

Western Michigan Area Local #281
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am 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.

President-Michelle Mack	Clerk Craft Director B-Ameka Jones
Vice President-Michael Long	Motor Vehicle Craft Director-Chris Fisher
Recording Secretary-Awanda Jennings	Sergeant at Arms-Todd Hodges
Treasurer-Linda Chandler	Maintenance Craft Director-Jennifer McKinnon

The Following Officers were Absent- Clerk Craft Director A-Susi Boyd

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion to accept the December 2, 2023, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Motioned, Seconded by Mike Long. Carried

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership):

Daniel Otero-Pagan, Davon Long, Brandon Mauro, Johanna Bradford, Erek Riley, Rachel Joyce Chester, Rachel Schoch.

Welcome New Members of the WMAL!

ATTENTION! Per The Constitution of the Western Michigan Area Local, we will be holding nominations for those members who wish to attend the 2024 MPWU Convention (no meeting requirement) and the 2024 National APWU Convention.
(must have attended at least three general membership meetings in the past 12 months)

**These nominations will be done at the February meeting.*

Bills: None

Officer's Reports

Treasurer's Report: Report ending December 30, 2023, was read. Motion to accept report as read. Carried.

President's Report: Happy New Year everyone. Good to see everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

I would like to thank everyone on the A&E Committee, the kids Christmas party went great, thank you to everyone that helped with that.

The Adult Christmas Party is coming up, Sunday January 14, 2024, at Spectrum Entertainment Complex we'll be looking forward to everyone getting together and having a good time with many giveaways.

As we all have seen, the volume of mail continues to slow down. This past Christmas the mail volume was down, the days of 7/12s have certainly dwindled down.

With that being said, at the GMF we still had first class mail delayed daily, yet the OTDL was not fully utilized to the maximum extent Per Article 8. It almost feels like they are purposely running us into the ground. This type of thing is happening nationwide as Louis Dejoy's 10-year plan continues

to be rolled out. I reached out to Gary Peters office alerting him of the delayed mail at GRP&DC. I am told the mail handlers did the same.

If you see any changes occur whether at the station or the plant, please let a steward know as soon as possible.

In addition, there is a "WE WON'T BE SILENCED" Campaign in response PMG DeJoy's and the Board of Governors not allowing the citizens to address them before their quarterly meetings anymore. 45 minutes was routinely allotted for citizens to address the Postal Governors and voice their community's concerns. They are stifling the American public from speaking out about the poor postal services in communities. Postmaster General DeJoy in addition to dismantling delivery service standards is also dismantling long established opportunities to address the ruling board of Governors who are responsible for the postal services provided to all Americans. What do they have to hide? Why silence the voice of Americans who care about the quality of mail service, long lines, increased postage, mis delivered mail, and delayed mail. The post office lines are getting longer, staffing is inadequate, postage is increasing, and our community postal facilities are losing postal workers.

There will also be a letter writing campaign that is being organized to allow all Americans to speak out about the problems they are having with their post office, and or mail service. Tell them what is happening in your community and stand up for your jobs and the service we provide to the American public.

Send letter to:

Email:wewontbesilenced2024@gmail.com

WE WON'T BE SILENCED

PO Box 68

Hurley, NY 12443

They are asking that everyone get involved across the nation, your protest over service and the American public not being able to have the time that they used to have. We want to flood them with letters and emails. Enough is enough.

Congressmen Tim Burchett of Knoxville Tn, wrote a letter to DeJoy about the distribution operations in that area. It read as follows: As you are aware the United States Postal Service is considering relocating mail processing and distribution operations currently located in Knoxville, TN to Louisville, Ky. I'm concerned about this possibility because frankly it makes no sense. There was hope that employees whose families that would be impacted by such a decision would get additional useful information at a public meeting held by the United States Postal Service yesterday in my district. This meeting was a complete waste of time, worse the arrogance on display by the United States Postal Service and its Management during this so-called meeting or listening session was completely unacceptable. Your staff apparently drove from Knoxville to Nashville, TN for a meeting that lasted just over 15 minutes, and at which not a word was uttered or answered to a single question was asked of leadership. My staff attended the meeting and reported to me that your staff stared blank face at my constituents who were asking legitimate questions and never even acknowledged that a question was asked to let alone bothered to answer one. Your employees who are my constituents deserve to be treated with more dignity and respect than what was on display at this wasteful useless public spectacle. If your goal was to simply check a box and move on, then the USPS was successful. If the goal was to make USPS employees and customers feel heard, then the USPS failed miserably.

Suzi and I continue to fight reversions. I have 3 more reversions I am sending to Step 3 and 1 that is being sent up to Step 2. Bottom line is we need folks to come to work. We cannot prove the assignment if we cannot prove the hours. Most of the time we are pulling PSE hours to prove these jobs, but that is becoming challenging with their hours continuing to be reduced.

The mail handlers were notified on December 29, 2023, of 8 jobs that were being reposted in accordance with Article 12. Changes are coming. I suspect that in the near future we could see this occurring on Tour 2 downtown.

The Audit committee is scheduled to meet January 22, 2024, to review the books and we will have the report at the February meeting.

Executive Vice-President's Report: Welcome to the First day of winter. They keep reverting jobs but continue to hire PSE's. We just hired 3 more, that is 2 in Grand Rapids, 1 in Caledonia.

Recording Secretary's Report: Thank everyone for coming. Hope you all had a great holiday.

Clerk Craft - A Report:

Clerk Craft -B Report: Discipline is on the rise with attendance, they are also looking at the 1260's if they do not match with the time, you state you came in management may use it for discipline, so try not to use it we do not need anyone to get fired for something that small.

Maintenance Craft Report: Line H has been sent up to Step 3 for all the stations and branches. The new WAP package there is a couple of minor issues, I'm going to speak with Rich hopefully this week. I have also been hearing that clerks have been doing custodial work at the stations I do need statements so I can file grievances on that.

Motor Vehicle Craft Report: Grievances I have about 9 of them, but I do have the extension, for the month of December. So those should be settled within the week. The Union has initiated the annual bid, Management is dragging their feet on it, and pushing it right into prime time.

Sergeant at Arms Report:

Committee Reports:

Retirees Chapter: None

Correspondence: I Love Your Face (email read)

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

E-Board Recommendation:

Motion to send Michael Long to the President Conference in Minnesota at the Mall of America, March 23-25, 2024, to include, lost time, registration, air, per diem, lodging transportation to and from the airport. Carried.

Motion to send up to 20 delegates to the MPWU State Convention in Traverse City MI, April 18-20, 2024, to include per diem, lodging, mileage and registration. Carried.

Motion to send up to 25 stewards to the MPWU District Meeting in Traverse City, MI April 16-17, 2024, to include lost time, per diem, lodging, mileage, and registration. Carried.

Motion to send \$500 to Hospitality for MPWU State Convention Traverse City, MI. Carried.

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management, please let your President or Clerk Craft Directors know.

Drawings:

\$250.00 Attending the Meeting Drawing: Roketa Whitley (If she was at this meeting, she would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$ 100.00 collected. \$ 50.00 congratulations to the winner, Jennifer McKinnon.

Five (5) - Twenty (20.00) Dollar Door Prizes: (NOTE: According to local policy, 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).

- 1.# 23 Michael Long
- 2.# 28 Danielle Laskay
- 4.# 18 Ann Hill-Graves
- 5.# 03 Mary Thompson
- 6.# 07 Michelle Mack
- 7.# 14 Linda Chandler
- 8.# 10 Doris Bethany
9. #25 Michael Greene

Motioned by Mike Long, seconded by Linda Chandler to adjourn the meeting at 11:42am. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Awanda Jennings



Recording Secretary