

The Bay Breeze
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NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL



AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
AFL-CIO

Volume 63/Issue 6
November/December 2020

THE BAY BREEZE

Letter from the President



Hello All,
Well first off I would like to thank all union members for their hard work in getting election mail out to the best of our ability. I am confident that 99% of ballots got to where they supposed to go. The other one percent I call procrastinators. Now I know a lot of peeps are getting covid burnout and I would like to appeal to all workers at the plant who feel that they shouldn't help out new people on training. If you don't want to stop the cycle of poorly trained newbies then step up and help train or don't complain when you get them as a partner and feel that you have to do all work. I have asked and pleaded for people to step up either with helping the union, writing statements, attending safety and health, being trainers and what do I get, nothing but complaints every day from burnt out union workers. I'm burnt out too and nice to see some people are fed up and are now writing statements. Peeps when you see supervisors doing clerk work, get a witness tell them to stop and ask to see a steward. If you are mandated and a non-volunteer show them the contract that says you can only work 10 hours a day on 4 of the 5 days and 8 on off day. Educate yourself. It is because of months of no fighting back that management is walking all over you.

We the union, not me the lone representative. Chris and Christine are doing what they can and Dave Kroll is starting to address Cofrin. I have tried talking to the new Postmaster and a supervisor at Cofrin to minimize the need for plant reposting or all jobs at Cofrin. Funny when employees quit and they cite lack of training as number one answer and we don't address the problem, this systemic failure gets put on management. When workers quit because they are disrespected and treated poorly by workers and management this is a failure on all of us. I have said it before and will say it again, unless you are a trainer or willing to step up and be management QUIT telling coworkers what to do unless they ask you a question. Yes I'm burnt out and pissed off too. The mask mandate should either be all or none not optional. Covid is out of control whether you believe it or not, and whether or not you believe masks aren't effective at stopping the spread. For every article you show me where masks don't

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In an effort to help our local community food bank:
Anyone who brings a bag of non-perishable food to a NEWAL board member or a steward will earn an entry into the drawing for a gift card to be given out at the January meeting. Bring as many bags as you want and get an entry for each bag.

Next Meetings:
January 24 @ 1pm
February 21 @ 7pm
Gallagher's Pizza
2655 W. Mason St

So a new LOGO for our union shirts has been chosen. At the November meeting we had a great turn-out of attendance and it was voted that the new logo would be this one:



This artwork was designed by Kenzie Bartkowiak (daughter of member Tony Bartkowiak—paying for her college education is what keeps Tony with us these days) and she did a fantastic job! If you know anyone who needs some graphic designing.....I know a gal. ;-)

Anyway, we can get so many things with this design on it, from CaféPress. Our web-designer, Barb Bartkowiak has set us up with an account where anyone can go to order whatever they might like with the NEWAL Logo printed on it. I am thinking I need some curtains and throw pillows for my living room and I can't wait to see how they turn out! CaféPress is not a union printer, but they can do the little things for us at a reasonable rate. [Click here from the digital Bay Breeze or type in https://www.cafepress.com/newal](https://www.cafepress.com/newal)

President	Kelly Heaney
Vice President	Dave Kroll
Secretary/Treasurer	Art Ciesielczyk
Recording Secretary	Jenny Starry
Editor	Kelsey Helf
Clerk Craft Director	Steve Paradise
Motor Vehicle Craft Director	Jeremy Linberg
Maintenance Craft Director	Pete Knutson

The Bay Breeze is the official voice of the American Postal Workers Union, Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local, published six times a year. The due date for publication is the first day of the odd month unless otherwise publicized.

The Bay Breeze attempts to keep the membership abreast of all important issues. We are proud members of the National Postal Press Association and International Labor Communications Association. We are also members of the APWU of WI, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, Greater Green Bay labor Council and were the first local in WI to join the APWU Accident Benefit Association as a 100% local.

Letters, correspondences, and articles by members and officers are encouraged. Send them to the return address on this newsletter. Articles must be signed by the author and names may be withheld upon request. Opinions are those of the contributors and not necessarily the Union, the Officers, or the Editor.

The Editor reserves the right to delete, edit, or rewrite to fit the format or this newsletter, to disallow any attacks of individuals, and to refuse to print any article deemed improper or unfit for publication. Articles that are not credited are those of the Editor.

STEWARDS

Packerland Drive Office (GMF)

Tour 1

Clerk Chief Steward	Dave Kroll
Clerk Alternate Steward	Chris Opolka and Kelly Heaney
Maintenance Chief Steward	Dave Villwock
Maintenance Alt Steward	Frank Sleik

Tour 2

Clerk Chief Steward	Steve Paradise
Clerk Alternate Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear, Kelly Heaney and Chris Opolka
Maintenance Chief Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear
MVS Chief Steward	Jeremy Linberg

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Chris Opolka
Clerk Alternate Steward	Kelly Heaney
Maintenance Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney
Alternate Maintenance Steward	Vacant

VMF

Chief Steward	Jeremy Linberg
Alternate Steward	Vacant

AO Stations

Clerk Chief Steward	Steve Paradise
Clerk Alternate Steward	Vacant

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Bealeau
Clerk Alternate Steward	Alex Mahn

All other AO's

Clerk Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney
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MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247 (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

The members in attendance voted to have a rectangular logo on a black background for the shirts, hoodies and hats.

The penalty overtime exclusion period is from November 28th to December 25th this year.

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Art Ciesielczyk and seconded by Steve Paradise to have the next meeting on Sunday, January 24th at 1pm at Gallagher's. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Pete Knutson to have the February meeting on Sunday February 21st at 7pm at Gallagher's. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bryce Thomas and seconded by Jeremy Linberg to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. NEWAL meeting adjourned at 1540 hours.

The \$10 door prize was won by Abran Rodriguez.

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Jenny Starry.



APWU HEALTH PLAN

I attended the APWU Health Plan Seminar virtually this year and I want to thank the NEWAL for allowing me to do this as it is always very informative. We got a review of the High Option Plan and the Consumer Driven Option Plan and went over the changes. There is also an APWU Dental Plan. New this year is a Medicare Advantage Plan, which is for retired members that are eligible for Medicare. PSE's are eligible to sign up for the Consumer Driven Option after their first year of service. This has to be done by printing forms, filling them out and mailing them in. Open season runs from November 9th thru December 14th. Career employees can go to opm.gov to compare all the health insurance plans that are available to postal employees. You can go to apwuhp.com to review the APWU High Option and Consumer Driven Option plans, see a summary of benefits, or look at the brochures. Members can go to apwuhp.com to set up a member portal. Consumer Driven Option members will be redirected to myuhc.com to

set up their portal. Here you can see your claims, find medical care, find and price medications, see a copy of your ID card, and more. I put some flyers out in the breakroom at the GMF, but if anyone else needs information, feel free to contact me.

APWU Health Plan Representative

Jenny Starry

jennystarry@yahoo.com 920-373-3225



(President's Letter Continued from page 1)

make difference, I'll show you 4 times the articles that say they do. Wear the damn mask/shield or do us all a favor and quit the Post Office.

Let's see... anything good to say? Yes, if you bring to the union hole at the plant or give to Kelsey at Cofrin a brown regular size paper grocery bag and fill it with non-perishable food items your name will go into a drawing to win gift certificates. The union will draw for 1 \$200.00, 4 \$50.00, 10 \$20.00 gift cards at the January meeting. For every bag filled that you bring in now until Dec 30th, 2020 will get you 1 entry per bag into the drawing. I am proud to still have a job and we need to help others in this time of need.

Please help out.

We are also going to purchase 20 \$25.00 gifts to give for toys for tots. We need to help all, and this pandemic is preventing us from having picnics and or Christmas parties this year. Stay safe peeps and let us get through this Xmas mad-house.

Kelly



Dave Lardinios decided he's done asking about liquid, fragile, perishable or hazardous materials. Congratulations on your retirement Dave!

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247 (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

The following officers were present:

President Kelly Heaney, Vice President Dave Kroll, Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk, Recording Secretary Jenny Starry, Clerk Craft Director Steve Paradise, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Jeremy Linberg and Maintenance Craft Director Pete Knutson. Bay Breeze editor Kelsey Helf was excused.

Minutes of the October 2020 meeting were read by Kelly Heaney.

A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Donna Hansen to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for was read by Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed giving donations to the Salvation Army, NEW Community Shelter, House of Hope, Toys for Tots and Paul's Pantry.

Labor/Management: Christine Bouyear and Kelly Heaney attended the labor/management meeting. Some items discussed were the temperature in the plant, the vehicles in the parking lot, supervisors doing clerk work at Cofrin, lines at the window at Cofrin, an APC shortage and use of gaylords, buggies not being fixed, and a training SOP. The minutes will be posted.

Grievance: A grievance for an express clerk went to step 3.

Safety/Health: If you get hurt outside of work, contact A.B.A. Every union member has this benefit. Open season for health insurance is going on now and runs through December 14th.

Legislative: Steve Paradise gave the legislative report. He talked about the election and how the USPS saved our Democracy.

OWCP: We have had 6 accidents so far this year.

Constitution:

New Members:

Lost Members:

Communications:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Dave

Kroll on behalf of the Scholarship Committee to amend the existing Standing Resolution pertaining to the Tony Van Scholarship with new language to award 3 scholarships instead of 2, 2) Age of 26, 3) September 30, 2021, 8) Submission deadline July 15, 2021 Mail Only, 9) 3 winners and an alternate drawn, mail applications to Tony Van Scholarship/NEWAL #2247, PO Box 13394, Green Bay, WI 54307-3394 and all applicants must write a minimum 200 word essay about Unions in American Society that will be published in the Bay Breeze. See attached. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Chris Opolka to pay MacKenzie Bartkowiak, daughter of Tony Bartkowiak \$200 for designing a logo for our t-shirts, hoodies and hats. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Chris Opolka to give a donation of \$100 each to the Salvation Army, the House of Hope and the NEW Community Shelter. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Chris Opolka that in lieu of a children's Christmas party, that we purchase 20 \$25 dollar toys to be donated to Toys for Tots. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Jeremy Linberg that we purchase 1 \$200, 4 \$50 and 10 \$20 gift cards and have members bring in a full brown paper bag full of non-perishable food to a union steward to be brought to Paul's Pantry and you will receive an entry for every bag you bring in to be in a drawing for the gift cards. Deadline is December 31, 2020 and the drawing will be at the January union meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Jeremy Linberg for an attendance based accumulating union meeting door prize. The door prize will start at \$100. A name will be drawn from all members in good standing. If the member's name who is drawn is not present, the door prize will grow \$20 to \$120 for the following meeting, and will grow \$20 for each successive month where there is no winner of the door prize. See attached. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Everyone in attendance received a \$25 Festival Foods gift card.

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2020 Call for Research Papers in Wisconsin Labor and Working-Class History

The Wisconsin Labor History Society (WLHS) announces the nineteenth annual Frank Zeidler Academic Award for original research papers about Wisconsin labor and working-class history. The awards are named in memory of Milwaukee Mayor Frank P. Zeidler (in office 1948-1960) for his lifelong efforts toward the advancement of Wisconsin's working class and his devotion to opportunities for all.

We invite the following article-length submissions:

*An original research paper of approximately 4,000–10,000 words, produced by an undergraduate student enrolled during 2019 in any college or university (not restricted to Wisconsin or to four-year programs). The cash award is \$500.

*An original research paper or article of approximately 8,000–16,000 words, produced by a student enrolled during 2019 in any graduate program (not restricted to Wisconsin), including law and other professional departments. The cash award is \$1,000.

The awards will be presented during the 2021 Wisconsin Labor History Society spring conference during the luncheon.

Any research relating to the lives, culture, and organizing activities of Wisconsin working people will be carefully considered. Multicultural, gender-based or other diversity topics involving Wisconsin labor history are high priorities. In planning their projects, we encourage authors to avail themselves of the *Wisconsin Labor History Bibliography*, which can be found in the WLHS web site at: <www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/ref.html>

Deadline: Submissions must be postmarked no later than January 8, 2021.

Word Length: All submissions should observe the word lengths stated above for the two categories.

Eligibility: Authors must have been enrolled during at least some *portion* of the year of the contest, however, the paper need *not* have been written during any part of the year of the contest.

Entries may be made by either direct submission by authors or by faculty nomination.

Content from master's theses or from dissertations must be appropriately adapted to article format.

The committee does not accept electronic submissions. Full writing guidelines for the competition, plus the required official cover sheet for the entries, will be found in the WLHS website (in the "Contests" section) at <wisconsinlaborhistory.org/>.

A panel of labor historians will review all papers, select finalists, and determine the prizewinner in both categories. The Wisconsin Labor History Society retains the right to refuse to make awards, if no entries meet the standards of the award in the judgment of the committee or fulfill the mission of the Wisconsin Labor History Society, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the society.

For additional information, contact:

Ms. Laurie Wermter, Co-Chair
Frank Zeidler Academic Awards Committee
847 Williamson Street
Madison, WI 53703
(or via e-mail at: laurie.wermter@wisc.edu)

<https://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/zeidler-scholarships/>



The Post Office Saved – Not Yet!?!

For the past year, the movement that uses the title or slogan “Save the Post Office” has been trying to inform postal employees and concerned citizens about the attempts by right-winged conservatives to privatized the institution by the Trump appointment of Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General. By the use of newspaper editorials, emails, text messages, online blog posts the “Save the Post Office” movement have been engaging people to write to their senators and representatives in congress to defend the Post Office by supporting legislation that would make the Postal Service financially solvent.

The “Save the Post Office” started back in 2011 as a grass roots movement to petition the U.S. Congress to repeal the “Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006.” The Act required the postal service to prefund its future retiree health benefits for 75 years in the future. That prefunding requirement added billions of dollars in liabilities to the Postal Service’s balance sheet, hindering investment and driving harmful cost-cutting initiatives.

Save the Post Office was named the “The Most Valuable Website,” by John Nichols in Nation Magazine’s annual Honor Roll. “Nowhere was the assault on public services more aggressive than in the push to downsize the Postal Service,” wrote Nichols. Savethepostoffice.com became an essential resource for a network of grassroots groups in all fifty states defending local post offices—along with the idea that the founders were right when they argued that a strong postal service does not just deliver mail; it builds communities and links them as a nation. Best of all, Save the Post Office has made smart arguments for expanding the USPS by doing things like renewing the old postal banking system.

As a result of the diligence of the Save The Post Office, citizens across America have emailed or call their representatives in Congress and the U.S. Senate and making known their concerns as to the slow- down of the mail. The past few months our representatives began to take notice. As a result, in response to several inquiries from members of Congress, the Office of Inspector General has issued a report on “Operational Changes to Mail Delivery.” The report discusses the Postal Service’s plan to eliminate 64 million work hours — the equivalent of 33,000 jobs — by implementing 57 cost-cutting initiatives. The plan represents one of the largest downsizing efforts in the 250-year history of the Postal Service.

These 57 cost-cutting initiatives include restrictions on overtime, late and extra trips from processing centers, and all the other cost-cutting measures that have caused the delivery delays we’ve seen since July. They also include numerous other changes to postal operations that have had “an unintended consequences” according to Postmaster General DeJoy, of delaying the mailing of election ballots. Many citizens and politicians believed that it what those 57 initiatives were all about; the suppression of the vote.

Many people believe that the Presidential election having been won by Joe Biden will result having the Post Office has being saved. However, President Trump still has two more months in office. Postmaster General DeJoy will be implementing his 57 cost-cutting initiatives that have been on hold for the Fall of 2020 elections. Just in time to delay the Christmas mail, leading to a decrease in customer confidence and lost business.

“We’re something that everyone takes for granted normally. The Postal Service is just something that’s always there,” said Lori Cash, president of the American Postal Workers Union Western New York Area local. Her biggest concern is getting another stimulus bill passed in Congress to keep USPS afloat. Expenses from employees taking coronavirus leave and hiring replacements for sick workers are adding up, she says. As in the Mail Processing Center in Green Bay and MPC’s around the nation EAS management are sorting mail in violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Even with President-elect Joe Biden entering office in January, the postmaster general isn’t hired by the president and USPS will have the same leader, said Mark Dimondstein, President of the American Postal Workers Union. The union is still optimistic, he says, but anticipates challenges ahead. “The people of this country have spoken loud and clear that they want the Postal Service to thrive and to continue to do well by the people of the country,” he says.

With Senate runoff races in Georgia around the corner, the postal community is hoping that the Democrats can flip both of those Senate seats to give the Democrats and Joe Biden a majority vote. Whether, or not, this can be accomplished we as union members must remain steadfast in our pursuit justice for the Post Office. For if the Post Office withers due to a lack of concern, so will our democracy.

Steve Paradise

Legislative Chair

Quote of the month-November

“For the veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you were called to do so that we can safely do what we’re free to do.”

—Unknown

A new membership idea was voted in at the last meeting; a member’s name from the AP-WU Current Member List will be pulled from the list at each meeting. If you are there-you win the ‘pot’. If the member is not there-\$20 will be added for the next meeting, accumulating until we get a lucky winner in attendance.



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Wednesday, October 25th, 2020

Place: Gallagher’s

President Kelly Heaney called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

A quorum was declared with 10 members in attendance. Kelly Heaney led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Paradise gave the Invocation.

The following officers were present:

President Kelly Heaney, Vice President Dave Kroll, Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk, Recording Secretary Jenny Starry, Bay Breeze Editor Kelsey Helf, Clerk Craft Director Steve Paradise, and Maintenance Craft Director Pete Knutson. Motor Vehicle Craft Director Jeremy Linberg was excused.

Minutes of the September 2020 meeting were read by Jenny Starry.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Steve Paradise to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial report for September 2020 was read by Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed Kelly attending labor/management meetings and paying members to do special projects.

Labor/Management: Steve met with Jeff and they discussed the use of masks and people being walked out for not wearing them, the fans, and semi’s turning around by the VMF.

Grievance: Line-H grievances, principal duty assignment grievances and an express mail grievance were filed.

Safety/Health: There were 2 accidents in our district this fiscal year and 9 last year.

Legislative: Steve Paradise gave the legislative report. He talked about the upcoming election.

OWCP: If you get hurt, it helps if you have a witness.

Constitution:

New Members: Viviana Klimek, Karyn Patenaude, and Angela Hill.

Lost Members: Dave Lardinois, retired.

Communications:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Chris Opolka to take the motion off the table that pertains to adding to the Standing Book of Resolutions that the Election committee be compensated for their time. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Art Ciesielczyk to add to the Standing Book of Resolutions that the Election Committee Chairperson shall be compensated

for 25 hours at the Level 7, Step O rate. Furthermore, the additional 2 Election Committee members will be compensated for 5 hours at the Level 6, Step O rate. Every attempt will be made to have all 3 APWU/NEWAL crafts represented on the Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Art Ciesielczyk and seconded by Chris Opolka to pay volunteers for special Union projects, including Executive Board members, at the rate of \$20 per hour. These special projects do not fall under an officer’s normal duties. Volunteers must be current APWU members or former APWU member retirees. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Art Ciesielczyk and seconded by Dave Kroll to add to the Standing Book of Resolutions that the Executive Vice-President, Craft Directors, Editor in non-publication months, and Chief Stewards receive meeting pay for all Union meetings during the calendar year as long as they have been absent from no more than 3 meetings during the previous calendar year. Motion passed with 9 yay’s and 1 nay.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Chris Opolka and seconded by Dave Kroll to have the next meeting on Thursday, November 19th at 2 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dave Kroll and seconded by Chris Opolka to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. NEWAL meeting adjourned at 2030 hours. The \$10 door prize was won by Kelsey Helf. Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet. Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Jenny Starry.



Date: Thursday, November 19th, 2020

Place: Gallagher’s

President Kelly Heaney called the meeting to order at 1415 hours.

A quorum was declared with 26 members in attendance.

Kelly Heaney led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Paradise gave the Invocation.

(Continued on page 6)