

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
March 9, 2010, 6:39 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Les French, President. Also present were Brian Roberts, Mitch McMurry, Anna Bloomquist, Rose Hurban, Rennie Sawade, and Bill Montgomery.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 2/9/10 were read and approved.

Secretary's Report (Brian Roberts)

Brian discussed a problem that occurred with the minutes of 1/12/10 and suggested that from now on the PC minutes not be posted to the web site until they are approved at the next PC meeting. Anna so moved, and Rose seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. PC minutes will be shared only among PC members until they have been formally approved.

Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitch presented the finance report through 2/28/10. Outgo exceeded income by \$13,077 because of delay in receipt of dues from AT&T Mobility, including the Network Operations Center (NOC), from which we have yet to receive any dues. Expenses increased because of the cost of training new stewards. As a positive update to the written report, Mitch said a check from CWA for \$25,000 for the organizer's salary had been received today. Les said this puts WashTech's assets at about \$117,000.

Les asked that the finance report be approved. Brian so moved, and Rennie seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The Finance Committee report is approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les updated us on the certification election in the newly organized AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC). The ballots, which went out to employees on Feb. 19, are due back March 10 and must be impounded. The Right-to-Work Foundation has filed an appeal with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to require the ballots to be counted. They also filed an unfair labor practice charge against CWA for allegedly bringing employees into an existing contract without giving them the opportunity to negotiate the terms of their employment. Should this ploy succeed, we would have to negotiate a new contract for the NOC.

Regarding conferences and conventions, Les referred to the finance report and said we must drastically limit our attendance. Therefore he will be the only one attending the District 7 and CWA conventions. At the CWA convention, he will be voting for us on a resolution to reorganize CWA geographically. Another proposal to be voted on there is to make the conventions biennial instead of annual. Still another proposal is to encourage locals to merge, which Les is against because WashTech is self-sustainable.

Regarding the recently completed Pierce County Health Care negotiations, our Pierce County members are now enrolled in the Teamsters Welfare Trust for its health insurance coverage.

Membership Committee Report (Les French for Derek Stanford, Chair)

Les reported that AT&T has held a class for new hires, the first in months; three more are projected. This should help considerably with maintaining our numbers.

Brian asked about progress on the brochure. Les answered that Derek needs help with the graphics and with using Publisher. Mal Sreenan has Publisher expertise and can help him.

Requirements for the annual picnic were discussed. Derek has narrowed down the potential sites to Cedar Grove Park, Blyth Park, and Marymoor Park. He recommended Blyth Park. Les said we need to nail down which places are available on our planned date, 7/31/10. Derek plans for 80 attendees, but Les expects about 40 to 50. Rose said that cooking for that many would cost more than \$300.

Legislative Committee Report (Les French for Ian Jacobson, Chair)

Les said that Ian is busy running a campaign. He has said, however, that he wants to look at our endorsement process with an eye toward organizing it along the lines of the candidate interview form used by the State Labor Council. Mitch said we need a whole committee working on legislative issues, not just one person.

- **Action:** Les took on the action item of e-mailing the general membership to ask for volunteers for the Legislative Committee.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said he wants to post a blog received from Marcus Courtney, our founder and ex-president, regarding union troubles in Denmark. He gave credit to Dan Gillespie for his work in finding articles to post.

Rennie said that Dan has proposed having a classified ad section on the web site, for members only, where employers could post openings. This is seen as a possible way to increase membership. Brian noted that there had been a problem before with fake ads where the employer was going through the motions but had already decided to hire, e.g., H-1Bs. Rennie replied that we would use companies we're familiar with and have them sign an agreement that the jobs are genuine. Some companies have already approached Dan about starting this. Bill asked if we could use this as a revenue generator by charging fees, and Rennie replied that we can consider this. Les commented that the new CWA web site makes it easier to pull their stories into our site.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said he got a new union-built laptop for Les. Mitch asked why we had to buy it, and Rennie replied that the old one was having hard drive failure and was not under warranty. He was able to get a discounted version of Windows for it.

Women's Committee Report (Rose Hurban, Chair)

Rose said AT&T doesn't want us to do the Dress for Success project. Les suggested we get around this by using a neutral place, like the cafe; Anna commented that the March of Dimes used that site for its postings. Les said he hasn't given up on the idea because we should be able to put a collection barrel onsite if Dress for Success is a United Way affiliate.

- **Action:** Rose took on the action item of looking into having a fundraiser for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which CWA sponsors. (Otherwise, according to Les, we will send them a check.)

New Business

Brian proposed revising the WashTech Operating Procedures Manual (OPM) to spell out the new review procedure for PC minutes. There was discussion as to what would or would not be appropriate to include in minutes. Anna moved, and Rose seconded, that the OPM be revised to spell out the procedure as discussed.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Brian will present the revision at the next PC meeting.

Brian also proposed (1) doing the same with the General Membership meeting minutes, and (2) drafting a bylaw specifying how many PC members are required for a quorum. These were dealt with as follows:

- **Action:** Brian will get guidance from the Secretary's Office at International as to how to handle the GM minutes.
- **Action:** Brian will draft a new bylaw about quorums for the PC's consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary