

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 12 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 for the Passing of Mitch Farran and others who have departed.

Roll Call of Officers:

The following officers were present:

President –Michael Long	Clerk Craft Director A– Suzi Boyd
Executive Vice-President –David Janes	Maintenance Craft Director – Jennifer McKinnon
Treasurer – Linda Chandler	Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Absent
Recording Secretary-Awanda Jennings	Clerk Craft Director B – Ameka Jones
Sergeant at Arms - Absent	

The following officers were absent: Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Chris Fisher, Sergeant at Arms-Todd Hodges

Review of previous meeting's minutes: Motion to accept the March 1, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Motions to accept David Janes, seconded by Jodie Minda. Carried.

Applications for Membership (Accepted by Voice Vote of Membership)

Savannah Baker Nannette Bellairs Richard Priedits -Clerks, Jason Dennis Daniel Stevenson- Maintenance, Robert Anderson Latricia Childs Scott Schneider David VanderPloeg Thomas Zehm- Motor Vehicle
Welcome new members of the WMAL!

Bills: None

Officer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Report ending March 31, 2025, was read. Motion to accept by David Janes, seconded by Diep Huynh . Carried.

President's Report: VERA- There were nearly 8,700 APWU represented employees applied for retirement under the MOU RE: One-time Retirement Incentive. Locally, we had a total of 42 people take the VERA, and of that 32 were members of the local, If you haven't been told that your application was accepted or not, please let me know and I can tell you from the list I received from National if it was.

There was some confusion about the limits/caps for maintenance and MVS, however, HQ negotiated and all employees who applied and were eligible were able to retire.

In our local, of those 42, 28 were clerks, 12 were maintenance, and 2 were Motor Vehicle (1 TTO and 1 VMF). I would like to wish each of them a long and healthy retirement.

The A & E Committee- The local A & E committee met last week to go over the upcoming year. We have a few ideas like Murder Mystery Dinner here at the hall, Meijer Gardens or Whitecaps.

We are having an outing at the Marne Raceway on May 31st. Todd got us the deck and tickets, and the local will be doing the food. We are opening it up to the first 75 members and or retirees, plus one/ That one must be a union member if they are able to be per the policies. A flyer will be coming out in the minutes.

Facebook page and website. If you want information on the local immediately, please sign up for the Facebook page and make sure to log onto the website. That is where we post information.

Articles were due for the upcoming edition on March 31st, I guess we will have to push it out and make it a 30month issue again.

Pam Bronson is back as the Plant Manager for Grand Rapids. Jami and her “entourage” have retreated back to Lansing. Every time Jami comes to Grand Rapids it costs the post office tens of (if not hundreds) thousands of dollars in violations, If DODGE wants to look at where to trim, start right there!

Speaking of DODGE and such, the local was going to be part of the Day of Action but couldn’t get anyone to go out for it. I, nor the APWU can not stress the importance of getting out the nformation. Doesn’t matter who voted for – but I guarantee you didn’t vote for the take over and dismantling of the Post Office. There are going to be rallies from here on out. All I can say is **GET INVOLVED!**

Labor Arbitration Institute training- Went to training last week with Dave and Suzi, First time. There was a panel of four arbitrators giving their input on how to argue grievances and what to do to help. Will be part of the stewards training.

Follow the instructions of your supervisors, I can’t state this enough. If your supervisors give you instructions, you are required to follow it (unless it is unsafe or violates the law). If you feel it is wrong, nevertheless, follow and grieve afterwards. Even the Arbitrators that we listened to kept talking about people that just think they can just not do what they are told without any reprisal.

Step Up! You are probably tired of me saying it, but you are needed to step up in your union. With the VERA, Linda, Dave, and Suzi are gone; we have also lost Jeff Schellinger and Dana McLean as stewards. Most of them elected to stay on to help, but after the new year, as it stands, your officers and stewards will be new. We want to help make sure you are ready when it is time for you to take over.

Executive Vice-President's Report: I just wanted to clarify with me in taking this retirement; I know I’m younger at the age of 55 and I know I could have worked until I was 59, it was a long process and a lot of thinking. It took me a long time to make this decision, it was not a rash decision, I’m not leaving any of you guys. I appreciate you putting me on the board, I appreciate anything you have ever done in giving me this opportunity to do this job and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. The amount of money this local has spent getting me educated so that I can pass it on to you, I hope I represented you well. If I didn’t, I apologize, I will try to do better with the remaining part of this year. For the most part I thank you for allowing me to have this position and allowing me to do what I do.

A couple of things I'm still working on DPS for those in stations we do not have the equipment I've been looking into this trying to come up with something, we are not getting anywhere for now do it as safely as possible.

For TACTS I'm at step 2 on this it is an ongoing grievance, I'm watching be sure to watch management make sure they are not doing our work if so, be sure to file a grievance noting how long, where, who, when, we need this information to save our jobs.

Fill out 1767 every day for safety, eventually they are obligated to get it mitigated by the end of the day otherwise it goes to Step 2 automatically.

Recording Secretary: Welcome everyone. It was a quiet month management still continues to monitor attendance at the plant, so if you have enough work hours and you qualify for FMLA please do so to protect yourself or if you're caring for a love one. You can go to the website WMAL or see your Union steward or lead clerk to get the forms and have them completed.

Clerk Craft Report A: Class Actions for the Plant Article 1.6 violations for the month of December is up at Step 2, We are just trying to negotiate a type of value. The problem is that management worked constantly non-stop at the PSA campus but the number of hours that I feel they worked are not anything equal to the statements that I received. Due to the fact people just don't want to write statements so I just have to say, look, you know they were working we know they were we saw it as stewards, so we are going back and forth on that.

Holiday class actions have been going up to Step 2. The class action designee has decided that all pse's does not have to work to the maximum of 12 hours until someone is forced in. I still have pse's from the last holiday that did not work at all over the holiday weekend because they were a Tour 1 pse, but my position is they can be moved around to Tour 2 or Tour 3 if they need to keep someone from being forced in so those are going up to Step 2.

There are still employees getting issued discipline, they are not coming to the union asking for a steward. They are taking their letter of warning and not filing on it, and getting 7-day suspensions, again if you receive any discipline you need to ask to see your steward to file a grievance.

Clerk Craft Director B: When you call in for emergency annual management can ask for documentation for those days or they can write you up, so if you are going to do that make sure you have documentation.

Maintenance Craft Report: Update on Line H for the Grand Rapids PD & C has gone up to Step 3.

Committee Report: A & E Committee will meet again May 12th.

Correspondence: Thank you, card, read from Shannon Place to Mike Long with PSHP issues.

Old/Unfinished Business:

E-Board Recommendations:

Motion to pay Michelle Mack 2 ½ hours of compensation at straight pay rate for arbitration hearing attendance. Discussion. Carried.

The WMAL shall authorize a compensation to be given to APWU retired, full dues paying member working as WMAL stewards or officers, "Lost time" for such retiree officers shall be for actual work hour(s) performing official duties of the WMAL at the union office. Compensation will be \$30.00 per hour and will not exceed eight (8) hours per day or 40 hours in a week. Discussion. Carried.

New Business: None

Labor Management: If you have anything for Labor Management, please let the President or 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 #621 Joseph Gray (If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)

COPA: 50/50 Drawing: \$166.00 total collected. 83.00 to the winner – David Janes.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. # 20 Rachel Hutchinson | 4. #06 – Rocia Garcia |
| 2. # 08 Ameka Jones | 5. # 12 Michael Greene |
| 3. #09 – Tami Machiele | 6. # 14 Julie Boomsma |

Ten (10) \$25.00 Gift Cards for Easter

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. #07 Lisa Wilson | 6. #13 Jennifer McKinnon |
| 2. #26 Sarae Daggett | 7. #15 Aaron Harvey |
| 3. #29 Jodie Minda | 8. #01 Dana Mclean |
| 4. #27 Kara Bowler | 9. #25 Suzi Boyd |
| 5. #02 David Janes | 10. #18 Barb Hughes |

James Sweeney Scholarships Five (5) \$1000.00

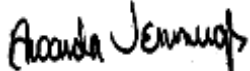
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. # 07 Kaitlyn Kovacs | Jennifer Waldeck |
| 2. # 04 Shannon Janes | David Janes |
| 3. # 01 Janae Chacon | Mary Chacon |
| 4. # 02 Nolan Marx | Michael Marx |
| 5. # 11 Maribell Varghese | Smitha Varghese |

Alternates

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. # 06 Lauren Jackson | Rickey Jackson |
| 2. # 08 Cloe Gutierrez | Nicole Lynch |
| 3. # 05 Kynlee Boomsma | Julie Boomsma |
| 4. # 12 Kamron Johnson | Kwynn Tillman |
| 5. #09 Ty Gotwalt | Karie Thomas |

Motioned to adjourn at 1:03pm seconded by Jodie Minda. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary