

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 30, 2009, 6:06 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 7/15/09 were read. Mitchell McMurry asked for a correction because, he said, the Planning Council had not yet approved paying Les French a salary as president. However, a review of the PC minutes of 7/14/09 showed that the PC had in fact approved it pending ratification by the general membership.

The GM minutes of 7/15/09 have a typo in the penultimate paragraph on p. 1: “sayed” should be “stayed.”

III. Officer/Chair Reports

Treasurer's Report (Mitchell McMurry)

Mitchell presented the monthly expenditure report and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010, which is reduced by \$57,000 to reflect our loss of the CWA subsidy. Brian Roberts moved that the budget be ratified. Jim Burdick seconded.

Action: The motion passed. The FY2010 budget is approved as presented.

President's Report (Les French)

Les announced that our organizing effort succeeded and the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) is now certified. There was general applause. The next step, said Les, is determination of reporting requirements by AT&T Legal. Les's immediate concerns are to get the stewards trained and to make certain AT&T is not hiring temp workers for the NOC.

Les gave an update from the meeting of the Washington—North Idaho Central Labor Council. CWA VP Annie Hill spoke there and said there will be a real battle on health care reform. She said she had sent out information to all members so we can call our Congresspeople and tell them there has to be a public option. Dan DiLeva commented that the public option may be an obstacle to getting the single-payer option.

Regarding health issues, Les said that, re enforcement of the Family Medical Leave Act, we have to fight every day with AT&T to clean up their act. Sharon Kent said that the current H1N1 scare may cause AT&T to overlook employee points. Caeli Kane said AT&T is punishing people for taking sick pay. Bill Montgomery said this is similar to what they did regarding snow days, and we need to pressure them to put the rules in writing.

Les said we will keep the organizing effort rolling with internal organizing at AT&T and an aggressive approach to T-Mobile. SIF money is available to take workers off the job and include them in campaigns. We can have Hal Kobler, the head organizer for District 7, do some training for us.

Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford)

Derek presented the membership report for August 2009. He announced that he will host a “stewards’ potluck” at his place on Sunday, Oct. 11. It is not limited to stewards; all members may come,

Legislative Committee Report (Les French for Ian Jacobson)

Les said WashTech has provided a link online for the membership for news on health care reform status.

Rick Saling said he went to the mayoral candidates’ debate at the King County Labor Council; the Council is endorsing Mallahan. When they were asked if they support Speed Matters, McGinn said yes and Mallahan said no.

Technology Committee Report (Les French for Rennie Sawade)

Les reported that the WashTech office copier has been replaced.

Communications Committee Report (Les French for Rennie Sawade)

Les encouraged anyone who can to write articles for the web site. Caeli said articles are needed for the Unity newsletter too, She would like to have people e-mail questions for the “Ask a Steward” section and would like to have interviews. Mitchell asked if the newsletter subjects need be specific to AT&T, and Caeli answered no.

Vice President's Report (Jim Burdick)

Jim reported on the CWA Leadership Conference he attended in Iowa City as one of our delegated trainees. There were courses on 1-year and 2-year tiers, including Labor History, Legal Rights of Stewards, Economics, How to Read Contracts, and Labor in the Courts. Teams of trainees did surveys on labor subjects and Power Point presentations and videos on their findings. Subjects included Speed Matters, the Employee Free Choice Act, and health care reform.

Vice President's Report (Bill Montgomery)

Bill’s report was specific to AT&T, so he said he would wait until adjournment and present it to the AT&T attendees.

Vice President's Report (Anna Bloomquist)

Anna said she would do the same as Bill.

IV. Unfinished Business

Les thanked Rose Hurban for providing the Good Guy Awards that WashTech presented to Mitchell McMurry and Dan Gillespie.

V. Resolutions

Brian presented the bylaws change proposed by the PC, making the two new committees permanent. As the bylaws require, he produced a written copy and asked for a second. Jim seconded. The change will be voted on at the next GM meeting. The change is as follows:

Article 11B: Add:

- 8. Womens’ Committee*
- 9. Equity Committee*

Article 11J: Add:

7. *The Women’s Committee shall be chaired by the elected Women’s Chair of WashTech and shall be responsible for investigating ways to promote the welfare and equality of women in the workplace.*
8. *The Equity Committee shall be chaired by the elected Equity Chair of WashTech and shall be responsible for investigating ways to promote the welfare and equality of all workers in the workplace without regard to sex, age, color, national origin, or sexual orientation.*

Article 12: Add:

WOMEN’S CHAIR

- *Determines and works to implement policies beneficial to working women*
- *Identifies trends in the workplace that can promulgate equity for women*

EQUITY CHAIR

- *Identifies trends in the workplace that promote equity for people of color and diverse ethnicity*

VI. Good of the Order

Anna reported that her AA sponsor died today.

Les reported that Mitchell’s daughter won a Mother Seton Award from the National Catholic Educators Association for her activism in the religious community. The prize is a \$1000 scholarship.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:00 PM on a Wednesday to be announced, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA.

Brian Roberts, Secretary