

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
June 9, 2009, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

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

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 5/12/09 were read and approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les announced that our new charter has arrived from CWA International.

Les reminded all of the upcoming Pacific Northwest Labor History Association convention at the Labor Temple.

Regarding the WashTech picnic, Les said we have secured a site in Marymoor Park for July 25, and the workers at the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) will be invited. The reservation cost \$125, and the catered barbecue will cost \$12.75 per person, for a total cost of about \$600. Everyone is encouraged to bring a guitar. Mitchell asked if we had a calling tree to notify the rank and file, and Les replied that we did not; we would use the Unity newsletter and/or flyers to get the word out.

Secretary's Report (Brian Roberts)

Brian showed copies of the newly compiled WashTech Operating Procedures Manual (WTOPM), which is still in work, and explained his method of updating it.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Anna Bloomquist)

Anna said she had just gotten back from the Organizing Institute in Denver and was impressed with the work being done. In particular, CWA has lots of plans for targeting T-Mobile. She and Malachy Sreenan will be going to the T-Mobile offices tomorrow to do leafletting. Another impressive undertaking is the drive to organize Deutsche Telecom, and WashTech's founder Marcus Courtney is deeply involved in that in his new post in Geneva.

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

Les presented the chart of statistics through the end of May, showing AT&T membership down to 793 from 1000 previously. Les said this is because AT&T is not hiring; Anna added that they are also firing. There are no new training classes, and our at-large membership is also slightly down. Rick asked how the NOC organizing is going, and Les replied that we have to rebuild the organizing committee; we have 2 more months in which to get it done.

Les stated that Derek Stanford had expressed interest in the Membership Committee, and moved that we name Derek as the interim chair; Anna seconded. During discussion on the motion, Derek outlined his

plans for building at-large membership by giving presentations to legislative groups, schools, user groups, etc.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Derek Stanford is the chair of the Membership Committee.

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

Rennie had another meeting with TechsUnite, where organizing was discussed. One outcome was that Rennie added a "Find Your Congressman" feature to our site. Also, we now have the Outsource-Outrage domain.

Les explained that WashTech is assuming the responsibility for TechsUnite, which until now has been a project of CWA International.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said he has fixed the link to unionplus.org. He has also updated the contacts page, with names and faces posted, and has coded the e-mail addresses to prevent spamming.

Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitchell passed out the monthly balance sheet and updated profit-and-loss statement. CWA subsidies have tapered off because any additional subsidy is expected to reimburse us only for the temporary organizer position (Malachy Sreenan), which was approved for 3 months starting in April

Year-to-date expenses are \$58,586 under budget, primarily from reduced employee expenses. He said he expects us to run about \$50,000 under budget for the fiscal year.

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

Les presented the request for endorsement we had received from Dow Constantine, who is running for King county Executive. Constantine's brochure advertises a 100% pro-labor voting record in the State Legislature, and Les acknowledged that Constantine has a good pro-labor record. He said he would send Constantine our survey/questionnaire to fill out before deciding to endorse him.

A large part of the meeting was given to a presentation by Benjamin Lawver, the Political Director of the Washington State Labor Council. He described the WSLC's new political action committee, DIME PAC, which is a reaction to labor's disappointment with recent actions by the governor and other supposedly pro-labor state politicians. The essence of DIME PAC's strategy is to channel union money to individual politicians who have proved by their records that they are truly pro-labor, rather than (as COPE does) give money to their party, which the party may use for or against us. The politicians we would support this way may be in any party or may be independents.

The idea was taken under consideration. Les noted a potential hangup in that the political contribution would have to come out of dues. This is different from COPE, which is a separate fund and thus does not subject us to potential criticism for using dues for political purposes. Les said he would talk to Gail Love about the matter and report back at the next PC meeting.

Old Business

King County Labor Council: We are authorized 4 members and currently have three. Les moved that we name Derek Stanford as the 4th member, and Anna seconded. Derek said he would be willing to serve.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Derek Stanford is our 4th delegate to KCLC, joining Bill Montgomery, Rick Saling, and Les French.

Washington State Labor Council Convention, Wenatchee, Aug. 6-8: In May the PC had voted to send 4 delegates to this convention, but declined to name specific persons. Les moved that we also designate 2 alternates, namely the President and the Chief Steward, and Anna seconded his motion.

- **Action:** The motion passed. WashTech's President and the Chief Steward of the AT&T bargaining unit are WashTech's alternate delegates to the WSLC convention.

Les then moved that we name specific persons to fill the 4 slots as primary delegates. He proposed Anna, Jim, Bill, and Mitchell. Brian seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Anna Bloomquist, Jim Burdick, Bill Montgomery, and Mitchell McMurry are WashTech's 4 primary delegates to the WSLC convention.

Per Diem Change: Last month it was noted that we needed to document a policy for per diem, to be in compliance with ethical requirements of the Secretary of Labor. The new draft of the WTOPM addresses that issue in section 14.5.3.

New Business

Election Committee Chair: This position has been vacated by Barbara Rader. Dan Gillespie has been doing the work, and Brian moved that he be appointed chair. Brian explained that this is an appointive chair, not an elective one like the other committee chairmanships, and therefore under the bylaws it is not an impediment that Dan is also a WashTech employee. Brian said that Dan is willing to accept this position. Les seconded the motion.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Dan Gillespie is the chair of the Election Committee.

Good and Welfare of the Body

Anna announced that today is her AA Birthday. She has been clean and sober for 11 years.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary