

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2021

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	Clerk Craft Director (A) Lisa Borchardt
Vice President- Michelle Mack	Maintenance Craft Director-Vacant
Recording Secretary-Suzi Boyd	Clerk Craft Director (B) David Janes
Treasurer - Linda Chandler	Motor Vehicle Craft Director-Chris Fisher
Sergeant at Arms – Todd Hodges	

The following Officers were absent:

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion by Chris Fisher, seconded by David Janes to accept the November 7, 2020 General Membership Meetings. Carried

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Welcome to the Western Michigan Area Local!

Armish Raza, Tyler Theaker, William Sisk, Keisha Carter, Lakisha Ruthedge, Tyler Kopa, Melona Markham, Christian Clifford, Vong Nachampasak, Dylan Wohldscheid, Emmanuel Bailor, Desiree West, Jamayra Santoya, Zach Slykhouse, Kenlynda Bolton, Tiffany Vanotteren, Bang Makeny, Jolie Ngandu, Leila Quiton, Tanya Empie, Kali Burns, Sarae Daggett, Angel Rivas, Patrick Foster, Carter Mclin, Sara Scholten, Catherine Clark, Debby Gorby, Jeff Throop. Carried

Bills: None

Officer's Reports

Treasurer's Report: Report ending January 31, 2021 read. Motion to accept report. Carried

President's Report:

Its been a tough year for everyone this past year; we have not been able to hold a meeting since last November. President Biden's executive order of mandating mask wearing is coming down soon: it will be mandatory for the US Postal Service as well. December was very long for most of us. There were quite a few grievances filed for management doing clerk work. They just couldn't get the help we needed due to Covid and the high mail volume. Class actions have been filed on this for the Annex and GMF. Be patient, it takes a long time to go thru the process of getting these paid out. When you see management doing clerk work, we need to have statements. We hold the burden of proof. If we do not have statements, then a grievance does not exist. Do not look the other way if you see management doing your work. It is your Right to see your steward. You need to ask for the steward in your section. You have a right to time off the work room floor to fill out the complaint form. The postal service is getting ready to audit over 6,000 function 4 associate offices across the country. Chris and I have been

working with management on filling some VMF vacancies. We have a few new stewards. At East Paris, Diep and Rachael; downtown at the GMF we have Kishna Brown. We also have Mike Snyder from Rockford that just went through training. We are still waiting on the department of labor to complete the audit of our books. In 2017, management abolished our Tour 1 automation section. Due to Covid we did not have any arbitrations. We are meeting on this arbitration next week. Maintenance stewards, we do not have enough. We need someone on tour 1 and 3 at the Annex. The Par sheets have been updated and customer service custodial jobs will all have consecutive days off. Those employees that are impacted should receive a notice.

Vice President's Report: Thank You to Diep and Rachael, along with Mike and Kishna, for becoming stewards. Mike is up at the Rockford AO. If you know of anyone who wants to be a steward, please let Amy know. Line H has been settled by Greg at the GMF. The Annex will be going up to step 3, I'm just waiting on the denial. The staffing package for maintenance is waiting for area approval. The OPMS grievance arbitration was cancelled last year due to Covid. It is tentatively on the docket to be scheduled for March or April.

Recording Secretary's Report: Thank You to everyone who got out and voted in the November election, I'm sure it will not be forgotten for years to come. The Dems maintained control of the House and took back control of the Senate. This is hopefully good news for the US Postal Service as the USPS Fairness Act Bill S145 and HR695 has been re-introduced. If passed, this would eliminate the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 which requires the Postal Service to prefund Retirees health care 75 years in advance. This financial burden has contributed to 92% of the US Postal Service's losses since 2007. This would be a huge step in allowing the Postal Service to be a sustainable service and move forward with expanding our services to our customers. More information is available at www.apwu.org. Your COPA dollars have been working hard for you and your APWU family. Please continue to contribute!

Clerk Craft (A) Director Report: When you fill out statements, we need who, when, where, what, witnesses and for how long. It is hard to determine how many hours management performed clerk work at the P-2 this past Christmas. We do not have enough information on our statements. If we have complete statements it will help us get more hours for our settlements. Management has taken the attitude that they are just going to pay grievances for 204b's. Management is choosing to still keep them up. We need to know what building and what section these 204B's are working in.

Clerk Craft (B) Director Report: When management put out prime time and prime choice selections for the stations, they forget to include the week's of November 15-30th and the week between Christmas and New Years. If you have been denied, for those selections, you need to resubmit and if you get denied again, you need to get a hold of your steward. We do not have any information on getting the Covid shots. You can go on line at Meijer, the county health department, your health care providers facility etc. to get registered.

Maintenance Craft Director Report: Position is currently Vacant

Motor Vehicle Craft Report: The APWU website has a link for MVS. It has new information on the cost comparison for PBS and the Care act. See website for more information. Do not sign anything that says Care on the top of it. We lost Alison as she transferred out to maintenance. We just hired a new PTF and are looking to get another. We have recently settled some cross craft and

HCR grievances.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee- The committee met on January 29, 2021. The committee included Chair Linda Chandler, Lisa Stockdale and Cory Fox. The committee reviewed and audited the financial records for the calendar year 2020 of the WMAL. Items included bank accounts, charge accounts and request for reimbursements and membership meeting minutes. There were two check stubs that were stapled to 1 reimbursement voucher instead of being stapled to each individual voucher. One mileage log listed the miles and the rate, but no total amount owed. When calculated, the total on the check paid out equaled the correct amount to be paid. There was a statement that did not have the check number on it, but the check stub was attached. There was a mileage log that did not have the check number on it, but the check stub was attached. A bond is required by the department of labor. Our bond has been increased from \$250,000 to \$450,000 to cover the assets of the WMAL.

Motion made by Mike Long, seconded by David Janes to accept the committees report as read.

Budget Committee- The committee met on January 6, 2021. The committee included Chair Linda Chandler, Lisa Borchardt, Michelle Mack and Amy Puhalski; Mike Long was absent. The budget report is available if you want to read it. The budget was \$250,000 for 2020. The budget committee discussed to increase the budget to \$275,000. We added monies to conferences, conventions and seminars. We added monies to membership public relations. We added monies to printing and publications.

Motion by Lisa Borchardt, seconded by David Janes that the WMAL at the General Membership meeting on February 7, 2021 approved as an authorization for the expenditure of funds from the Local treasurer, the budget, reported by the Budget committee on February 7, 2021. 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

A and E :

The Christmas card order was delivered late along with the return address labels from the printer. They did not get mailed out last year, so we have them for this year's Christmas.

Correspondence: Thank You cards from retiree Phil Edwards and Linda Yarnott. Thank You card from Melissa Castillo's family. Thank You letter from Phil and Beth Maddox for our donation to Pennies for Parkinson's. Thank You letter from Paula Nelson for our donation to West Michigan Therapy Dog's.

Old/Unfinished Business:

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E-Board Recommendations: Motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the APWU Auxiliary Fisher House.
Carried

Labor Management: Let Amy or your Craft Director know if you have anything.

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: Andrew Goedel (If he was at the meeting he would have won).

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$120.00 collected, \$60.00 to David Janes, the winner.

Five \$20.00 Dollar Door Prizes: *When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done; When 40 or more are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

1.#11 Linda chandler	2.#19 Jodie Minda	3.#29 Chris Fisher
4.#20 Amy Puhalski	5.#13 Todd Hodges	6.#5 Hattie Mitchell
7.#12 Michael Greene	8.#3 Lisa Borchardt	9.#10 Suzi Boyd
10.#2 David Janes	11.# Cory Fox	12.# Diep Huynh

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm seconded, Carried
Respectfully Submitted,



Suzi Boyd
Recording Secretary