NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL

NEWAL

LOCAL 2247 GREEN BAY, WI

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

AFL-CIO

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July/August 2025

THE BAY BREEZE

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept, 17th

2:30 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason St

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

Go Packers!!

$320.00 Rolling Jackpot

Hi Everyone,

I just want to first thank you all for the help and energy that you put into the Union Picnic this year. It was amazing to see you all again, and it was great to see so many retired members. We would also like to share that we have booked Pamperin Park, in Green Bay, for next year, and have some great ideas brewing for next time.

We also selected the recipients for this year's Tony Van Scholarships, Taylor Hookana and Antone Bouyear. Their awards were handed out during the Union picnic and their essays will be published in this article. The Postal Pulse Turn-In Drawing will be happening at the September Union meeting. This is just a friendly reminder that the Union collects the employees postal pulse surveys each year for a chance to win one of two $25 gift cards. These surveys, in the past, have been used as a weapon against the Union in negotiations for higher wages and better benefits, while not producing any real positive change. So, to encourage employees of our local to support ourselves in contract negotiations, over the years we have collected these surveys for chances to win drawings.

As for upcoming news, I need to thank you all for sending myself, Dave and our new De Pere Steward Joshua Kunkel to the Akey Convention in La Crosse. It was there, and in recent meetings with management, that it was made clear that there are many changes to come with the Post Office this year and in the future. For our small offices, for those who have not already started the Delivery for America Plan, the plan is to drop mail pick up to one time a day, versus the twice a day from the past. Leaving mail sit from the morning it was last picked up to the next morning before it is then picked up and brought to processing centers like Green Bay. So far, the Green Bay area has not indicated any immediate loss of jobs. We have been told that as of right now, we more likely than not will be losing one of our cancellers, and as many of you have seen the removal of flat sorter 20. With these removals, we will be gaining a parcel sorting machine, SIPS+, which we have been told, as of now, would increase clerk jobs by 3.

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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

It is unclear what the balance of loss and gain will be for maintenance work. But there are also large plans to rearrange the facility, which are still being worked out. The current tentative plan is at the beginning of September, LCTS will be moving outside of the break room doors, the AFSM will be moving by the turnstiles, all DB/DIOSS machines will be shifted to point from the south end of the building to the west end, and all other areas will be shifted to accommodate these changes. The SIPS+ and other parcel sorting machines were part of the conversations happening at this year's convention. With the development of Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DCs) and the USPS's attempt to keep up with growing parcel trends towards faster parcel delivery, it has become important to increase parcel processing in more areas of the U.S. for faster delivery.

But even with this potential gained work, we need to stay more vigilant than ever so that WE are doing that work, and that we are preserving OUR jobs. This means claiming every minute of work that is ours. Doing the tasks that nobody wants to do, and reporting management for doing our work, all puts a claim on that work and saves our jobs. This is our work, and we will keep every minute of it.

In Solidarity, Your Union Sister and President

Jennifer Ewald

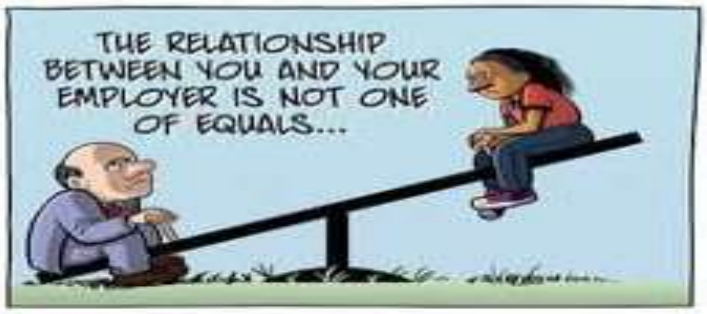
LOOKING FOR HELP

Hey all. We really need some people to help us with the election committee. Officers or anyone interested in running for an officer position cannot be on the election committee. We need your help. Election Committee chair is a paid position, and we will be voting on a committee chair at our September Union meeting.

If you are interested or need more information, please speak with Jennifer Ewald or let a union steward know.

Thank you.

Scan the QR code to follow the NEWAL 2247 page on Facebook to stay up to date on notifications and announcements. You can also post any questions you may have for Labor Management meetings.



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Monday, July 21st, 2025

Place: Perkins

President Jenny Ewald called the meeting to order at 7:53am.

A quorum was declared with 13 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, Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz, Recording Secretary Emily Ewald, and Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski. Clerk Craft Director Sebastian Zeutzius and Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier were excused.

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

The official financial report was read by President Jennifer Ewald.

Executive Committee: The e-board discussed increasing the chief steward pay from $50 to $70 to essentially cover their union dues, the union picnic, and online courses for stewards.

Labor/Management: Items discussed were if the plant is losing any more machines or jobs, which management replied no. Parking lot getting repaired, if money is found notify or give to the supervisor, people are being put on the Deems Desirable List without being notified, the need for a second scanner for expeditors when dispatching and finger scanners for the hot case. Also discussed was overtime not being used at GMF/Coffrin, transportation and mail not going out, RTO's changing back, expeditors and truck drivers breaks and lunches will be scheduled.

Safety/Health: Items discussed were getting a first aid class through the YMCA or Red Cross, paperwork was given to management about the classes, re-stocking the first aid cabinet, lighting in the building is still an issue. A/C is still not working and asked what is specifically wrong with each unit and when it will be fixed. Update on the bathroom demo, and workers turning in 1767's and nothing being done about them.

Grievance: Grievances were filed on tax, crossing crafts, discipline, and breaks in maintenance.

Legislative: The contract passed and is waiting to be signed. The local contract negotiations would open in October but the E-board highly suggests that we do not open the local contract to negotiations.

New Members: Noel Barns, Evan Peterschick, Chanelle Williams, Michelle Manthei

Communications: The union received a letter from the Green Bay Labor Temple welcoming us back and received information on online courses geared toward stewards and furthering their education in union practices, if interested.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Clade Adkins to increase Chief Steward pay from $50 to $70 to help cover their union dues. Motion passed

A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Pam Krause to cancel the August union meeting because of the union picnic. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on heat and no A/C in the VMF in certain places, they need to make reasonable accommodations. Transportation for the VMF is poor, parts are left sitting because there is no one to pick them up. Getting push back on breaks and lunches, some are being scheduled.

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NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Pam Krause to have the next meeting on Wednesday, September 17th at 2:00 e-board, 2:30 members at to yet be determined location. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Emily Piontek to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46am.

The $10 door prize was won by Emily Ewald.

The $300 jackpot winner was Lora Jakubowski. Member was not in attendance so will be $320 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

Suicide Prevention Month: Taking Care of Your Body, Mind

When we talk about workplace safety, we usually talk about preventing accidents and ensuring equipment and workplaces are up to standard using contract protections like *PS Form 1767 Report of Hazard, Unsafe, Condition, or Practice*. But safety is about more than just physical safety, it is about taking care of the whole self – body and mind.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and an annual observance led by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). It is a dedicated moment to acknowledge that mental health is just as important as physical safety. This year's theme is "Start a Conversation. Be the Difference," and they give tools to organize awareness efforts that can save lives. This year, suicide rates are the highest they have been since 1943. It is time we start to recognize the signs of someone struggling with suicidal thoughts and learn how we can help.

Mental Health is Workplace Safety

Stress, harassment, understaffing, long hours, and unsafe conditions can all take a toll on mental well-being. Left unaddressed, these pressures can lead to burnout, depression, and in some cases, suicidal thoughts. Recognizing this link is key: a truly safe workplace is one where workers feel supported, respected, and able to speak up without fear of stigma.

USPS Employee Assistance Program

Postal workers have an additional resource available to lean on. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers confidential, no-cost services to employees and their families—counseling, life coaching, crisis response, and more. The EAP also provides suicide prevention resources, from handouts on warning signs to targeted awareness campaigns. If you or someone you work with is struggling, the EAP can be a reliable partner in ensuring someone receives the support they need.

Remember, you can always dial or text 988 – the lifeline for those struggling with suicidal thoughts or feelings. The conversations are free and confidential. The 988 Lifeline provides you with judgment-free care.

This September, we encourage you to take time to think a little more about how you can help be the difference in your community or work for someone struggling.

A Federal Appellate Court Finds the NLRB to Be Unconstitutional

The following article by Harold Meyerson appeared in The American Prospect. (August 29th, 2025)

The National Labor Relations Act—that pillar of American democracy that gives workers the right to bargain collectively with their employers—was enacted 90 years ago this summer. Its constitutionality was upheld two years later by the Supreme Court, and no successful challenge to its constitutionality has been brought in the subsequent 88 years. Until last week, when the avowedly far-right Fifth Circuit decided otherwise.

Today, the NLRA hovers somewhere between de facto and de jure nullification. It's been slowly eroding for at least half a century, as employer resistance to it has heightened, and as the penalties to employers for violating its terms have weakened. Currently, the fact that the five-member National Labor Relations Board is down to just two members—not enough to constitute a quorum—means the Board can make no rulings. This enables employers who've been found to have violated workers' rights by lower NLRB administrative courts to appeal those findings and penalties to the Board, which cannot rule on anything—essentially, giving those employers leeway to keep on doing what they're doing, however illegal it may be.

The Board is only down to two members because President Trump fired Biden-appointed and congressionally confirmed Board chair Gwynne Wilcox in the middle of her term, which, as for all Board members, was set by the NLRA to run for five years. Under the law, presidents had the power to remove members before their terms expire only in the event of "neglect of duty or malfeasance in office," which Trump didn't even allege when he fired Wilcox.

In May, the Republican majority on the Supreme Court upheld Trump's power to fire Board members at will, under the still-novel theory of the unitary executive, which holds that the federal agencies that Congress established and presidents signed into law to be independent of presidential power, save only the power to appoint their leaders, are now in violation of the newly discovered right of presidents to completely control these agencies. The Republican justices are expected to soon reverse the Court's 1935 ruling in a case called Humphrey's Executor, which limited the president's power over independent regulatory agencies. By upholding Trump's firing of Wilcox and other heads of regulatory agencies, those justices have positioned themselves to rule that such limitations violate the Constitution's vesting of executive power in the president.

The neutering or repeal of the NLRA has been in the works for several years. Both Musk and his fellow world's-richest-human competitor, Jeff Bezos, had initiated suits last year claiming that the act—the only act that gives workers the power to bargain with their employers and seek remedies when those employers violate labor laws—was unconstitutional. Even before then, Musk had publicly proclaimed that he was "opposed to the idea of unions."

For now, it's important to remember that the federal assault on workers' rights isn't all Trump's doing, or Musk's, or Bezos's. Republican officials and American CEOs and mega-investors have been opposed to workers' rights and power for a very long time, just as many Democrats—not a lot, but enough to make a difference—have been lax in defending them. Today, the bough has been bent to the point that it's almost broken.

A catastrophic snap may come soon.

Editor's Note: This is extremely unsettling news for USPS employees, our families and labor unions across this country. This decision puts our pensions, benefits and pay grades in serious peril. At this point all we can hope for is that labor can win an appeal. I recommend researching the NLRB to understand their function and to recognize the full scope of what is happening.

Tony Van Scholarship Essays

Why Unions Are Important

Unions have a critical role in American Society. Through unions Americans have been given bargaining power. Bargaining power allows unionized workers, not just as individuals, but as a group. Through bargaining power, this leads to better wages and working conditions. Before Unions, wages often sat below the poverty line. It was not uncommon before unions that families had to have children work, which usually included harsh factory jobs or mines. In 1890, the average family made $400-$500 per year (the equivalent of $14,130.33-$17,662.91 in 2025) and often included income from child labor to make ends meet. Unions help reduce the wage gaps for minority groups such as women, people of color, and even those who are low-income. Unions also help with putting protection and safety measures in place. Historically, unions have been an advocate for regulations that have led to safer conditions within factories, offices, and other workplaces. Moreover, unions have helped protect against harassment and unfair treatment in the workplace. To help counter unfair treatments, unions allow a counterbalance to power. Through unions, Americans have been able to have a workplace with checks and balances, which enables a better and safer work environment.

Taylor Hookana

The Importance of Unions to American Society

Unions themselves create opportunities for workers to gain fair pay, overtime pay, retirement benefits and insurance... but it creates memories, second chances — experiences and much more.

Unions continue to fight for people to have insurance and many other benefits like sick leave and paid vacation. Union benefits allowed my mom and dad the chance to stay home and take care of me for months after I was born. Being able to go on trips with me, being able to see me perform at my concerts; the opportunity to see me walk across the stage on graduation day while still being able to pay the bills and not having to worry about losing their jobs. All that, happened from the strength of people uniting.

Thank you for fighting, not only for yourself and your families, but for the other workers and their families. Unions don't just help families, they make a difference on a much larger scale, improving the quality of life for workers and families.

How do unions impact American Society? They inspire us to still fight against unfair practices, fight for our rights, making sure all our voices are heard in this ever-changing world.

Antone Bouyear

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Union Meeting

Wednesday September 17th, 2025

Executive Board 2:00 pm

General Meeting 2:30 pm

Gallagher's

2655 West Mason St.

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

$320.00 Rolling Jackpot