

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the APWU Union Hall, located at 2554 Burlingame Ave SW; Wyoming, MI 49509 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Short Invocation.

Numbers of Members in Attendance: 29

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

Vice-President – Amy Puhalski

Recording Secretary – Michael Long

Treasurer – Linda Chandler

Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling

Clerk Craft Director – Bill Scutt

Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith

Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Mike Hill

The following officer(s) were not present: **President** – Richard Page; **Sergeant at Arms** – Jackie Pike

Review of previous meeting's minutes: June's General Membership Meeting minutes read and accepted. Motion to accept by voice vote. Carried.

Applications for Membership: None

Bills: \$53.40 for Digital Voice Recorder
\$16.77 for lunch for the MVS National Advocate

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Will postpone reading of the meeting minutes until the next meeting.

Vice-President Report: We are having excessed clerks coming into Grand Rapids from Detroit area. These members are coming with their seniority. They were excessed, which means, they lost their jobs. Please join me in welcoming them and making them feel at home. Four people will be coming to Tour 1, with two people going to Tour 3. They were forced into residuals and some of them have seniority going back to 86 / 87.

Recording Secretary: Congress is currently in recess and most of the congresspersons are back in their districts. Please make your voice heard by contacting the local office of your congressional representative especially regarding the Employee Free Choice Act.

Clerk Craft Director: Our Step 2 procedures have bogged down with the transition of our Step 2 designee at District. Rich Howard is our new Step 2 designee so this should be alleviated.

I had an interesting conversation with an inspector about my last report. She is under the assumption that I didn't fully explain accurately what they are attempting to do. They said they aren't going to go and prosecute someone that makes an accidental input. However, make sure you follow procedures. Watch your butts and make sure you input your transactions correctly (e.g. When you sell

ten books of stamps, don't scan one book, and then change the quantity. Scan each book individually. Not only is it the proper thing to do, it also gives you more time in the system.)

Educational Conference is coming up on June 11th. Will have more information regarding this at the next meeting.

Arbitration. Had arbitration last week. The Mail Handler union attempted to intervene, however, the Arbitrator would not allow it. They further attempted to have this case moved to RI-399. The Arbitrator gave management a continuance, and will be reconvening this in July.

Maintenance Craft Director: Welcome to everyone, this last meeting before summer.

Welcome to Mike Hill to our craft. Our latest person to transfer into the craft.

Staffing. We are pretty much done with it. We still have a few items to discuss. We have heard that the District Manager is trying to reduce cleaning frequency and thus the staffing.

No Lunches. We have been under a ridiculous, complicated policy that was never posted anywhere. We needed some time to build a case, and that is what we did. This is has pretty much been thrown out now. What it going to be required is that the employee will need to submit a 3971 to your supervisor in advance, which means not after the fact, and it will be up to your supervisor's discretion.

Sub-contracting. We received an award this week, got some people paid. Talking with the NBA, we have sent a couple more up.

Five-Minute Leeway. Just finished appealing the grievance regarding the 5-minute leeway and this will be going up to Step 3.

4-10 program. We had a meeting regarding the expansion of the 4-10 workweek. We are expanding to P2 campus on Tour 2. We will continue to expand where we can. As of now, Maintenance manager will not expand this to mechanized areas.

Motor Vehicle Craft Director: I have transferred to the Maintenance craft, but will not stop being a Steward of the Motor Vehicle Craft.

Grievance Procedure. Missy VanderSlik is the Step 2 designee, even though she is the manager of the section. We are sending up every grievance denied to Step 3.

Arbitration Case. Management has the right for any craft to transport Express Mail. However, management is misreading this and trying to include all classes of mail. We are grieving this and will be sent up to Step 3.

Management is cutting back on the runs. Management has cut 3 drivers. We have two on medical. So we are five positions down. Even with this, management will not utilize the PTF drives in a full-time capacity. We are down to 27 runs from approximately 32 (including auxiliaries (most we have had)).

Associate Office Report: I am putting together an e-Mail distribution network for all Associate Offices. I went through Outlook. If you don't use or don't want me to use your Outlook address at the Post Office or would like to be added to this list, please e-Mail at wmaljackfryling@aol.com and I will make the change or addition.

I just went to an office for a Letter of Warning. The Clerk did not receive or ask for any representation. We are all entitled to representation. Make sure if you are brought into the office, ask if this will or could lead to discipline. If the answer from management is Yes. Make sure to ask for a steward. It is your right and your responsibility to ask for it.

Retiree's Director Report: Remember the 61st Anniversary of D-Day

HR-22 is on the floor right now. Along with Windfall Elimination, but whatever happened to GPO which attacks our beneficiaries and surviving spouses.

Single Payer – Health care. Ultimately, if we are going to take our health care under control. This is going to be necessary. We all can have our own plans, but this should be secondary. Everyone should be covered.

Committee Reports:

A&E: Picnic is July 19th. We have posted flyers. Please RSVP. There is an incentive drawing for those who do.

POWER: The POWER convention is going to be in Detroit from Thursday, July 30 – Sunday, August 2nd. The POWER committee has created a T-Shirt. It says on the front: In the Return Address: “Send a Card or a Letter, Make It Last Forever.” In the Address Spot says: “Mail your Bills, don’t pay on-line. The job you save can be yours and mine.” On the Back: I love Junk Mail. United States Postal Service, reliable and trustworthy for over 230 years.”

We are selling these for \$15.00. They come in Orange, Black, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, and Purple. We are taking orders.

Budget Committee: The Budget Committee met back in early April. We had to adjust a previous budget due to the purchase of the building. The Proposed budget was handed out to the membership at the meeting. There was a reduction of about \$30,000 from the previous year.

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Michael Long to approve and accept the proposed Budget and committee report and recommendation. Carried.

Labor Day Fest/Parade: If you have any ideas for our local’s booth at the Fest. Please see Catherine Beemblossom. Once a committee is fully established, more information will be presented and will be posted on the local’s website.

- Point of Personal Privilege by Bill Scutt: Paul Harp is not doing well and he is at a facility in Spring Lake. The cancer is now up by his Brain stem and his speech is slurred. There is and will be a card going around.

Correspondence:

1. Open House Flyer
2. 2009 ADA Golf Flyer
3. Letter of thanks and donation request from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
4. Card of Thanks from Sally Lesewicz on her retirement gift
5. River City Bass Club letter request for donation.

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- To authorize the expenditure of \$700.00 per year to pay the Building Manager paid in the same manner as other officers and representatives of the local. Discussion. Carried
- To incorporate into the policies, the expenditure of \$50.00 for cleaning of the union hall after each rental. Discussion. Carried.
- To expend up to \$250.00 for the purchase of a new Digital Camera for the local. Discussion. Carried

FYI: The membership is informed of the changed dates for the September and October General Membership Meetings: Sunday, September 13 @ 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 6 @ 6:00 p.m. The reason for the changes: September is due to the Holiday, and October is due to the Multi-craft conference

The floor was opened up for new business:

- POI: George Hendricks: Tim Burke just retired from the Postal Service a few months ago; however, he just had a fire last Tuesday and lost everything
- POI: George Hendricks: A brick at the Solidarity Monument. If you would like a lasting gift, bricks are still available.
- Motion by: Nancy Gingery, Seconded: Michael Long to donate \$1,000 to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association. Discussion. Defeated.
- POI: Nancy Gingery. Can we rent the Union Hall to Non-Profit agencies at half-price? President Page responded that the Board of Directors will take this under consideration.
- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Michael Long: With 2009 Budget as accepted, this is authorization to expend funds, and the budget committee has the authority to move funds in between categories up the amount listed in the budget. Discussion. Carried
- Motion by: Catherine Beemblossom, Seconded by: Karen Hodges: to send Karen Hodges and Catherine Beemblossom to the 2009 POWER convention in Detroit from July 30 – August 2nd with Lost Time and Lodging for a total cost of \$1,500. Discussion. Motion to table by: Bill Scutt, Seconded by: Roy Bailey. Motion to table: 15 for, 9 against. Motion to Table Carried.
- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Al Matchovich, to donate \$100 to the River City Bass Club. Discussion. Carried.

Labor Management: See your steward or officers to submit items for discussion.

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

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. # 574 – Joshua Walters (If he would have been at the meeting, would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$77.00 totally collected. \$38.50 to the winner - #6864. Beverly Jarrett

Four (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)

3 – Lisa Borchert
20 – Amy Puhalski
#19 – Kathy Strunk
#27 – Cindy DelaFuentes
#7 – Jim Smith
#17 – Jackie Pike
#25 – Roy Bailey

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL WILL BE.....

NOTE: THE LOCATION IS NOW CHANGED TO OUR UNION HALL!