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WMAL VOICE

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

Remember to
CAST YOUR BALLOT
for **LOCAL OFFICERS**





WMAL Voice

PO Box 2706
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
bthompsonapwu707@gmail.com
Editor: Brian Thompson



Executive Board

MICHAEL LONG, <i>president</i> mdlblong@gmail.com	(616) 822-5627
DAVID JANES, <i>vice president</i> im_dave_j@yahoo.com	(616) 915-9610
LINDA CHANDLER, <i>treasurer</i> treasurer@wmal.org	(616) 776-1489
AWANDA JENNINGS, <i>recording secretary</i> preciouspalmer@sbcglobal.net	(616) 977-1050
SUZI BOYD, <i>clerk craft a director</i> wmalccd@att.net	(616) 581-4539
AMEKA JONES, <i>clerk craft b director</i> ameka.stinson9960@gmail.com	(616) 560-3279
JENNIFER MCKINNON, <i>maintenance craft director</i> maintcraftapwu@yahoo.com	(616) 350-5433
CHRIS FISHER, <i>motor vehicle craft director</i> cafisher61@gmail.com	(616) 308-8787
TODD HODGES, <i>sergeant-at-arms</i> scrapp987@yahoo.com	(616) 247-4765

Other Local Representatives

JENNIFER RIZZON, <i>human relations rep</i> goldengirl0624@gmail.com	(616) 443-3947
<i>retirement specialist</i> (Currently Vacant)	(616) 977-1050
LINDA CHANDLER, <i>union hall manager</i> sugarmell14@comcast.net	(616) 822-3520
RAYMOND NOVAKOSKI, <i>retiree chapter president</i> raynova@sbcglobal.net	(616) 560-7747

Important Phone Numbers

GRAND RAPIDS MAIN OFFICE	(616) 776-1489 / 1535 Fax: (833) 551-0821
P-CAMPUS OFFICE	(616) 977-1050 Fax: (616) 977-1020
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT retirement line	888-767-6738
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

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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 bthompsonapwu707@gmail.com of anything you would like included. Pictures are welcomed!

The Long And Short Of It

By Michael Long, President

Brothers and Sisters – Crispness of Fall is in the air, at the time of this writing, it's 33 degrees outside, and not even November yet. If predictions hold true, they are saying this year's winter might be one for the records. Those in the southern states could never fathom the resilience of Michiganders. However, with November fast approaching, so is the elections for the upcoming executive board of the local. I would ask each of you to do your democratic duty and vote. You will be getting your ballot (those of you in maintenance, will be getting two) in the mail in a few days (they are placed in the mail No Later than November 8, 2025). Keep in mind, they need to be returned to the PO Box on the return envelope No Later Than December 2, 2025 by 9:00 a.m. to be counted. Do not wait to mail it in.

At the October General Membership Meeting, nominations took place for the next term. I wish to congratulate: David Hoyle (President), Steve Leech (Treasurer), Awanda Jennings (Clerk Craft Director – A), Kwynn Tillman (Clerk Craft Director – B), Chris Fisher (MVS Craft Director), and Todd Hodges (Sergeant at Arms). These positions were unopposed and will be sworn into these positions on January 1st. The new board will solicit and appoint a Vice-President.

With the local election, I would like to address another issue about voting that has been troubling me. That is of the local voting in the National Election and the Contract Ratification votes. Why is this vexing me? Because generally there is a direct correlation between workplace voting and that for your local civic elections or even National Elections as a whole. In the last two APWU votes/election, only about 17% of our membership voted. 17% of the membership approved our contract, and decided who will run this union at the National level for the next three years for 100% of the membership. This means that 83% of you couldn't take two minutes to mark a ballot, and return it in a pre-paid envelope. We work at the Postal Service, you are actually supporting your livelihood; you aren't going out of your way to mail it back. What does that mean for the other elections in your community, either local, state, or National? Politicians want you to stay home. They want you not to vote because then they only have to pander to those they know who will vote and decide elections. By not voting, you may think that it doesn't matter, but it does. Voting is your voice. Voting gives you the power to make a change, even if it is only a small one. In this last election for National Elections, a few of the offices were only won by a small amount (in one election 20 votes separated the two candidates). I do extend my congratulations to all those who won and to those who ran. It shows that people wish to step up and make a difference and that the union is a democratic entity.

However, the local did have a contest for the last two elections. The company that counted the ballots picked the names for the local of those ballots that were returned. In the National Election – Karol Imanse, Karie Thomas, Gregory Cook, Shonteka Smith, Shauna Wheeler, David Nelson, Cory Fox, Adam Bryant, Judith Johnson, and Craig Berryman were the winners. In the National Contract Ratification contest – Awanda Jennings, Tiffany Guzek, Joshua Reed, Krystal Huffman, Joseph Schneider, Kyle Hadley, Sean Hoek, Mikayla Hayes, Stephanie Summers, and Richard Priedits were the winners.



Grand Rapids Maintenance – management is going through with a realignment of the mechanized staffing in the Grand Rapids Installation due to the RTO (Regional Transportation Optimization) plan. Since mail is being brought into the plant earlier now; outgoing mail is being ran earlier and operations want the machines to process the mail earlier. A grievance has been filed, but in the meantime, we can only wait until it is adjudicated. Unfortunately, this has caused upheaval of some of our members and their lives outside of the Postal Service. I will try to keep you all informed as the grievance progresses.

Local Union Positions (Stewards, Committees, Organizing, etc.) – We need people to step up. I know I am a broken record on this, but it is true. We do not have enough people to help with the tasks of running a union. While the current executive board has decided to take into account someone's attendance when they ask to be a steward (with the mindset that if you are not at work, how can you be there to represent the membership), I am also talking about helping out on a committee or a position. Brian Thompson stepped up as the new Editor of the WMAL Voice, and I appreciate this; however, we need help with A&E Committee (those of you who like to plan events, parties, things to give back to the membership), Budget and Audit Committees (those who are analytical and can help the local stay in the black with a sound and responsible budget and also to audit the books), or even going over the local and/or National Constitutions and suggesting updates to it (Resolution or Constitution committees). There is more to a union than just the Executive Board and the Stewards and coming to a meeting once a month. Everyone's input is valuable and encouraged.

On November 15, 2025 – our second contractual increase of 1.4% (2.4% for PSEs) goes into effect. This equates to approximately .50 cents a hour (or \$1,040 a year) raise for

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(Continued from page 3) Long and Short of It

both career and non-career alike. You will see the raise in your December 5, 2025 check. The next COLA raise will occur based on the January numbers and will be in our March 2026 checks.

Back Pay – as of the last update, backpay is still on schedule for April 2026. While they are hoping it would be sooner, all we can do is hope but nationally they were told it would be paid out at least by April. If you retired or are planning to retire before we get the backpay, you will still get it. Backpay is calculated on any work/leave hours from September 21, 2024 through August 22, 2025.

I would like to close out this edition's article on something that is happening not only in our offices but nationwide - Hostile Working Environment. This year at the 2025 All-Craft Conference there was training provided to attendees on this issue. It is not just a one-off situation. It has become widespread and is a paramount issue. While there are avenues for us to address these issues, and as a local, we do. We have filed Labor Charges and numerous grievances; however, it is not just us. The worse part, it is coming down all the way from the top. I have been allowed to listen from time to time some of the telecons that management sit in on, and local management is being told to discipline employees and to implement these arcane policies. But, unfortunately, you will never find anyone actually stating this in writing. Why? There is no record and all someone has to do is deny, deny, and deny some more. But, what we can do is to stand together and be there for each other. If that means, write a statement when you see something, or collaborate someone's account of what happened (if you saw it happen), then we need to do that. A union is more than one officer or one steward. A union is everyone fighting for the betterment of all.

Until Next Time,

Mike



Can We All Get Along?

By Lisa Wilson -

Steward @ Spring Lake Post Office



I want to thank the local for sending me to the All Craft Conference in early October. There was a lot of information shared. It was nice to see newer members there and classes lead by newer NBA's.

One of the classes I attended was on hostile work environments. It was sad that there were so many people taking that class. A hostile work environment is ongoing, continuing harassment. A discreet act happens once. Either way, tell the person to stop the behavior, ask for a steward and file a grievance. Write down what happened, what is said. If there are witnesses, get a written statement from them. An EEO case should also be filed.

We are protected by the No FEAR Act and our Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 2 from discrimination and whistle blower protection. We can also ask for mediation. An official trained in the dispute resolution process would meet with employees, union rep and management. This is a step up from the joint labor-management committee meetings. Offices are supposed to have these at least quarterly.

In the small level 20 office I work in we don't have joint labor-management meetings. However, my postmaster is open to talking about issues before they become a grievance. This is sometimes helpful. We have had mediation meetings in my office, but those didn't go well. Management is not always open to others ideas or opinions. We have also had climate surveys in my office. Climate surveys and mediation are management's tools for getting along in the work place. In the climate survey each employee met with a small group of postmasters from around the state that didn't know anything about our office. They asked each of us about 40 questions. We could talk as little or as much as we liked.

At another class, Lamont Brooks clerk craft director, said "We better wake up." (If we think our jobs are not under attack or that our jobs will always be there.) I'm sure we all can see how technology has taken some clerk jobs, as well as the decline in first class mail. Think about the rising price of PO boxes. How long will people pay those high prices? Stamps and parcel postage can be bought on usps.com. Carriers can pick up packages. If customers are not coming into the Post Office, there is little need for window clerks. Finding more ways we can serve the communities we are in will help us all survive.

So I urge you to show up to work when scheduled. Be ready to do your job and do it well. Show management that your job is needed.

Lisa Wilson

Human Relations / Injury Compensation

By Jennifer Rizzon

Thank you for sending me to the 2026 All Craft Conference and workshops. I attended the following workshops, Hostile Work Environment & Article 15 mediation, Labor Management meeting/training/Article 8 Task Force MOU, Residual MOU and eReassign, PSE Issues and the Clerk Division General Session. I am glad we have been provided all the power points on a flash drive to use for reference of the information provided in the classes.

On hostile work environment, employees need to come forward and document every incident of hostile work environment. We need to document all we can and build a good foundation for all hostile work environment cases. This includes witness statements, interviews, 1767's, and if the employee utilizes EAP.

In the residual MOU & eReassign workshop, the #1 goal is to protect and create new jobs. Locals should monitor the eReassign reports to make sure all jobs are posted in all the postal facilities within their local jurisdictions and are properly filled. There are times when more than one duty assignment is posted on eReassign and if they are not filled, the unfilled job can simply disappear. This causes us to lose jobs. Again it is extremely important that the locals monitor all their bid duty assignments and residual vacancies.

Jennifer Rizzon
APWU Steward



On the Road with MVS

By Steve Leech
MVS Steward & Treasurer-Elect

Thank You for the Opportunity to Learn and Grow

I just got back from the APWU All-Craft Conference in Las Vegas, and I want to take a minute to thank everyone in our local for the opportunity to go. It was an incredible experience — not just because of where it was, but because of how much I learned while I was there.

The conference was packed with workshops, classes, and conversations with union members from all over the country. I learned a ton about contract enforcement, grievance handling, and ways we can keep our workplaces running fair and safe. It really opened my eyes to how much knowledge and experience is out there in our union — and how much stronger we can be when we share it.

On top of that, I was able to attend extra training for my new role as Treasurer of our local. I'm honored to step into this position and want to make sure our finances are handled with the same honesty and transparency that members expect from all of us. The training was a big help in understanding the responsibilities that come with it, and I'm excited to put that knowledge to work.

Overall, the trip reminded me how important it is that we keep learning and supporting each other. Every bit of knowledge we bring back helps our local grow stronger. I'm really grateful for the trust and support you've all shown me — and I'm looking forward to putting everything I learned to good use.

In Solidarity,

Steve Leech
MVS Steward/ Treasurer-Elect



Retiree's Corner - a Pension for Discussion

By: Raymond Novakoski



We enjoyed a productive September meeting and welcomed several new members following recent early-out retirements. At that session, we nominated—but faced no challenges for—our 2026–2028 officer team. Your West Michigan Area Local Retiree Chapter officers will be:

- ⇒ President: Ray Novakoski
- ⇒ Vice President: Debbie Ohanesian
- ⇒ Secretary: Karen Hodges
- ⇒ Treasurer: Cathy Strunk
- ⇒ Trustees: Harley Kilgore, Hattie Mitchell, John Hansma

Congratulations to everyone for stepping up to serve!

I'd also like to thank the Michigan Postal Workers Retiree Chapter for sponsoring my attendance at the recent APWU National Retiree Conference. I gained a wealth of information and look forward to sharing it at our next local meeting.

Congratulations as well to the WMAL local officers elected by acclamation, and best of luck to the candidates for the two remaining remaining positions that will be decided by vote. Finally, let's applaud Jonathan Smith of New York Metro on his election as APWU National President, and celebrate Amy Puhalski's ongoing work as our Central Regional Coordinator.

Ray



Real POWER isn't held by only one

By: Brittany Thompson

First and foremost, I would like to thank the MPWU for sending me to the APWU POWER 22nd Biennial Convention in New York City! It was an amazing experience for me, to be apart of this Convention the people in attendance were all so influential and inspiring.

The vibrant city of New York, known for its dazzling skyline and bustling streets, recently played host to an extraordinary event that illuminated the spirit of equality and empowerment: the APWU POWER 22nd Biennial Convention. This remarkable gathering, filled with passion, inspiration, and hope, became a beacon of light, showcasing the tenacity and brilliance of women dedicated to championing rights and creating a better future.

What made this convention truly special was not just the discussions surrounding equal rights and empowerment but the palpable energy radiating from every participant. The love, support, and BRIGHT LIGHTS were evident as women from diverse backgrounds united under a common goal: to forge pathways toward equality and justice. The collective enthusiasm served as a reminder that while the lights of New York City sparkled brilliantly against the night sky, the lights within these women shone even brighter.

Attendees engaged in workshops designed to equip them with tools to create change within their communities, not just inside of the Postal Service. I had the opportunity to take two classes; they were both very insightful. My favorite class had to be the class that Mrs. Joyce R Robinson gave on how to run a union meeting. While at this moment I am not certain where my Union Stewardship will take me at least I am better prepared than I was before.

As the convention ended, a sense of hope lingered. Attendees left with renewed motivation (me in particular) to continue the fight for equality, armed with knowledge, support, and the understanding that they are not alone in their endeavors. As we reflect on this incredible convention, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the motivation ignited within us. Let this convention be a catalyst for further action, a stepping stone toward a more equitable world for all. Together, fueled by the light of hope and determination, we can and will make a difference.

Brittany

Associate Office Scuttle

By Dana McLean -

Steward @ Newaygo & Grant & MPWU Clerk Craft Director

Training, TACS, and Taking Back Our Work

I just want to start by saying a huge thank-you to everyone for sending me to the Secretary-Treasurer Training! It was honestly such a great experience — super informative, and it gave me a better look at everything that goes into keeping our local running smoothly. One of the sessions I took was the Fiduciary Responsibility class taught by National Treasurer Liz Powell and her staff, and let me tell you — it was *very* detailed. It really opens your eyes to just how much responsibility a Secretary or Treasurer has in the union. It's not just paperwork; it's about making sure everything we do is above board, accountable, and done in the best interest of our members. I came back with a notebook full of ideas (and probably a few too many highlighter colors). As I'm running for Secretary, I'm feeling really excited to put what I learned into action and do my part to keep things organized, transparent, and running strong for our members.

At the convention, one of the biggest topics everyone was buzzing about was the new TACS settlement that National Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks worked so hard to get across the finish line. He's been at this for a long time, and it's a major win for clerks. From what I understand, the Postal Service now has to come up with a training program for TACS so clerks can finally be properly trained to handle it. The union will get to review that training and either approve or reject it — and once it's approved, all clerks who will be doing TACS will receive that training. The best part? It has to be done by January 28th, so this is moving fast!

Now, I know there's going to be some pushback from clerks — especially in the Level 18 offices — who aren't thrilled about having to do TACS work without getting Level 7 pay. And I totally get that frustration. But here's the thing: we've got to look at the bigger picture. When you're pulled off the window to do TACS, that means management has to schedule another clerk to cover that window — and that means more clerk hours. Right now, with everything going on in the Postal Service, we've got to protect every single hour we can get. Every bit of work that stays in the clerk craft matters, and this training helps make sure it stays right where it belongs — with us.

We're also hoping this is just the start — that in the future, more duties management has tried to claim as "theirs" will be brought back to where they actually belong: the clerk craft. This could open the door to even more work returning to clerks, and that's a win we can all get behind.

Also, a quick shout-out to fellow union member Eric Chornoby from the 480 area, who just launched his

podcast, "APW YOU with Eric Chornoby." It's available now on Spotify, and I highly recommend checking it out! He's planning to cover training and topics for the everyday member — not just stewards — to help everyone understand the contract better and learn how it impacts you directly. It's a great way to stay informed and get more confident about your rights on the workroom floor.

As many of you know, we've got a lot of folks retiring right now and stepping down from their union positions. That means we're losing a lot of experience and leadership on our local board — and it's time for the next generation to step up. We *need* younger members to get involved, come to meetings, and join committees — especially the planning committee. We've got over 700 members in our local, but only around 30-some people usually show up to meetings. That's just not enough voices being heard. We've got elections coming up, and this is your chance to make your voice count. Let's fill those seats, get involved, and keep this local strong.

In Solidarity,

Dana
McLean



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

To review:

- ☒ **Meeting Minutes**
- ☒ **Contact information for stewards and officers**
- ☒ **Job bids and awards**
- ☒ **Upcoming events**
- and so much more!**

Also join our Facebook Page/Group!

2025 All Craft Conference in Pictures



On the Road with MVS

By Steve Leech

MVS Steward & Treasurer-Elect

Editor's Note: This article was originally submitted for the previous edition; however due to an oversight by the previous editor, it was not included. This is now rectified.

A New Steward, Old Challenges, and a Fresh Tool

When I first became a steward, I quickly realized how much there is to learn — the contract language, arbitration decisions, postal policies, JCIM notes, and the stories from past grievances that shape how we fight today. It's a lot for anyone, and as a newer steward, it sometimes felt overwhelming. That's why discovering how to use AI tools like ChatGPT has been such a boost.

From pencils to printers to AI, we've always adapted with the times. Technology doesn't change the mission — it just gives us new ways to stay prepared and focused. I don't see AI as a replacement for the experience and wisdom of seasoned stewards. Instead, I see it as a helper that clears some of the clutter so I can spend my energy where it really counts: representing members. For me, the biggest difference has been in time. Research that once would've taken me hours now takes a fraction of that.

Whether I'm pulling together background for a grievance or double-checking the right article to reference, the process has become quicker and more organized. That speed means I can focus more on building a strong case rather than chasing down every scrap of information one by one.

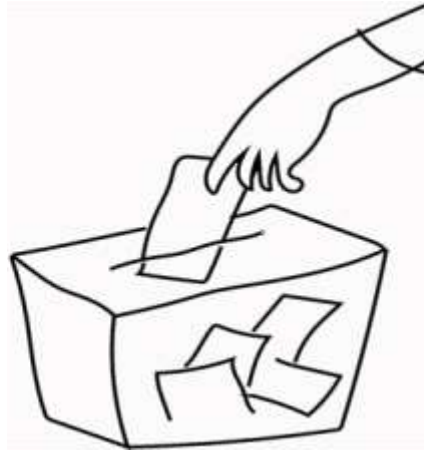
Another benefit is clarity. These tools help me structure arguments in a way that feels professional and complete. Walking into a meeting with management can be nerve-racking — especially as a newer steward — but having cleaner drafts and more polished language makes me steadier on my feet. The confidence that comes with being prepared not only strengthens my voice at the table, it helps members trust that their concerns are being taken seriously.

None of this replaces the experience of those who have been doing this work for decades. The personal knowledge, the memory of past cases, the strategies learned the hard way — AI can't touch that. But it can help newer stewards like me catch up faster, and it gives everyone a tool to stay sharp in a world where management has no shortage of resources on their side.

That's why I encourage even those who feel hesitant about technology to give it a try. You don't need to be a computer expert. If you can type a question, you can start experimenting. Sometimes the answer will simply confirm what you already knew, and sometimes it will point you in a direction you hadn't thought of. Either way, you come out better prepared.

The real strength, as always, is in us — members working together, stewards backing each other up, and our union standing firm. AI is just another way to sharpen the tools we already have. For me, it's been a game-changer in my early days as a steward, and I believe it can help others lighten the load, save time, and stand taller in the fight.

Steve



The following two pages are articles which were submitted by the candidates running for office in the Western Michigan Area Local #281, American Postal Workers Union for the 2026 - 2028 Executive Board Term along with Election Information

All Articles are exactly as they were submitted to the Editor without any changes.

Recording Secretary Position

Candidates are: Aaron Harvey, Kayla McKie, and Dana McLean

Aaron Harvey

My name is Aaron Harvey, and I am writing to you today because I am running for the office of recording secretary and the honor to represent you on the e-board.

I have been a steward for the APOs for almost a year, mostly Ada, but have branched out to Lowell. I am eager to learn as much as I can to support you and make the local 281 strong. I feel that I am an excellent person for this position as I am a very good listener, determined, and detailed individual. I have made it a point to attend almost every meeting this past year and was blessed by you to go to the state convention earlier this year where I was able to pick up knowledge to hone my skills as a steward. If elected, I will dedicate my focus and attention to fulfilling the role of recording secretary and being your voice on the e-board.

Sincerely,

Aaron Harvey

Kayla McKie

Hello everyone, my name is Kayla McKie, and I am honored to be nominated for the position of Secretary of the APWU.

I am dedicated to helping our members who have issues and concerns. As secretary, my goals will be to ensure that all Union records, communications, and meetings are accurately recorded to help keep our members informed and our Union operations running smoothly.

I believe that communication and transparency are the foundation of a strong Union. Most importantly, I want every member to know that I am approachable, available, and reliable. Whether it's for questions, concerns, or ideas to help strengthen and protect our workplace.

I take great pride in being part of the APWU and in supporting the values that keep our Union strong. I would be truly honored to serve as your Secretary and continue working on behalf of all our members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kayla McKie
T-3 Union Steward

Dana McLean

My name is Dana McLean, and I'm asking for your support as I run for Secretary of our Local Union. I've been a proud member of the West Michigan Area Local since I started with the Postal Service in 1993. I became an active steward around 2005, and I've been honored to represent and support my coworkers ever since. I've always believed deeply in the power of our union to protect, educate, and unite postal workers.

I live in Holton, Michigan with my husband. We have four children and five wonderful grandchildren who keep life busy and full of joy

Currently, I serve as both the Michigan Postal Workers Union Clerk Craft Director and Area 7 Director, as well as a steward for the Newaygo and Grant offices under the Western Michigan Area Local. I'm also a member of POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) organization, and I make it a point to attend conventions and training sessions regularly. I believe that continuing to learn and stay informed is one of the best ways to strengthen our union. Over the years, I've handled countless issues from small offices across our state— and those experiences have taught me just how important it is for every member, no matter where they work, to have a strong voice and fair representation

The reason I'm running for Secretary is simple — I want to do more for our Local. The Newaygo and Grant offices don't have a large number of grievances, and I feel that the local has given me so much through education and training over the years that now it's my turn to give back. I see this position as a great opportunity to contribute more directly to the success and strength of our Local Union.

Even though I retired on April 30, 2025, I'm committed to staying involved and continuing to serve. I've seen firsthand how smaller offices can sometimes be overlooked, and I'm determined to keep advocating for fair treatment and equal respect for everyone.

I believe experience, dedication, and heart matter. I care deeply about this union and the people who make it strong. I hope I can count on your support — and your vote — to continue serving and helping our members in every way I can.

In Solidarity,
Dana McLean

Maintenance Craft Director Position Candidates are: Lance Herman and Jennifer McKinnon

Jennifer McKinnon

Hello, my name is Jennifer McKinnon. I am the current Maintenance Craft Director, a position I have proudly held for the past three years. I would like to take a moment to highlight what I have accomplished so far and what I am currently working on for our APWU Members.

Recently, I won the Line H settlements for the custodians at the Stations and Branches for FY23 and FY24. I am currently addressing a grievance regarding the EMSYS (Emergency Systems) for the AMT's at all the AO's in Michigan District 2. I am currently in discussions to create additional custodial positions at the Newaygo Post Office. My goal is to create a few more jobs where they are most needed.

The safety of ALL of our members is of great importance to me, and I am committed to ensuring that the United State Postal Service complies with all Handbooks, Manuals, and OSHA guidelines. Please come to me with any safety issues or concerns you may have, I am here to help ensure that all work places remain safe.

I am also working on trying to correct some of the Staffing Packages that were not done properly for the custodians at the AO Offices as well as at the Annex and downtown. My goal here is to hopefully create more custodial positions for the AO's and on the mechanized side that want and need full time custodians and mechanics. I have heard countless complaints from Management about insufficient staffing, and I am actively working to address these issues.

In conclusion, I am hoping that I am re-elected as Maintenance Craft Director so that I can continue to fight the good fight and protect our Maintenance Members. I am dedicated to trying to be available to anyone that needs my assistance for any reason. I have adjusted my schedule when necessary to ensure that I am there for our APWU members and well continue to do so. I am available to travel to any location to address any problems, safety concerns, or issues that may arise.

Jennifer McKinnon
Maintenance Craft Director

Ballots will be mailed to all Full-Dues Paying members on November 8, 2025. All members will receive a ballot for Recording Secretary. Only Maintenance Craft members will also receive a ballot for Maintenance Craft Director position.

The below information is also included on each ballot.

Completion / Voting Instructions:

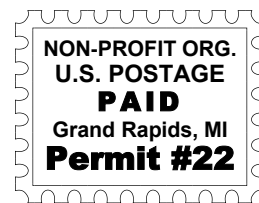
- ◆ Mark the box next to **or** circle the member/candidate's name to distinguish whom you wish to serve in this position on the 2026 - 2028 Western Michigan Area Local #281 (WMAL) Executive Board.
- ◆ Vote for only one (1). *Voting for more than one or writing in another person's name will void / invalidate your ballot. (Article 10, Section 1.c of the WMAL Constitution)*
- ◆ Place this ballot inside the "Secret Ballot Envelope". *(If you are voting for more than one office, please place all ballots inside the same "Secret Ballot Envelope" before sealing.)*
- ◆ Insert the sealed "Secret Ballot" envelope inside the return envelope *(the Return envelope has your name/address on the upper left side and is pre-addressed to: PO Box 210; Belding, MI 48809 and has postage already applied. (DO NOT tamper with either of the labels. The return label is to allow the election committee to cross-check your membership and ensure you only had one vote during the verification period prior to the counting of the ballots. Removing or crossing out the return labels will void / invalidate your envelope, thus invalidating your vote (since we will not be able to verify if you have already voted and/or membership) (FYI - the Secret Ballot envelope is removed from the outside/return envelope prior to the counting of the ballots and then intermixed with the other returned secret ballot envelopes (prior to opening the secret ballot envelopes) to ensure secrecy, privacy, and anonymity of the vote.*
- ◆ Drop in the Mail *(postage has already been paid)*

If there are any issues, questions, or do not receive a ballot by November 15, please contact the Election Committee.

- ◆ Phone: (616) 776-1489 (GMF Union Office Phone #) (leave message if not answered)
- ◆ eMail: wmal0281@outlook.com
- ◆ Mail (for communication only): WMAL Elections Committee; PO Box 105; Belding, MI 48809 Page 11

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

Address Service Requested



Dates/Information to Remember:

WMAL Retiree Chapter Meetings

are held at the Union Hall
(2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509)
on the second Tuesday in

February, April, June, September and November -
starting at 11:00 a.m.

2025 - November 11th

2026 - February 10th; April 7th; June 9th;
September 8th; & November 10th

**Deadline - for the Next Edition of the
WMAL Voice is:
November 30, 2025**

General Membership Union Meetings

Held at the Union Hall—2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509

Next Meeting: November 1, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
December 3, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

HALL RENTAL INFORMATION

for APWU MEMBERS & the GENERAL PUBLIC
2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, Michigan 49509

Rental Rates/Breakdown (as of January 1, 2025)	WMAL Member (Active & Retiree*)	Non-Profit (Meetings Only (no events))	General Public
Security Deposit: (Must be returned at hall to check-out after rental and no damage found)	\$300	None	\$400
Agent Fee:	None	None	\$100
Hall Rental Fee:	\$350	\$150	\$1000
Total Amount:	\$650	\$150	\$1500

*Retirees must be a member of the APWU local retiree chapter to receive rate. Member must be present throughout the entire event (including setup).