

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
April 14, 2009, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rick Saling, Executive Vice President. Also present were Jim Burdick, Brian Roberts, Les French, Anna Bloomquist, and Rennie Sawade.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 3/10/09 were read and approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les said we are rewriting the bylaws and policies and procedures manual, especially with regard to staff relations.

Les announced that we have several vacant committee chairs, and in addition we need to start an Equity Committee. Anna said she would like to chair that committee.

National, said Les, is going to hire 500 additional organizers across the nation, and they may allocate one to us to help offset the \$116,000 per year that we are losing in subsidy. They want us to succeed in organizing the AT&T Network Operations Center. They have also asked us to be on the creditors' oversight committee for the local branches of Idearc in that company's bankruptcy action. They would like to organize those branches, and may send us money to train our people for that purpose.

We are looking at alternatives to our present rental arrangement in an effort to cut costs.

Finance Committee Report (Les French for Mitch McMurry, Treasurer)

Les showed the profit-and-loss statement as it looks after subtracting our canceled subsidy. By cutting payroll, we saved about \$100,000 over a year. Conferences and conventions are still of concern: if we can, we propose to send one person to the legislative conference and 3 to the International Convention in Washington, DC. The new financial picture will be presented to the general membership at the General Membership meeting this month.

Anna asked why the subsidy was cut. Les replied that it was not unprecedented because this has been happening to other organizing locals in District 7. We were the last one, and the decline in our at-large numbers (although our CBU numbers are up) disaffected the hard-core numbers-oriented people who oversee expenses at National.

There was more discussion of how many we could afford to send to the convention. Anna moved that we send 3 delegates, with Les to extend another 2 days so he can also be the legislative conference delegate. The motion was seconded and voted on.

- **Action:** The motion passed. WashTech will send 3 delegates to the CWA National Convention, June 22-24, with one delegate (Les French, who has already been elected a delegate) holding over to be our Legislative Conference delegate in DC, June 25-26. The other 2 delegates are to be elected at the General Membership meeting, as the membership has already been advised.

Membership Committee Report (Les French in Place of Vacant Chair)

Les presented the chart of statistics for March, showing a slight uptick in overall membership. As requested last month, the chart gave the previous figures for comparison and distinguished members from fee payers.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Member and Acting Chair)

Rennie reported that we got our name on the Seattle Post Globe web site because of Rennie's efforts in helping them set it up. Post Globe is composed of laid-off Seattle Post-Intelligencer staff who believe there is a place in Seattle for independent, non-corporate-owned news. They contacted Les for technical help, and Rennie volunteered, offering use of our server. Rennie is the superadministrator, and the site lists us among their partners.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie's report this month was mainly about Communications. On the more technological side, he said he has been able to compile statistics on hits on the internet browser keywords that apply to our site. He can use these numbers to track results of our outreach on the H1-B Visa issue, EFCA, health care, etc.

Legislative Committee Report (Les French in Place of Vacant Chair)

Les announced that Curt Eidem had resigned as chair of this committee because he left his job at AT&T. He was also our delegate to the Snohomish County Labor Council, so he will have to be replaced in that post, as well as being replaced as Legislative Conference delegate.

If the Employee Free Choice Act passes, said Rick, we will have a pile of organizing work to do.

Les said that as Legislative Convention delegate, he will focus on the EFCA and health care. He will also visit legislators on The Hill as part of the CESO (Council of Engineers and Scientists Organizations), of which WashTech is a member.

The Washington Fair Trade Coalition has a meeting April 18 with Representative Inslee to co-sponsor the 2009 Trade Act in Congress. Les inquired whether we could have two of our people attend. Jim volunteered, Anna moved that he be so authorized, Rick seconded, and there was a vote.

- **Action:** The motion passed. WashTech will send Jim Burdick as one of the WFTC group meeting April 18 with Rep. Inslee.

Brian then moved that we send Rennie, Jim seconded, and there was a vote.

- **Action:** The motion passed. WashTech will send Rennie Sawade as one of the WFTC group meeting April 18 with Rep. Inslee.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Jim Burdick)

Jim reported on the District 7 Conference. It was very informative, he said, listening to Unger speak on the labor movement and listening to Jeff Reckenbach's ideas about the national secretary-treasurer office.

Old Business

Charter Renewal: This will be on the agenda for the General Membership meeting.

Leadership Award: It was noted that 2 persons have been nominated, and in years past we gave the award to more than one person. Anna moved that we do that again, and present the award to both nominees. Rennie seconded, and there was a vote.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The Leadership Award will be given to both nominees, Dan Gillespie and Mitch McMurry.

New Business

Rick said we have been dropped from the King County Labor Council because of nonattendance. He will find out how many representatives we are entitled on that council and report to the PC at the next meeting. Meanwhile there was discussion that we should designate at least one person as our delegate pending that report. Jim moved that we reappoint Rick, Les seconded, Rick accepted, and there was a vote.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Rick Saling is our representative (or one of them, if we find out more are authorized) to the King County Labor Council.

Jim recommended appointing either Ian Jacobson or Derek Stanford, our Legislative Committee members, to replace Curt on the Snohomish County Labor Council. That vote was postponed, however, because we have 2-person representation on that council and we still have Rennie who can attend.

Good and Welfare of the Body

Jim recommended that workers leaving AT&T be reminded that they can continue their WashTech membership as at-large members by paying dues of \$120 a year. Les said he will have Caele Case put a notice in the Unity newsletter.

Rick commented that we're good at organizing call centers, and Microsoft has these. This might be a good way to get a foot in the door at Microsoft.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary