The Bay Breeze

Official Union Newsletter of NEWAL 2247

Volume 72
Issue 5
Sept/Oct

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL
NEWAL
LOCAL 2247 GREEN BAY, WI
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
AFL-CIO



Next Meeting:

Thursday November 19th

7:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason St
54303

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food and Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Rolling Jackpot $160.00

Hello Union Brothers and Sisters,

As we head into the beautiful fall season, **I hope you all got out and voted!** Next year is also an election year for NEWAL 2247. This May, we'll be looking for volunteers to serve on the election committee, including a chair. It's a wonderful opportunity to get involved, make a difference, and support our union beyond grievance processing. And we need you!

Peak season is also just around the corner. The 2026 Penalty Overtime Exclusion period runs from Pay Period 26-2026, Week 1 (November 28, 2026), through Pay Period 27-2026, Week 2 (December 25, 2026).

As peak approaches, I would also like to remind everyone that workers' compensation, light and limited duty, restrictions and FMLA are there to protect your health, job, and income. No one should hesitate to use these programs when they truly need support. Please work safely, know your limits, and seek care when needed. If a medical, mental health, or family health issue keeps you from work, FMLA can help protect the leave you need. If you are injured despite working safely, please report it to management, and workers' compensation (OWCP) can help protect your income and cover eligible medical expenses. These programs are here for you, and there is no shame in using them when needed.

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Finally, please read every form carefully before signing. If anything is unclear or incorrect, ask questions and speak with a steward—we're here to help.

In Solidary!

Your President,

Jennifer Ewald



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 Phillips

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 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, correspondence, 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 of 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 Dr. Office (GMF)

Tour 1

Clerk Chief Steward (vacant) Jenny Ewald

Maintenance Chief Steward Sam Phillips

Maintenance Alt Steward Sam Phillips, Lance Bouyear, Jackie Walitalo, Angela Johnson

Alternate Clerk Steward Sam Phillips, Christine Bouyear, Emily Ewald, Jenny Ewald

Tour 2

Clerk Chief Steward Jenny Ewald

Clerk Alternat Steward Sam Phillips, Christine Bouyear

Customer Service Vacant

Maintenance Chief Steward Vacant

Alt Maintenance Steward Jenny Ewald, Lance Bouyear, Jackie Walitalo

Chief MVS Steward Clade Adkins

Alt MVS Steward Vacant

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward Christine Bouyear

Clerk Alt Steward Emily Ewald

Maint Craft Director Sam Phillips

Maint Chief Steward Jenny Ewald

Alt Maintenance Steward Lance Bouyear

MVS-VMF

Chief Steward Clade Adkins
Alternate Steward Vacant

Cofrin, Hansen, Downtown

Clerk Chief Steward David Sass

Clerk Alt Steward Mike Anderson, Jenny Ewald

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward Vacant, Alt Clerk Jenny Ewald

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Sunday, September 27th, 2026

Place: Gallaghers

President Jennifer Ewald called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

A quorum was declared with 19 members in attendance.

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

Minutes of the July 2026 meeting were printed in the Bay Breeze.

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Clade Adkins to remove the lost member from the Bay Breeze to accurately reflect the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion passed.

The official financial report was read by President Jennifer Ewald.

Executive Committee Report: Items discussed were changing up the filing of line H next year, and discussion on maintaining the new building.

Labor/Management: Items discussed were gaining or losing machines/equipment, so far, the SIPS is expanding. No news on if the Cancellers will be removed. Status on the plant restructuring, the egress on safety and blocking of exits, extinguishers, and isles. No new rebids for the plant except customer service GF and one BRM job. Green Bay will not be taking any excessed employees. No timeline on the parking lot resurfacing or the sink hole. The plant's roof needs to be fully redone, no timeline on when it will be completed. Water leaking onto an electrical panel, PA system in the back still needs repair, as well as lighting in the plant. No plan to alleviate window wait times, because of short staffing. Moving the union office, RFIs not being filled out, Carriers not filing out 1260s when doing clerk work, as well as EAS employees not filling out 1260s. Status on the AC units in the plant and VMF, AL boards and calendars.

Safety/Health: No meeting

Grievance: Grievances were filed on discipline cases regarding attendance and tardiness, overtime bypass in the plant, crossing crafts, GMF overtime, supervisors entering TACS. In small offices, grievances were filed on unpaid mileage, working overtime on off day of non-list employee, not rotating overtime, tax grievances.

Legislative: APWU opposes the Paycheck Protection Act, would make it harder to collect dues. They also oppose the Return to Sender Act, Protecting Taxpayers Wallets Act, Preserving Presidential Management Authority Act, Federal Workforce Freedom Act, and Federal Agency Sunset Commission Act.

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MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Communications Report: The Oshkosh local had a march/rally on Saturday, September 26th to help raise awareness about saving the post office from privatization.

Other Business:

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Bill Kabacinski to speak about the convention he attended and thank the members for being allowed to attend. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by Clade Adkins to post a list of new members and non-members in the breakroom by the union billboards. Motion was discussed and not passed.

A motion was made by Bill Kabacinski and seconded by David Sass to revise his previous motion to just posting a list of new members in the breakroom by the union billboards. Motion passed.

Next Meeting:

A motion was made by David Sass and seconded by Sebastian Zeutzius to have the next meeting on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00am e-board, 6:30am members at TBD. Motion passed.

Adjournment

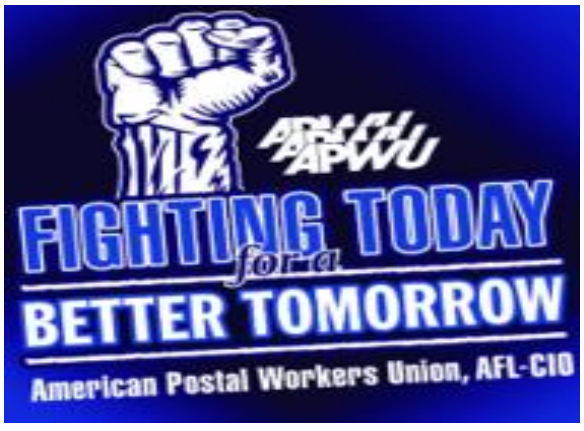
A motion was made by Samantha Phillips and seconded by Clade Adkins to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

The $10 door prize was won by Nicole Untener.

The $120 jackpot winner was Timothy Ellenich; member was not in attendance. Jackpot will be $140 at next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Emily Ewald.

NOTE: There are no meeting minutes for October since quorum was not met.





Health Insurance Updates for 2027

Hello everyone,

First, I want to thank the members and union for allowing me to attend the Health Care Seminar in Detroit this year. I learned more about our health plan and all the benefits that both the High Option and Consumer Driven Option have, along with more information on Medicare and the steps that retiring members need to take if they want to add our own Medicare Advantage Plan to their existing insurance. They went more in detail on how to enroll and help members navigate the website. They are also going to be sending each member a pamphlet on instructions on how to sign up and other information that is important, so don't forget to check your mailboxes. At the Seminar they also went over the changes to the Health Plans and what to expect for 2027. So, what's new?

• The Plan will replace the Omada Program for Weight Loss with Teladoc Health Comprehensive. Weight Care under the High Option and add the program under the Consumer Driven Option. This virtual program provides members with strategies to support weight loss and long-term health.

• The out-of-pocket maximum for out-of-network is now $15,000 for Self Only and $30,000 for Self Plus One and Self & Family.

• The Part D True Out-of-Pocket maximum (TrOOP) for retirees has increased from $2,100 to $2,400.

• Both plans now offer Hinge Health, a digital program for musculoskeletal pain. Members are selected based on UHC clinical review. Members cannot self-refer.

• The plan now covers GLP-1 drugs at 50% per prescription for 30- and 90-day supplies. Members must also participate in the Teladoc Health Comprehensive Weight program. See Section 5(f), Covered medications and supplies.

• The Plan will eliminate the mid-treatment exception process for chemical and hormonal sex-trait modification services.

• The High Option will be switching to Optum Rx for prescriptions.

• Your share of the premium will increase for Self Only, Self Plus One and Self and Family.

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Yes, our premiums are increasing again, unfortunately. Almost all the plans on the PSHB program are increasing as well, but we are still one of lower premium plans with a lot of coverage. The APWU insurance is the 3rd most used insurance in the United States Postal Service. I encourage everyone to go to apwuhp.com/openseason to learn more about both plans and see what prescriptions are covered, what doctors are in network, benefits covered on each plan, premiums, and other resources including phone number and emails if you need assistance. It is a great website to use during open season if you're considering changing between the plans, adding a family member, or just to see what is new. Remember if you like your plan you will automatically be re-enrolled, you don't need to do anything. If you are adding anyone to your plan you will have to submit proof of relationship, otherwise it will just say pending.

Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Privatizing the U.S. Postal Service, Finds New Survey from Democratic and Republican Polling firms

(Huffington Post)

Postal customers have a very positive view of the USPS and believe that it meets their needs. They fear privatization will lead to higher prices at a time when inflation concerns remain elevated.

WASHINGTON – New polling shows that postal customers strongly believe that proposals to privatize the United States Postal Service should be marked "Return to Sender." In a national survey of 1,402 registered voters, those surveyed oppose postal service privatization by an overwhelming 34 points.

According to a polling memo prepared by prominent opinion research firms Hart Research Associates and North Star Opinion Research, when respondents were informed that the Trump administration wants to privatize postal services, "they oppose the idea by greater than two to one: just 26% favor privatization while 60% are opposed." Privatized mail service means that mail delivery would be provided by private companies rather than a public postal service.

Opposition to privatization is both wide and deep across the country, crossing both partisan and demographic lines, especially in rural communities, the poll showed. "Rural voters mirror the country overall, in that they oppose privatization by 34 points (58% to 24%), which is surprising given their Republican partisan lean (Donald Trump beat Kamala Harris by 23 points among these voters), and likely reflects the extent to which rural voters rely on USPS services."

Every age cohort also expressed opposition to privatization, the poll showed, with younger voters (under 35) voicing the strongest opposition (65 percent opposed, 20 percent in favor).

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Fully 56 percent of Americans surveyed believe that privatization would result in higher prices for mailing letters and packages, while just 17 percent say that prices would improve. By a margin of 44 percent to 17 percent, those surveyed also anticipate a negative impact on the cost of online shopping.

“Postal customers should trust their gut when it comes to schemes to sell off or transfer the USPS,” said American Postal Workers Union (APWU) President Mark Dimondstein. The APWU commissioned the poll.

“Plans to privatize the Post Office are about enriching Wall Street and not serving Main Street,” he said. “Evidence shows that selling off the USPS would lead to higher prices for postal services as well as higher prices for shipping packages at FedEx and UPS.”

In March, the brokerage firm Wells Fargo Advisors told Wall Street investors that privatization of the postal service “would be positive for FedEx & UPS. In order to stand alone and earn a reasonable return we estimate USPS would need to raise price by 30-140 %.”

The Wells Fargo guidance also predicted that privatization would lead to closing, or as they term it, “harvesting,” neighborhood post offices. In the poll conducted by Hart Research Associates and North Star Opinion Research, those surveyed did not favor the closing of local post offices. In fact, 72 percent are opposed, according to the survey.

Speaking at a media and technology conference sponsored by J.P. Morgan earlier this spring, Trump advisor Elon Musk said that he was looking into selling off the USPS. The DOGE head went on to say that the USPS and Amtrak were his top targets for privatization. But, in the Hart/North Star poll postal customers saw little need for selling off the postal service because they like the USPS and the services it offers. Fully 82 percent believe that USPS is doing an “excellent” (35 percent) or “good” (47 percent) job today. They also view postal workers favorably (81 percent favorable, 5 percent unfavorable.) Nearly all (96 percent) report that mail service is “important” for their family, including 68 percent who said “very important.” And while most have other ways to receive packages and email has replaced some letter mail, 92 percent use USPS to receive packages; 90 percent use USPS to send letters or postcards; and 86 percent report that they rely on the USPS to receive bills.

These high marks are similar to the Pew Research Center study from August 2024, which found that the USPS was second only to the National Park Service when it came to favorability scores tied to any service or agency associated with the federal government.

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AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
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The Bay Breeze
PO Box 10324
Green Bay, WI 54307-0323

Electronic Service Requested

APWU
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
P1 52
Green Bay, WI

Union Meeting

Thursday, November 19th, 2026

Executive Board 6:30 pm

General Meeting 7:00 pm

Gallagher's

2655 W. Mason St.

Green Bay, WI 54303

Food & Refreshments

$10 gift card drawing and other drawings

$160.00 Rolling Jackpot (must be present to win)