

**Western Michigan Area Local #281**  
**American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO**  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 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
Recording Secretary-Suzi Boyd	Maintenance Craft Director-Vacant
Treasurer-Linda Chandler	Clerk Craft Director (B) David Janes
Sergeant at Arms – Todd Hodges	

The following officers were absent: Vice President- Michelle Mack and Motor Vehicle Craft Director- Chris Fisher

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** Motion by David Janes, seconded by Lisa Borchardt to accept the September 12, 2021 General Membership Meetings. Carried

**Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):** Welcome to the Western Michigan Area Local! Taurean Gordon, Natasha Gray, Zhao Xiaomeng, Joyce Crawford, Victoria Rivera, Liza Person, Kevin Paniwozik, Doris Bethany, Harris Martinez, Joeline, Emanalander, Michelle Rasnake, Jhontia Jones, Jesse Domina, Ashley Keena, Shaquille Sumrell, Bich Ha Hang, Dianen Rozanski, Dominique Ogunseye, Michelle Owens, Christopher Yang, Brittney Edwards, Brandy Reid, Jalen Stovall, Stacy Merchant, Anthony Estrada-Pinzon, Jean Yavo, Phylcia Walker, James Singell, Nika Smith, Aaliyah Mcneely, Shauna Wheeler, Kenneth Maxon, Helen Kim, Srijana Khadka, Kayla Wilkins, Daisuke Jimenez, Nhan Truong, Travis Kole, Takiyah Briggs, Arianna Holmes, Kiara Carter, Mariah Wilkins, Christopher Paige, Cindy Andrews, Armando Pierce, Ray McCurry, Xiaorong, Wen, Tonya Pasma, Joshua Vennard, Veronica Griffin, Marianna Jones, Stasia Anderson, Lin Wang, Janae Johnson, Margie Bentley, Jerome Richardson, Tiffany Houseman, William Umlor, Joel Crawford, Isaiah Crawford.

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Reports**

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

**President's Report:** Peak season is coming, and management is saying that there are enough PSE's hired and we are hoping that those that don't want to work 7-12's aren't going to have to. At the PSA (Parcel Sort Annex) building, the SIPS machine has been installed and has been awarded to the clerk craft. Management is stating they do not want to post jobs at the PSA, but we are grieving for expeditor jobs to posted. We do not know who will be awarded the rover (robot) jobs. We are working on getting stewards over to the PSA building to stay on top of what is going on there. Management doing your work, is management taking away hours that go towards bid jobs. We still have a lot of 204b violations

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in the Grand Rapids installations. If you have a 204B in an AO please let me or Lisa know. There is not any work, in the GR installation that is managements work. Management is not allowed to perform clerk work. If you see this going on, you need to ask for a steward. This is our work. There have been issues with management assigning PSE's to perform cross craft work. If you see this happening, ask for a Steward. The Social and Rec committee was discussed with management via zoom. We have reinitiated this committee and we are starting to plan events for next year and giving back to the employees. Logistic solicitation: there has been a posting hung up for PSE's to work in Logistics; this is improper, and there has been a national dispute filed. I am waiting to hear from headquarters to direct me at the local level. I have asked management to have a health fair and I have reached out to the NALC and Mail Handler unions as well. We are waiting to hear. Retirements are up across the nation; it is taking about 6 months for processing. We had an A & E committee meeting to discuss new events for next year, for our members. We are thinking of a Casino trip in February, but waiting to see how covid pans out. We will be doing a covid style Christmas party this year that will be a drive up. Keep your eye on the bulletin boards for the flyer to be posted. We again, will be doing a random drawing for gift cards as a way to give back to the membership. OSHA came out with a 400 page report stating the vaccine mandate does include postal workers. This is being checked into at the national level. We will keep you updated.

**Recording Secretary's Report:** Thank You for being here tonight. The clerk craft conference was held via zoom. An update on contract negotiations was given by President Dimondstein. They feel like they were making progress, so they are keeping negotiations going in hopes of getting a contract that will take care of everyone. The APWU is the only postal union that kept the full COLA with the last one being .93 cents an hour; which is more than what some of our contract raises have been. This is what your union does for you. Union begins with U, so instead of complaining about what the union does for me, "You" are the union, so get involved. Attend the union meetings, volunteer to be on a committee, sign up a new member and receive \$50 bucks. Voting Rights at the Federal level: The People Act HR1/ S1 passed in the house in March. We need this to pass in the Senate. This bill would expand voter registration, vote by mail and absentee ballots. If passed, this bill would override state level restrictions. Please call your representative at 1-844-402-1001 and urge them to support this bill. More info at [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org). Please remember to donate to COPA!

**Clerk Craft (A) Director Report:** The Health plan open season is Nov 8- Dec 13. APWU insurance plans did not go up for the third year. We do have some booklets in the union office. I went to the PSA building. They do not have very many clerks or mail handlers there as of now. Most likely, management will wait to start using the rovers when peak season starts. The number of 204b's has went down at P-campus. Holiday grievances have been grieved. It has been hard to meet with the step 1 class action designee. I am working on about 25 of them. If there is something wrong with holiday posting, like the sign up sheet not up on time or not up at all, Let us know.

**Clerk Craft (B) Director Report:** 204b's in the stations are different than in the plant. We can have them in the carrier craft, but they are not allowed to give direction to the clerks. Please let us know if you see them in your office directing clerks or if they are performing clerk work. There have been several pay outs lately for these violations. Once you are a successful bidder or converted into a position with a scheme, you need to notify training to get your scheme to begin training. Make sure you get your scheme time to study on the clock if converted or placed into the bid.

**Maintenance Craft Director Report:** (Position is currently Vacant) However, update of maintenance items: Line H is the amount of hours custodians have for cleaning. It starts Oct 1 thru Sept. 30. Greg

Carlson is handling the Line H at the main office and Joe Hall is handling it at the P campus. Melissa Thomas is handling it at the stations and branches and Michelle and I are handling the AO's. I am handling the class action for management enforcing that the maintenance craft has to take a lunch. We have extended the posting for the Maintenance Craft Director until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sergeant at Arms Report:** We have a new mechanic at the VMF they should start within the next month.

**Committee Reports:** A&E committee was discussed in Amy's report.

**Correspondence:** Thank you letter from Phil and Beth Maddox for our donation to Pennies for Parkinson.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None

**E-Board Recommendations:**

Michael Greene to become the Editor of the WMAL Voice Newsletter as of Jan 1, 2022. Carried

To expend up to \$10,000.00 for the kids Christmas party and gift cards for the members. Gifts cards to be issued in increments of \$25.00 and will be a random drawing, for members in good standing. 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 Attendance at Meeting Drawing:** #581 *Ron Perrin* (If he was at the meeting, he would have won).

**COPA:** 50/50 Drawing: \$148.00 collected; \$74.00 to Amy Puhalski, 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. #16 Irene Erickson
2. #17 Michael Greene
3. #13 Todd Hodges
4. #21 Kyle Hadley
5. #7 Suzi Boyd
6. #8 Jeanne Davenport
7. #4 Tonya Pasma

**Ten \$25.00 Gift Cards for Thanksgiving**

1. #3 Lisa Borchardt
2. #12 Amy Puhalski

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3. #1 Dana Mclean
4. #25 Natasha Johnson
5. #5 Lisa Wilson
6. #14 Linda Chandler
7. #10 Hattie Mitchell
8. #15 Heather Giardina
9. # 1 Ann Hill Graves
10. #26 Geraldine Davis

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm seconded, Carried  
Respectfully Submitted,



Suzi Boyd  
Recording Secretary