

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm 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	Vice President-Michelle Mack
Recording Secretary-Awanda Jennings	Treasurer-Linda Chandler
Clerk Craft Director A- Suzi Boyd	Clerk Craft Director B-Ameka Jones
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Chris Fisher	Sergeant at Arms-Todd Hodges

The Following Officers were Absent- Maintenance Craft Director-Jennifer McKinnon

Review of previous meeting's minutes:

Motion by Mike Long, seconded by David Janes to accept the April 1, 2023, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried.

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

Jasmine Jones, Sahyrah Hairston, L’Nai Sanford, Dawn Smith, Daves Septer, Karie Thomas, Aaron Davis. Welcome New Members of the WMAL!

Bills: None

Officer’s Reports

Treasurer’s Report: Report ending April 30, 2023, was read. Motioned. Carried

President’s Report: Annual leave carryover for leave year 2024, the maximum number of hours that can be carried over will be 520 hours. The campaign for hostile work environment, everyone should have received the surveys by now, if you have not received it, please let me or your union steward know, as well as ask around in your office to the members so we can get them out to you. Please fill them out and mail them back in the postage paid envelope. If necessary, we will come and pick them up for those that do not have the prepaid envelope and do not want to pay for postage. This lets headquarters know what is going on, we tell them at a local level, but this will allow them to address it at their level.


Reversions we are still getting them on the clerk side we just received three more with a total of fifteen in the last six weeks.

Reversions are hard to win they are vacated jobs that management decided they no longer need. Management provides the proposed reversions to the union; the union gives input prior to the reversion and normally management then continues to revert. We will file grievances if we can show the work hours under the language in the contract. Work hours matter and folks need to come to work to show the work hours. I foresee the reversions to continue coming.

The Michigan Educational Seminar is coming up in Kalamazoo, MI. We have 16 stewards and officers that will be attending so we will be able to bring back some more information to better represent the members. Last week we had steward training which went very well, there were 22 stewards in attendance.

Postal Pulse Survey are being sent; we encourage members not to fill it out and to just give them to your union stewards simply because postal management can use some of the information against us during negotiations, for example if an employee says I love the job that management does. As an incentive there will be **Five \$100 drawings** in December.

Congratulations to Shane Reynolds from the GMF on his Retirement!

Congratulations to Kwynn Tillman who graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. 

Central Regional Coordinator Position is vacant Sharon Stone retired. I have submitted my name for this position, and if I am appointed to this position I will resign as Local President, I just wanted to share with my members. So, if I get it, I will transition everything over to Michelle by the end of June, then her position would need to be posted, and the board would have to appoint that position. I just wanted to be transparent with you all.

Executive Vice-President's- Labor/Custodial award that is going to be grieved. I believe Rich had appointed a mail handler improperly when there were clerks on the register at the end of April. A couple of reversions for four 3 automation that's at step 2 presently, and because of the reversions they have cut back the pse's hours they have them working four days a week 7 hours a day which is now causing a lot of displacement.

Recording Secretary's Report: Just again commenting on Postal pulse surveys coming out in the mail.

Clerk Craft - A Report: Thank you to the stewards that attended the training this past week, worked on some new information out that some may or may not have ever come across some of the discipline aspects of it, which I thought went well. Still working on reversions there's five of them that I have two more are coming down I'm still at step 2 on those. Still working on a settlement pse vs otdl that the payout for 1 day the value was about \$4,000 for 2 pay periods, so if she doesn't settle, I'll just send it up to arbitration.

Clerk Craft -B Report. Reversions three were on the floor, two of them have been denied the other one is still at step 2 we are going to reexamine that one and try to change the hours. Then there is another reversion for the end of May hopefully we do not lose that one because we need those jobs and the ones that we're denied we will send to step 3.

Management is still doing our work when this is happening, write a statement we need to know when, where, names, and how long it was. This is our job and we do not want management to take this away from us.

Do not just place them in Interoffice envelopes we found a tub from August of 2021, or sending texts because they just get misplaced.

Article 17- Ask for your steward it is management's responsibility to obtain a steward for you within 2 hours of your request. It is not your job to go look for one.

Maintenance Craft Report: None

Motor Vehicle Craft Report: Grievances we have settled the overtime one. We now have the transporting grievances which are implant support employees that will go to step 2 as well, because Maria denies almost everything. We have two runs up for bid right now which come down May 14th PTF's hoping they go residual. There's new language Article 39 after it goes residual, they have 28 days to convert the senior PTF.

Our scanning scores were the best around, so they brought in a trophy. Last two weekends in a row Detroit have used the MVS drivers to bring mail from the metroplex or NDC to Grand Rapids.

The APPS is supposed to be going down this week, the PSA will reopen to run the SIPS, which will be staffed with pse's. The Union agreed to have management post a volunteer sign-up sheet for Expeditors and SWYB employees to go over for 1 week.

Will get the A&E committee together soon to talk about some summer events.

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

Drawings

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing: (If Mathew Jeknavorian was at this meeting, he would have won!) The Extra drawing winner was Dana Mclean.

COPA: Suzi Boyd 50/50 Drawing: \$180.00 collected. \$90.00 to the winner.

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. # 7 Michelle Mack
2. # 27 Lisa Stockdale
3. # 25 Mike Long
5. # 3 Jodie Minda
6. # 23 Suzi Boyd
7. # 28 Kwynn Tillman
8. # 17 Dana Mclean

Motioned by Mike Long seconded Suzi Boyd to adjourn the meeting at 2:42pm. Carried.
Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary