NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL

NEWAL

LOCAL 2247 GREEN BAY, WI

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

AFL-CIO

Volume 71/Issue 2
March/April 2025

THE BAY BREEZE

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May, 15th

7:30 pm

Kroll's West

1990 S. Ridge Rd.

Green Bay, WI 54304

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

Happy Memorial Day!

$260.00 Rolling Jackpot

Hello Again,

The first thing that I want to do is to make sure to remind you all to mark your calendars for this year's Union Picnic. As always, it's the first Sunday in August, the 3rd, starting at 10 AM. We're trying out a new location, Calavera Springs Park, just north of Howard off Flintville Road. We welcome any help and can't wait to see you all there.

I also want to acknowledge all the great people we lost to retirement this week and over the last 6 months alone. The Post Office has lost so much skill, knowledge, and dedication. There are so many people leaving that understand the importance of what we do, and the people we serve.

As I am sure you are all aware, there are many changes coming, and it is not just our area. As of right now, there is only talk that we will be getting rid of machines in the Green Bay plant. There are plans to remove a flat sorting machine, and discussion on removing the cancelers. But as far as the Union has been notified there is no set date for any of these. The Green Bay Plant is now slotted to be an LPC. Which *about.usps.com* says, "The intended function of an LPC is to handle destinating letter and flat sortation operations for designated 3-Digit ZIP Codes within the region, and to also serve as a collection point for packages moving to the delivery network. This will optimize mail flow, increase reliability, and improve performance." This is not much different than what we have already been doing, given that we have already lost our outgoing mail volume. But our local union has been doing what they can to prepare for any possible changes and could use your help being vigilant to any little changes that are not being discussed with the Union.

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

Tour 2

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

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Christine Bouyear
Clerk Alternate Steward	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, Sebastion Zeutzius

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Beauleau

Management has also ended our "no lunch" policy and as of this weekend has again begun requiring all employees to take lunch breaks. There is statement forms printed in the plant to get impact statements from all of you. If you could please fill one out and get them back to a Union steward. The Post Office is trying to cut back on overtime. It was explained to me when employees do not take their lunch breaks, it increases the use of overtime. Nobody I talk to can explain how that works, but with lunch breaks we will only be losing mail processing time. With that I want to remind you that with the loss of no lunches, breaks should be every two hours. This is two 15 minute breaks and a lunch in between, with a 5 min wash up before your lunch. It is also important to understand you **cannot** be required to work over 12 consecutive hours. So, with the lunches, you get 4- 15 minute breaks and a 30 minute lunch, every 2 hours and **cannot** be required to stay longer than 12 hours.

As tough as all of these changes are, and with the loss of even more great employees to retirement, we do have a lot of vacant jobs right now. Many of these vacant clerk craft jobs were fought hard for by our Union officers to be brought back. With any hope it should lead to the likely conversion of PSEs, with more structured hours, better benefits, and pay. I could definitely use any help in talking to all these great new people about the benefits of joining, and who they need to talk to, to get any information they may need.

We all do better when we stand together,

Jennifer Ewald

Kelly's retirement party

First off, I would like to congratulate all our recent retirees. You have certainly earned it. Remember, you can always come back for seasonal help (ha!) Former union president Kelly Heaney had his retirement party at Duke's on Velp Avenue on Sunday May 4th. Everyone was invited and the turnout was impressive. Numerous people showed up to support Kelly in his transition into retirement. Several past employees, current employees, and retirees showed up, it was a lot of fun to say the least. In my opinion, I believe so many people attended to show Kelly how much his hard work was appreciated over the years. Kelly was a passionate and dedicated union president. He is well versed with the union contract and was ever watchful for contract violations. He would grieve for these violations to make sure employees were compensated for any breach of contract. He would dedicate his time to conventions to keep up to date on any new union news or upcoming changes. Even for the few people who are not in the union, he fought for them just as he would for a union member. Many thanks to all the people who made all the delicious food that certainly did not disappoint and there was no shortage, that's for sure. In closing, I just wanted to say thank you, Kelly, for all your years of service. I witnessed first-hand, on many occasions, how hard you fought for employees and their rights. Enjoy retirement, because you have definitely earned it!!

In solidarity,

Bill Kabacinski

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Sunday, March 30th, 2025

Place: Gallaghers

President Jennifer Ewald called the meeting to order at 2:08pm.

A quorum was declared with 24 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, Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier, Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz, Recording Secretary Emily Ewald, and Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski. Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins and Clerk Craft Director Sebastian Zeutzius were excused.

Minutes of the February 2025 meeting were printed in the Bay Breeze. A motion was made by Emily Piontek and seconded by David Sass to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

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

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed the budget and planning for the yearly union picnic, a program called American Benefits Exchange that would take a group of at least 10 people that are interested in learning more about financing and how to make your money work for you, the program can have a seminar in person or through zoom. NEWAL 2247 having to rejoin the Green Bay Labor Council because it is a part of the constitution that the union is part of it; if we would like to change it, we need to form a constitutional committee. Also discussed was forming a constitutional committee and anyone interested to let a union steward know. Lunches are supposed to start again on May 3rd.

Labor/Management: Discussed in Labor Management was BDS drills in the plant have not been done in a long time and we have a lot of new employees who do not know what it is and what to do, along with fire drills and tornado drills. Why are PSE's not being trained on the dock so they can fill in when the expeditor is on leave/off? Supervisor is expediting regularly, possibility of training automation clerks as backups, making lead clerk jobs more desirable, how long do work orders take to get filled or is there a way or tracking them so employees know when to, or if to, put in another. How do maintenance employees apply or deny job opportunities properly? Dock mishandling VMF parts, labels for food for break room refrigerator, APC's being left empty outside by the back of building, the National Day of Action on March 20th, mandating people on the off days for weeks and not utilizing the overtime list.

Safety/Health: Items discussed were the tarp and hose above DB11 that has been there for a while and the roof needs to be inspected. Walls falling apart in the bathrooms, and the request for new bathrooms is constantly denied. Lighting is out above DB 8, and the new fire alarm system should be completed by May.

Grievance: Grievances on overtime bypass, higher level pay when doing higher level work, housekeeping inspection, small office postmasters working more than 15 hours, some small offices not getting paid proper overtime when working over 8 hours, discipline cases, and job reversions.

Legislative: Steve Paradise discussed the Supreme Court justice race and the importance of voting on April 1st, Act 10 has not been fully resolved. Donald Trump has signed an executive order to take away bargaining rights for some federal employees. It is important to call your congressmen and senators to voice your opinion or concerns. Jennifer Ewald discussed the National Convention for Presidents in Washington and that topics discussed were Wells Fargo posting about the benefits of owning the Postal Service. The contract we have is between the APWU and the United States Postal Service, if they were to sell and change the USPS, we would no longer have a contract.

Constitution: We need to set up a committee and update the constitution, will take names at the next meeting to all people interested in being part of the committee.

New Members: Karl Price, Gary Savona, Maeng Sik Shin, Ella Theno, and John Barney.

Lost Members:

Communications: Discussion was held about the floor at the downtown station which has had missing tiles for a while, they just have a carpet over it causing a tripping hazard, a 1767 will be filled out and brought up to management. MVS drivers brought up the logistics of sending mail and that they receive multiple containers that are not full going to the same place.

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They are getting multiple gaylords that are 5% full and take up a lot of space in the trucks, items need to be condensed. Discussions were also held on more expeditors on the dock to help during busy times.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Samantha Fritz and seconded by Molly Crevier to spend up to $5,000 on the yearly union picnic at Calavera Springs Park in Howard. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Samantha Fritz to have the next meeting on Thursday, April 17th at 7:30am at Bay Family Restaurant. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Molly Crevier and seconded by Deborah Nehmer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

The $10 door prize was won by Brad Posey.

The $220 jackpot winner was Kim Gerrits. The member was not in attendance so will be $240 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Thursday, April 17th, 2025

Place: Bay Family Restaurant

President Jennifer Ewald called the meeting to order at 7:35am.

A quorum was declared with 12 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, Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz, Clerk Craft Director Sebastian Zeutzius, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins, Recording Secretary Emily Ewald, and Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski. Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier was excused.

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

The was no official financial report because Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier was excused.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed grievances they're working on, the financials, who is going to what conference, more articles for the bay breeze, and the day of action on Memorial Day for clerks to fill out 1767s on every safety hazard they see.

Labor/Management: Items discussed were removal of outgoing mail, the timeline of it and what is exactly being removed and the impact on clerks; are there any other programs being taken away? Discussion was held on moving the 4 o'clock starts to 1 o'clock, there will be no full plant rebid. Also, the possibility of losing flat sorter 20 and six reverted jobs will be reposted in May. Customer service may abolish a position if the person bids out and PSE's having 2 days off but mandating non-listers on their day off. Who is getting converted into the BMU job? (they must pass a test to qualify). Discussion was also held on supervisor's mistreatment of clerks, and there is supposed to be a town hall meeting with the plant manager.

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Safety/Health: Items discussed were: standing mats on ASFM10 are coming up and are becoming a tripping hazard and PA system in back is not working. Fire system should be all operational, CPR training class, tornado drills should be happening soon and a camera system is scheduled to be installed. Lunches start May 3rd, 1767s not being in the system, and a clerk hurt at work and lack of management response. Plans for repaving the customer parking lot and redoing the employee entrance but not the full parking lot in back, just the main driveway. Also attention is needed for hole in the floor at the downtown station, clerks pulling more than 2 APCs at a time, and VMF needs cracks repaired in floor with epoxy.

Grievance: Grievances on overtime bypass, crossing crafts, reversions, discipline cases, and DB staffing.

OWCP: One person was injured in the plant from an APC.

Constitution: Discussed the members that want to volunteer for the constitutional committee.

New Members: Kierston Aron, Benjamin Trevor, and Jacqueline Walitalo

Lost Members: Leah Wenzel

Communications: Discussion was held on the early retirement buy-out, lunches and who is going to cover machines, the water main in the plant is leaking after being repaired.

NEW BUSINESS

David Sass thanked members for being able to attend the Wisconsin Spring Seminar in Eau Claire. He talked about the convention and advanced steward training, he learned more about step 2's, harassment, MDAT system, and the importance of people getting involved in the union.

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Bill Kabacinski to have the next meeting on Thursday, May 15th at 7:30pm at Kroll's West. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by David Sass to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48am.

The $10 door prize was won by Jennifer Ewald.

The $240 jackpot winner was Tracey Depner. The member was not in attendance so will be $260 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald

Gettin' out while the gettin' is good....

Congratulations Recent Retirees!!

Steve Heim

Mike Swiecichoski

Lori Sullivan

Lisa Niermann

Jenny Starry

Cindy Turrittin

Carrie McCoy

Mary Davis

Terry Ertl

Brenda Ellenson

Deb Parmer

Ray Talbot

Brian Conklin

Al Smolen

Bert Lewins

Cherrise Roseberry

Bob Brzezinski

Greg Hensel

Kelly Heaney

(Sorry if anyone was missed)

Congress Moves to Gut Postal and Federal Pensions — APWU Calls for Immediate Action!

May 1, 2025

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. Passed by a slim margin of 22-21, 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.

Also included in the past were egregious attacks on federal employees, such as:

- **Charging a filing fee for Merit Systems Protection Board Claims and Appeals, and Forcing new hires in the federal workforce to choose between at-will employment or paying an increased FERS contribution rate of 9.4%.**

While this specific proposal does not currently apply to postal workers, it is a dangerous change to eliminate job security and protections from government service.

“Make no mistake, Congress' outrageous proposal intends to finance tax-cuts for the oligarchy with money from postal and federal workers’ paychecks,” said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. “We must act quickly and with the full force of the labor movement and our union membership to protect our pensions.”

With a slim majority in the House of Representatives, and united Democratic opposition, we need only a handful of pro-labor Republicans to stand up and fight back against these attacks on the pensions of postal and federal workers.

“The time to act is now to save our pensions,” said APWU Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. “We are actively engaging with lawmakers on this fight, but need each and every APWU member to pick up the phone and call your member of Congress. Tell them to keep their hands off our pensions!”

Visit apwu.org/call or dial 844-402-1001 to be connected to your House Representative and urge them to vote “no” to any cuts to federal and postal pensions

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

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Union Meeting

Thursday May 15th, 2025

Executive Board 7:00 pm

General Meeting 7:30 pm

Kroll's West

1990 S. Ridge Rd.

Green Bay, WI 54304

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

Happy Memorial Day!! $260.00 Rolling Jackpot