara Bowler
4. Kris Johnson
5. Roy Bailey

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Long". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary