

***Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO***
General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm 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 - Michelle Mack	Clerk Craft Director A - Absent
Vice President - Michael Long	Clerk Craft Director B - Ameka Jones
Recording Secretary – Absent	Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Chris Fisher
Treasurer - Linda Chandler	Maintenance Craft Director - Jennifer McKinnon
	Sergeant at Arms - Todd Hodges

The Following Officers were Absent: Recording Secretary – Awanda Jennings & Clerk Craft Director A – Suzi Boyd

Review of previous meeting’s minutes: Motion by Michael Long to accept the May 4, 2024, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Ameka Jones. Carried

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Jody Herman; Lynn Francis; Misty Payne. Welcome New Members to the Local

Bills: None

Officer’s Reports

Treasurer’s Report: Report ending May 31, 2024, was read. Motion to accept report as read by Michael Long, Seconded by Jodie Minda. Carried.

President’s Report:

Membership Appreciation. Was a good turnout. Thank you to those who came out and celebrated.

Step 1 Settlement on Ground Advantage at the Annex. Thank you to Suzi Boyd for fixing an error that labor created.

Badge and Timecard grievance is being appeal to Step 3.

I completed my last week at the APWU Leadership Institute and graduated on May 16th. There is a huge push by National for Locals to get more actively involved in pushing new services for Clerks to be doing. The Postal Reform Act of 2022 allows us to do Local, State, Federal, and Tribal services. However, thus far we have not seen any movement towards new services rolling out from USPS. All of us that graduated from the Leadership Institute have been tasked with reaching out to our Local leaders,

city council, state leaders for support to advocate for our clerks in branches and AOs to be able to do local, state, and federal services. Those might include TSA pre-check, signing up for food stamps/assistance, paying local utilities, state park passes, student loans, possibly a Wi-Fi hub/services...etc. This is just a brief list and if you have ideas please share them with me.

I have a meeting scheduled with Tom Stephenson. He is Gary Peter's Western Michigan Regional Coordinator on June 6th next week. I will be asking for his assistance and Gary Peter's support in moving forward to get more work for clerks in Grand Rapids and our Associate offices. I will also be communicating our concerns of delayed mail, toxic work environment, and DeJoy's disastrous 10-year plan and the harm it is doing to public support for our Postal Service. I have also been working with National at the Leadership Institute and a local company to upgrade our website and build an app. There is an eboard recommendation that will be read for the membership to pass. This will help to upgrade our website, upgrade security, create an app for the Local that is user friendly and allows instant access to fillable documents, contracts, and other useful information. It will all be linked together. I'm asking for your support in moving forward to improve our Local's ability to reach the younger members and improve our technology.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

Thank you to those that turned out for the Appreciation picnic today. Also, a big thank you for those who have signed up as a new member since the drive started in April. We are on target to meet our goal. Don't stop now though, remember until June 24, 2024, every member you sign up you will receive a \$100 bounty along with items from the HQ (Shirt, Mug, or Lunch Bag)

No Lunch Grievance – Step 2. Meeting on it this week. Will keep membership abreast.

Started using the Electronic Grievance System. Will be rolling it out to stewards at the training in the fall. Wanted to get a good grasp on it before we started using it.

Clerk Craft -B Report:

Supervisors asking FMLA questions and Counseling of employees – It is none of their business. FMLA goes through HRSSC (Shared Services in Greensboro NC) and EAP is private and covered under HIPPA laws. The only thing the counselor could tell management is if you showed up (and only if the session was on the clock).

Maintenance Craft Report:

Line H for the Stations and Branches – getting ready. Management has not shown any interest in sitting down to go over the numbers midway through the year in an attempt to avoid issues at the end of the year.

Staffing packages. Going over the AO packages and looking at items that were missed, not included, or blatantly wrong (e.g. Parking lot or building size, etc.)

Motor Vehicle Craft Report:

Transporting mail – People are doing it on their way home or such. This is wrong. The only people who are supposed to transport mail between facilities is MVS. Mail is so light; how come management cannot still make the deadlines to get it on the trucks. Warning to people transporting the mail too – if you get in an accident while transporting the mail, and you do not have a rider on your policy that says you use your vehicle for business purposes, there is a good chance your insurance won't cover your accident.

Still hiring drivers. In 2008, we had twenty-seven drivers; today we are at 31 and still hiring.

DSI Training – have people down in Ohio training people how to drive trucks and be a DSI trainer.

Sergeant at Arms Report:

Hiring two more mechanics. Loretta (the VMF manager) is no longer at the VMF.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendation:

Motion to send Suzi Boyd and Jennifer McKinnon to the Health Plan Seminar in October 2024 with Lost Time, Registration, Lodging, Per Diem, Parking, Transportation. Carried.

Motion by: Ameka Jones, seconded by Chris Fisher to change the pricing of the Union Hall Rental to start in 2025. Member – \$300 deposit & \$350 rental; Non-Member - \$400 deposit, \$1000 rental, \$100 Agent Fee; Non-Profit – No change. Carried.

Union Shirts – to expend up to \$20,000 to purchase T-Shirts for all current members and purchase extras for the new members when they are voted into the local. Discussion. Carried,

Parking Lot at the Union Hall – Motion to expend up to 106,000 to replace the parking lot at the union hall (through A1 Asphalt). Discussion. Carried,

Motion to expend up to \$15000 to develop a new app and a new website for the local. Discussion. Carried.

Motion to send Brittany Thompson to the APWU Pre-Convention workshop and the Clerk Craft Conference with Lost Time, Registration, Lodging, Per Diem, and applicable taxes. (She is going to the convention from the state). Discussion. Carried.

Motion to donate \$1,000 to the Melvin Sugar McGlothen Basketball Camp – August 6-8, 2024. Discussion. Carried.

Motion to cover the expenditure of sending flowers to the funerals of Glen Floyd and Lori Schimke. Carried.

Motion to send the Vice-President to the National President's Conference in Albany, NY (October 18 – 22, 2024) with Lost Time, Registration, Lodging, Airfare (and 1 checked bag), Transportation, Per Diem, and Parking. Carried.

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: #302 – Tasha Patterson (she was at the meeting!!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$150.00 collected. \$75.00 to the winner, Leslie Stugerson

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).

- #10 – Jodie Minda
- #7 – Michelle Mack
- #14 – Linda Chandler
- #16 – David Chacon
- #15 – Michael Greene
- #17 – Mary Chacon
- #30 – Tasha Patterson

Motioned by Michael Long, seconded by Ameka Jones to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Awanda Jennings



Recording Secretary

NOTE: There will be no meetings for the months of July/August. See you in September, enjoy your summer.