

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
April 13, 2010, 6:28 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rick Saling, Executive Vice President. Also present were Les French, Brian Roberts, Mitch McMurry, Anna Bloomquist, Rose Hurban, Rennie Sawade, Derek Stanford, Ian Jacobson, and Bill Montgomery.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 3/9/10 were read and approved.

Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitch presented the finance report through 3/31/10. Income exceeded budget by some \$17,000 due to receipt of the organizing subsidy from CWA (finally) and an increase in dues income from the AT&T Network Operating Center (NOC). Income is still under budget for the year to date, but with the tightening of some budget items (particularly Conventions and Conferences), the shortfall is not considered serious. Plans to revise the current budget were shelved pending a wait-and-see approach to see if income stabilizes at a higher level. It is expected, however, that next fiscal year's budget will be leaner than the current one.

It was moved and seconded that the finance report be approved.

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

President's Report (Les French)

Les updated us on the status of the NOC membership count. We now have more than 100 NOC employees enrolled, and dues income is starting to flow in. Some are stalling, waiting to see how the decertification election goes, and we will have to contact them by mail to be sure they understand that their choice is to pay dues or be terminated.

Regarding conferences and conventions, Ian will be our delegate to the CWA training conference in Maryland. However, this will not impact our tight rein on Conventions and Conferences expenses because SIFF funds are paying for the trip.

Organizer Mal Sreenan is working to organize the highly paid AT&T Finance Group. There are 35 employees, and quite a few are sitting on the fence. We will know probably in a few weeks whether we will succeed, but we can't count on dues income from this source until next fiscal year.

We can send up to four delegates and any number of alternates to the Washington State Labor Council COPE Endorsing Convention. Ian is definitely attending, and Les invited others to sign up.

- **Action:** Mitch, Rennie, Bill, and Rose signed up to attend the convention along with Ian. It will be determined which one will be the alternate.

Les announced that the nominees for the annual WashTech Leadership Award for 2009 are Sharon Kent and Brian Roberts. Mitch moved that they be approved, and Bill seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Sharon Kent and Brian Roberts will receive the Leadership Award.

Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford, Chair)

Derek reported that the annual WashTech picnic will be held July 31, noon to 4 PM, at Cedar Grove Park in Bothell. Dessert will be potluck, but WashTech will provide the main course, with Dan Gillespie as the cook. The expense is budgeted at \$330.

Derek said the at-large membership brochure has been drafted but needs graphics. It will have a mail-in card for easy signup. Les repeated his suggestion that we pitch WashTech to legislators nationwide who would like to have a union membership to show they're on labor's side. Ian commented that the staff of the Democratic Party might be good prospects since they are unhappy with their current wage package. Rick suggested we join the newsgroups of the Programmers Guild, IBM Alliance, and similar organizations to get ourselves noticed. Ian suggested we run ads on Google for 1 month, 6 weeks, or so. Rennie suggested Facebook ads, and Les asked Rennie to get us some cost estimates. Ian suggested Publicola, a web site that covers local politics. Most of the politicians in Olympia are receiving it, he said.

Legislative Committee Report (Ian Jacobson, Chair)

Ian said WashTech is getting an early start in the candidate endorsement process. Two Democrats who are running in the 5th District have contacted us and would like to come speak to us. Ian's plan is to put together a supplemental questionnaire (supplemental to the King County Labor Council's questionnaire) for them to respond to.

He queried whether we want to deal with candidates in Pierce and Snohomish counties rather than just King. Les replied that three counties is probably too much of a stretch for us.

The filing deadline for all candidates is June 11. Ian suggested we go over our filled-out questionnaires in late June and make the PC's recommendations to the general membership, which would have to meet by mid-August to make timely endorsements.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said he went to the grassroots meeting for House candidate Susan Del Bene, where she talked about the need for a moderate Democrat to oppose Dave Reichert and discussed Darcy Burner's alleged mistakes when she ran against him. Rennie mentioned the Fair Trade Act at that meeting and got the response that that was a "dangerous buzzword." Les asked if Del Bene is a viable candidate, and Rennie replied that she has money behind her. Ian said that her Democratic competitor Tom Cramer is a much more blue-collar guy.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said the AFL-CIO is getting rid of its GetActive mail system and replacing it with something better. GetActive was used to target queries but was cumbersome, requiring 10 to 12 steps to select a target. Ian said GetActive is being sunsetted by the company that bought out its provider.

Unfinished Business

Brian presented his draft of the new bylaw defining a quorum for PC meetings. Derek moved that it be approved, and Ian seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The new bylaw, as drafted, will be presented for vote at the next general membership meeting.

New Business

Les said we have a critical fight coming up regarding AT&T's interpretation of the Washington State Family Care Act. AT&T is trying to limit the number of people who can be off at any one time. Anna said that on the Saturday schedule they are setting a limit of 3 out 100. Les said that when the right opportunity arises, we will initiate a grievance on this issue.

Good of the Order

Derek, said Les, is first in the running for the Democratic nomination for State Representative, First District, Position 1. This district covers Bothell, Brier, and Mountlake Terrace; both representatives are retiring this year. The most viable Republican candidate is a Bothell city councilman.

Derek announced that the campaign kickoff for Luis Moscoso (D), running for State Representative, First District, will be April 24 at the Nile Shrine Center in Bothell. Moscoso, said Derek, is reaching out to all unions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary