



AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
AFL-CIO

THE BAY BREEZE



Next Meeting:

Sun, March, 30th

2:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason St.

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

\$10 gift card drawing

Happy St. Patty's Day!

\$220.00 Rolling Jackpot

Hi everyone, I'd like to take a minute to introduce myself to any of those who don't know me. My name is Jennifer Ewald. I am a 3rd generation postal worker and have worked for the post office since 2013. I have an associate's degree in management from NWTC, a bachelor's in fine arts from UWGB, and a master's in art history from AZUSA Pacific University where I completed my master's thesis in 2018. Since then, I have continued to work at the Green Bay Post Office, and as of 2023 became a Union Steward where I have held several positions over the last few years for our Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local 2247 APWU. At the beginning of this year our President, Kelly Heaney, stepped down from his position, having postponed doing so in 2024 to allow myself time to learn the ropes but leaving me with big shoes to fill.

As I take on this new roll, I am reminded how important history is and how important it is for us to maintain and continue the work that has already been accomplished. On the APWU.org/history web page, we learn that in 1970 the Post Office Department became the U.S. Postal Service where upon the creation of the USPS, postal unions were allowed to bargain collectively over wages and conditions for the first time.

The early unions had essentially no bargaining rights, however they existed largely as lobbying organizations that otherwise would



have had no say about their working conditions. Wage increases depended on the whim of Congress. As a result, postal workers were chronically underpaid. In March of 1970, full-time employees earned about \$6,200 to start, and workers with 21 years of service averaged only \$8,440 — barely enough to make ends meet at that time. In fact, many postal workers qualified for food stamps. Workers grew increasingly frustrated with Congress's inaction, and on March 18, 1970, thousands of New York City postal workers walked off the job in protest. Within days, they were joined by 200,000 others in 30 major cities. Mail service ground to a halt and the plight of postal workers was brought to the public's attention. [Time Magazine article, March 30, 1970] The strike was soon settled, with Congress approving a 6 percent wage increase, retroactive to the previous December.

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President	Jennifer Ewald
Vice President	David Sass
Secretary/Treasurer	Molly Crevier
Recording Secretary	Emily Ewald
Editor	Bill Kabacinski
Clerk Craft Director	Sebastian Zeutzius
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	Jenny Ewald
Clerk Alternate Steward	
Maintenance Chief Steward	Sam Fritz
<u>Maintenance Alt Steward</u>	Sam Fritz, Lance Bouyear

Alternate Clerk Steward Sam Fritz, Christine Bouyear, Emily Ewald, Sebastian Zeutzius

Tour 2

Clerk Steward	Sam Fritz
<u>Clerk Alternate Steward</u>	Jennifer Ewald, Christine Bouyear, Emily Ewald
Customer Service Maintenance Chief Steward	Sebastian Zeutzius
<u>Alternate Maint Steward</u>	Sam Fritz, Jennifer Ewald
MVS Chief Steward	Clade Adkins

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Christine Bouyear
<u>Clerk Alternate Steward</u>	Emily Ewald,
Maintenance Craft Director	Sam Fritz
Maintenance Chief Steward	Jennifer Ewald
Alternate Maintenance Steward	Lance Bouyear

MVS-VMF

Chief Steward	Clade Adkins
Alternate Steward	Vacant

Cofrin, Hansen, Downtown

Clerk Chief Steward	David Sass
Clerk Alternate Steward	Mike Anderson, Jennifer Ewald, Sebastian Zeutzius

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Beauleau
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The strike served as an impetus for the enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which granted unions the right to negotiate with management over their wages, benefits and working conditions. For many years the APWU, NALC, NPMHU, and NRLCA bargained jointly, but since 1994, the APWU has bargained on its own. Successfully negotiating agreements from 1994 until 2024 where we are now currently in new contract negotiations.

Following this long history, the importance of Article One of our Collective Bargaining Agreement (a contract negotiated and agreed to by the National APWU and USPS) speaks of this history and the changes the people of this Union have demanded since the 1970s. Article 1, the first article of our nationally agreed contract, recognizes and certifies the APWU, the American Postal Workers Union, as the exclusive bargaining representative for all the of its people; Maintenance Employees, Motor Vehicle Employees, Postal Clerks, Mail Equipment Shops Employees, Material Distribution Centers Employees and Operating Services and Facilities Employees. It is acknowledged that we as a Union stand together, fight for each other, and work for the benefit of our Union family as a whole. It is an acknowledgement that we stand for all past, present and future members of our crafts, and it is an acknowledgement that this Union will fight to protect these rights and benefits agreed in the following articles of this contract for our past, present and future employees.

Article One of our Collective Bargaining Agreement is also a reminder that your participation in what is done from our local level, to what is done at the national level, makes this Union what it is. Whether it is standing up for your contractual rights, the rights of your co-workers, talking to non-members about joining, coming to meetings and contributing to the conversation about our local union, stepping up to be a steward, or voicing the changes you want to see at the National level, you and your participation in our Union is important. Article One says that the APWU represents you, but we are a collection of people who all have a voice. With the uncertainty of what the postal and political climate has for us as Postal Workers, and Union Workers, it is also important that we remember that although we may not always agree on every topic, we are stronger together and deserve the rights and benefits that the Union of the past, present, and future have advocated for us.

In solidarity,

Jennifer

Stay up-to-date and follow the union page on Facebook



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Sunday, January 12th, 2025

Place: Gallagher's

President Jenny Ewald called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

A quorum was declared with 15 members in attendance.

Jenny Ewald led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Paradise gave the Invocation.

The following officers were present: President Jenny Ewald, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins, Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz, Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier, Recording Secretary Emily Ewald, and Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski. Clerk Craft Director Sebastian Zeutzius was excused.

Minutes of the November 2024 meeting were printed in the Bay Breeze. A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Kelly Heaney to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

The financial report for October was read by Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed possible changes to giving away shirts and sweatshirts and the possibility of ordering more, we need to go over the inventory we have and what sizes there are, switching from gift cards to just giving checks to retired members, fixing paycheck issue for union officers there was a discrepancy in some of the language, work on the budget for the next meeting to see who is getting sent to conventions for 2025. Also discussed getting more members into the union, especially new hires, if people are interested in knowing non-union members come see Jenny.

Labor/Management: Meeting was canceled this month. If members have anything they want to discuss in Labor management meetings let a steward know.

Grievance: Step 3 sent on crossing crafts; management is denying them.

Legislative: Social Security fairness act passed.

New Members: Michael Beattie

Lost Members: Latrina Bobo and Raven Fox transferred. Steve Heim, Lori Sullivan, Lisa Niermann, Jenny Starry, Cindy Turritin, Carrie McCoy, Brenda Ellenson, Brian Conklin, Al Smolen, Bert Lewins, Brain Powers, and Cherise Roseberry all retired.

Communications: Discussion was held on work orders being filled out and nothing is done about them, can bring it up in health and safety. Management at Coffrin is pushing for discipline for 3 call-ins for 6 months, feels like you are not allowed to use your sick leave.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the vice president position being vacant, Dave Sass was suggested to fill in till elections. Kelly is back at work. National is not enforcing what they and management discussed and agreed to.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on newly converted PSEs or workers with qualifying life events cannot use the website to sign up for health insurance outside of open enrollment, they must fill out form 2809 and send in or fax.

The members thanked Kelly Heaney for his years of service as President and a plaque was giving to him as a thank you for all his hard work.

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Clade Adkins to elect David Sass as Vice President till the official election. Motion Passed.

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Samantha Fritz to have the next meeting on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:30pm at Gallaghers. Motion passed.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pam Krause and seconded by Kelly Heaney to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

The \$10 door prize was won by Clade Adkins.

The \$180 jackpot winner was Breanna Meeks. The member was not in attendance so will be \$200 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL

#2247

Date: Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

Place: Gallaghers

President Jenny Ewald called the meeting to order at 7:41pm.

A quorum was declared with 26 members in attendance.

Jenny Ewald led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Paradise gave the Invocation.

The following officers were present: President Jennifer Ewald, Vice President David Sass, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins, Clerk Craft Director Sebastian Zeutzus, Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz, Recording Secretary Emily Ewald, and Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski. Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier was excused.

Minutes of the January 2025 meeting were read by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald. A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by David Sass to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

The financial report for October was read by President Jennifer Ewald.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed swearing in David Sass as Vice President, amending the constitution to update information on the current contact information, getting a land line for the union hole, moving banking from Associated Bank to Fox Community Credit Union, starting a Sunshine Fund and putting \$9,000 into a high interest savings account that's used to pay people that retire, and putting \$7,000 into a short term CD, amending the officer pay, paying retirees with checks instead of gift cards, tabling the T-shirt sales because inventory is low and need to go over it, and how many union members we want to send to the conventions this year.

Labor/Management: No meeting

Grievance: Grievances on overtime bypass and displacement of clerks.

Safety/Health: No meeting

Legislative: The APWU is highly encouraging everyone to call your Senators and Congressmen to voice your opinion on what is happening with the potential takeover of the postal service. You can go on the APWU website and click the link that says call now and put in your name and phone number, then they will call you from an automated system that will connect you to your local Senators and Congressmen. This allows you to leave them a voicemail. This information should also be posted in the breakroom and printed in the Bay Breeze. (continued on page 6)

OWCP:

Constitution: Officer list needs to be updated as well as phone numbers. David Sass made a motion to update the constitution to reflect the current leadership. Motion was tabled. Discussion was held on updating the constitution and more information is needed before it can change.

New Members: Angela Johnson

Lost Members:

Communications: Discussion was held on a settlement of a posted job duty, a blanket policy for tour 3 that people are put on Deans Desirable list or restricted sick leave. If you need documentation for sick leave, ask if you can write a note; if Supervisors tell you, it must be a doctor's note try to get a steward or a witness to verify that a supervisor is telling you to get a doctor's note, document the time, milage, and doctors visit to grieve it. They are looking to revert a tour 3 job in the plant, and reverted a Coffrin job, along with a Lead Clerk job duty at Coffrin. It keeps getting taken down because they cannot get the job duties correct. Full-time regulars are not required to work more than 10 hours unless they are on the overtime list. Discussion was also held on new supervisors, if you feel like you are being retaliated on or harassed, write a statement with the time, date and location that it occurred and if there are any witnesses. CPR training will no longer be available, along with AEDs being taken out of Post Offices.

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Ewald was sworn in as President.

David Sass was sworn in as Vice President.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Bill Kabacinski to move our funds/banking from Associated Bank to Fox Community Credit Union. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to start a Sunshine Fund of \$9,000 where interest will be used for retirements, or other voted on member engagement activities. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Kelly Heaney to put \$7,000 of our funds into a short-term CD. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Steve Paradise to change the Steward/Officer pay to \$60 per meeting, \$120 for Chief Stewards, and additional \$50 for officers. Motion Passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to transition to pay retirees with checks out of the Sunshine Fund instead of gift cards. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Beth Detrie to send the President and up to two to the Wisconsin Spring Seminar in Eau Claire, WI in April to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Samantha Fritz to send the President and up to two to the John Ake in La Crosse, WI on August 24th -27th to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Kelly Heaney to send Jennifer Ewald to the National Presidents Conference in Washington D.C. on March 14th-19th to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Sebastian Zeutzuis to send the Health Care Representative Emily Ewald to health care training in Tempe, AZ on October 18th- 22nd to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass to send up to two people to the National Convention in Las Vegas, NV in October to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Discussion was held. Motion was amended by David Sass and seconded by Samantha Fritz to send the President plus one to the National Convention in Las Vegas, NV in October to cover travel, room, per deim, lost time, and registration. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by David Sass to pay Samantha Fritz and Sebastian Zeutzuis straight time for 12 hours for performing an audit on the books. Motion passed.

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NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Steve Paradise to have the next meeting on Sunday, March 30th at 2:00pm at Gallaghers. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kelly Heaney and seconded by Andrew Prescher to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

The \$10 door prize was won by CJ Willems.

The \$200 jackpot winner was Russell Treadway. The member was not in attendance so it will be \$220 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.



APWU URGENT ACTION

Call your **senators** and urge them to **block** the takeover of the Postal Service by the White House and ensure the Postal Service remains **independent!**



YES, the call can be made on USPS property during non-working hours, such as before or after work and during your breaktime or lunch hour.

YES, non-postal workers can make the call. Ask your family, friends, and neighbors to call!

Mark Dimondstein, *President*
Judy Beard, *Legislative & Political Director*

Updated February 21, 2025

The public Postal Service is under attack. Major news sources are reporting an impending executive order that will fire the postal Board of Governors and absorb the USPS into the Commerce Department.

The law created the Postal Service as an independent agency, free from shifting political winds, and dedicated to serving the American public.

Any effort by the administration to remove the Board and seize USPS is clearly illegal and directly impacts the wages, benefits, and livelihoods of each and every postal worker. It directly threatens the right of the public to universal service.

CALL 844-402-1001 AND TELL YOUR SENATORS TO KEEP THE POSTAL SERVICE PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT

The Bay Breeze
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Green Bay, WI 54307-0323



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Union Meeting

Sunday March 30th, 2025

Executive Board 1:30 pm

General Meeting 2:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

\$10 gift card drawing

Happy St. Patty's Day!! **\$220.00 Rolling Jackpot**