

***Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO***

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 –Michael Long	Clerk Craft Director A– Suzi Boyd
Executive Vice-President –David Janes	Maintenance Craft Director – Jennifer McKinnon
Treasurer – Linda Chandler	Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Absent
Recording Secretary-Awanda Jennings	Clerk Craft Director B – Ameka Jones
Sergeant at Arms-Todd Hodges	

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

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion to accept by David Janes, seconded by Tasha Patterson. May 31, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership)

Cody Stallings Kaila Morrill Shequinnia Williams
Welcome new members of the WMAL!

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending May 31, 2025, was read. Motion to accept by Brittany Thompson, seconded by Dana Mclean. Carried.

President's Report

Discipline –I cannot keep stressing this enough. You have 14 days upon receipt of the discipline to file a grievance; we do not get any additional time above that. Arbitrators have already ruled that it's when the carrier puts it in your mailbox is when the time starts. If you do not check your mail or update your address that is on you your time starts from the time it reaches your last known address that is when the time starts.

Some employees in Traverse City notified me, so I did put it on our Facebook page, that they were having issues with LWOP on the paychecks from the last pay period that they did not know was coming so make sure to look at your checks and if you see any issues please let a steward know so we can do some research on it.

We have notebooks in the union office you're welcome to pick one up. Write it down, if you see management doing our work, mail handlers doing bargaining work and if you can get someone else to initial it collaborating the statement. That way when we see it and file the grievance, we can say it was witnessed by others.

We had a job summit today that Suzi and I attended and there will be a lot of jobs going up on the next bid cycle. A lot of them will be 7:30 am at the annex, and 6:30 am downtown.

We just had the Berlin Raceway on Saturday, we only had 28 people show up out of 700 members and it was a free event. It was a \$20 deposit, and you got it back. We need to get people to show up!

We have a Murder Mystery Dinner coming up, if we don't offer something people complain and when we do, they don't show up. Do you have any ideas to help rectify this?

Executive Vice-President's Report:

We are getting some awards paid out for our lead clerks for TACS inputs.

Recording Secretary: Management continues to hand out discipline, but people don't seem to ask for their steward. We are NOT told when discipline is issued, that is up to you to let the union know.

Clerk Craft Report A:

The job summit that Mike and I attended was that the Saturday/Sunday, Sunday/Monday jobs are being switched over to midday week off, Tuesday/Wednesday, Wednesday/Thursday, Thursday/Friday. Staffing they are saying they need more people there on the weekends with the RTO and it's changing the mail. So, if you have a weekend off job you may want to keep it. Don't take early outs, it does affect your job and others as well along with work hours.

H.R1, the one big, beautiful bill they wanted to take away the FERS annuity supplement for the people who retire before the age of 62, they wanted to increase your contributions towards your retirement up to 4.4% of your income, and they wanted to replace their high 3's to a 5. So, they did take the high 3's to the high 5 out of that bill but they are keeping and fighting to get rid of the FERS supplement, (if you go at 58 you will get supplemented until you are 62 for example). So, you can call 1- 844-402-1001 you will get a recording, put in your zip code you want to keep the Protect the FERS Annuity Supplement.

Reminder, we do not have meetings for the Months of July/August so everybody enjoy your summer, see you in September.

Clerk Craft Director B: Have heard management is going to attempt to change our schedules in the stations. The union hasn't notified yet, which is required per the CBA.

Maintenance craft Director: Line H for fiscal year 2024 are starting to get paid out if you have not seen some of it already. I will say the ones for Ledyard, Centerpointe, and East Paris are not being paid out at this time, they will be paid out at a later date. It will possibly be two different checks.

I'm meeting at Step 1 in Big Rapids, Rodney, and Paris for emergency checks apparently, they are not being done monthly like they are supposed to be. If they are not being done at your stations, please let me know so I can get a grievance started on that.

I also have an issue with the Newago office subcontracting lawn when it's not on their staffing package. If you notice subcontracting being done at the AO's, please let me know so I can look into it.

Sergeant at Arms: If you are in the stations and you notice the LLVs being picked up or dropped off by someone else, please let Todd know.

Committee Report: A & E Committee we need people to participate.

We are also considering having the Children's Christmas party early this year, due to being mandated last year.

If anyone has any ideas for any type of function, please let us know, you can email Mike Long mpwueditor@yahoo.com, Suzi Boyd wmalccd@att.net, or one of the A&E members.

Correspondence:

Thank you, the card was read from Dana McLean.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Motion by David Janes to change the order of business to allow Eric Chornoby to speak to the members. Seconded by Dana McLean, Carried.

Eric Chornoby I'm a technical advisor in arbitration for both business agents James Stevenson and Devendra Rathorn. I was acting President for the Michigan Postal Workers Union last year temporarily, I'm the Executive Secretary of the MPWU, I'm the Editor of the 480-481 area local.

We all care about the same thing; we care about the fact that our grievances can take years to get settled. I know in my local area I have had someone out on a removal for 2 1/2 years. And I will be blunt that is an easy way it shouldn't take that long. We cannot get local advisors, or arbitration advocates. We'll send people to arbitration training that will not get selected to be used.

It does not matter how hard we work as stewards, for the stewards that are here if we don't settle when we send it up it can sit there indefinitely, we need to change that. That is why I decided to run. We need someone that is willing to put in the work and the time to clear the backlog and try to get the settlements we need to enforce our contract, especially during these troubling times. I would appreciate any support and everyone's vote. Any questions you can email me at chornoby@apwu480.com

E-Board Recommendations:

Motion to send the Editor to the Postal Press Conference, July 29 -August 1, 2025, in Altoona Iowa with Lost time, transportation, per diem, hotel, registration, and applicable taxes.

Motion to send Jennifer Rizzon and one other to the APWU Health Plan conference, October 18 – 22, 2025 in Tempe, Arizona with lost time, parking, transportation (to and from the airport at home and in Arizona), Registration, Hotel, Per Diem, Hotel, Registration, and applicable taxes.

Motion to send up to three people (who are already going to the All-Craft conference) to the Secretary-Treasurer training (to include Fiduciary Responsibility) associated with the All-Craft conference, with Lost time, Registrations, Hotel, per diem, airfare, and applicable taxes.

Motion to send up to three people (who is already going to the All-Craft conference) to the 35 with lost time, registration, hotel, and per diem and Under conference in associated with the All-Craft conference, with the All-Craft conference, with lost time, registration, hotel, and per diem – October 3 – 5, 2025.

Motion to send the Recording Secretary and one other to the 2025 Legislative and Political Conference (who is already going to the All-Craft conference) in associated with All-Craft

conference, with lost time, registration, hotel, and per diem – October 5, 2025.

Motion to expend up to \$500 to have ten (10) drawings of \$50 each (names to be drawn randomly by the company doing the count for the National election.

Motion to send Dana McLean to the POWER conference – August 5 – 10, 2025 with Registration, airfare, transportation, to and from airport (home and destination), per diem, lodging and applicable taxes.

Motion to donate \$1000 to the Melvin “Sugar” Mclaughlin Basketball Camp August 5, 6, 7, 2025 at East Kentwood High School Grades 5 -12. Carried.

Motion by Ricky Jackson, seconded by Tasha Patterson for the September meeting there will be 15 \$20 drawings and 3 \$250 this will include the months of July/August. Carried.

New Business: None

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

We are still looking for an Editor if you are interested, please let me know.

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 #313 Krystal Mosher (If she was at this meeting, she would have won!)

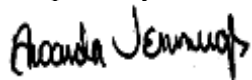
COPA: 50/50 Drawing: 142.00 total collected. 71.00 to the winner – David Janes

Five (5) - Twenty (\$20.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policies. 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).

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. # 02 David Janes* | 5. # 09 Jennifer McKinnon* |
| 2. # 03 Ronald Nelson | 6. # 16 Suzi Boyd* |
| 3. # 04 Awanda Jennings* | 7. # 18 Ann Hill-Graves |
| 4. # 07 Brittany Thompson | 8. # 23 Mike Long* |
| 9. # 28 Danyal Laskey | 10. # 30 Tyshanica Patterson |

Motioned to adjourn at 7:10 pm by Tasha Patterson seconded by Brittany Thompson. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary