

WASHTECH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 23, 2008
Minutes taken by: Brian Roberts, Secretary

I. Call to Order

There was no call for a quorum count, and thus the presence of a quorum was assumed.

II. Reading of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (5/21/08) were read and approved with no revisions.

III. Officer/Chair Reports

Treasurer's Report (Mitchell McMurry)

Mitch reviewed the month-to-date and year-to-date financial information, and the proposed budget for FY 2008-2009 (October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009). The projected income is \$388,395, and it is all allocated to be spent in 13 categories:

- Affiliation Obligations -- \$22,060
- At-Large Per Caps -- \$11,800
- Rent -- \$34,178
- Telephones -- \$7,500
- General Operating Expenses -- \$30,000
- Website/Advertising -- \$3,616
- AT&T Unit Communications -- \$1,500
- Local Travel -- \$5,000
- Books and Reference Materials -- \$750
- Committee/Membership Meetings -- \$2,500
- Conferences/Convention -- \$17,789
- Leadership Training -- \$1,500
- Wages, Benefits, and Payroll Taxes -- \$250,202

The only uncertain item in the budget, he said, is the subsidy from CWA. We have asked for a subsidy of \$168,000, but have not yet had an answer from CWA international headquarters.

President's Report (Les French)

Les reported that the organizing campaign for the AT&T Network Operations Center is progressing well, and it looks like we will have a majority of cards signed before the deadline.

Membership (Dan Gillespie)

Dan reported that we are purging the membership rolls of those members paying dues by credit or debit card who did not respond to our letter sent in June, when we asked them to resubmit their billing information. The number of non-responders is 55. They are now more than 3 months delinquent in dues, and 3 months is the cutoff period under Article 5D1a of our bylaws.

Legislative Report (Curt Eidem)

Curt passed out cards to sign and send to Congress members in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. He encouraged members to take some to work with them and pass them out to get as many signatures as we can. He said that shop stewards will be organizing activities in connection with the Labor-to-Neighbor campaign and will be calling members for participation.

In response to a question, Curt said WashTech is not endorsing candidates at the national level, but CWA endorses Obama. We have Obama buttons on order that will soon be coming in, and we will distribute them to the workplaces.

Les said that the season is now fully upon us to get active in critical elections at all levels. Those most critical to us are in Congressional District 8, where we support Darcy Burner; the State Legislature, where we support Goodman; the governor's office, where we support the incumbent Christine Gregoire; and of course the U.S. presidential race.

Technology Report (Brian Globerman)

Dan Gillespie reported for Brian: We have let specifications and taken bids for our change to a voice-over IT telephone system. We may include a fax line in this system and are considering adding it to the specs. We expect to finalize the specs in October.

We found out that our Qwest maintenance contract for the present phone system expired in 2004, yet we have continued to pay the maintenance charge each month and Qwest has continued to accept it. We will investigate whether we can get some adjustment from Qwest for this money spent.

We recently bought a new laptop computer for the AT&T chief steward.

Communications Report (Rennie Sawade)

Rennie reported that, to upgrade the web site, we need to move to a new host where we have more control. This will be a 2-step procedure: (1) move the site; and (2) move the shop stewards' e-mail addresses to the new site. This will eliminate the current difficulties we have with e-mail, caused by having to send it through an offsite route. Rennie has set up a powerful new server and will start this weekend to move the web site over to it.

VP Report: AT&T CBU VP (Jim Burdick)

Jim reported on our mobilization to get ready for the negotiations next year on the new AT&T contract. We are setting up training classes to educate the members about the bargaining issues. We have put out a survey to the members to get their opinions on what are the most important issues the new contract should address.

Les added that CWA District 7 wants to see 100 people get this training, at 8 hours each.

IV. Unfinished Business

Secretary Brian Roberts at the last General Assembly meeting had proposed a change to Article 13F of the bylaws, which was seconded. Per Article 14 of the bylaws, the membership voted at this meeting on whether to approve it.

V. New Business

Most of the meeting was taken up with the nomination of officers to replace those whose 3-year term is ending, per Article 13A of the bylaws. Twelve positions will be on the ballot. Election Chair Barbara Rader took the nominations, which were sparse. Most of those nominated were already incumbents, and all of those present accepted their nominations.. Three nominees were not present, and thus whether they appear on the ballot depends on whether they will accept. The Election Committee will contact them to get their responses.

One candidate received nominations to three committees, and another was nominated for two committees. Per Section 1G of the Election Rules, they are each allowed to accept only one nomination.

VI. Resolutions

Budget for FY 2008-2009

There being no dissent to the proposed budget as presented by Mitch McMurry, it was ratified by consensus.

Change to Bylaws

The bylaws change was approved. At the request of President French, the secretary will submit it for approval by Rick Sorensen of District 7.

Nomination of Candidates

At the close of nominations, the nominees for the election of officers stood as follows:

President: Les French

Executive Vice President: Rick Saling

Secretary: Brian Roberts

Treasurer: Mitchell McMurry

AT&T CBU Vice President (3 positions): Bill Montgomery, Jim Burdick, Anna Bloomquist, Anthony Vogelsang

Legislative Committee Chair: Curt Eidem, Erik Langdahl (subject to his acceptance)

Communications Committee Chair: BJ Oriley, Emily Baty (subject to their acceptance)

Membership Committee Chair: BJ Oriley (subject to her acceptance)

Education Committee Chair: BJ Oriley, Emily Baty (subject to their acceptance)

Technology Committee Chair: Rennie Sawade

VII. Good of the Order

Adjournment was moved and seconded. The final General Assembly meeting of 2008 will be at 6:00 PM, December 9, location to be announced. The new officers will be sworn in at that meeting.