

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
July 15, 2009, 6:05 PM
Minutes taken by Brian Roberts, Secretary

I. Call to Order

President Les French called the meeting to order. There was no call for a quorum count, and therefore the presence of a quorum was assumed.

II. Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 4/15/09 were read and approved.

III. Officer/Chair Reports

President's Report (Les French)

Les announced that there are openings for chairpersons of WashTech's Legislative and Technology Committees. In addition, the Planning Council has voted to create two new committees, Women's and Equity. CWA International has such committees and has strongly suggested that the locals follow suit. The two new committees are ad hoc task forces, and have no vote on the Planning Council, until/unless the general membership approves a change to the bylaws to enable this. That change to the bylaws was moved and seconded, and, as specified in Article 14 of the existing bylaws, can be ratified by vote of the general membership at its next meeting after it has been advertised 30 days in advance. Passage requires a 2/3rds vote of the members present.

Regarding organizing, International has given us funds to organize the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC)—that is, by paying most of the salary of our organizer Malachy Sreenan. Adding the NOC will increase membership by 140 to 175 persons, who will pay higher dues because they have significantly higher pay rates, on average, than our present AT&T CBU. Phase 4 of our organizing campaign (signing cards) will start on July 22.

Les said we need three members to attend the CWA Leadership Conference in Iowa City, Sept. 20-26. Three nominations were made and seconded, and it was proposed to elect them by a show of hands. A vote was held; the result is reported below under RESOLUTIONS.

Treasurer's Report (Mitchell McMurry)

Mitchell presented the report of the budget year to date and made a correction to the figure for monthly rent, which contained a typo. The correct figure is \$3,045 per month. He said the new budget for the 2010 fiscal year will go into effect Oct. 1, 2009.

Legislative Committee Report (Les French for Vacant Committee Chair)

Les reported that he attended the CWA convention in Washington, DC, in June and stayed over afterward to lobby Congress people on the Hill about health reform and the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). Mitchell McMurry asked if there was any feedback in informal conversations at the convention. Les replied that a resolution was passed to allow use of strategic industry funds to implement an organizing plan that is in place to train 500 local organizers across the country. Under the contract, these trainees can be pulled off the job for that purpose. Mitchell commented that this is critical because a 5% membership cut is projected.

Regarding organizing, Les said other locals are jealous because we have Malachy to do our organizing. Malachy is working to improve our at-large enrollment and to organize the T-Mobile call center. Competition is fierce, and there may be friction with other locals. But if we get to Stage 2 with T-Mobile (formation of a committee of interested workers in the workplace), we will get the funding to complete the task.

Paul Colvin had some comments on visibility and said we got some bad publicity in February and are "invisible" as a resource for the unemployed IT workers, according a report from job search centers. Les said that this will be a marketing effort, and we are developing plans along those lines, as are IBEW and CIU. Paul said he would be willing to work on implementing the plan.

Vice President's Report (Bill Montgomery)

Bill said an AT&T policy, now in effect at Bothell 5, will go into effect August 1 at all the call center buildings, whereby an employee's accumulation of points could lead to discharge after one or two absences. Sharon Kent said she thinks AT&T is using this to try to cut the number of positions. Anna Bloomquist suggested all the employees protest by calling in sick the last 4 days of July. Les related the form of protest they use in Evansville: whenever anyone is called in for discipline, all the other workers stand up.

IV. New Business

Anna moved, and Rose Hurban seconded, that the budget line item for Conferences and Conventions be raised by \$4,000 to cover two extra trips, as was approved by the Planning Council at its meeting yesterday.

Bill moved, and Anna seconded, that we add \$6,000 to the budget for the Leadership Conference. This has also been approved by the Planning Council.

Votes were taken, and the results are reported below under RESOLUTIONS.

Finally, Les told the meeting that the Planning Council had approved paying him a salary as president. Otherwise he could not continue as president because it requires so much time off his regular job. He is already over the number of hours allowed under the contract, and has to put in much more time before the fiscal year ends. The budget, he said, will amply cover both the salary and the benefits. No motion was made; Les said he would present it to the General Meeting for approval at the September meeting. Approval is rather complicated because it requires a change to the bylaws.

V. Resolutions

Action: Regarding the Iowa City conference, the members agreed that the delegates could be elected immediately by a show of hands, with recourse to polling if the result was unclear.

Action: The show of hands was clearly in favor of the nominees, and thus all three—Mitchell McMurry, Anna Bloomquist, and Jim Burdick—are WashTech's delegates to the Iowa City Leadership Conference, Sept. 20-26, 2009.

Action: The motion to add \$4,000 to the current budget line item for Conferences and Conventions, to cover two extra trips, was passed.

Action: The motion to add \$6,000 to the current budget to cover expenses of sending delegates to the Iowa City Leadership Conference, Sept. 20-26, 2009, was passed.

Action: There being no dissent, the meeting ratified the plan to donate a memorial to Rick Saling's father (see below).

VI. Good of the Order

WashTech will donate a memorial for Executive Vice President Rick Saling's father, who recently passed away.

VII. Adjournment

Anna moved for adjournment, and Dan Gillespie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary