

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm 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	Clerk Craft Director (A) – Jeff Schellinger
Executive Vice-President – Joshua Gray	Craft Director B- David Jane
Recording Secretary- Suzi Boyd	Maintenance Craft Director – Michael Long
Treasurer- Linda Chandler	Sergeant at Arms – John Hansma

The following officers were absent: **Motor Vehicle Craft Director-** Chris Fisher

Review of previous meeting’s minutes: Motion by: Mike Long, seconded by: Jeff Schellinger- to accept the April 1, 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):

Morgan Dopp Christina Saenz Nikia Antwine

Welcome New Members of the WMAL!

Bills: None

Officer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report: Report ending April 30, 2017 read. Motion to accept report by Josh Gray, seconded by Jeff Schellinger. Carried

President’s Report: Reversions have been going on in our facility in both function 1 and function 4. The associate offices are dealing with the same issue as well. Headquarters is now deciding how many jobs we are allowed to have. As you probably noticed, there were no bids posted during the last posting cycle. For those of you that don’t know: an abolishment is management’s decision to reduce the number of occupied duty assignments in a section and or installation when someone is holding a bid job. A reversion is management’s decision to reduce the number of duty assignments in an installation when such duty assignments are vacant. Disputes are being filed locally, as well as across the country. Bill HR 1180 passed thru the house last week. The bill is the Working Families Flexibilities Act of 2017. It will allow employers to compensate you with personal time in lieu of the overtime rate. This however, does not pertain to the USPS. For more information go the www.opm.gov.

Executive Vice-President's Report: Supervisors should not be doing clerk work, notify your steward if this is happening in your work area. Through the house they just past a bill to repeal Obama care, and to eliminate preexisting conditions.

Recording Secretary's Report: None

Clerk Craft - A Report: We are filing grievances on the reversion, approximately 22 have been filed. Get with your steward and be diligent if supervisors are doing clerk work. We are still working with management on the lead clerk and 204b issues. Thanks to Josh for his settlement on the tour 2 204b violations. If someone is needed to fill in as a lead clerk, these are a higher level assignments, they are supposed to be offered by seniority. The tornado warning that was issued on the evening of April ----was not properly handled by management. The storm weather radio was not working, there were flash lights, but no batteries. Rick Morten was contacted and this is being corrected. Ask your manager when they plan to hold a fire drill and tornado drill in your facility. I am reaching out to OSHA to find out how often these are to be done. Employees need to be aware of what area to report to. If you are not getting these drills please fill out a safety hazard report. We are working with management to update the Emergency Response Team list.

Clerk Craft -B Report: Just want to say again that management should not be doing clerk work. Perform 8 hours of work for 8 hours of pay. Remember to always work safe.

Maintenance Craft Report: Welcome to Randy Pepper – new Custodian on Tour 1 at the P-Campus. Lost another ET position this last month when Michael Mulder went to BEM. We are now down to five positions over the WHEP staffing. However, management created a MPE position on Tour 1 at the P-Campus. All stations are now done for TL-5 in Grand Rapids. Greg Carlson finished up the stations on Monday. Big Thank you to Greg for spearheading and going out and doing the counting with management. Last meeting I mentioned how many hours we were short in the Plant and P-Campus, now I can tell you that they are over 600 hours short in the stations and branches. Going next week to discuss a custodial position back in Grand Haven and Ferrysburg. Back in February 2017, there was an agreement reached to create another custodial position in Holland. Management was supposed to have this done within 60 days of the signing. Going to Holland this week to address and rectify. Welcome to Hoa Hang as new steward of the Western Michigan Area Local once he completes steward training. If you would like to step up, please let us know. More hands makes less work for all. In a couple of weeks (May 23 – 26), your stewards will be in Southfield being trained. If you see anything during this time, since you know management always tries stuff when we are not around, please make sure to call me, Josh, or Amy, or if you have your stewards' number, give them a shout. Thank You to Suzi Boyd and Jennifer Rizzon for working on refinishing the podium for the WMAL union hall. Also, management is not allowed to solicit for employees to take an “early out”. When you leave before the end of your tour, you are showing management that a position may not needed.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report: none

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Committee Reports: A&E committee- Tigers game is scheduled for Sept 17th. The cost is \$40.00 and includes your ticket to the game, bus ride there and back and refreshments on the bus. If you would like more information, please contact Amy.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business: Constitution Committee Report

The Constitution Committee met on March 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the union hall to go over the three (3) constitution changes that were submitted at March 2017 General Membership meeting. The committee consisted of Amy Puhalski, John Hansma, Lisa Borchardt, Michael Long, and Tammy Byrnes.

The constitutional requirements were fulfilled. All the changes were read at the March meeting, sent out with the Meeting minutes and posted on the respective bulletin boards and on the local's website; and were all signed by at least seven members in good standing.

1st Change: Article 16 – Section 8 – To add a Young Workers Committee.

The committee recommended concurrence on this change. It is a start to this committee. Once the committee is formed, they can decide on how to proceed. Carried

2nd Change: Article 17 – Remove the Health Plan position and expand it to make a HR Representative. Carried

The committee was not in agreement as it was written. The committee recommended that a motion be made to amend this to add that the HR Representative must also be enrolled and have the APWU Health Plan. Motion-Carried

3rd Change: Article 18 – Accident Benefit Association – Totally delete this article. Carried

Since the change from direct payments from the local to the automated way of currently doing business with the APWU ABA, this position is no longer needed or supported. The current ABA representative also endorses the change. The committee recommended concurrence with this change.

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations-

To send the Executive Board plus 6 stewards (total 15) to the Multi Craft Conference Oct 2-5 to include registration, hotel, flight, per diem, and lost wages. Carried

To send Suzi Boyd to the Legislative Conference to include registration, flight, hotel, per diem and lost wages. Carried

To send Josh Gray to Secretary-Treasurer Training to include registration, flight, hotel, per diem and lost wages. Carried

James Sweeney Memorial Scholarship Drawing:

1. Emily Nelson - Dave Nelson(member)
2. Andrea Johnson- Christine Johnson(member)

3. Nathan Timmer -Velda Timmer(member)
4. Aaron Nelson-Dave Nelson(member)
5. Mallory Wright- Lee Wright(member)

Alternates

1. Laurel Timmer- Velda Timmer
2. Erin Spruit- Paul Spruit
3. Sabrina Jenkins-Pam Jenkins
4. Savion Thompson- Yolanda Smith
5. John Siuda- Ann Siuda

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management please let your President or Craft Directors know.

Drawings:

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing: Heather Giardina (if she was at this meeting, she would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$71.00 collected. \$35.50 to the winner- Dessa Long.

Five (5) - Twenty (20.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policy, 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. David Janes
2. Cathy Strunk
3. Jeff Schellinger
4. Jenetta Green
5. Lisa Stockdale
6. Roketa Whitley
7. Leann Merrills

Motioned to adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm motion, seconded, carried.
Respectfully Submitted,



Suzi Q. Boyd
Recording Secretary