

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at 918 Benjamin NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Short Invocation.

Number of Members in Attendance at this meeting: 22 + 2 guests

The following officers were present:

President – Richard Page

Vice-President – Amy Puhalski

Treasurer – Linda Chandler

Recording Secretary – Michael Long

Clerk Craft Director – Bill Scutt

Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith

Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling

Sergeant at Arms – Jackie Pike

The following officers were not present: **Motor Vehicle Craft Director** – Mike Hill

May's General Membership Meeting minutes were accepted with the following corrections:

Veterans committee report: 14th of May is Flag Placement day in Kent County. Last year, 3,500 flags were placed at the graves. On the 30th of May, there will be a dedication of a monument for those who lost their lives in Iraq. There will be a parade beginning at Division and Michigan at 7:30 pm. Only Two days out of the year Veterans are honored: Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

POWER committee report (not Community Services): \$200 for Valentine Flowers, Easter Eggs \$170.00. Carried

Applications for Membership:

Kelley Erdman – Zeeland (Clerk)

Marcia Ellwanger – Grand Rapids (Clerk)

Mark More – Zeeland (Clerk)

Susan Green – Grand Rapids (Maintenance)

Patricia Gleason – Grand Rapids (Maintenance)

Julian Stroh – Grand Rapids (Maintenance)

Monty Clark – Grand Rapids (Motor Vehicle)

Randy Payne – Grand Rapids (Clerk)

Martha Church – Jenison (Clerk)

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report was read for May 2008. Carried.

President's Reports Thank you everyone for coming. Wasn't sure if people would show up with such a beautiful day and warm weather activities. State Constitution Convention. Everything went

really well. There were some long-standing problems that we are beginning to get resolved. Seven presidents will be meeting (as I am one) to resolve the financial issues of the State. We have a copy of the Convention report and Resolutions book for those who wish to see what kind of work is done at the convention. There is a Retirement survey. There has been rumors going around regarding staffing changes at the P1 & P3. As of today, nothing has been discussed. We have a meeting on June 13th to discuss these. We are going to have a Stewards training this week. The Tigers have fell on their butts; and because of it we are having a hard time of filling the bus. If you know of anyone that would like to go to the game on June 29th, please send them my way.

Vice-President's Report: I redid the non-members list. We have a total of 118 non-members in the local. (51 clerks, 21 Maintenance, 8 in the Motor Vehicle, and 31 in the Associate Offices.. Jack has done a wonderful job organizing. We have stewards training on Tuesday (June 10th). We will be learning the Reassessment process. Job Summit –There are some errors with the last posting. There was one Manual job that was posted with split days that was pulled because the union was not in agreement with splitting the days. Successful bidders, pending qualification – there is an issue with them falling to the next bidder when they relinquish. We have been dealing with that. Overtime is scarce. Still waiting to speak with Phil Tabbita (at National) regarding the casual numbers. Bruce at P1, and I am watching to make sure casuals don't go into overtime. Remember, they don't go into overtime until after 40 hours, so if they stay later than you, it doesn't mean they are in overtime. Casuals can not be in a preferred duty assignments. I would like to thank all the members of the State Convention committee. Did a wonderful job. Would like to recognize the local members who were elected for state union positions: Jennifer Amos – Human Relations/Injury Compensation Director; Michael Long – Editor; Amy Puhalski – Area 9 Director; Karen Hodges – POWER Representative.

Recording Secretary: None

Clerk Craft Director: Mandatory Safety Talk regarding Cell Phones. Management is going to come down on employees who use them. We have discussed this with management that the employee's Cell Phones are their Emergency Line since management doesn't staff the actual emergency lines. Just be careful and don't be blatant using your cell phone. There are no Pay Phones at the Plant (either P1 or downtown), so everyone needs to use their cell phones. Badge control policy. Bulk Mail acceptance. There will be a retro-fit coming for Automation. Management states that we are over 13,000 window clerks. Management has agreed that if we can increase our numbers, we will staff all the APC with career clerks. To reduce the costs to the local, I have been working downtown.

Maintenance Craft Director: There is a lot going with the shifting of tours. Most of the changes that management is proposing is regarding Mechanized Staffing. Still have a lot of transfers coming into our crafts. Still hiring off the streets. I think all the new hires have joined the union. The Mechanized Staffing is still at higher level waiting for approval. Catherine and Tammy is doing a great job regarding the transfer of employees to our craft from other crafts and their seniority.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Associate Office Director: I have been in discussion with Lynn Pallas-Barber regarding the staffing of the APCs. Maintenance of this machine is a craft function. If casuals are being used, please let me know so I can file the appropriate grievances.

Sylvia Taylor sent a letter to the President stating that she would be closing the small Post Offices for an hour lunch. President Page has sent a letter to various news agencies regarding this cut in service.

Committee Reports:

A&E: Golfing for Hope is tomorrow on June 8th. Tiger's trip is coming up on June 29th. Picnic is July 20th. If you are planning on attending, please let us know. There is an RSVP drawing.

Building Committee: The Building Committee met on June 4, 2008. Members of the committee are: Dick Page, Catherine Beemblossom, Karen Hodges, Shawn Rabidoux, Jamie Arranguren, and Art Edgerding. The committee has discussed the pros and cons of owning our own building. We will be having more meetings throughout the summer and by putting an article in the July/August newsletter to give the membership information. At the September meeting, we will take input in: What the members want in a building? The amount of money the membership is willing to spend? (NOTE: The committee agrees that we should try to have a big enough down payment so that the mortgage would not exceed what we currently pay in rent.), Location of Building, etc.

Retirees Committee: How does a retired person get hired in again into the Postal Service? The 10th Anniversary of the Retiree's Chapter is being held at the Pizza Ranch – 1348 E. Sherman, Muskegon on June 13th at 11:00 a.m. - ??? Judy Beard, National APWU Retirees Director will be in attendance.

2008 Michigan Postal Workers Union Convention Committee: The Convention took place from May 14 – 18, 2008. Special thanks to Catherine, Karen, Bill, Jackie, and Dick for being on the committee and making it a reality. Thanks to Jamie Arranguren for his assistance along with Debbie Groux in the hospitality room. However, we couldn't have done it without the membership's help and their donations of food for the hospitality room. Well done. Everyone enjoyed it.

COPA: We will be raffling off a \$1,000 travel voucher (can be used for any trip/travel/excursion). Cost will be \$5.00 each. All the officers and stewards will have tickets. Drawing will be held at the October 4th General Membership Meeting

Correspondence:

1. Letter from Bruce Hawley regarding him running for State Congress.
2. Letter from Gary Van regarding thank for the State Convention.
3. Letter from Darren Joyce regarding COPA and the outstanding job we did at the State Convention.
4. Letter from Labor Heritage Society thanking us for our donation to the Golfing outing.
5. Letter from Senator Stabenow regarding to the extension of Unemployment Benefits.
6. Letter/Card from Linda Richards from her wedding.

Point of Information from Beverly Jarrett – What are the rules on wearing Political T-Shirts at work. Bill informed the membership that with the Hatch Act, we are allowed to wear T-Shirts.

Old/Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- To pay on 725 members to the State AFL-CIO at a costs of \$181.00 (\$1087.50 a year (after rebate from national)). Discussion. Carried
- To pay the cost of \$53.00 to Verizon Wireless due to an erroneous change on the cell phone due to a scam. Discussion. Carried.
- To expend up to \$250 for the Retirees Chapter for the 10th Anniversary Dinner at Pizza Ranch in Muskegon. Motion by Catherine Beemblossom, Seconded by: Karen Hodges to amend up to \$500.00. Amendment Carried. Motion read as amended. Carried.

The floor is open for new business:

- Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Catherine Beemblossom: to spend \$1,000 to purchase pins for the National Convention. Discussion. Division. Carried.
- Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Catherine Beemblossom: To spend up to \$500 for the purchase of trinkets for the National Convention. Discussion. Carried
- Motion by: Jennifer Amos, Seconded by: Michael Long for the local to establish a Local Auxiliary. Discussion. Carried.
- Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Catherine Beemlossom to spend up to \$300.00 for Shirts for the delegates to the National Convention. Discussion. Carried.
- Motion by: Jennifer Amos, Seconded by: Amy Puhalski: for the Vice-President to have their own Visa Card for the union (NOTE: This would change the policy regarding who can use the credit card). Discussion. Carried
- Point of Information by George Hendricks. Jim Stoddard, are you the President of the local Auxiliary? Jim answered that they needed a name at the State Convention and mine was given.
- Motion by: Catherine Beemblossom, Seconded by: Karen Hodges: All local delegates to the National Convention be paid Leave Without Pay. Discussion. Chair handed over to the Recording Secretary. Discussion continued. Division – 7 for, 11 against.
- Point of Information – Karen Hodges: The President purchased Travel Insurance for the delegates who were purchased by the President. Why wasn't the other delegates who purchased their own told they could purchase it. How much was the costs of tickets.
- Motion by: Karen Hodges, Seconded by: Catherine Beemblossom for those who purchased their tickets around \$300.00 be paid the difference between what they paid and the average amount paid by the President/Local as a bonus. Discussion. Defeated.
- Point of Clarification - Karen Hodges. The previous motion was a motion to show and to alert the membership to the costs spent.

- Point of Information – George Hendricks. When we always flew before, we always used the Red-Eye flights. Are we still using the Red Eyes? President Page stated that it all depends on when people choose to travel.
- Motion by: Catherine Beemblossom, Seconded by: Karen Hodges: All delegates who purchased their own flight tickets, be authorized to purchase Travel Insurance for their own flights. Discussion. Defeated

Labor Management: June 13th is the meeting. See your Steward or Officers if you have anything to add.

Drawings: (The # preceding the name is either the ticket number or raffle number)

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. #693 – Terrance Tang (If she had been present at the meeting, she would have won.)

COPA: \$69.00 totally collected. \$34.50 to the winner - #670408 – Beverly Jarrett

Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policies. When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done.)

1. #20 – Rose Jerrils
2. #16 – Jim Smith
3. #14 – Linda Chandler
4. #17 – Jackie Pike
5. #23 – Michael Long
6. #13 – Don Kramer
7. #31 – Jack Fryling
8. #21 – Richard Fletcher
9. #3 – Pete Brock

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary

LEGEND:

- - denotes a motion or discussion from the floor/membership.
- - denotes a motion from the Executive Board