

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 4, 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: 21

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – Richard Page	Clerk Craft Director – Bill Scutt
Treasurer – Linda Chandler	Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Mike Hill
Recording Secretary – Michael Long	Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling
Sergeant at Arms – Jackie Pike	

The following officers were not present: **Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith;
Vice-President – Amy Puhalski

Review of previous meeting's minutes: September's General Membership Meeting minutes were accepted as written. Carried

Applications for Membership:

Deanne VanPutten – Clerk – Middleville

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report was read for September 2008. Motion to accept. Carried.

President's Report: We just had a finalization of the Realignment in GR. We also had realignment in Holland. This went fairly smooth; however, there are some issues with what is happening with Unassigned. We kept them to the contractual obligations.

East Paris and the Patterson Carrier Annex are also consolidating. We have been assured that there is no reduction in positions (whether clerk, maintenance, or motor vehicle); however, only one job is being changed to add a scheme. This is affecting the junior employee at Patterson (and this job will go up as a bid citywide).

Some of you may have seen on the National Website regarding Lay Offs. It is possible that it may affect some of our APWU members. As of right now, we have a no-lay clause in our contract. However, please keep in mind that you had to be on the rolls as a Regular (Career) employees as of November 20, 2006 to be covered. If you were hired after this time, you are not afforded this protection.

Recording Secretary: I would like to apologize for the lateness in getting out last months' meeting minutes. We attempted to try a new way of doing and reviewing them to ensure utmost accuracy,

unfortunately it took a little longer than expected. I do wish to point out that as of this meeting, we now can take the meeting recording and put it directly to CD. If anyone would like a copy of the actual meeting, please let me know and I will be more than happy to burn you a copy of them.

On the Legislative front, next month on November 4th is Election Day. You will hear more from this in the future, you need to ensure that you get out and vote. Not just you, but your whole family, friends, and neighbors. Make sure everyone you know is registered. You need to be registered by this Monday, October 6th to be able to vote in the upcoming elections. Last month we voted unanimously to support Senator Barak Obama. Make sure you also get out and support the other pro-Labor candidates in your area. Not only on the National stage, but Statewide and Local too.

Clerk Craft Director: Realignment has gone through pretty smoothly. I truly believe that we took the opportunity to meet with management and gave considerable input and ensured that they followed the contract.

At last month's meeting, we voted to endorse Obama. I would encourage each of you to get out and vote. This is America and it is a beautiful thing that we can vote for whomever we want.

Thanks to Amy for her help and contributions to the Clerk craft. She takes schedule changes and attends the job summits.

The Postal Inspectors / OIG, in my opinion, are rotten and do whatever they do to justify their existence. They are pulling stunts and accusing innocent people. While there may be some stealing and theft happening, and when that happens, I believe that those doing that should lose their jobs (if they are going to lose a \$53,000 year job for stealing trinkets, coupons, etc). If the Postal Inspectors ever take you in to being questioned; Be Quiet and Ask for a Steward. Close your mouth! Give them your name, your start date, but don't give them any further information. Above all...DON'T STEAL or do anything to give them the impression that you are.

Retreat Rights. Just a reminder. If you have retreat rights, you must bid on every vacant job in your old/former sections/area that becomes available, or else you will lose your retreat rights.

Motor Vehicle Craft Director:

With the Patterson Carrier Annex, we have been told that we will not be transporting the mail to the East Paris Annex for 49546. Their reasoning is regarding the Line of Travel. We haven't seen anything in regards to the realignment as of yet.

I have been filing quite a few grievances regarding other employees and management transporting mail. Even though we have radios in the truck now, they have other transport the mail. If you are directed to transport mail, please send a message to Mike.

Associate Office Director:

First off, I want to apologize for not being here last month. I had a family emergency that I needed to attend to. I want to thank the membership for sending me to the National Convention. I learned quite a bit while there to help out in the offices.

I received via e-Mail the Postal Service "Vision 2013." Compared to 2002, we deliver to 10 million more delivery points in the United States with far better service using 150,000 less employees. They are looking to do away with more jobs. In some offices, they are reverting the Full time jobs; and reduced others. In some offices, they have taken away all the clerk hours in the office, except when that clerk performs higher level. They are going after us "tooth and nail" to get rid of our jobs.

In some offices, the Full-Time clerks are being placed on “Standby” while the Postmaster works the window and does craft work. This way, the next time an audit is conducted, they can justify reducing hours. If this is happening to you, use that time to write down what is happening and send it to me to file the appropriate grievances. We need to protect our jobs.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None

Committee Reports: None

Correspondence:

Card from Jim Stoddard’s family thanking the local for the flowers for his father’s funeral.
Flyer for a Kent County Democratic Party Social Outing.

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

Motion to change the policy regarding Turkey’s and Hams that in lieu of the Turkey and/or Ham that the union gives the winner a \$25.00 Meijer Gift Card. Carried

The floor was opened up for new business:

Motion by Jim Stoddard, Seconded by Jackie Pike to pay all delegates to the last National Convention 16 hours of LWOP. Motion ruled out of order by the Chair/President.

Motion by Jim Stoddard, Seconded by Al Matchovich that all delegates to the last National Convention be compensated for 16 hours. Discussion. Defeated (Division 6 for, 13 no).

Labor Management:

Overtime Equalization at P1 between tours; Rips and Tears and Tabber (being done by Limited and Light Duty employees) on Tour 3 at the Main; Mail Handlers working on equipment during Maintenance windows, thus causing maintenance not being able to complete work

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

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. #236 – Ester Kim (If she would have been at the meeting, she would have won)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$68.00 totally collected. \$34.00 to the winner - #670536 – Dick Page.
Local Raffle Drawing for a \$1,000 Travel Voucher – Don Kramer

4 - 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. If more than 40 members are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members)

#13 – Linda VanderMarkt
#15 – Scott Atherhoff
#4 – Michael Hill
#9 – Marilyn Bulsok

#17 – Jackie Pike
#21 – Roy Bailey

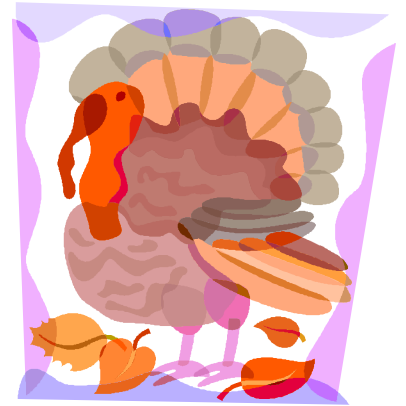
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Long". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary



WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL #281
 AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO
 NOVEMBER 2008 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Constitution Changes to be voted on at this meeting. See September's Meeting Minutes for the changes or go to WMAL.org.

UNION HALL AT 918 BENJAMIN NE; GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

Refreshments to follow the meeting

\$250.00 Meeting Attendance Special Drawing (Need to be present to win)

Special Drawing!! 10 - \$25.00 Meijer Gift Cards to be given away (in lieu of Turkeys)

(Need to be signed in and Present to Win)

4 - \$10 Dollar Drawings (Need to be signed in at meeting to win)



Veterans Day Holiday - November 11, 2008

