

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at WMAL/APWU Union Hall, 2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509 with the pledge of allegiance and a short invocation.

The following officers were present:

President – Amy Puhalski
Executive Vice-President – Michael Long
Treasurer – Linda Chandler

Maintenance Craft Director – Joe Hall
MVS Craft Director – Chris Fisher
Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling

The following officers were absent: **Recording Secretary** – Jennifer Gilbert; **Sergeant at Arms** – John Hansma; **Clerk Craft Director** – Jeff Schellinger

Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Chris Fisher to accept October 2016 General Membership meeting minutes. Carried

New Members:

Charles Lunstead – Grand Rapids
Derrick Engles – Grand Rapids

Lemaro Stevens – Grand Rapids
Brandon Pierce – Grand Rapids

Motion by Michael Long, Seconded by Christopher Fisher to accept the above named employees as members of the Western Michigan Area Local. Carried.

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report read ending October 31, 2016 at the meeting – handouts available.

President's Report:

Happy Veterans Day to our vets in the local. Thank you for your service!

Grand Rapids LMOU. We just finished a month-long negotiations with management regarding the Grand Rapids LMOU. Management requested that we open negotiations. Since it was opened, the union presented 14 recommendations while management presented 10. Nothing was decided and now we have 30 days to send what items we want to impasse to arbitration.

One major proposal was Management wanted was to insert PSEs in between volunteers on their Normal day, and SDOs for the holiday schedules.

Our major proposal was to get an incidental leave percentage outside of Prime Time. This will be impassed!

Prime Choice Arbitration – we should be receiving a decision any day now from the arbitrator.

Annual Leave and Lean Sigma Six. Management has started to deny annual leave due to projected annual leave scheduling. This doesn't take into account leave you might earn by working holidays, and such. You might be asked to turn in leave if you don't have enough available after they take into account your pre-scheduled leave. Also with the upcoming year, management may be denying your leave, even though you will receive your leave allotment in January. If this happens, please let your union know. We sent this up to Headquarters, and was informed this has been happening in other locations too.

National APWU Elections – 194,172 ballots were sent out – of this, only 40,260 were returned. Our own local has 730 members, and only 182 of our members returned their ballots. These officers are the one that negotiate your living conditions, wages, etc.

Kids Christmas party coming up on December 10th.

Jennifer Gilbert (Recording Secretary) – she had a procedure done to help getting nutrients into her and allowing her to come home for the holidays. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. (NOTE: Since the November General Membership meeting, Jennifer lost her battle with cancer. By the time the minutes are posted and delivered, her visitation and memorial will have passed, however, please continue to keep her family in your thoughts and prayers for love and support).

Executive Vice-President's Report:

Remember to vote this upcoming Tuesday – November 8th.

The A&E committee is looking for input regarding having a Holiday Party in January. Please let someone on the committee or your steward/officer know.

The USPS now has an Attendance Control Officer looking at everyone's attendance and call-ins, etc. Make sure to be covered by FMLA if you are able.

Maintenance Craft Director Report:

Line H. Management provided the union with their numbers. Greg is doing the GMF.

Custodial Staffing. We have a grievance working the way through the grievance procedure. A grievance was filed and management did redo the package and increase the staffing; however, management left a lot of items out of the staffing package.

MS-47 TL-5 in the Stations. Management is starting to roll-out this in the stations. Doesn't look like the stations will get cleaner anytime soon.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report:

All jobs in MVS are now full in Grand Rapids (VMF and MVS).

We are using new scanners to track and log where we are at.

There has been an increase in Supervisors and clerks transporting mail between facilities and offices. This is MVS work. If you are asked to do this, and choose to - DO NOT use your own vehicle; your insurance will NOT cover you, nor will the Postal Service reimburse you for any loss if you are involved in an accident or worse.

Associate Office Director Report:

Annual Leave – Make sure to fill out a 3971 when you request leave. A lot of offices use a calendar, or other things to write down when you want vacation time; however, the ELM and the LMOU is specific – you request leave on a PS Form 3971. Make sure to get a copy of when you turned it in as well.

Committee Reports:

Election Committee Report: Following the nomination of the October General Membership meeting, the following offices are contested:

President: Amy Puhalski & Steve Austin
Sergeant at Arms: John Hansma & Ann Hill-Graves

The following offices are uncontested and will be serving on the 2017 – 2019 WMAL Executive Board:

Executive Vice-President: Joshua Gray
Recording Secretary: Suzi Boyd
Treasurer: Linda Chandler
Clerk Craft Director (A): Jeff Schellinger
Clerk Craft Director (B): David Janes
Maintenance Craft Director: Michael Long
Motor Vehicle Craft Director: Christopher Fisher

Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Ann Hill-Graves to accept the Election Committee's report. Carried

Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Ann Hill-Graves to cast one vote for each non-contested position. Carried

A & E Report: Christmas party is December 10, 2016. This is for the children. We need to have your child's Name, Age, and Gender in your RSVP. Gifts are being purchased for each child based on this information.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

New Business: None

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E-Board Recommendations. None

Labor Management: If anyone has anything for Labor Management, please let the President or your craft director know.

Drawings:

\$250.00 attending the Meeting Drawing: Ron Loshbaugh. Person drawn was not at the meeting. *(If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)*

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$ 84.00 total collected. \$ 42.00 to the winner – Debbie Ohanisian.

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. Jason Auchtung
2. Greg Carlson
3. Amy Puhalski
4. Lisa Stockdale
5. Linda Yarnott

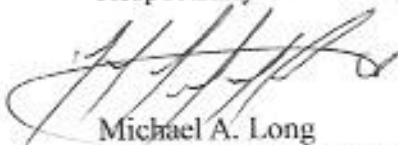
Ten (10) – Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Gift Cards for Thanksgiving: (NOTE: Instead of actual Turkeys, the union gives out gift cards to Meijer for the Thanksgiving Holiday)

1. Juan Perez
2. Jack Fryling
3. Debbie Ohanisian
4. Michael Long
5. Dana McLean
6. Johanna Norman
7. Joe Hall
8. Chris Fisher
9. Leanne Merrills
10. Samantha Kunst

Motion to adjourn: by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Jack Fryling Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. Long
Executive Vice-President