

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2013

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.

**Roll Call of Officers:**

The following officers were present:

<b>Executive Vice-President</b> – Ray Novakoski	<b>Clerk Craft Director</b> – Roy Bailey
<b>Recording Secretary</b> – Michael Long	<b>Motor Vehicle Craft Director</b> - Chris Fisher
<b>Treasurer</b> – Linda Chandler	<b>Associate Office Director</b> – Jack Fryling

The following officers were absent: **President** – Amy Puhalski (at National President's Conference); **Maintenance Craft Director** – James Smith; **Sergeant at Arms** – Dan Quillin

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** To accept the October's 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion by: Michael Long, Seconded by: Jack Fryling. Carried.

**Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):** Welcome new members of the WMAL! Motion by: George Hendricks, Seconded by: Linda Chandler. Carried  
Carol Lemiesz (Clerk – Grand Rapids) Colleen Crouner (Maintenance – Grand Rapids)

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report ending October 31, 2013 was read. Motion by: Roy Bailey, Seconded by: Jack Fryling

**Executive Vice-President's Report:**

The Election Committee is in the back of room for all candidates if they wish to view the Dues Check Off, Mailing List and the Ballot (to include spelling)

RI-399 – We were supposed to have a meeting this past month. There was confusion as to who the management representative was. We will be having a meeting in November. Some of the issues are: Express Mail Rack; SPBS; 130 Operation.

**Recording Secretary's Report:**

Open Season will be for November 11 – December 9, 2013 for Health Plan, FEDVIP, and FSA. Make sure to check out the new plans being offered for Dental and Vision.

Contractual Pay Raise set for November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The new State President is Jesus Gonzales. John Marcotte was successful in his bid to the National Legislative Director.

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Riverview - There are a lot of changes coming down. Changes are happening at the P-3 with cubical

Scholarships – Now is the time to get cracking on next year’s scholarships for your child. Not only does the local have one, but belonging to the APWU, you can also apply for that one and Union Plus Scholarship.

**Clerk Craft Report:**

Jim asked to be excused tonight for personal reasons.

PSEs are asking when they are going to be converted to career. Amy filed a grievance for 23 residuals (after the 21 day eReassign) and after the people affected outside of our district and those in Associate Offices. Hopefully we can get some information from our NBAs in the future. Four CCAs have been converted to full-time residual vacancies. If Carriers can, there is no reason that clerk PSEs can’t be converted as well.

I would like to commend the Window Clerks for promoting Breast Cancer awareness and the stamps. Going through the city, I have seen that 90% of the clerks were promoting by wearing and showing pink.

East Paris – There is a vast shortage of employees with full scheme knowledge. Management is using scare tactics with the PSEs and threatening them with job loss.

Grievance settlement for \$2,000 for Lobby Director (management performing craft work). Paid the 25 senior employees on the Overtime Desired List \$80.00 each.

**Motor Vehicle Craft Report**

We will be rebidding all MVS jobs next year. Keep a watch out for this on the bid boards in the MVS office.

**Sergeant at Arms Report:** None

**Associate Office Director Report:**

There was a National Decision from DAS regarding the Postmasters have to adhere to the guidelines established by the contract what they can work and this is retro to March 2010 (the Postal Service is fighting this). The POOM has instructed the Postmaster to blatantly violate this. In these offices, the clerks in the offices need to step up and provide the information to get YOU paid. This is a direct involvement circumstance that will help you. If they go beyond the 15 or 25 hour rule. Let us know.

Higher Level Pay – Lead Clerk pay. When someone is suppose to get lead clerk pay? If a supervisor is not present, then someone should be receiving at least Lead Clerk pay. If you have any problems, please contact your union representative.

Investigative Interview – Make sure to ask what the interview is about. If it can lead to discipline, you are entitled to a union representative.

**Retiree President – Chapter Report**

I was fortunate a day before yesterday – I keep in touch with our legislature. I had the opportunity to meet our State House Representative on Friday. It was a pleasure to meet her. Make contact with your legislative representatives and start a rapport with them. If they don’t know you, they don’t know your needs or wants.

November 5th – at Russ’ Restaurant at 11:00 a.m.

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My goal has always been to keep the membership informed as to what the union.

Authorizations for Expenditures.

- Motion by: George Hendricks, Seconded by: Joe Hall that the local reimburse George Hendricks for \$44. (Motion by tabled/suspended by subsequent motion)

Exec Vice President handed the chair over to the Recording Secretary.

- Motion by: Ray Novakoski, Seconded by: Irene Erickson – to table/suspend this motion until the next meeting when Amy is here so she can respond. Table/Suspension carried

Recording Secretary handed the chair back over to the Exec Vice President.

### **Committee Reports**

POWER Committee – Tree for Christmas. Chose to adopt a family of one of our PSE who is out due to Cancer treatment. Another family of a customer who's family's residence burned down. These two families need our help; so please give! Deadline is December 17<sup>th</sup>. We are having a bake sale downtown on November 25<sup>th</sup> (to help raise funds to donate to the families directly to help with necessary expenses). Sign up to make something to help sale.

Casino/shopping trip bus is full.

Christmas Party on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the union hall. This will be open this to other unions. Continue to look for information.

Election Committee -

### **Correspondence:**

1. Thank you letter from Dave Baskin for our support in his attempt to run for NBA.
2. Thank you departure letter from Greg Bell (National Exec Vice President)

### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

Election committee –

- Motion by: Jennifer Gilbert; Seconded by: Roy Bailey that one vote be cast for those members who ran unopposed for the following officers. Carried (Executive Vice President – Michael Long; Maintenance Craft Director – James Smith; Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Chris Fisher)

Constitution Changes from the September General Membership. Committee report presented to the members:

- Article 10, Section 3b - Committee's Recommendation of Concurrence. Carried (Without Objection) (Amendment carried)
- Article 6, Section 3 – Committee's Recommendation of Non-Concurrence. Carried (Without Objection) (Amendment was defeated)

### **New Business:**

**E-Board Recommendations:** None

**Labor Management:** If you have anything for Labor Management please let your Craft Directors know.

**Drawings:** (The # preceding the name is either the ticket number or raffle number at the meeting it was drawn at and may change at each meeting.)

**\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing:** Robert Meadows. (*If he was at this meeting, he would have won!*)

**COPA:** 50/50 Drawing: \$97.00 total collected. \$48.50 to the winner - #380439 – Tina Lane

***Thanksgiving Drawing:***

1. #17 – George Folk
2. #20 - Linda Monroe
3. #9 – Joe Hall
4. #21 – Mick Wilson
5. #31 – Jack Fryling
6. #36 – Donna Adams
7. #5 – Tammy Byrnes
8. #19 – Michelle Turner
9. #39 – Jodie Pelerito
10. #7 – Ricky Jackson

**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 40 or more than are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

1. #12 – Irene Erickson
2. #27 – Tina Lane
3. #8 – Greg Carlson
4. #23 – Michael Long
5. #29 – Chris Fisher
6. #2 – Carol Imanse

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours in Solidarity,



Michael A. Long  
Recording Secretary