NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL

NEWAL

LOCAL 2247 GREEN BAY, WI

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

AFL-CIO

Volume 72/Issue 1
January/February 2026

THE BAY BREEZE

Next Meeting:

Sunday March, 22nd

3:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason St

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

Happy St. Patty's Day!!

$180.00 Rolling Jackpot

Hello everybody,

I hope you all had a good winter but, I'm sure like many of you, I am definitely looking forward to the warmer months.

That being said, there is a big push by our National APWU to focus on employee safety. Having healthy and safe working conditions has always been one of our unions major concerns, but there's a larger focus now to pay attention to the things that are typically not paid attention to, or overlooked, that can end up causing the most damage. With our newest President Jonathan Smith's first live stream with the APWU members, the conversation was about safety issues which ended up causing major injuries and even in some rare cases loss of life. But the point of this conversation is to remind employees that they're entitled to safe and healthy working conditions.

Any kind of safety issue should be addressed with your supervisor. If nothing's done about it, even if it's the smallest insignificant safety issue, write it down on a PS form 1723, hand it to your supervisor and make sure you get your copy back after they have addressed the issue. Union offices are also ready to make copies of these forms that have been submitted to make sure that they are addressed during the health and safety meeting each month. The use of the 1723 ensures that the safety issue is documented and addressed. These are the small things that you can do to help our local union and help you to stay safe.

It's also extremely important to understand the limitations of yourself. No one should ever be doing any kind of task that puts them in a position where they're working unsafely. Work to your ability. This includes not working over restrictions and utilizing FMLA when necessary. You should never be put in a position where you're going to be injured because you were told to cut corners to complete a job.

As for upcoming news, there is still talk about changes coming to the GMF Green Bay plant. Much of this has been discussed before with shifting of machines. There is also more solid conversation about the loss of DB8.

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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	Vacant
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
Maintenance Chief Steward	Vacant
Maintenance Alt Steward	Sam Fritz, Lance Bouyear, Jackie Walitalo, Angela Johnson
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	Vacant
Alternate Maint Steward	Jennifer Ewald
MVS Craft Director	Clade Adkins

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Christine Bouyear
Clerk Alternate Steward	Emily Ewald, Olivia Chumbly
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	Joshua Kunkel

Also, the SIPS machine was discussed to expand in size, but the dates on any plans have not been set. Following February's labor management meeting, management met again to discuss changes to the floor plan. The union will meet with management in a few weeks to get a better understanding of what upcoming changes will be affecting employees.

There have also been conversations with the customer service section at the GMF plant. The processing of carrier routes would be moved to the SIPS machine for any machinable parcels and potential carrier route bundles. With that, there will be changes coming to start times and possibly days off. It's not known at this point who will be affected, but the union is preparing to make sure that any shifts are done according to the CBA. It has also been mentioned that management is preparing to have clerks from the customer service section assist in operating the SIPS machine during the Function 4 incoming mail processing.

I hope everybody has a great and safe spring!!

In solidarity,

Jennifer Ewald

Conventions Elections

State Convention:

Sam Fritz: 30 votes

Dave Sass: 28 votes

Molly Crevier: 28 votes

Emily Ewald: 26 votes

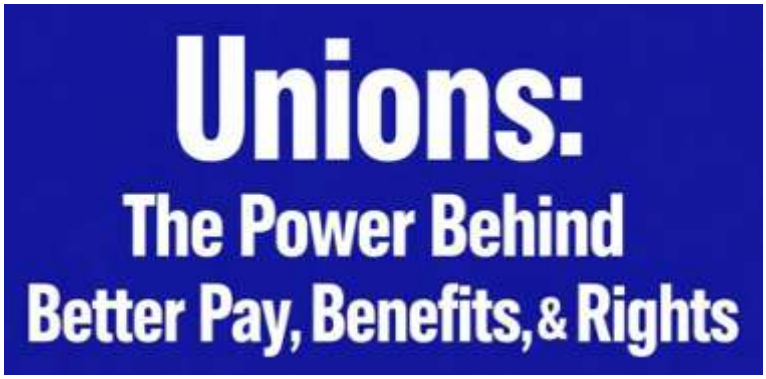
Clade Adkins: 16 votes

Sebastian Zeutzius: 14 votes

Jacki Walitalo: 14 votes

Angela Johnson: 11 votes

Michelangelo Montenaro: 8 votes (resigned)



National Convention:

Dave Sass: 17 votes

Sam Fritz: 13 votes

Emily Ewald: 11 votes

Sebastian Zeutzius: 8 votes

Molly Crevier: 6 votes

Jacki Walitalo: 5 votes

Clade Adkins: 4 votes

Angela Johnson: 2 votes

Michelangelo Montenaro: 3 votes (resigned)

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Thursday, January 22nd, 2026

Place: Gallagher's

President Jenny Ewald called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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, Secretary/Treasurer Molly Crevier, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Clade Adkins, Bay Breeze Editor Bill Kabacinski, and Recording Secretary Emily Ewald. Maintenance Craft Director Samantha Fritz was excused.

A Motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Molly Crevier to make Kelly Heaney, Cheryl Schoen, and Mary Gezella corresponding members to the constitution committee, meaning they have a voice in the committee but not a vote. Motion passed.

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

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

Executive Committee: The E-board discussed budget for the new year including the Presidents Convention, Secretary Convention, Health Care Seminar, Editors Seminar, Tony Van Scholarships, Turkey Gift Cards to active members, amount to spend on the yearly picnic, and donations.

Labor/Management: No Labor Management meeting.

Safety/Health: No Safety and Health meeting.

Grievance: Grievances were filed on discipline cases; some have been resolved and settled. Grievance is at step 3 for no lunches for the clerks in the plant.

Committee Reports: Two lead clerk jobs in the plant are changing off days.

· Legislative: The APWU in Minneapolis have been actively picketing and protesting in Minneapolis and surrounding areas.

· Constitution: The Constitution Committee is still waiting to meet to go over changes.

New Members: Tyler Detke

Communications Report: Lead Clerk positions changing, and jobs on e-reassign keep sitting on there instead of being taking down.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to spend up to $5,000 on the Union Picnic at Pamperin Park to allow food to be catered. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by David Sass to spend up to $3,000 for the November $15 Turkey Vouchers to all active union members. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Peter Knutson to send one candidate to the health care seminar: including lost time, per-diem, parking, transportation, registration, and lodging. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Molly Crevier and seconded by David Sass to hand out two $15 turkey vouchers as door prizes for the union meetings for the next 4 months. Motion passed.

(continued on next page)

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Molly Crevier to award two $500 Tony Van Scholarships. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Molly Crevier and seconded by Steve Paradise to send one candidate to the editor's convention. Discussion was held. An amendment to the previous motion was made by Molly Crevier and seconded by Steve Paradise to include lost time, per diem, parking, transportation, registration, and lodging. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Molly Crevier and seconded by Steve Paradise to three $100 yearly donations to Salvation Army, House of Hope, and the Red Cross. Motion passed.

Other Business:

Discussion was held on state convention and the four-state convention and if it should come to Green Bay and what it would cost.

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Bill Kabacinski to budget for the state convention in the fall. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Clade Adkins to table the motion until more details are known.

Next Meeting:

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by David Sass to have the next meeting on Wednesday, February 18th, at 7:30am e-bored, 8:00am members at Location to be determined. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

The two $15 Turkey vouchers were won by Molly Crevier and Cheryl Schoen.

The $140 jackpot winner was Quinn Frye. The member was not in attendance. Jackpot will be $160 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Wednesday, February 18th, 2026

Place: Perkins

President Jenny Ewald called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

A quorum was declared with 16 members in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Samantha Fritz and seconded by Dave Sass to recess the meeting until members put their food orders in.

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

A Motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Pam Krause to make Sue Pranke, Cheryl Schoen, and Mary Gezella corresponding members to this meeting. Motion passed.

Minutes of the January 2026 meeting were read by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald. A motion was made by Steve Paradise and seconded by Samantha Fritz to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

The official financial report was read by President Jennifer Ewald. (continued on next page)

Executive Committee: The E-board discussed the need to clarify the language on the previous voted on four-state convention in La Crosse and the State Convention in Wisconsin Dells, management not accepting doctor's notes when people call in sick, the yearly union picnic.

Labor/Management: Items discussed in Labor Management meeting were plans on changing the facility and what automation equipment is moving, losing DB 8 and extending the SIPS machine, having carrier routes on the SIPS machine, moving where they prime mail in the morning, holiday scheduling, plant no longer taking lunches temporarily but customer service still having to take one, customer service also not getting breaks every 2 hours, not staffing passports properly, doctors notes not being accepted, better standardized training for new clerks.

Safety/Health: Items discussed were the carrier entrance full of equipment during the day and blocking the entrance, lighting in the plant, filling out forms 1767's and letting a steward know if you filled one out and gave to management so we can see if they are fixing the issues.

Grievance: Grievances were filed on the holiday scheduling for customer service, attendance/discipline cases, denying 3rd round annual leave bidding, ET job position for Milwaukee posting wrong hours, and crossing crafts.

Committee Reports: Theres a big push from National for safety and health in the workplace

· Legislative: The APWU supports the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, this bill would allow employees to buy back the time they worked as non-career employees to use toward their retirement.

· OWCP: 3 injuries at the plant

· Constitution: The Constitution Committee is still waiting to meet to go over changes.

New Members: Mariana Ortiz Ramos, Teresa Sandoval, Robert Silcox, Maurice Collins, Lillian Anderson, Jodi Bain, Emily Hyde, Sebastion Juan Rodriguez, Stacy Lynn Kosaka, Isaiah Scherg, April Sohrweide, Troy Spencer, Shinny Taylor, Linda Yanak.

Communications Report: 3rd Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) effective March 7th, article on APWU website explains it.

Unfinished Business: Discussion was held on the previous motion form last meeting that was tabled, and to keep the motion tabled.

New Business:

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to strike the language for 4-State and change to send the President, plus 2, to the State Convention in April. Discussion was held. Steve Paradise motioned to table discussion.

A motion was made by Clade Adkins and seconded by Samantha Fritz to give out 4 turkey gift cards this meeting and next instead of the previous motion for 2 so members have time to use them before they expire. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Steve Paradise to lift the previous motion off the table.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Samantha Fritz to send the President, plus 2, to the State Convention in April at Wisconsin Dells. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Steve Paradise to send the President to the 4-State Convention on March 1st at La Crosse, to include all fees and late fees. Motion passed.

Next Meeting:

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Fronchella Brunette to have the next meeting on Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30pm E-board, 3:00pm members at Gallagher's or E-board recommendation. Motion passed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Pam Krause and seconded by Samantha Fritz to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14am.

The four $15 Turkey vouchers were won by Fronchella Brunette, Clade Adkins, Jennifer Ewald, and Mary Gezella.

The $160 jackpot winner was Richard Stephenson. The member was not in attendance. Jackpot will be $180 at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

APWU OUR UNION NEWS AND EVENTS WHAT WE STAND FOR

Third Cost-of-Living Adjustment Announced

February 13th, 2026

In accordance with the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement, career employees represented by the APWU will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), effective March 7, 2026.

The increase is the result of a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). It will appear in paychecks dated March 27 (Pay Period 07-2026). The value of the COLA for full-time employees in each step and grade will increase annual pay by $250, and the hourly rates for part-time employees will be adjusted accordingly.

The COLAs are in addition to general wage increases. This is the third cost-of-living increase under the 2024 contract. The first increase, effective March 8, 2025, amounted to $395.00 annually. The second increase, effective September 06, 2025, was $811 annually. The total cumulative COLAs received during the 2024-2027 National Agreement so far is $0.70 per hour, or $1,456 annually.

Because Postal Support Employees (PSEs) do not receive cost-of-living increases, new step increases have been created specifically for PSEs in addition to the general wage increases for all employees in the APWU bargaining unit under the 2024 contract. COLAs are added to the base pay schedule, so PSEs will see these increases when they convert to career status.

Rising inflation underscores the importance of our negotiated COLAs within our union contract, made possible by the strength of our membership. In our 2024-2027 contract, we fought to keep twice-a-year COLAs, our best protection against inflation. Postal workers are some of the few U.S. workers who receive COLA increases. Even in the postal world, we are the only postal union that has maintained full COLA in our union contract.

The Bay Breeze
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Green Bay, WI 54307-0323

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Union Meeting

Sunday March 22nd, 2026

Executive Board 2:30 pm

General Meeting 3:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 West Mason St.

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing and other drawings

$180.00 Rolling Jackpot