

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2025

The 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 –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 – Chris Fisher
Recording Secretary-Awanda Jennings	Clerk Craft Director B – Absent
Sergeant at Arms-Absent	

The following officers were absent: Clerk Craft Director B – Ameka Jones, Sergeant at Arms-Todd Hodges

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion to accept the date was posted incorrectly on the website and board stated May 8 but it should have been June 6, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership)

Brian Thompson	Walter Kiefer	Cody Stallings	Kaila Morrill
Alponse Bowelson	Mark Manion	Jose Lopez	Leslie Brown
Scott McKinley	Donna Cox	Jeffrey Cowley	Mandy McNamara
Jacob Graham	Jennifer Gray	James Gleason	Cindy Andrews
Welcome new members of the WMAL!			

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Linda Chandler, Seconded by Rachel Hutchinson to move the report to next month due to issue with QuickBooks. Carried.

President's Report

We have a new contract that is now in effect it was signed and ratified on July 11, 2025. Look at the WMAL Voice for highlights.

The ten (10) winners that Arbitration voting pulled were as follows: Awanda Jennings, Tiffany Guzek, Joshua Reed, Kyrstal Huffman, Joseph Schneider, Kyle Hadley, Mikayla Hayes, Richard Priedits, Stephanie Summers, Sean Hoek. We will also be having the same contest when the National Elections are held later this month for those who submit their ballot and vote.

We are in the new payroll cycle now since as of August 22, 2025, was the new stop date so anything prior to that is what they are going to start doing our backpay calculations on, from this month forward if you notice online, we have our new pay rates as of this paycheck coming up on 9/12/25.

We also have our new COLA which is \$811, which is effective on the next paycheck, which is another \$.43. A lot of raises are coming up.

The VFW wanted to share that if you are a veteran and would like help with your disability rating to let them know. One of the benefits to joining. Furthermore, there is a contest the VFW is holding now for a grill. See an officer for details.

Maintenance was told all the machines were pretty much going to stop running mail at midnight or sooner (due to the RTO and mail processing schedule changing), but management is changing Maintenance window on the machines downtown. Because of that they want to switch all the maintenance downtown by almost 2 ½ hours. The start times at the P-Campus are staying the same, but Preventative maintenance windows are also changing. One thing is that Maintenance Mechanics will no longer be on Tour 2 since all the PM routes will be primarily on Tour 1.

Discussion about live streaming of the union meeting and becoming a union steward. Live Streaming is addressed in the policies. For becoming a steward - National and local constitution states you may not have been in an EAS higher-level position in the preceding 12-month period. Furthermore, attendance is looked at - If you are the primary steward and you are not here how can you represent the membership; we need people that are going to be here.

Parking-They are reestablishing the parking committee downtown. More info to come.

eRMS input from on the customer service side has been taken away from the lead clerks we will be addressing it, management is saying that you should be able to put the leave into TACS this is one of the issues that has been coming down. We have information from HQ saying otherwise.

Be sure to keep looking for the canvassing for those that are PTF and PSE's in the office's that are trying to get converted to career or full time.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

Still doing grievances for manual inputs and the Erms inputs for all the leads there doesn't seem like there is stopping anything. I don't anticipate them giving up that work they are trying to take from us still and I will fight them every step of the way.

With the Associate Offices I have a couple of cases that will be going to arbitrations. One of these is where there are no city carriers, just rural carriers, there is APWU represent craft and a 204b who is a ptf's so there is no job to take away from them so I'll have the NBA's take a look at that and see if we can recapture some of that work.

Steward training-I did make myself available for the four (4) hours for anyone that wanted to get some specific training, I had two stewards show up. We want you to be stronger and be able to defend yourself and the membership against management and their actions. I'm here for you. If you want to become a steward I'm begging you, just come and learn your contract, learn how to fight.

Dispatchers level 7 vs reliefs -The general expeditor relief would only go on the Dock or Expedite once all level 7's have been placed first and if there are any openings.

Recording Secretary: Management continues to hand out discipline, and people are not asking for their steward. We are NOT told when discipline is issued that it is up to you to let the union know.

We have 14 days to file a grievance, please do not wait until the 14th day to let us know you received a Letter of Warning, or a Suspension. We need time to submit the RFI to get the documents and to review them.

Clerk Craft Report A: I see a lot of new faces here tonight so thanks for coming out. The grievances for p-campus for the holidays last December for custodians, mail handlers, supervisors doing clerk are going to arbitration they were not settled at Step 2 or at Step 3 so I have no idea how long that will take for those to be heard.

We had an issue over the last couple of weeks; we had an employee who was absent from work 7-10 days come into work and was told that they could not punch into work because they needed medical clearance to return to the building. This is from the ELM if you are gone more than 3 days management has a right to ask for documentation if you want to be paid to put in your sick leave for you, but they do not have a right to tell you that you cannot come back to work because they suspect for whatever reason because you were gone more than 3 days you maybe injurious to yourself or others or you may not be able to perform the duties of your job, of they think you may have had something contagious, so they are worried about the safety of your coworkers.

Return to duty after a medical absence clearance required – All bargaining unit employees and non-bargaining unit employees returning from non-FMLA absences the decision to return an employee to work rest with management, management can require employees who have been absent due to an illness, injury, medical procedure, surgery, hospitalization to submit documentation in order clear the return to work when management has reasonable belief based upon reliable objective information that the employee may not be able to perform the essential function of their position or the employee may pose a direct threat to health and or safety to himself or others due to that medical condition. So, if this happens contact your steward and we will file a grievance.

Clerk Craft Director B: Absent

Maintenance Craft Director: Working on the grievance for emergency system at the stations and branches and all of Western Michigan District they are not doing the checks like they are supposed to do every month, I'm at Step 2 on this.

I also have a grievance for Newaygo for the lawn care it is still at Step 2 hopefully we can come to an agreement.

I was informed that Line H for 2023 and prior are currently being looked at for settling; they are trying to settle those cases as quickly as possible so hopefully that will be soon. Will update when I have more information.

Motor Vehicle Craft Director: Motor vehicle there has been a lot of change and growth; that is a good thing. So, a little bit of history on that, 5 years ago when I picked up the schedule our compliment was twenty-eight (28) that would have included our clerk. Right before the insourcing they raised it to thirty-eight (38) and it has been changing ever since. We have so many drivers now I don't know what we are going to do with them all. Five years ago, we had twenty-five (25) drivers on our roster right now we have 48, five years ago 23 runs right now we have 35 and it's going to go up from my understanding.

All the grievances that were filed have been settled just waiting on the pay.

Dispatchers you do not have to fall into supervisors' fake emergencies, you can move trailers one trailer at a time. Whatever you do, do it safely.

Sergeant at Arms. Absent

Committee Report: A &E- If you want to step up and help on a committee, we need people. I posted about the Murder Mystery no one emailed me to see if there was interest. We need to know about the Kids Christmas party as well.

Correspondence: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

E-Board Recommendations: Motion to appointed Brian Thompson to the Editor of WMAL Voice. Carried.

Motion to appoint Michael Long, Suzi Boyd, Rachael Hutchinson, Diep Huynh to the 2026-2028 Election Committee moved by Suzi Boyd, seconded by Linda Chandler. Carried.

New Business:

Eric Chonorby has offered to teach the young members some classes, and he will help anyone that is interested please contact Britany Thompson.

Make a Motion by Amy Puhalski seconded by Brittany Thompson to support the following candidate for National Office of the APWU with the upcoming election

MVS -Michael Mize National Business Agent. Carried.

Clerk National Business Agent- A - Eric Chonorby. Carried.

President of APWU AJ Jones. Carried.

Executive Vice-President - Debby Szeredy. Carried

Assistant Maintenance Director A- Curtis Walker. Carried.

Abdul El-Sayed is running for the Congressional Senate is having a townhall meeting at Hadley Park in Muskegon, MI on September 10, 2025, from 7:00 pm – 8:30pm have been offered spots there.

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management, please let the President or your Craft Directors 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 1. #398 Shonteka Smith; 2. #207 Ameka Jones; 3. #260 Matthew Manduchi (If they were at this meeting, they would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$165.00 total collected. 82.50 to the winner – Kwynn Tillman

Fifteen (15) - 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).

1 # 07 Michael Long*

11. # 09 Jeanne Davenport

2. # 25 Rocio Garcia
3. # 02 David Janes*
4. # 03 Pam Chandler
5. # 11 Suzi Boyd*
6. # 08 Amy Puhalski
7. # 17 Veronica Schellinger
8. # 26 Steve Leech
9. # 32 Kayla McKie
10. # 27 Brittany Thompson

12. # 29 Kathy Ondersma
13. # 01 Ricky Jackson
14. # 13 Jennifer McKinnon*
15. # 21 TyShanica Patterson
16. # 24 Arianna May
17. # 31 David Hoyle
18. # 15 Awanda Jennings*
19. # 12 Michael Greene
20. # 05 Lisa Wilson

Motioned to adjourn at 9:00 pm by David Hoyle seconded by Brittany Thompson. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary