

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)  
May 11, 2010, 6:31 PM

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**Call to Order**

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

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**Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Brian Roberts, Secretary)**

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The minutes of 4/13/10 were read and approved as corrected. The corrections were: "an alternate" on p. 1 changes to "any number of alternates"; and "Family Leave Act" on p. 3 changes to "Washington State Family Care Act."

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**Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)**

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Mitch presented the finance report through 4/30/10. Income was lower than budget by some \$6,200 due to timing of receipts, and expenses were some \$7,300 over budget, due primarily to having 3 paydays in one month. Income is still under budget for the year to date, but the continuing increase in dues from the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) is not reflected in these figures. Nevertheless we continue to limit travel and other discretionary items. Liquid and near-liquid assets total \$99,834.

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

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

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**President's Report (Les French)**

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Les presented a letter from Jeff Rechtenbach of CWA International reminding locals that delegates to the International Convention must be elected by secret ballot. Mitch asked how we went about electing Les as our delegate, and Brian replied that the ballot for our last election of officers, which was a secret ballot, informed the members that the president they elected would also be our convention delegate. Les was elected as president and is our only delegate, so no other election has been needed.

Les discussed recommendations made at the District 7 conference, which he attended. It was recommended that the cable and telecomm offices be combined, thereby eliminating a vice presidency at the International level; other combinations will be looked at. Another hot topic was having conventions every 2 years instead of annually; this could realize \$500,000 in savings. However, this would delay members' appeals to the convention floor for as long as 2 years. Les asked for input from the PC because he has to present our vote at the convention. Mitch said we should have the members decide at the next General Membership meeting in July. Anna moved, and Mitch seconded, that we table the decision until the next meeting.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The PC's vote on whether to support biennial conventions will be conducted at the June PC meeting.

Les updated us on the organizing drive for the AT&T Finance Group. We have until mid-June to get it done, but results so far are not promising: only 8 cards have been returned, and we need 18.

Les said he intends to take the endorsement of Derek Stanford as 1st District State Representative (see Legislative Report) to the State Labor Council's COPE Convention and ask for COPE funds. He thought we should get some because no other local has a member running.

Les said the next General Membership meeting will be July 21 at the WashTech office. Anna moved that we find a place closer to the AT&T Call Center (where most of our members work), and Rennie seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Les will find a place other than the WashTech office, and closer to the Call Center, to hold the next General Membership meeting.

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

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Les passed out the latest membership chart. It shows a steadying of the number of at-large members, which actually grew a little from February to March.

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

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Les said Derek now has sole endorsements for his campaign from the King County Labor Council, the Snohomish County Labor Council, WashTech, and the Inlandboatmen's Union. He is also going to ask the Washington--North Idaho Council to endorse Derek.

Les read into the minutes the following e-mail message from Ian regarding the King County COPE convention:

THANK YOU EVERYONE! WashTech had an enormous presence at the pre-meeting Meet The Candidates mixer. It was noticed by many people (it actually kind of freaked them out, they had forgotten our numbers). **We had more representation at both the delegates meeting and the mixer than any other union, period.** Derek received the sole endorsement for his candidacy for State Representative. With myself, Derek, Rick, Rennie, Bill, Rep Zack Hudgins and political consultant John Wyble, WashTech was #1 on Wednesday night. There were 30+ elected officials and candidates there who noticed.

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### **Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)**

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Rennie provided screenshots from Facebook illustrating the procedure used to electronically bid for advertising space on Facebook. He said it is well worthwhile considering because it is a pretty well-used social network. Les asked if we can include sound bites. Rennie said yes, and we can create a landing page on our web site. Targeting is what makes it really powerful; for example, we could zero in on Microsoft employees. Les then said we need a committee to come up with a plan for Facebook advertising on a budget of about \$200. He recommended himself, Rennie, Derek, and Malachy Sreenan to be on the committee. Rennie said how about \$20 a day for 10 days? Les said that seems very cost effective.

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### **Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)**

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Rennie said our accountant, Marsha, had an issue with getting into our e-mail using remote login via the Logmein program. He asked if we want to set a policy to use Dover exclusively for remote logins. Les replied that it was his call. Rennie so moved, and Mitch seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Rennie will draft a remote login policy for publication in our Operating Procedures Manual.

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**New Business**

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Rick proposed we endorse Terri Mast, who is running for Secretary-Treasurer of the State Labor Council. Her asked if we could invite her to the next PC meeting.

- **Action:** Les replied that Rick should work with Ian on this matter.

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**Good of the Order**

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WashTech has received an award from CWA for successfully organizing the NOC.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, Jun 8, 2010, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary