

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 5, 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.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

**President** – Amy Puhalski

**Executive Vice-President** – Mike Long

**Treasurer** – Linda Chandler

**Recording Secretary** – Jennifer Gilbert

**Clerk Craft Director** – Jeff Schellinger

**Associate Office Director** – Jack Fryling

**Sergeant at Arms** – John Hansma

The following officers were absent: **Motor Vehicle Craft Director** – Chris Fisher, **Maintenance Craft Director** – Joe Hall

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** Motion By: Michael Long Seconded By: Jeff Schellinger To Accept: May 2016 General Membership Meeting minutes. Correct plant manager's name spelling. Carried.

**Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):** Motion By: Michael Long; Seconded By: David Janes to accept applications for new membership into the local. Carried. Welcome new members of the WMAL: We are finally back over 700 members. No applications this month.

**Bills:** NONE

**Officer's Reports**

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking account ending May 31, 2016. Motion by: Mike Long Seconded by: Jeff Schellinger to accept the Treasurer's Report.

**President's Report:** PSEs are working days because there are vacancies and employees need to retreat or vacancies need to be filled. PSEs are working until those positions are filled. Arb on Prime Choice rescheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>. Labor charge filed against management about Prime Choice was sustained. Phone issues at the GMF were fixed and working fine. Nominations for local officers is coming up, election is this year. PSEs in Level 18 offices cannot happen. Please let Amy or Jeff know if they are using PSEs in these offices. 1723s in small offices: Any time a new 204b is assigned a 1723 needs to be issued. VMF issues are being addressed. Union supports dignity and respect in every station, branch, or workshop. We are all under withholding. Amy is hoping that will be fixed. Josh Gray and Spencer Gilbert are now delegates to the National Convention at the State's expense. Both are planning on going to the "involving young workers" workshop. Congratulations to them both. September meeting is changed to September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM with Executive Board meeting at 9 AM. Tiger game is September 11<sup>th</sup> so we are going to have the meeting a different day.

**Executive Vice-President Report:**

Tuesday the Kent Ionia Labor Council will be receiving benefits from sales at Beltline Bar. 15% of bill will be donated to Kent Ionia Labor Council food truck program. Thanks to all of the delegates at the State convention, everyone did a good job of representing the membership. New contract

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arbitration is done. Decision should be rendered within 30-60 days. New contract that comes out is effective from May of last year through May of 2018.

**Secretary Report** Awaiting upcoming California primary as well as other states. Tension between presidential candidates is happening. Congratulations to Mike Long being re-elected Executive Secretary of the MPWU. I was elected Area 9 Director. Please get your younger workers involved in union activities, educate your young family members and friends that there are worker rights, they can go to OSHA websites and NLRB websites, NLR. There are many websites with information on laws pertaining to workers' rights. Our younger workers need to be educated, the older workforce at the post office is getting ready to retire and we need these young workers to step up when it's time to take over.

**Clerk Craft Director Report:** Please get registered to vote. There are 50 members in our Local who are not registered to vote. Everyone needs to register to vote. Julie Sigg has moved on to Chicago and Rick Moreton is our new plant manager. Labor management meeting is being set up. Discipline is on the rise. Employees don't come to the union when they get disciplined and the union needs to be notified if you get disciplined for any reason. We need to be informed from the get-go to be effective in representation of our members. We cannot file grievances against other employees. Direct your discord to management, not other employees. Everyone needs to do their jobs and be respectful of your co-workers. Please let stewards know if there are new 204bs around. Management has to put employees on a 1723 for higher level details. Did a walkthrough of both of the buildings for safety issues. There is a PEG audit coming. Common safety issues on the workroom floor such as electrical, fire extinguishers, etc. Management must follow through on safety rules and regulations when employees are filing reports of safety hazards on the workroom floor. Dock issues are a problem. Dock locks don't mean that wheel chocks don't need to be used. If there are ANY issues with safety get a steward or officer to help you fill out a 1767 if you need it.

**Associate Office Director Report** Contract is in arbitration waiting for decision to come out. Once that is issued we have 30 days to open local negotiations for local memos. Take a look at your local memos in your small offices and let us know if you want something added, changed,, or deleted. Any ideas should be sent to Amy or your specific craft director.

Committee Reports: Amy would like to comment about Al LaBrecque, a retiree at the State level, has chosen not to run again. Has been a great mentor for our union and the retirees. Paul Browning will be taking over as State Retiree Chapter President, also a great union person.

A & E: Detroit Tigers trip in September. Flyers coming out this month. Lions trip sometime in the beginning of October. Flyers to come soon.

**Correspondence:** Card of thanks from Joe Hall on the passing of his mother.  
Sign of thanks from Stocking Elementary

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

**E-Board Recommendations.** To donate \$500.00 to the Melvin "Sugarmel" McLaughlin basketball camp held in August of 2016. Carried.

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To support the following candidates for the National APWU election of officers:

**Mark Dimondstein** – APWU National President      **John Marcotte** – APWU Health Plan Director  
**Jeff Kehlert** – APWU Executive Vice President      **Clint Burleson** – APWU Clerk Craft Director  
**Judy Beard** – APWU Legislative Director      **Charlie Cash** – Industrial Relations Director  
**Charles Smith** – APWU Research and Education Director  
**Steve Raymer** – APWU Maintenance Craft Director  
**Curtis Walker** – Maintenance NBA Division C

**Labor Management** Bring your concerns to Amy or your craft director for Labor Management.

**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 - Steve Skorupski (If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)*

**COPA:** 50/50 Drawing: \$78 total collected. \$39 to the winner – Geraldine Davis

**Four (4) - Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes:**

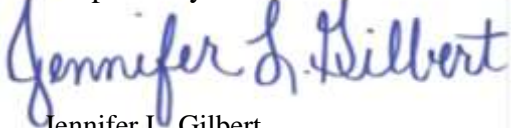
1. #10 Lori Schimke
2. #7 Lynette Sturgill
3. #23 Mike Long
4. #4 Hattie McDaniel
5. #5 Lisa Wilson

(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).

Motion to adjourn: Mike Long Seconded by Jennifer Gilbert Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer L. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary