

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2015

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – absent	Clerk Craft Director – Jeff Schellinger
Executive Vice-President – Mike Long	Maintenance Craft Director – absent
Treasurer – Linda Chandler	Sergeant at Arms – absent
Associate Office Director – Jack Fryling	Recording Secretary – Jennifer Gilbert
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Chris Fisher	

The following officers were absent: **President** – Amy Puhalski, **Maintenance Craft Director** – Joe Hall, **Sergeant-At-Arms** – John Hansma

Review of previous meeting's minutes: To accept the April 2015 General Membership Meeting minutes Motion by: Jack Fryling Seconded by: Chris Fisher Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Motion by Jack Fryling Seconded by: Jennifer Gilbert: to accept applications for new membership in the WMAL Carried. Welcome new members of the WMAL:

Robert Kolasse – Clerk FTR Grand Rapids
Elgie Jones, III – PSE - MVS Grand Rapids
Raymond Lloyd – PSE – Grand Rapids
Katherine Murray – FTR – Clerk – Grand Rapids
Jeff DeVito – FTR – Maintenance – Grand Rapids

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as read: Lisa Borchardt Seconded by: Jack Fryling

President's Report: Absent

Executive Vice-President's Report: Last week most of the stewards were at the Educational Conference training. Want to thank everyone that attended and it was well run and well received. The bus trip downtown to the festival was a success. Conference was attended by approximately 90 stewards and officers from around the state and national officers as well. Presentation about the contract from Mark Dimondstein and Debby Szeredy will be put up on the WMAL website. Economic package was unacceptable to the union so the contract is at impasse and will go to mediation, if that does not work then it will go to interest arbitration. Economic issue were at the forefront, USPS wanted us to move backwards not forward. We do not have a say as members if it goes to interest arbitration, whatever is negotiated is negotiated. Contract is extended until the new contract is signed. Layoff protection and other provisions outside of COLAs and raises continue in effect until the new contract is negotiated and ratified. Costco membership forms are on the table. If you want to sign up for Costco there are forms please take one. Contact your legislators and urge them to vote "no" on TPP. It will kill jobs in America. Those of you who work on Tour 3, Mark

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Dimondstein and other national officers came and toured the plant downtown. They went to every DBCS machine and met the workers and talked to them Wednesday night. Everyone was wearing the pins that were handed out from National. Thanks to John Hansma for being on top of the visit situation. There was a 56 million dollar article 1.6b grievance settlement that just came down.

Clerk Craft Director Report: Was a sewer main break at the GMF. Six port-a-potties at the GMF, brought in cases of bottled water. Just had the MPWU educational conference, Mike Long did a great job and other stewards were impressed at what was put on. Thanks to the stewards that went to the training. NBAs gave a class on basic grievance handling, was great. During the first day they were announcing about locals that had 90% organization in their local. We are under that, we need to organize more. Stewards are doing good job organizing but we need to organize more members.

Maintenance Craft Director Report - Absent

Motor Vehicle Craft Director Report: Tom Maddox retired. Some put in transfers to maintenance. Hopefully work on getting PSEs converted.

Recording Secretary Report: Everyone needs to get the postcards to their family and friends about saving the postal service and supporting resolutions that take us back to restoring our service standards to what it was before the changes. We all need to push for support for these resolutions, the service standard changes affect every single person in this country, not just special interest groups or certain groups of individuals. Mail is being delayed for days and sometimes weeks. Another hack has occurred against 4 million federal employees, hoping it is not postal workers again. Congressional staff and active military personnel are not affected.

Associate Office Director Report- With all the people changes and staffing changes, the clerks in the associate offices are really being pushed. Putting in a lot of hours, postmasters and supervisors are getting everyone to help out because they don't have staffing, even bringing in the old PMRs to help out. If there is a career person assigned to an AO you cannot have a PMR working in that office. Borrowing PSEs from other associate offices. If there are not at least three career employees in an office they are not allowed to employ a PSE in that office. They are using postmasters, carriers, etc to do clerk work because they don't have enough staffing. If this is happening bring it to the Union's attention. File grievances.

Committee Reports

A & E Committee

Tiger game ticket purchase deadline is July 21st no exceptions. The game is August 23rd.

P.O.W.E.R. Committee

As the MPWU P.O.W.E.R. chairperson, put on an exhibit of made-in-USA, union-made vintage kitchen items such as PYREX bakeware, sets of china, barware, etc. Tagged items with the unions the employees who made the products belonged to, the era they were made. Was a hit with just about everyone there. Ruffled off many of the items I brought from my personal collection and raised \$268.00 to go to the WMAL P.O.W.E.R. "Wish Upon A Star" Christmas tree project. One bar set that was won was then raffled off for COPA by the winner of that item and netted \$160.00 for COPA. Was a fun project to do and I'm glad people enjoyed it. There will be a community garage sale put on by the P.O.W.E.R. committee on Saturday, June 27th. Rent a banquet-sized table for \$10.00, sell your unwanted items and hang out with your fellow union members. Donuts and coffee will be provided and we may have a cookout if we can swing it. Everything you sell the money is

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yours to keep, the \$10.00 table fee goes to the P.O.W.E.R. fund. Afterwards whatever you don't want, you don't have to pack up and haul back, it will be donated to the World Mission Thrift store two doors down. They will either come and pick up the items or we will pack it up for you and cart it down there. Sale will be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, please come early to set up. Lots of people come to community sales, it's like many garage sales all in one place instead of driving around. Refer to flyer for info and table rental form. No illegal or inappropriate items please and thanks.

Correspondence Letter of thanks from recent retiree Rich Twilling. Letter of thanks from recent retiree Ronda Payne. Letter of thanks from Susan G. Komen Foundation for memorial donation. Letter of commendation/thanks from John Marcotte for our Local President, Amy Puhalski, writing an article about COPA in the WMAL newsletter.

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations. To sponsor ten children for the Sugarmel Basketball Camp at Ottawa Hills High School on August 4th, 5th, and 6th at a cost of 50.00 per child for a total of 500.00. Carried.

New Business:

Labor Management:

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: Steve Homrich (If he were at this meeting, he would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$ 56.00 total collected. \$28.00 to the winner – #381546 Geraldine Davis

Four (4) - Ten (\$10.00) Dollar Door Prizes:

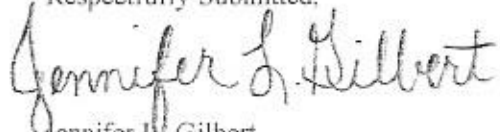
#7 Linda Yarnott
#2 Mary Thompson
#12 Jennifer Gilbert
#27 Debbie Ohanesian
#30 Lisa Borchardt

(NOTE: According to local policies. When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done. If 40 or more are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

Motion to adjourn by: Chris Fisher Seconded by: Dave Baker. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer L. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

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