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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

WMAL VOICE

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL #281
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO**



WMAL Voice

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Currently Soliciting - Submit your name

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P-CAMPUS OFFICE (616) 977-1050
 Fax: (616) 977-1020

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT 888-767-6738
 retirement line

HR SHARED SERVICES CENTER—Shared Services Line 877-477-3273
 PostalEase option 1
 Job Bidding Line option 2
 Sick/Unscheduled Leave Request option 4
 Human Resources option 5

HARD OF HEARING - FEDERAL RELAY SERVICE 800-877-8339

REPRESENTING APWU BARGAINING EMPLOYEES IN:

Ada· Allendale· Alto· Baldwin· Belmont· Big Rapids· Bitely· Blanchard· Bradley· Branch· Burnips· Byron Center· Caledonia· Campionsburg· Cedar Springs· Comstock Park· Conklin· Coopersville· Coral· Custer· Dorr· Douglas· Fennville· Ferrysburg· Fountain· Free Soil· Gowen· Grand Haven· Grand Rapids· Grandville· Grant· Hamilton· Hesperia· Holland· Hopkins· Howard City· Hudsonville· Jamestown· Jenison· Lamont· Lowell· Macatawa· Marne· Mecosta· Middleville· Moline· Morley· New Era· Newaygo· Nunica· Paris· Pierson· Pullman· Ravenna· Remus· Rockford· Rodney· Rothbury· Sand Lake· Scottville· Shelby· Shelbyville· Sparta· Spring Lake· Stanwood· Trufant· Walhalla· Wayland· West Olive· Zeeland



Editorial Policy: Submissions are welcome from all APWU members, sent to the address or email listed above. In accordance with the local constitution, the editor reserves the right to determine if material submitted to this publication shall be printed, and reserves the right to edit as needed for space and clarity. The views and opinions expressed within are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the editor, local officers, or the APWU. All material must be signed, though names may be withheld upon request. The WMAL Voice is published bimonthly.

As of March 2005, a policy was instated to publish member condolences, births, marriages, and anniversaries. Please let me know at wmalvoice@yahoo.com of anything you would like included. Pictures are welcomed!

The President's Corner

By Michelle Mack, President

2024 – The Struggle Continues

As we begin 2024, I believe this will be a year of tremendous challenges and changes within the Postal service. It is imperative that we as a Union on the Local and National level do all we can to combat PMG DeJoy's ten (10) year plan. His plan has done nothing but gut the Postal service by cutting jobs, impact our ability to deliver for the American public, and catapult us toward privatization. As the consolidations of mail processing operations around the country continue, it is clear the American public is getting frustrated with the lack of service, long lines at post offices, and delayed mail delivery. America deserves better!

The Western Michigan Area Local is committed to fighting for our membership to keep jobs, improve our work environment, and hold management to the contract! However, we need your help. When you see something, say something. Ask for a union steward and write a statement. With PMG DeJoy's plan in full swing, all of us need to stand up for our jobs and protect our work. The WMAL needs stewards. If you are interested in being a union steward, please reach out to a steward or an executive board member.

Some quick facts to improve your knowledge:

An Official Discussion is done in private and is **not** done at a service talk or in a group setting.

For the newer members, how do I ask for a Union Steward? Find your immediate Supervisor and say, "I would like to see a Union Steward." Note the time and ask again if needed if 2 hours pass. When the Supervisor is able, they will inform you to come to the Union Office. They can ask you why you need to see a steward. You can be vague in your description.

Exercise your Weingarten Rights and ask for a steward if you are brought in for an investigative interview. Help us protect you!

If you receive discipline, ask for a union steward. We have 14 days to file a grievance and need that time to

investigate. If your discipline is not grieved or settled by a Union Steward, it is on your record for 2 years. **OUCH!!!** We can only help if you let us.

NO, Management is not allowed to do bargaining unit work! Article 1.6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is very clear. With all the jobs that have been reverted, we need statements! **STAND UP FOR YOUR JOB! SILENCE IS A JOB KILLER!**

On a lighter note, it was great seeing all of you that signed up for the Adult Bowling Holiday Party and the Children's Christmas Party. I hope you all had a wonderful time!

In Solidarity,

Michelle



2024 Contract Campaign SLOGAN COMPETITION

PRIZES INCLUDE:

FIRST PRIZE \$2,500

SECOND PRIZE \$1,500

THIRD PRIZE \$500

Go to APWU.org and submit your suggestion for a new slogan.

The Long And Short Of It

By Mike Long, Vice President



As I sit down to write this article, I am reminded about how we just went through a Peak Season, and it seems like management continues to think it is a new event each year. Every year, I think they either forget the rules, or they don't think the rules apply to Christmas time. In a nutshell, unless it specifically states "excluding 'December' (or any other timeframe)", it applies ALL THE TIME. Don't be railroaded by management when they say something to the effect that we can do this or that (e.g. Work the mail, or don't have to max the list, etc.), because guess what? They can't!

Another point of contention that I have been witnessing is that when a grievant comes into the office to file a grievance, he or she isn't filling out a complaint sheet. They just verbalize it to the steward and then they go and wait for a grievance to be filed. While you are putting the union on notice that an issue might have occurred for a grievance to be filed, you MUST fill out a grievance statement so we have your side of the story. It isn't enough to just write "I was missed for overtime." Okay, what else? There used to be a saying: The five "Ws" (Who, What, When, Why, and Where) and How. You need to let us know all of this when you are filing a grievance. For example, for an overtime violation: How were you missed, who skipped you, what happened, when did it occur, where did this occur, and why do you believe you were missed. This is your words as to what happened, and if we have it down then there is no way we can misunderstand what you are trying to convey. When you tell us verbally, you might think we understand what happened, but sometimes, as they say - to err is human, we might not have heard all of it. Also, it keeps everyone on the same page because if you tell us what happened, we file a grievance and the outcome is different from what occurred because that is what we heard you wanted, there is no miscommunication if it is in writing!

Also, the top of the form is needed to be filled out in its

entirety. We need your Name, EIN, Mailing Address (and this needs to be updated if the grievance takes a while), your e-Mail address (same as your mailing address, keep it updated if you change it), Phone number. Also your Seniority is important - especially if it is you and seniority makes a difference as to who is paid or who should have received the overtime, etc.

In closing, I hope each of you have an amazing start to 2024. Lets all hope this weather (at the time of this writing it is in the 50s) continues, and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

In this edition of the Voice, you will notice an upcoming Red Wings Hockey Game. This is limited to only 53 members. If you want to go, get your name and deposit in immediately, because this will sell out fast.

Also, at the March General Membership meeting, the members will vote on delegates to the upcoming conventions. If you were nominated, you should have received your letter. If you want to go to the convention(s), make sure you return this so you can be placed on the ballot.

Mike

WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL #281 (APWU) Grievance Complaint Sheet / Information

Complete and submit to your steward (contact the union office directly if no steward is available at the below numbers)

Employee Name: _____ Employee ID (EIN)# _____

Full Address (include your City and Zip): _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____ Postal Seniority: _____

Work Hours: _____ SDOs: _____ Craft Seniority: _____

Step/Level: _____ Place of Work / Pay Location: _____ Veteran?: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Status: (Please check): FTR NIFT PTF PTR PSE

Complete and Accurate Details of Event(s):

WMAL Retiree Chapter Update

By Ray Novakowski, President

Greetings everyone. I hope you are all doing well. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our next chapter meeting is Tuesday February 13, 2024. At the meeting we will be voting on delegates for the Michigan Postal Workers Retiree Chapter Convention. The convention will be held in Traverse City, Michigan on April 19, 2024. As president I will attend and we have up to 6 additional delegates, that we need to vote on. We will also vote on expenses for the convention.

The APWU National Convention and APWU Retiree Convention will take place in July this year in Detroit MI and we will need to discuss and, possibly, vote for delegates to attend the Retiree Convention.

I also hope to have some additional information on the



Social Security Fairness Act, the Health Plan, and other issues the members bring up. We will also need to start our plans for a summer event this year.

I hope to see you at the February 13, 2024, meeting at the WMAL Union Hall @11am. The hall is located at 2554 Burlingame SW Wyoming MI. Come join us for the meeting and some socializing afterwards, light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions or concerns or would want a certain issue discussed, please contact me at 616 560 7747 or email me at raynova@sbcglobal.net

Ray

Treasurer's Tally

By Linda Chandler, Treasurer

The yearly audit was conducted on January 22, 2024 at our union hall , 2554 Burlingame SW, Wyoming, Michigan 49509. Those present were Linda Chandler-Treasurer, Lisa Stockdale, Cory Fox and Natasha Johnson.

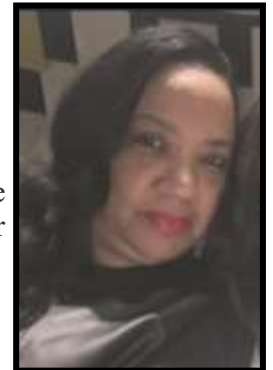
Please understand that every check, electronic funds transfer (EFT), ePay, deposit, bill, invoice, charge to union credit card, has a paper trail with a voucher or authorization attached. No expenditure is made without such authorization.

We as officers and members have a responsibility to maintain fiscal responsibility in the allocating of union funds and ensure that such allocations are in the best interest of ALL members.

I am proud to report that, at this time, the financial health of our local is good and promising. In order to maintain that financial health, it takes discipline and common sense. This will allow our local to continue to be financially strong. A financially sound union enables the local

leaders and the membership to be strong advocates for your contractual rights.

Linda



Looking for answers? Make sure to check out: WWW.WMAL.ORG

To review:

- *meeting minutes***
- *steward contact information***
- *job bids and awards***
- *upcoming events***
- and so much more!***

Also join our Facebook Group!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE NEW EDITOR OF THE “WMAL VOICE”?

Do you have an interest in writing, design, and informing others of what is happening in our local? Have you been trying to find a way to help within your union? Then this position may be the right fit for you.

We are soliciting/searching for a member to become the Editor for THE ‘WMAL VOICE’.

Please see the below language from our Constitution and By Laws that pertain to the Editor position. If you are interested, please submit a letter and any qualifications you may have to:

WMAL – Editor Solicitation; PO Box 2706; Grand Rapids, MI 49501

All applicants must send their interest in writing to the PO Box, and they must be received no later than February 29, 2024. The board will vote and present its recommendation to the membership, per Article 15 Section 3 at the March 2024 General Membership meeting if we receive a candidate. (If not application is received, this solicitation will remain open until filled)

ARTICLE 15 LOCAL PUBLICATION

Section 1: This Local may originate and publish a local newspaper.

Section 2: This publication shall belong to the entire membership; its pages shall be open to every member of this exclusive group within this Local. The Editor may delete or edit those portions of submitted articles that he/she considers libelous or not in the best interest of the Union as a whole. Any such action may be appealed to the Executive Board and decided by two-thirds (2/3) vote, and if the appeal is denied by the Executive Board, it may be further appealed at a regular meeting of this organization and decided by majority vote.

Section 3: The Executive Board shall appoint, with approval of the members present at a regular meeting, an Editor, who shall have the responsibility of publishing with an annual salary of \$1200.00. The paper will be published within the guidelines established by the Executive Board and the local shall bear the expense.

Section 4: It shall be stated in the publication that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Western Michigan Area Local.

Section 5: Mailing shall be at least bi-monthly, with expenses to be borne by the Union.

Section 6: Publication shall be affiliated with the Postal Press Association.

Section 7: The Editor shall keep a correct record of the names and addresses of the members of this Local.

You must be a member in good standing. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the local union office at 616-776-1489.

Are you close to Retirement or thinking about it in the near-ish future...

NATIONAL APWU RETIREE'S DPARTMENT PRESENTS: CSRS, FERS, CSRS OFFSET RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR ON ZOOM



When: March 2, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

- Participants **must** be an active APWU member or retiree-dues paying APWU member.
- Participants **cannot** register with a USPS email address.
- Each participant **must** register individually and not as a group.
- Participants **should not** attend this training on the Postal Service time clock.

Register in advance for this training. Go to APWU.org and under the Event's Link.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info on joining the meeting.

VETERAN'S CRISIS LINE

If a veteran or service member you know is showing signs of crisis, such as hopelessness, anxiety, or withdrawal, call on the caring professionals at the VA's Veterans Crisis Line who are ready to listen and provide support.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource. Veterans, service members, and their families can access the line anytime.

There are three ways to take advantage of this benefit:

- ⇒ Call 1-800-273-8255 and choose option one
- ⇒ Go to VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat
- ⇒ Text 838255

Each option has free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

You can start a conversation today! Visit VeteransCrisisLine.net to download free Veterans Crisis Line materials so you can tell others how to do it, too.



Associate Office Scuttle

By Dana McLean -
Steward @ Newaygo & Grant & MPWU Areas 7 & 9 Director

Workplace Harassment

Workplace harassment is a serious concern that can take various forms, including verbal, physical or psychological abuse directed towards an individual or group of employees. It creates a toxic environment affecting the well being and productivity of those involved. Addressing harassment requires a commitment to fostering a culture of respect and implementing effective policies to ensure a safe and inclusive workplace for everyone.

The APWU takes a firm stance against workplace harassment within the postal service. With a commitment to safeguarding the rights and well being of postal workers, APWU advocates for anti harassment policies, training programs and swift resolution procedures. The APWU aims to create a workplace environment that prioritizes respect, equality and a harassment free environment.

Management plays a crucial role in setting the tone for a good workplace environment. They need to address any signs of harassment. By prioritizing employees well being, enforcing anti harassment policies and providing resources for conflict resolution, managers contribute significantly to creating a positive atmosphere within the workplace.

If management is involved in harassment, it's a serious breach of trust and workplace ethics. When this is the issue, employees are encouraged to report the harassment. Sometimes employees are hesitant to report the harassment in fear of retaliation. There are whistleblower protections in place to safeguard employees when they report misconduct. Article 19 requires management to abide and enforce its own policies.

There are publications that speak to what employees can and should do if they are being harassed. Pub 553 also clearly shows there is to be no reprisal for reporting the harassment. Pub 552 speaks on what is management responsibilities in preventing and addressing harassment. If you feel like you are being harassed or you

feel like you have a hostile work environment please report it by filling out PS Form 1767.

2024 is set to be a very important year as our contract negotiations are set to begin in June. On June 25th the negotiations will begin and they will be broadcasted for the members to watch and get an idea on how the negotiations process occurs. If you'd like to be updated on the contract negotiations you can text "contract" to "91990" and you will be sent updates. The Michigan Constitutional Convention will be in Traverse City in April and the National Convention will be in Detroit this year in July. Reach out to me if you have something you want brought up at either of these conventions. Do you know there is a APWU podcast? Take a listen and get valuable information on whats going on in the APWU. Find the info on the Apwu.org website.

I'm sure we all have experienced the short staff issues we have been having, especially in the clerk positions in the AO's. Management doesn't want to fill pse and ptf positions and it puts a burden on the AO's and in turn on the clerks. The APWU is making this issue a top priority this year! Go to the APWU.org and sign the petition. We have to unite and stand up for getting a full staff.

Don't forget that every office is entitled to prime time vacations. Details may differ according to your LMOU but generally the months of May, June, July and August. Choices are by seniority. Take the time to spend with your family or just taking a break from the stresses at work. Mental Health is so important. Please take care of yourself.

With that being said, I hope everyone is healthy and positive and has a wonderful summer!

In solidarity,

Dana



Clerk Craft

By Suzi Boyd, Clerk Craft Director A

By the time you read this article, I am sure Spring will be right around the corner, so hang in there. I have recently finished up my first year as Clerk Craft Director A of the Western Michigan Area Local. I have primarily been dealing with issues on the plant side, but also have some associate offices that I handle as well. As to be expected, a new position comes with its learning curves; and dealing with management that I have never had to deal with before has been somewhat challenging to say it kindly. Management claims fame to their right to staff and schedule, and with that, comes the right to determine the staffing for holidays. So with that being said, I am going to go over some guidelines to Holiday scheduling in the Grand Rapids Installation:

1. Management is required to post volunteer signup sheets by tour and section for each craft.
2. Management will take down the sign-up sheet by Noon on the Friday for the Tuesday preceding the week the holiday falls.
3. Make sure you are reading and signing the correct signup sheet. It is your responsibility to sign the correct sheet.
4. You should be listing your Begin Tour, Seniority Date, SDOs and Qualifications, if you are volunteering.
5. Management will schedule volunteers whose holiday it is before SDOs.

6. Management will utilize PSEs after all the holiday volunteers are used. (this is per an Pre-Arbitration settlement)
7. If you do not fill out all the sections on the sheet when you sign up, it makes it more difficult for me to determine if you were improperly scheduled.



If you feel you were violated or you were required to work improperly, fill out a statement sheet fully and give it to your steward to you may email to wmalccd@att.net. You need to be specific in your statement. Do not just fill out your name and state that you volunteered to work or you were required to work, etc. I need to know who, what, where, and when.

If you think something is improper on the holiday schedule when posted, then please fill out a complaint form and put the details in your statement.

When we stand together, that is when we all WIN.

In Solidarity,

Suzi

Children's Christmas Party - December 16, 2023



It was a whole family affair with Santa



That look of a sister and happiness to Santa



We came, we saw, we made things!



That look for wonder from a child to Santa



See What I can make, no, see what I made



That show of love from a child to Santa



Just chillin' with my bff - You know - Santa



A child at heart can always sit on Santa's lap

Stop The Spread Of The Attitude Virus!

by Peter Boyer

Long before coronavirus began to spread throughout the world, another dangerous virus was spreading at post offices across America. We'll call it the Attitude Virus.

The Attitude Virus doesn't affect your breathing or put you in the hospital. It comes after your job. And you can spread it to your coworkers without even realizing that you're already infected.

What are the symptoms? It starts with dissatisfaction. Do you find yourself thinking that the way management treats you and your coworkers is unacceptable? You're not happy about the disrespect and their lack of concern for you. You know the supervisors are so focused on the numbers in the computer that they can't seem to understand how their short-sighted decisions to meet made-up goals are to the detriment of the people who know how the job actually gets done.

The next stage in getting sick may be the most dangerous of all complacency. You start to have thoughts like "If nobody else cares, why should I?" You stop focusing on what needs to be done because the next person can deal with it. You perceive the mail as an obstacle to be avoided rather than the entire reason the post office pays you. And after years of management being nasty and rude to you, you start to have that attitude towards others.

The last stage is the lethal one, and we often don't see it coming until it's too late. After slowly building up in subtle ways, you think you're immune to getting sick. You might not have paid attention, but management has been watching and waiting for an opportunity to strike. All the times you weren't paying attention at the window has led to a letter of demand for your drawer being out of tolerance. The progressive discipline for your attendance has built up to a notice of removal. The bitter comment you made because you were having a bad day is perceived as a "threat" and you get emergency placed.

Even worse, the powers that be at

L'Enfant Plaza have a plan to use the Attitude Virus to their advantage. Postmaster General DeJoy has made it clear that he wants to close post offices, consolidate facilities, and eliminate 50,000 clerk jobs by forced attrition. Your local supervisors are being told to get employees off the rolls by any means possible. One of their methods is to make

things difficult for craft employees in an effort to encourage them to retire or resign. They're also targeting individuals infected with the Attitude Virus and using sinister methods to get rid of them too.

Those of us who witnessed the consolidation efforts made after the Great Recession may see where this is heading. DeJoy will claim that in addition to inefficient bureaucracy and outdated work methods, so many postal workers have the Attitude Virus that the only solution is to close down and start over with contractors. It's already happening with the new Surface Transfer Centers, which have postal management and non-union contractors doing what should be our jobs. Sort and Delivery Centers are being

FOR THE ATTITUDE VIRUS

R_x

Get active with your Union to Save the Post Office and defend union work! The Union protects your rights. YOU protect your job! Don't make it easy for management to fire you. Come to work and take pride in your job. Remember, postal work is for the public, not for your supervisor.

built as we speak, and as stations consolidate into them, clerk jobs will disappear. DeJoy's ten-year - plan spells out that he wants to close processing plants and relocate to new Regional Distribution Centers. Who will work there?

Unlike coronavirus, the Attitude Virus doesn't have a vaccine that will protect you from getting sick. It's up to all of us to do the right thing. When coronavirus was new, we were supposed to stay home and wear masks to protect not only ourselves, but everyone around us. We need to keep the same perspective on the job. Do the right thing and look out for one another. Fight back against the Attitude Virus. The job you save may be your own.

Source: "The Communicator"



**LEAP
DAY**
FEBRUARY 29

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

**James A. Sweeney Scholarship Fund
Rules**

There will be five (5) scholarships of \$1,000 each, given out annually.

The applicant's sponsor(s) (parent or legal guardian) must have been a member of the bargaining unit, in good standing, of the Western Michigan Area Local #281 of the American Postal Workers Union for a minimum of one (1) year, immediately preceding application deadline; provided the sponsor is not a postal manager. Children of retired members of the bargaining unit are eligible to apply, provided the retiree had been a member of the local for at least one year, immediately prior to his/her retirement.

To ensure an equal opportunity to obtain a scholarship, the applicant's name can only be submitted once per annum.

Applicant(s) must be a senior attending, or has graduated from high school or other corresponding secondary school.

The application form(s) for the scholarship shall appear in the Western Michigan Area Local's newsletter/publication representing the month of February. The submission deadline will be March 15 or the first Monday thereafter. Applications will be accepted through the mail only and should be addressed as follows:

WMAL
Attn: James A. Sweeney Scholarship
PO Box 2706
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

The Scholarship Committee shall consist of up to five (5) members. Two (2) of these members shall be the currently elected Recording Secretary and Treasurer. One (1) member shall be the currently elected President, and he/she shall be designated as the Chairperson of the committee. The two (2) remaining members shall be appointed by the President.

The committee shall convene before the regular April meeting to verify the parent(s)/legal guardian's membership qualifications; but not sooner than March 25th.

The committee, upon verification of each application, shall number each application and place the number in a container designated by the committee. There shall be five (5) winners and a sufficient number of alternates drawn. The drawing will be held at the April General membership meeting during new business.

Scholarship recipients must attend an accredited college; including community colleges and/or universities of his/her choice as a full-time student (Trade and vocational schools do not qualify for scholarship). Applicants must make their own applications to college.

When the recipient notifies the Western Michigan Area Local's Treasurer that he/she has been accepted to the school, provided the winner notifies the union at least one month prior to the start of the academic year (to ensure that if an alternate needs to be chosen, it can be done so in a timely manner), the local treasurer will send to the school's business office a check, paid directly to the school attended by the winner, in the recipient's name. The scholarship will be sent to the respective school using the quarterly system in three (3) parts, or with schools using semesters, in two (2) parts. The scholarship must be used within the following scholastic year for tuition, books, or room and board.

All disputes arising from the scholarship program shall be submitted to the President, within thirty (30) days of the drawing, in written form. They shall be placed before the Scholarship Committee for review and shall be answered in writing within fifteen (15) days.

These rules governing the Western Michigan Area Local Scholarship Program can only be amended, changed, or deleted once a year at the November membership meeting and will take effect for the next scholastic year.

*The above rules have been properly voted upon by the General Membership,
and amended at the November 2009 General Membership Meeting.*

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

James A. Sweeney Memorial Scholarship Application

The application must be postmarked no later than March 15th
(or the first Monday thereafter)

Mail to: WMAL; Attn: James A. Sweeney Scholarship; PO Box 2706; Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Applicant's Information

Have you filed a financial aid statement with the financial aid office applying for financial aid? Yes No

Scholarship Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Home Address: _____

Applicant's Home Phone Number: _____

Applicant's High School: _____

APWU Member (Sponsor's) Information

Have you been a member of the Western Michigan Area Local for over one year? Yes No

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____ Craft: _____

Work Location / Office Pay Location: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Work Phone Number: _____

WMAL Office Information (To be completed by the Scholarship Committee)

Date of Postmark on Application: _____ Verified by: _____

Membership Verification of One Year prior to submission? Yes No Verified by: _____

Drawing Number Application is Assigned: _____

Adult Holiday Bowling Party



Have you went on-line to APWU.org and filled out the petitions? If not, make sure you do!

Better Staffing, Better Service, Better Post Offices.

Target: **The United States Postal Service**

The United States Postal Service is an essential part of the fabric of our community and our country. We depend on reliable postal services.

Whether it's important business, picking up a package, or checking in with family and friends, we need a post office that is open and fully staffed with the trained, dedicated postal workers we trust with our mail and packages.

It is unacceptable to us when our post offices are unexpectedly closed, hours are shortened, and lines are long due to staffing shortages.

We call on you to make every effort to keep our post office open at convenient and reasonable hours and properly staffed to provide the "prompt, reliable, and efficient" service we deserve under the law.

Add your name. In the comments section. You can include the date, time, location, and information about how the short-staffing incident affected you.

SIGN THIS PETITION

Not in US?

ADD YOUR NAME

You may receive email updates from APWU - American Postal Workers Union, the sponsor of this petition.

[Edit Subscription Preferences](#)

https://apwu.org

ACTION ALERT: TELL THE USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS "ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT ON USPS NETWORK CHANGES!"



As postal workers, we know that one of the strengths of our union and of our work is the commitment to public service. But while the Postal Service proudly reaches the entire public every day, it's becoming harder for the people to share their views with postal management regarding service and management's plans for the future of the post office.

For years, the Postal Service has allowed public comment at open sessions of meetings of the Postal Board of Governors. In November, the Board announced a serious rollback in opportunities for public comment in the future.

The Postal Service is a public institution. The people should rightly be able to share their views on service issues and offer public input on management initiatives. While the previous process was already limited, efforts to reduce public comments are a step backward.

Postal workers and our allies can pressure the Board to reconsider their new policy and insist on transparency and accountability for the Board of Governors and postal management. Use this form to add your name to our petition demanding that the Board of Governors allow for meaningful public comment at its meetings.

I DEMAND THAT THE POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS REVERSE THEIR POLICY OF LIMITING PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS AND PROVIDE EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH POSTAL MANAGEMENT. THE POSTAL SERVICE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE.

Not in US?

ADD YOUR NAME

You may receive email updates from A Grand Alliance and APWU - American Postal Workers Union, the sponsors of this form.

[Edit Subscription Preferences](#)

Happy Retirement!!!!

(Congratulations & enjoy your next chapter in life!)

If you know of anyone who is retiring or has retired recently, please let the editor know so they can be recognized here.

Welcome To Our New Members!!

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Passion Lowe | Bradley Shattuck |
| Mimi Chiu | Gary Male |
| Quanetta Thomas-Dean | Rose Roberts |
| Benjamin Ivy | Carlos Bays |
| Robert Wheeler | Karissa Simpson |
| Siulnuly Valerio | Riley Vvong |
| Shane Allen | Charles Harmon III |
| Ivy Grace Gerber | Andreen Wierenga |
| Elen Elanan-Thompson | Peter Frank |
| Michael VanMeter | Alex Thomas |
| Guillermo Rivera-Borbon | Ebony Hollis |
| Daniel Otergo-Pagan | Davon Long |
| Brandon Mauro | Johanna Bradford |
| Erek Riley | Rachel Schoch |
| Rachel Joyce Chester | Matthew Wilson |
| Jeffrey McKinnon | Jessica VanHattum |
| Jamie Laundra | Jessica Whitaker |
| Deante Burnside | Tarron Johnson, Jr. |

Condolences TO:



Compassion to member Shawn Rabidoux on the passing of his mother.

Sympathies to Joe Hall on the passing of his Sister-in-Law.

Condolences to the family of Benjamin Oubier, retiree member who passed away

**Deadline - Next Submission for
WMAL Voice
April 1, 2024**

**Next Union Meetings:
March 2, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Looking for a location to hold an event? Check out our Union Hall! Great rates for members!

Union Hall Rentals

2554 Burlingame Ave SW
Wyoming MI 49509
616-822-3520 | Capacity 188

	Hall Rental	Security Agent	Agent Fee
Members:	\$250.00	\$200.00	\$0
Non-Profit: (meetings only)	\$125.00	\$0	\$0
Public:	\$650.00	\$300.00	\$100.00

ATTENTION WMAL - APWU MEMBERS

Join your fellow union brothers and sisters to:

HOCKEYTOWN

EST. 1976

Sunday - April 7, 2024

Bus Leaves at 8:45 a.m. sharp
(leaving from the WMAL Union Hall -
2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509)

Game Time: 1:00 p.m.
Detroit Red Wings vs Buffalo Sabres

Cost: \$50 deposit per ticket
(returned when getting on the bus at the tail)
(includes transportation (bus), game ticket (seats are lower bowl sections 115 &
116 (Red Wings shoot twice)); snacks and drinks (on the bus)



Ticket Quantities are Limited to the first 53 members Limited to only FULL-DUES PAYING MEMBERS

At this time, only open to members (no guests)

First Come, First Served -RSVP- immediately!

No later than March 15, 2024

--Any questions? Contact wmalrsvp@yahoo.com or the union office @ (616) 776-1489 (GMF) or (616) 977-1050 (P-campus); however, until receipt of deposit your spot won't be saved.

See a Steward or Officer of the WMAL with your money and your email.

Associate Office members, contact the union office at the numbers above to arrange purchase.

(Ticket will be electronically sent to the email provided.)



Western Michigan Area Local
American Postal Workers Union
PO Box 2706
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2706

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