

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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:

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

**The following officers were absent:** Maintenance Craft Director – Jennifer McKinnon, Motor Vehicle Craft Director - Chris Fisher

**Review of previous meeting's minutes:** Motion to accept April 30, 2025, General Membership Meeting Minutes. Carried.

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

Toni Blais-Hoyle      Penny Sapp      Zoey Madison      Nicole Renee Gustinis  
Welcome new members of the WMAL!

**Bills:** None

**Officer's Report**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report ending April 30, 2025, was read. Motion to accept by David Hoyle, seconded by David Janes. Carried.

**President's Report**

We just returned from the Educational Assembly in Gladstone Escanaba; MI. Was a really good conference and learned a lot. Was appointed back to the state board as the treasurer. The VERA I guess there were some issues with people trying to drop out afterwards, they had to send out an email stating if you did not withdraw by March 7<sup>th</sup>, you were out of luck.

With those that have left management is trying to revert five of those positions in the Grand Rapids Installation. Management is also doing PDI's for not dropping your timecards in the drop boxes, Management is attempting to AWOL employees due to the 8-click variance. It is not an AWOL. Example if you punch in at .92 make sure your clock ins are all the same the rest of the time. If you clock out at .01, you now have creep OT.

Line H at the stations we did get back most of them and it will be a lot Jennifer is still going over the hours. But we were successful in these grievances for the custodians for the fiscal year 2024 Stephanie is our new NBA for maintenance and she is pushing them.

National sent out a power point for Wells Fargo they are the ones that sent out the information on how to prioritize the post office (there are copies on the table in the back) .

We also have a New Postmaster General it still has to go through the board of governors. But, even though he stated he will divest himself from his ventures, he is currently a board member of FedEx. All we did was trade one corporate board CEO for another.

RTO- Expeditor Management is deciding to move General expeditors back to transportation Function 3 supervision they will be under their own finance number not sure about when it will happen.

### **Our no lunch grievance is at Step 3**

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

For the Stewards the PDI's notice that the supervisors time cards are not being dropped in the boxes as well.

Still working on the Article 1.6 grievances If you see management working our jobs, see something, say something/ if you don't management will revert these jobs, we need to protect our jobs.

Lead sales and service jobs- Tacs is your work, erms is something that goes to you as well. There was some 3971's that I've notice there was 61 them from the plant all for early outs. Don't do them, make them find you work. This makes it harder for us to fight reversions without the work hours.

**Recording Secretary:** Discipline for attendance has been on the rise at the plant.

On April 30, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved a number of significant cuts to the retirement benefits of postal and federal workers.

This measure will now be included in the full reconciliation package which Republican leadership is aiming to hold a full House vote on sometime this month. The retirement cuts would have devastating implications for APWU members, including:

- **Eliminating the FERS Social Security supplement, which allows workers who have earned their retirement the ability to retire before their Social Security benefits begin;**
- **Increasing the FERS annuity contribution rates for all active employees to 4.4%;**
- **Replacing the High-3 FERS annuity calculation with a High-5 calculation, resulting in a reduction in annuity payments.**

We encourage members and supporters to call our Legislative Hotline at 844-402-1001 or go to [apwu.org/call](http://apwu.org/call) to urge your House Representative to OPPOSE any cuts to federal and postal pensions.

#### **Clerk Craft Report A:**

Welcome everyone for coming out, it's a little different for having it on a Thursday night, so just because you all came out and it worked out really well our next meeting in June will be on Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Thank everyone who sent us to conference it was very educational we learned a lot , we had a lot of great speakers, no matter how long I've been doing this you always go to an educational conference and always learn something new so you still have the ability to learn. Its not too late to step up and be a Steward if anyone is interested, we need them.

I have settled President Day, Martin Luther King Day, payouts at step 2, I have a sbpbs job that was reverted improperly that I've been working on for a couple of months on tour 2 that will be going back up and be available on tour 2.

The grievance for Article 1.6 supervisors doing clerk work since we could not agree at step 2, I will be sending this up to Step 3.

We need statements when you see management doing our work write a statement who, when, how, long, without this information it makes it harder to win grievances and also fight reversions.

The post office is under attack, now is not the time for non-members to be non-members we are all doing our work we are paying our union dues to keep our jobs to fight for privatization. We need everyone's help speak with them to get them to join the union.

#### **Clerk Craft Director :**

In the stations they want you to fill out a 3189 when you are requesting a no lunch, and have your stewards help you fill them out so they can get approved/disapproved. If you don't and you work through it, they will automatically deduct if you don't catch it will be the employee's fault.

**Committee Report:** A & E Committee will meet again May 12<sup>th</sup>. Berlin Raceway outing is on May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't already responded, please do so immediately.

**Correspondence:** Card from Suzi Boyd was read.

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

Article 7, Section 4: (a) Any member of the Western Michigan Area Local who voluntarily holds a EAS position shall be ineligible to hold **or be nominated for** any office, either elected or appointed, in the Western Michigan Area Local or to be a delegate to any convention held by the APWU or any subordinate body of the APWU, for a period of one (1) year from the **date the member ceases from filling/holding** such position(s).

**Any member** who has submitted an application **for an** EAS position shall withdraw such application prior to acceptance of nomination for any office **(or delegate to a convention/conference)** in the Western Michigan Area Local. Failure to do so, and upon discovery of said violation of this language, the member will immediately vacate his/her position and and/or withdraw from being a delegate and, if applicable, renumerate the local for any monetary expenditures (e.g.(this list is not exhaustive) payroll, trips, (including all items included within that trip motion), cellphone, dues reimbursement, etc.), This will also waive the payment of yearly reimbursement LWOP usage for retirement (Article 20 of the Constitution). This language also applies to any member who submits an application for or accepts an EAS position while she is EAS position while he/she is serving as an officer, steward, or delegate of the Western Michigan Area Local. Carried.

#### **Article 8 Vacancy in Office**

Section 1: In the event of a vacancy in the office of the president of this local, for any reason whatsoever, the Executive Vice-President shall perform duties of the President until the Executive Board appoints a new President to serve the remaining term of office.

- a) The vote to appoint a new President shall be made by the executive board no later than 60 days after the vacancy has occurred. Once the vote has occurred, and a nominee is selected, it shall go before the membership at the next general/special membership meeting concurrence by the membership of the attendees of that meeting by a majority vote. The vote shall be on a secret paper ballot to accept or not accept the Executive Board selection. Those votes will be counted at that meeting after all the votes have been submitted. If the membership votes not to accept the selection of the executive board, the Executive Board vote shall be vetoed, and a new selection must be made no later than 60 days. The new nominee for President cannot be the previous person who was nominated by the board at the last general/special meeting. If the membership accepts the Executives Board's recommendation, that selection shall be made President.

Carried.

**E-Board Recommendations:**

Motion to send up to 4 stewards to the Great Plains Summer School in Omaha, Ne July 20- July 25, 2025 to include flight, lost time, parking, baggage, transportation to and from hotel, registration, and applicable taxes. Carried.

**New Business:** None

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

We are still looking for an Editor if you are interested, please let me 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 #505 Laron Ware (If he was at this meeting, he would have won!)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Drawing winner of those in attendance #18 Ann Hill-Graves \$250

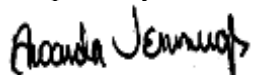
**COPA:** 50/50 Drawing: \$226.00 total collected. \$113.00 to the winner – Phil Heintzelman

**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).

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. # 04 Awanda Jennings* | 5. # 10 Brittany Thompson |
| 2. # 01 Dana McClean     | 6. # 29 Jodie Minda       |
| 3. # 05 Jason Bauer      | 7. # 17 Rachel Hutchinson |
| 4. # 07 Mike Long*       |                           |

Motioned to adjourn Brittany Thompson at 7:30 pm seconded by Jodie Minda. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary