

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2010

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: 26

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – Richard Page	Clerk Craft Director – Ray Novakoski
Recording Secretary – Michael Long	Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Tracy Fleming	
Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling	Sergeant at Arms – Jackie Pike

The following officers were not present: **Vice-President** – Amy Puhalski; **Treasurer** – Linda Chandler

Review of previous meeting's minutes: February's General Membership Meeting minutes were accepted by voice vote with the following correction: The information regarding contracting in the Retiree Chapter was dealing with the contracting out of Medicare and the proper spelling is Wysocki (was incorrectly spelled). Meeting started at 7:00 p.m. (not 6:00 p.m). Carried.

Applications for Membership: Larry Kronewitter (Clerk – Grand Rapids)

Bills: Additional Expenses with the Hospitality Room (\$7 + change) Bill carried.

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Jennifer Amos: to defer the reading of the Treasurer's report to next month. Carried.

President's Report:

We have to move the April meeting to April 7th at 6:00 p.m. due to it being Easter weekend.

An update of the Hall Assessment for tax purposes from the City of Wyoming that was six times what we paid for it. We appealed it to the assessor, and the city did not budge/change their decision. We have appealed it to their full board and have a meeting on March 11th. It consists of an Accountant, Realtor, and a Citizen of Wyoming. The Assessors will not be part of the board, but will be in the room; but will remain silent unless questioned by the board. If needed, we do have final appeal rights with the State of Michigan.

Q – What is the difference between the \$600 and the \$100k. If we were charged, it would be \$1,400 a month in taxes. You can see why we want this lowered considerably. We have questioned their coding (since it says Government), the kind woman in back, said it smelled as a rat. This is the way they code it when there is a sweetheart deal. Dick will bring the Inspection report with them, that shows that the building was crumbling and not a Sweetheart deal as they state.

We have an upcoming convention; we have fourteen delegates going from our local. All the rooms are book and the credentials sent. We have the most voting strength of any local in the state. If there is anyone from the membership who would like to run for State Office, or propose a resolution, please get this information to me or the Recording Secretary.

National President Conference. Amy will be going in my absence. I want to impress the importance of this upcoming conference. I really feel that our National officers, that because we are being hit with a triple whammy coming up: 1. National Elections, 2: Contract Negotiations and 3: National Convention in August. Amy is aware of a few agenda items that we want to bring up at this Conference. This particular year, Washington is not functioning. Our current National President is retiring, and people are fighting and vying for positions. Hopefully they will take our recommendations in consideration.

Q – Have you thought about using a Lawyer to handle the Tax problem with the building? A – Lawyers are like Doctors, I try to stay away from them, except if you absolutely need them.

Recording Secretary: Scholarship deadline is fast approaching. Not only ours locally, but for the National as well as well as the Accident Benefit Association (if you are a member of this).

Legislatively, it has been reported that President Obama has stated that he wants an up or down vote on his health plan initiatives ASAP. I have heard that Congress will be using a rarely used measure – Reconciliation to force a vote in the near future. We will see.

There is a sign-up sheet at the table tonight to show our individual support to keep Whirlpool here in Michigan.

Clerk Craft Report:

Have had a chance to work with Dick and Amy regarding the Jobs and where they are at. Went to Job Summit, there was a residual job that we have had reposted. There are jobs that were posted for SPBS with Saturday/Sunday.

Thanks to Jim Smith for him going out to P1 and working on behalf of the clerks out there. We are looking for a Clerk Steward on Tour 3.

Thank you for sending me to the District Meeting, I went to the Excessing class that was taught by NBA Lynn Pallas-Barber. This also gave me an opportunity to discuss some items with our National Business Agents.

Five Day Delivery. The Postal Service is really pushing for this. Most businesses in the real business world when they are hurting for money increase services, not cut them; however, the Postal Service is doing just the opposite. Instead of reducing management, they make new jobs for them and move them to higher level positions. Make sure you contact your family/relatives and friends and have them contact their legislator and make sure they know to keep the service and to keep six-day

delivery. The APWU Legislative Department has a letter on-line for you to contact your representative.

Q – Shouldn't we go back to the Informational Pickets and an Interview with the News Media? While it might not be a good idea to do it on the heels of what PMG Potter did, but President Page feels that there might be something from National coming down in regards to this issue.

POI - Mail Volume is down, and our own members are paying their bills on-line. Every little thing helps. Make sure to pay your bills by mail.

Maintenance Craft Report:

First of all addressing Excessing Rumors. Excessing is not determined at the local level. It is determined at the Regional level. A 204B is not going to be part of that determination. When you hear a rumor remember any rumors that is floating around is just that...a rumor.

In late 2008 we had to re-do the Mechanized staffing. When all said and done, we gained three mechanics. We just finished another Mechanized staffing package, and we did not lose any time, we increased hours.

Before when we did staffing packages, management had all the time to do it, and we only have 14 days to file a grievance and do it for ourselves. I have contacted National before and asked them if there was anything for us to use to make it easier but was told no. However, someone finally said that they had the software to do this staffing and am having it sent to me so make it easier to track and ensure we do not lose any hours.

Art states that we are Excessing three positions. We asked where they are sending these people. Management stated: "No where" We are just placing them unassigned with the same days off and times. That is not excessing. We have residual jobs as well.

If there is excessing, there are certain Veterans rights that can come into play. We are still ahead of jobs. Every job they have tried to eliminate, we have grievances in on this no matter the operation.

One of the things we are doing is staffing packages for Associate Offices. We just finished at Jenison and now have a full time there. Also, just finished with Grand Haven, and it looks like we might have a full time also. I just started on Holland and may have another full time, but will have to look at the information.

Please welcome our new stewards John Collison (Tour 1 – P1) and Greg Carlson (Tour 3 – GMF).

I was very proud to be asked by Larry Miller to assist him with training at the recent District Meeting.

Webinar training. National is giving most of the training and they said it is the training of the future

When ordering off the Internet, take time to find someone that ships via the US Postal Service.

Motor Vehicle Report:

We are doing better with getting the mail being transported by MVS. The drivers are working overtime and getting the mail transported.

If you see anyone else besides MVS transporting mail, please let me know

Q – Twice within the last month, I asked an MVS driver to transport mail from one of the stations to another stations; however, the driver said no. A – Let me know who said that...we (MVS) should be transporting all the mail and not declining it.

Sergeant at Arms Report: None.

Associate Office Report:

I heard on the floor that I might be a 204B. The only way I am going to be going to management is to give them grievances, just wanted to set the record straight.

I sent out e-Mails to all the Associate Office clerks regarding sharing their cash drawers. Last week, I was contacted and a PTF said that she was given the opportunity to gain hours at another office, but contingent that she works out of the Postmaster's drawer. This employee did the right thing and refused and contacted the union. I contacted the POOM, and this has now been rectified. You do not work out of any other person's drawer. Period.

I was looking at some clock rings, and some of the clerks were working odd hours. Sometimes they would have a 30 minute lunch, and then a 1.5 hour lunch, 2 hour lunch, etc. This is improper. If your bid jobs says 2-hour lunch break, and then the Postmaster comes to you and says for you to work an hour early and then punch out an hour early, this is improper, and you should be paid an hour of overtime and be paid for that last hour in lieu (as guarantee time).

Retiree Chapter Report:

Labor has a newspaper, it is called: Positive Voices, which started in January 2010. Currently it is part of the Grand Valley Labor News.

Census is coming out soon. Please fill out your form and return them. It controls how much money the community receives.

Health Care reform. Let your representative know.

Join Us at Retiree Meetings @ 11:30.

Working more closely with unions. We had a closer relationship with other locals and unions previously. We should start working closely once again. Supporting each other. Keep this in mind.

Union Label – Jenny Chapman at the Union Label would like to be on our mailing list. 131 Caledonia; Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

UAW Union Label Breakfast at the Region 1D UAW Union Hall off the East Beltline is on March 21st from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Come on out.

Committee Reports:

State Convention Resolution Committee. Tracy Fleming, James Smith, and Dick Page met as per the motion from last month by the Executive Board, and have recommendations/changes which are mostly cosmetic to advance to the State Convention.

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Rick Velasquez to accept the committee recommendations and submit the resolutions to the Convention Body. Carried

Building: We are starting to get rentals to our Union Hall.

Correspondence:

1. Letter from Auxiliary regarding upcoming National Convention
2. Labor Heritage Society Monument Campaign – Golf Outing

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

- ✓ To allow the family to come and remove the bell and attached pole from in front of the union hall, and for the family to fill in the hole afterwards. Call for the Question (properly seconded) Carried. Vote on Original Motion -- Carried.
- ✓ To donate \$150 for the upcoming State Convention Hospitality Room (to the Central Michigan Area Local). Carried.
- ✓ For the local to be a Gold Sponsor and Sponsor a Team of four members (one being the President, and three others to be randomly drawn) at a total cost of \$1,300 for the Spirit of Solidarity Labor Heritage Society Monument Campaign Golf Outing. Call for the Question (properly seconded). Carried. Vote on Original Motion. Chair in Doubt. Called for Division. 12 For, 7 against. Motion Carried.

The floor was opened up for new business:

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Jennifer Amos: that the President send a Letter and invoice to Bill Scutt to recuperate the costs of training for the previous year(per the Oath that was taken when swearing into office). Discussion. Carried.

Submitted Constitution changes were read at this meeting per the constitution and will be sent to the Constitution Committee and voted upon at the May 2010 General Membership Meeting. There were six of them (have been posted along with this month's meeting minutes) dealing with:

1. Article 5, Dues and Assessments: Section 1
2. Article 7, Officers: Section 5 (President)
3. Article 7, Officers: Section 5 (Union LWOP for all officers besides the President authorized LWOP usage)
4. Article 11, Delegates to the Conventions: Section 2

5. Article 11, Delegates to the Conventions: Section 7 (New Section)
6. Article 16, Committees: Section 10 (New Section)

Labor Management: Please see your steward or officers to submit items for discussion; meeting is planned for March 18, 2010.

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

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing. # 292 – Yolunda Moore (If she would have been at the meeting, she would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$71 total collected. \$35.50 to the winner - #972587 – Lisa Borchardt

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)

- #2 – George Hendricks
- #13 – Doug Warren
- #26 – Lisa Borchardt
- #1 – Tammy Byrnes

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long
Recording Secretary