

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2019

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 Moment of Silence.

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President – Amy Puhalski	Clerk Craft Director – Jeff Schellinger
Executive Vice-President – Joshua Gray	Maintenance Craft Director – Michael Long
MVS Craft Director – Chris Fisher	Clerk Craft Director (B) – David Janes
Sergeant at Arms – Lisa Borchardt	

The following officers were absent: **Recording Secretary** – Suzi Boyd, **Treasurer** – Linda Chandler

Review of previous meeting's minutes: To accept the April 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes Motion by: Michael Long Seconded by: Jeff Schellinger Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership): Welcome new members of the WMAL: Danille Ziel – Spring Lake

Bills: None

Officer's Reports

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report will be read at the June meeting.

President's Report:

Tax Day flyer handout – we covered as much as we could. Management was on board except for the website (since it wasn't an USPS.gov website) so management wouldn't allow them to be placed on the counters. Monetary Remedy for Improper Posting will be done by Jeff. Area is eyeballing the jobs in Grand Rapids again, meaning reversions could be coming down. Management created a new Function 1 Scheduling program. We have quite a few reversions at arbitrations. When we get a reversion, we use all available hours to justify the positions. There is another where we can use the PSE hours to create new positions, and there is a National dispute on this. Back in 2011, we had TACs clerks that put in Associate Office clerk rings. They abolished them and put them in Eagan. Then they gave the work to the Postmasters so it was grieved. Management wanted to use a witness telephonically, and the union challenged this and it will now be heard in June. I know you seen in the news, regarding a Tractor trailer that lost their load of mail. We talked about how to avoid this in the future. The load is supposed to be tied down every 10 feet, but this trailer was loaded throughout the whole day. This has been addressed before, but like everything, when it isn't paramount, it falls to the wayside. We provided some input and hope this doesn't occur again. If the truck is already full, there is no way to see if it was strapped properly. Higher level pay for Associate Offices – if you are the only one there and there is no supervisor, OIC or Postmaster there, you should be paid Level 7. If you aren't you need to file a grievance to be paid. Conversions – Four conversions coming up and one transfer. A few PTFs in our Associate Offices.

May 2019 General Membership

National APWU Elections – there are tickets already being formed. Don't believe everything you read on social media. We have plenty of time to talk about who is running. Sometimes they will come to the meetings and speak. Once we get closer to the date, we can provide a list of candidates that we endorse and our reasoning. If you have any questions, bring it up at the meeting.

Executive Vice-President's Report:

Thank you for being here today, it was a really nice day out. Tour 3 grievances are going really well. Management is paying out. Discipline is on the rise. 204Bs are increasing too. If you have any 204Bs in your section, please let me know. Amy is supposed to be provided a copy of the 1723 prior to the appointment, but normally do not. Make sure your addresses are updated. Don't wait until the last minute.

Clerk Craft (A) Director Report:

Flyer handouts on Tax Day – it was busy and people were making the last minute rush. People were surprised that the Postal Service does not receive tax dollars. People were receptive, but we found it hard to believe that the public doesn't know this. The January, February and March grievances due to the bid jobs, we have a settlement. The hours that is different for those that were awarded the job will receive 66% of the out of schedule for those positions/employees. We will finalize this settlement this week. Strapping the load. The Mail Handlers are supposed to do it when they load the truck, but the General Expeditor also has to acknowledge it on the SV unit that the load was secured. We were lucky this time that it was only an APC, it could have been a BMC of mail and cause serious injury. Management is coming out with a new SOP in the near future.

Clerk Craft (B) Director Report

Uptick in Attendance discipline. I have been sending everything up since management is not willing to budge beyond being live for a year or more. If you are called into an Investigative Interview, make sure you ask for your steward. Associate Offices – Postmasters are going after employees for attendance as well. Make sure to ask for your steward. If you call and no answer, please leave a message. Sometimes the phones are off and it won't capture your number. Don't assume that we have your number.

Maintenance Craft Director Report:

eWHEP – lost three positions – one MM, one MPE, and one ET positions. We were three positions down on MMs, so we have absorbed that position, and one more MM position is being used to make it neutral until the ET position is lost by attrition. The MPE position is being taken away from Tour 2 at the Campus. MS-1. Waiting to see what the impact will be. Still waiting for the numbers from Area and Headquarters. Changed some of the designations for stewards. Make sure you use the correct one.

RMPOs/APO – won't be finalized until after the contract is signed. Test Scores – if it was for an external hire and not selected, the score was removed from the system. We have a new printer at the P-Campus (Thank you)

Motor Vehicle Craft Report

If you are unsure about the load, get a supervisor. Don't take the load until you are sure.

Detours and Extra – there is no reason for contract drivers to take mail between the Campus and the Main. There is an Auto Tech job up. They will be reposting jobs for TTOs.

Sergeant at Arms Report

Stewards are going up to the Educational Assembly next week. There is a lot of good classes- hopefully they will write great articles for the next edition of the newsletter.

Committee Reports

Safety: We have been giving suggestions to management, but it seems that we are only getting fluff back as a response. We are supposed to be able to work two or three projects at a time, but we aren't getting any feedback from management. Seems nothing is being accomplished. Monday was the Safety Health committee meeting, there were a lot of people at this meeting and it generally seemed that management was concerned about it. They generated a new program called Super Hero.

Correspondence

- Letter from the APWU-ABA Scholarship Deadline – May 15th.
- Card from the Auxiliary thanking us for our donation.

Old/Unfinished Business:

New Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

Motion to purchase a Quarter Page ad in the Labor Fest Booklet at a cost of up to \$500. Carried.

Motion to send the HR Representative (Lisa Borchardt) to the 2019 Health Plan Seminar in Portland, Oregon, October 26 – 29, 2019 with Registration, Lost Time, Per Diem, Hotel, Travel and applicable taxes. Carried.

Labor Management: Let Amy or your craft director 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: Charles Early. *(If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)*

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$ 113.00 total collected. \$ 56.50 to the winner – Chris Fisher

Five (5) - Twenty (\$20.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policies. When an Executive Board member receives one of the door prizes, another drawing is done. When 40 or more are present, there is one additional drawing per ten members).

1. Kathy Oracz
2. Danielle Ziel
3. Rickie Jackson
4. Geraldine Davis
5. Hattie Mitchell

Motion to adjourn: by: Michael Long, Seconded by: David Janes Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzi Boyd
Recording Secretary

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