

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL



AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
AFL-CIO

Volume 69/Issue 6
November/December 2023

THE BAY BREEZE



Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Jan. 15th

2:00 pm

Gallagher's West

2655 W. Mason St.

Green Bay, WI 54304

Food & Refreshments

**\$10 Fleet Farm Gift Card
Door Prize**

\$380.00 Rolling Jackpot

Hello union peeps, ok mail volume is way down at the plant with letters, and this is bad news for the future of the post office. Usually, December mail volume paid our wages for many months, so we will see what the future holds. For now, be thankful that we are not on the chopping block for plant closures at this time. Now for many of us, holidays are a happy time but for those that are alone or do not have family this becomes a very lonely time, so keep these people in your hearts and if you see someone down, please reach out and see if they just want someone to talk to. Next, let's talk about resolutions. We all make them but rarely keep them. Make realistic goals and stick with them. Say you want to lose weight, but you get depressed because you don't lose 50 pounds in 1 month – this is an unrealistic goal doomed to failure. A better

goal would be 5 pounds a week, however exercise, nutrition changes, and your mindset must change. In winter no one ever drinks enough water and dehydration leads to many problems. I am writing about this because I want my union peeps to be happy and healthy and to get through the holidays safely.

P.S. A resolution saying you will always be nice to everyone and not swear is also an improbable resolution as a postal employee lol. Merry and Happy and blah blah!

In solidarity,

Kelly



President	Kelly Heaney
Vice President	Jennifer Ewald
Secretary/Treasurer	Art Ciesielczyk
Recording Secretary	Emily Ewald
Editor	Bill Kabacinski
Clerk Craft Director	Jennifer Ewald
Motor Vehicle Craft Director	Clade Adkins
Maintenance Craft Director	Samantha Fritz

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	Jennifer Ewald
Clerk Alternate Steward	Kelly Heaney
Maintenance Chief Steward	Jesse Weber
Maintenance Alt Steward	Sam Fritz
Alternate Clerk Steward	Brian Conklin
	Christine Bouyear

Tour 2

Clerk Chief Steward	Sam Fritz Jenny E.
Clerk Alternate Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear, Kelly Heaney
Customer Service Maintenance Chief Steward	Sebastian Zeutzus
	Ekaterina Bouyear
Alternate Maint Steward	Molly Crevier
MVS Chief Steward	Clade Adkins

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Sam Fritz
Clerk Alternate Steward	Kelly Heaney
	Christine Bouyear
Maintenance Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney
Alternate Maintenance Steward	Lance Bouyear

VME

Chief Steward	Clade Adkins
Alternate Steward	Vacant

AO Stations

Clerk Chief Steward	Dave Sass
Clerk Alternate Steward	Mike Anderson

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Beauleau
Clerk Alternate Steward	Vacant

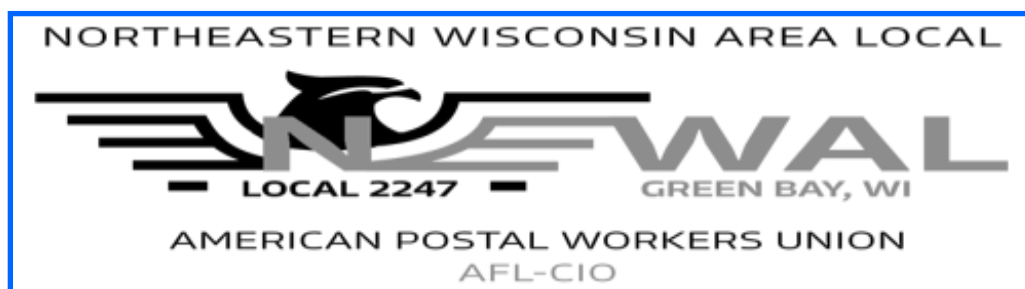
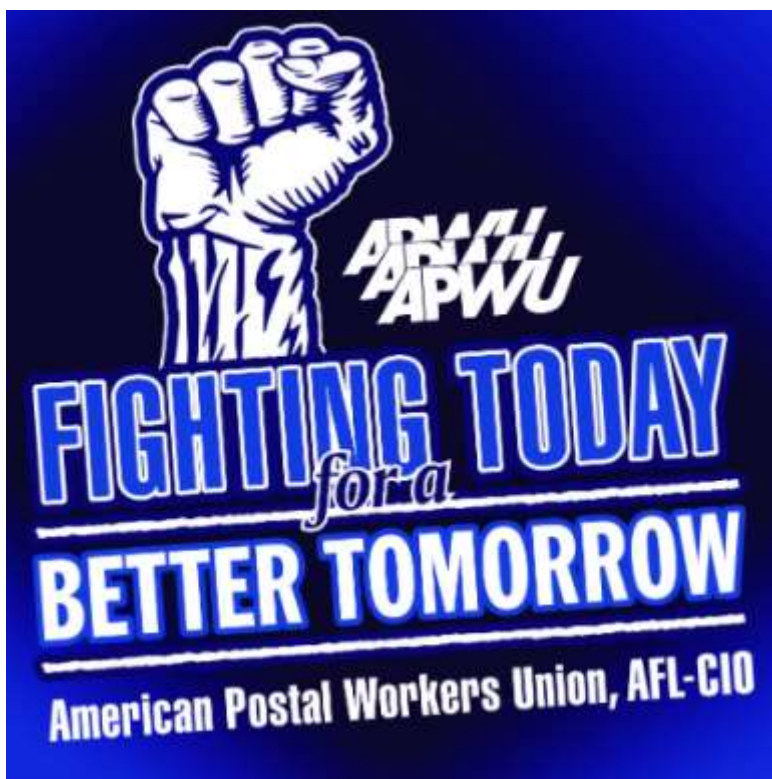
All other AO's

Clerk Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney
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APWU HEALTH PLAN SEMINAR

I want to thank the membership for sending me to the Health Plan Seminar in Las Vegas. This is always a great learning experience. We went over the changes to the High Option and the Consumer Driven Plans, went through the website, and talked about the competitor's plans. As open season is now behind us, I would like to welcome any new members to the APWU Health Plan. There is a lot of information for health plan members on the website apwuhp.com. If anyone has any questions throughout the year, feel free to contact me at 920-396-1273 or jennystarry@yahoo.com.

Thanks again,
Jenny Starry



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL
#2247

Date: Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

Place: Gallagher's

President Kelly Heaney called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

A quorum was declared with 27 members in attendance.

Kelly Heaney led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jesse Weber gave the Invocation.

The following officers were present: President Kelly Heaney, Vice-President Jenny Ewald, Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk, Recording Secretary Jenny Starry, Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski, Maintenance Craft Director Lance Bouyear, and Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins.

Minutes of the October 2023 meeting were read by Bill Kabacinski. A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Art Ciesielczyk to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

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

Executive Committee: The e-board talked about sending people to less conventions next year, donating to charities, the cost to fix the copier, and the bill from the labor council. No longer giving hoodies to new members was discussed.

Labor/Management: Kelly decided not to have a meeting this month.

Grievance: 5 Line-H grievances were filed.

Safety/Health: Be careful in the parking lot.

Legislative:

OWCP:

Constitution:

New Members:

Lost Members: Sharon Foxx and Shirley Foxx resigned, and Kathy Heise retired.

COMMUNICATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion was made by Jesse Weber and seconded by Jenny Ewald to bring back up the motion about the \$1686 bill from the Greater Green Bay Labor Council. A motion was made by Kelly Heaney and seconded by Art Ciesielczyk to table this motion until we can get more information. Motion to table passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Beth Detrie and seconded by Sue Pranke to donate \$100 each to The Salvation Army, NEW Community Shelter, and House of Hope. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Jackie Kudick and seconded by Kelly Armstrong to have the next meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at 2 pm at Gallagher's. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pam Krause and seconded by Clade Adkins to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

The \$10 door prize was won by Albert Shamah. The \$360 rolling jackpot winner was Chet Czyz. He was not present so it will be \$380 at the next meeting.

Everyone in attendance either received a \$15 or a \$10 gift card. Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Jenny Starry.



A More Secure Retirement

AARP is backing a new protection for your savings.

By

Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO

Published December 01, 2023

AARP has been fighting to make sure Americans are financially secure after retirement since our founding **65 years ago. It's been a long, hard road, but we have seen our share of victories, and there are more battles still to win.**

That's why I was pleased when President Joe Biden announced the Department of Labor's proposed improvement to a key provision of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). AARP believes the rule would provide a more secure and prosperous retirement for millions of Americans.

The proposed changes, contained in what is called the Retirement Security Rule, are extensive. But at their **core is an expansion of the definition of an "investment advice fiduciary."** Put simply, when you are a fiduciary, you are legally obligated to put your client's interest first. The new rule would expand the products and services for which a financial professional must operate as a fiduciary.

That's critical. Many Americans seek help to manage their money, and they deserve to have financial advisers whose goal is to protect and grow their savings. Right now, loopholes in the law allow many financial advisers to make investment recommendations that are based on what makes the most money for them, not the person saving for retirement.

The proposed rule will better protect millions of American workers and retirees from being involved with financial products that are not in their best interest, such as those with higher fees or inappropriate levels of risk, or just not of a high quality.

It will also ensure that when an employee is doing a one-time transfer of funds to a new type of retirement account — for example, during a rollover from a 401(k) to an IRA — the advice they receive from their provider is in their best interest.

The new rule would cover financial products currently regulated by ERISA but outside the scope of the **Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulation Best Interest, such as commodities, real estate and insurance products, including annuities.**

An update of the rules that govern retirement plans is overdue. Some of the regulations are nearly 50 years old. The definition of investment advice fiduciary was adopted in 1975, when IRAs were new, 401(k) plans didn't exist, and most Americans relied on traditional pensions for retirement savings.

(Continued on next page)

Times have changed dramatically. Today, it is largely workers, not employers, who shoulder the risk and responsibility of choosing investments. Individual plan participants and IRA owners, rather than professional money managers, are expected to make financial decisions. This has become increasingly difficult as financial products have become more numerous and complicated.

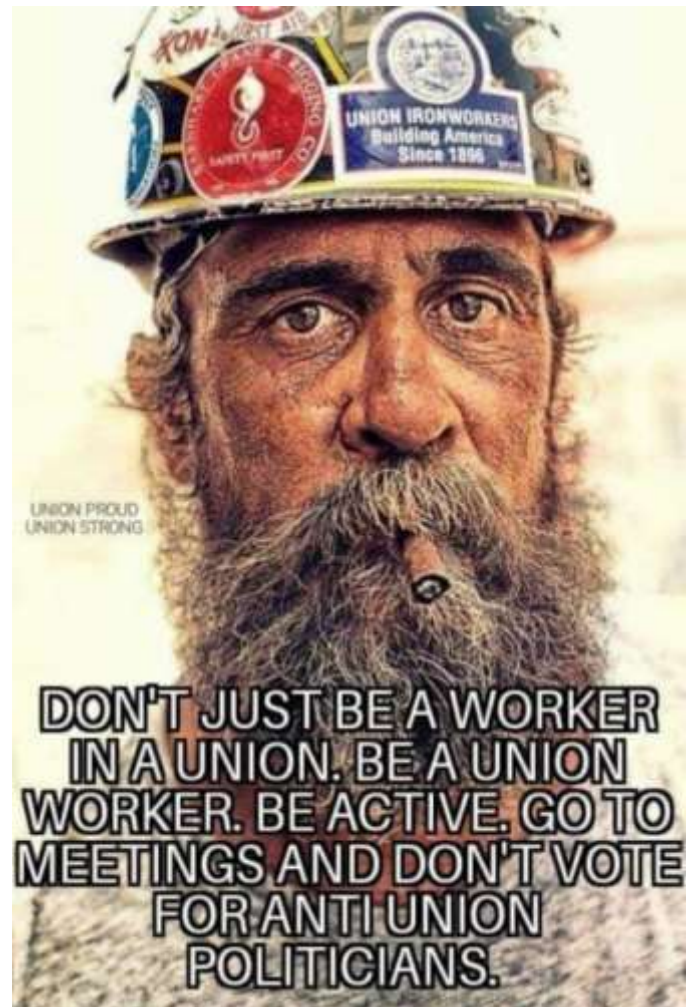
It makes no sense that 401(k)s are under the fiduciary duty protection of ERISA, but 401(k) rollovers into IRAs are not. Consumers are often not aware that advice to roll over their IRAs is not subject to the same protections. As a result, significant value of these accounts can be lost, year by year, in undisclosed fees, commissions or below-par rates of return.

In today's world, it's hard enough to save for retirement and achieve your financial goals. We don't need to make it more difficult by allowing some in the financial industry to take advantage of hardworking Americans.

AARP will continue fighting to ensure that investment professionals put consumers' -interests ahead of their personal gain.



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UNION ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for NEWAL2247 were counted on Monday, November 27th, 2023.

The offices that were unopposed.

President – Kelly Heaney
Executive Vice President – Jennifer Ewald
Motor Vehicle Director – Clade Adkins
Bay Breeze Editor – Bill Kabacinski

The offices in which ballots were cast and counted.

Recording Secretary – Emily Ewald
Maintenance/Custodial Craft Director – Samantha Fritz
Clerk Craft Director – Sebastian Zeutzius
Secretary/Treasurer – Molly Crevier

National Convention

(Two people to attend, listing top 4 in order of most votes.)

Jennifer Ewald
Samantha Fritz
Sebastian Zeutzius
Jesse Weber

State Convention

(Number of people attending is to be determined, listing top 6 in order of most votes.)

Jennifer Ewald
Samantha Fritz
Sebastian Zeutzius
Emily Ewald
David Sass
Jesse Weber

Thank you to all who took the time to vote!!



The Bay Breeze
PO Box 10323
Green Bay, WI 54307-0323



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Union Meeting

Wednesday January 25th, 2023

Executive Board 1:30 pm

General Meeting 2:00

Gallagher's Pizza West

2655 W. Mason Street

Green Bay, WI 54304

Food & Refreshments

\$10 Fleet Farm Gift Card Door Prize

\$380.00 Rolling Jackpot