



**American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO**  
**Milwaukee Area Local**  
**P.O. Box 1995, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-1995**

Phone: 414-273-7838 Fax: 414-273-7843

**Milwaukee APWU**  
**Executive Board**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2025**

**General Officers**

Glenn Griggs

*President APWU*

*Milwaukee Area Local*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Sgt. AT ARMS:** Andrew Gutowski and Dranoel Moye were appointed Sgt. at Arms.

Larry Brown, Jr.

*Vice President*

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** **Present:** Arneson, Brown Jr., Canady, Conley-Burrell, Czubakowski, Grant, Griggs, Liggans, Miceli, Paige, Rivera, Victory, Walker

Chris Czubakowski

*Local Business Agent*

**ROLL CALL OF STEWARDS:** **Present:** Conners Felber, Gutowski, Howard, Mack, Moye, Ward **Late:** J. Brown **Excused:** Smukowski,

John Miceli

*Treasurer*

**READING OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES:**

Pamela Walker

*Recording Secretary*

Griggs: Motion to accept the previous General Membership Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2025, as printed. **Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Motion Passes. Unanimously.**

Leonard Grant

*North Sectional Dir.*

**READING OF THE PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

Griggs: Motion to accept the previous Executive Board Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2025, as printed. **Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Motion Passes. Unanimously.**

Trent Canady

*South Sectional Dir.*

Marvin Rivera

*West Sectional Dir.*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Hello all,

**Craft Officers**

Takaita Conley-Burrell

*Manual & Mechanization Dir.*

Christopher Paige Jr.

*Automation Dir.*

The American Postal Workers Union around the country had a rally to protect our public post office on March 20, 2025. We decided locally to join forces and hold our rally with the letter carriers on March 23, 2025, to maximize turnout. As it turns out both rallies were a huge success. We had over 300 hundred people show up on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Even though that was a great number. I feel it still could have been better considering what's at stake.

Kenni Liggan

*Customer Service Dir.*

James Arneson

*Maintenance Dir.*

Larry Victory

*Motor Vehicle Dir.*

The time is now to speak out and get involved. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines and think "Aw our union got this". Keep in mind you the members are the union. Your union representatives cannot do this alone. It will take each and every one of us to get involved in this potential hostile takeover of the postal service by the Trump administration. This battle will not and cannot be won by filing a grievance. This battle will most likely be won in the courts and in Congress. Every one of us has a part to play in protecting our future, our livelihood, and our public post office. So, I am asking everyone to call your senators at 844-402-1001 and tell them to stop the illegal takeover of the public Postal Service. We have purchased a billboard right out front with the number on there as well in hopes the public sees it and makes the call too. Every postal worker should be making that call, and asking their family and friends to call as well.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED:**

President Dimondstein put out a question-and-answer article explaining what Postal privatization would mean for us as postal workers. See the questions and answers article on the back table. So, it is imperative that every one of us jump into action before it's too late, because I promise you, you will not like the alternative if we get privatized.

Here are a few examples President Dimondstein listed.

What does Postal Privatization mean for you?

- 1.) You would no longer have a job with the postal service.
- 2.) You would no longer be covered by the contract between the APWU and USPS.
- 3.) Your wages, benefits, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), and financial and job security would be gone.
- 4.) Fair hiring practices for disabled veterans and people from all walks of life would likely cease.
- 5.) Your federal retirement benefits would be frozen and would not increase.
- 6.) You would lose your health benefits insurance
- 7.) Your no-layoff clause and just-cause protections for unfair discipline or termination would cease
- 8.) All your benefits like annual and sick leave, and holiday leave would be gone
- 9.) Your right to file a grievance would be gone
- 10.) Your postal seniority and related benefits would be gone

If this is not enough to get you involved now, I don't know what it will take then.

I'm sure some of you know by now and heard that Postmaster General Louis Dejoy stepped down effective immediately. I believe Monday was his last Day on the job. It's good that he is gone, but I'm sure now we will get someone much worse. Also, rumors are floating around that DOGE is coming here. That rumor is false. Even though it is bullshit that before leaving Dejoy invited DOGE into the postal service at the headquarters level with limited access and only to look at certain areas of the postal service for possible changes. I am not going to go over every single item that Dejoy gave them access to. Just know if DOGE shows up in any of our post offices, our national union is ready to take action. If you want to read the letter from Dejoy to Congress, it should be copies on the back table.

On a brighter note, the letter carrier contract was just recently settled by an Arbitrator. Keep in mind if the postal service gets privatized, their contract goes away as well. I didn't read over it much, but I did take a few snippets from what I skimmed over.

- 1.) They were able to keep their no-layoff protection after 6 years of service
- 2.) They get wage increases of 1.3 percent for 2023, paid retroactively, 1.4 percent in 2024, paid retroactively, and 1.5 percent in 2025. They also get 6 COLAs increases for career carriers
- 3.) Their employee health insurance benefits remain the same as well, which is good news for everyone, especially those of you who have APWU insurance.

With their contract being settled we are hoping ours will be next since their contract was settled by an arbitrator. Normally, the postal service will try and piggyback off one of the contracts that got settled and make a similar offer to other postal unions. I am sure there are a lot of other things the carriers have got, but these are the most significant ones I see that may apply to our contract.

As always, thank you for all you do, and thank you for being such dedicated union members!!

**ACTION TAKEN UPON APPLICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS:** Griggs: Motion to accept applications of new members. **Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Motion Passes. Unanimously.**

**TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

Griggs.: Motion to have the next General Membership Meeting on Wed, March 27, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. **Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Motion Passes. Unanimously.**

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**Local Business Agent: Chris Czubakowski:**

Elon Musk bought the presidency. Now he wants to buy Wisconsin. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Wisconsin will vote to fill an open seat on the state Supreme Court with the court's majority up for grabs. Circuit Court Judge Susan Crawford is facing former Wisconsin attorney general and Trump/Musk loyalist Brad Schimel. Brad Schimel is an anti-union, right-wing extremist who sued to overturn the Affordable Care Act and defended Scott Walker's anti-union agenda, including Act 10 which stripped collective bargaining rights away from Wisconsin's teachers. Anti-union oligarch Elon Musk (**who has led blitzkrieg attacks to privatize the USPS and defund the Veterans Administration**) and Wisconsin billionaires like Dick Uihlein and Diane Hendricks have spent a combined 20 million dollars supporting Schimel, making this the most expensive judicial election in the U.S. history.

Ask yourself, **"Why are oligarchs spending a record amount on this election?"** Know that Wisconsin is a KEY SWING STATE, and our Supreme Court is key to blocking the extreme partisan gerrymandering and union-busting efforts they have funded for over a decade. Remember that the primary motivation of the wealthy class is to put more money back into their pockets - at the expense of working people- through these efforts.

Now ask yourself, **"What are we going to do about it?"** Know that Susan Crawford is an experienced litigator who has personally defended unions and workers' rights and she has been endorsed by the Milwaukee Area Local. Remember that Musk and the wealthy class despise unions almost as much as they despise paying taxes.

**Customer Service Director, Kenni Liggan:**

It has been brought to the attention of myself, city station Stewart Kim Smukowski, and city station steward Jyfen Brown that lead clerks are still not performing lead clerk duties at some of the city stations. I reached out to the postmaster to make her aware of the issue. I want to be clear that the lead clerk/ level 7 grievance at the city stations is an ongoing grievance. It would be in management's best interest to make sure that the lead clerks are doing lead clerk duties including tacs. Furthermore, for the stations that do not have a lead clerk, management can assign a clerk to do the lead clerk duties and the clerk will be paid lead clerk/Level 7 pay for all hours that they perform lead clerk duties. I also want to make this perfectly clear, as clerks, we never turn down any work period!!

Also, I would like to thank Kim Smukowski, the city station steward, who is retiring at the end of April, for helping me do my job and also helping me be a better steward and officer, she will truly be missed. Thank you, Kim!

Thank You Very Much

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS CONTINUED:**

### **Treasurer, John Miceli:**

Gave budget report

### **Manual & Mechanization Director, Takaita Conley-Burrell:**

Management has utilized non-qualified/ skilled employees to work on the SPBS/SPSS/SIPS machine. If you are being forced out of your section and being asked to work on any of these machines, please make sure you are punching into the correct operation, then see a union steward to write a statement. If you do not know what operation code to punch into, see your supervisor or union steward.

Thank You

## **READING AND COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS: None**

## **READING AND COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS CONTINUED: None**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Miceli: Motion to approve the 2025 budget in aggregate. **Motion seconded, Vote Taken, Motion Passes unanimously.**

Chris Czubakowski: Motion to endorse Susan Crawford for the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice for the April 1, 2025 election. **Motion seconded, Vote Taken, Motion Passes unanimously.**

## **GOOD AND WELFARE:**

#261 was drawn and Michael Dorsey was **not present** at the meeting for the current **\$75.00**. The next raffle will be held at the general membership meeting on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 7:00 A.M. and will be for **\$100.00**. Members must be present to win. **Names and numbers in the membership list are subject to monthly roster changes.**

**New Member Attendance T-Shirt:** Miranda Ellis Savannah Allen

**COPA: \$100.00 each Raffle Winner:**

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.) Richard Kleppin | 2.) Jennifer Schweitzer |
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Griggs: Motion to adjourn at 7:33 P.M. **Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Motion Passes. Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Walker, Recording Secretary