

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)  
October 13, 2009, 6:33 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 Brian Roberts, Les French, Mitchell McMurry, Derek Stanford, Jim Burdick, and Rennie Sawade.

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**Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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The minutes of 9/15/09 were read and approved.

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**Secretary's Report (Brian Roberts, Secretary)**

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Brian got a letter from the King County Labor Council to the effect that Les French would have to be re-credentialed as a delegate because he had not yet attended a meeting to be obligated. The letter noted that our other named delegates were Ian Jacobson and Rick Saling. As a result, Brian asked the PC if we had named 4 delegates and, if so, who was the fourth, and did we wish to stick with the delegates we have?

Jim said the 4th delegate was Bill Montgomery, whose attendance has been spotty because of health problems. Brian moved, and Jim seconded, that we reappoint that delegate position, considering possible alternatives to Bill.

- **Action:** The motion failed. Bill Montgomery remains one of our delegates to the KCLC.

Brian then moved, and Jim seconded, that we re-credential Les as a delegate.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Brian will send the KCLC new credentials for Les as a delegate.

Brian then moved, and Rick seconded, that we appoint Dan Gillespie as our delegate to the IT Advisory Committee of Renton Technical College, a position that has been vacant for some time.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Dan is appointed to the post, subject to his acceptance. Les will report back as to whether Dan accepts.

Brian then addressed Marsha LeRoy's request to define the terms used in WashTech's employee benefits policy.

- **Action:** As a personnel matter, this was referred to the Executive Committee.

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

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Les reported that economic benefits for the workers at the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) are slated to begin November 8. He expects to start seeing revenue from payment of dues before the end of that month. Mitchell asked if he had any projection of the future financial impact of organizing the NOC, and Les replied that a conservative estimate is \$4000 a month. The workers should see, overall, a 15% gain in wages in the first year of the contract.

Regarding our other organizing efforts, Les said we may not be allowed to use card check on other AT&T units. His source is the Neutrality Card Check Agreement with AT&T. Mitchell asked if there's anyone left in the Neutrality Agreement that we haven't organized yet. Les replied that he is checking, but he doesn't think so.

There is an issue about the AT&T Safety Committee. Les said the company has been reluctant to have full employee representation on that committee. We need a very strong safety committee in the NOC because of greater safety issues, for example, radiation. Les said the Washington Administrative Code is in our favor on this issue, and we got good input from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

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

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Mitchell passed out the monthly balance sheet and updated profit-and-loss statement as of September 30, 2009. Year-to-date income is slightly below the YTD budgeted income of \$354,217, which reflects a winding down of subsidies and a decline of \$22,140 in at-large members' dues. Expenses, however, are some \$68,200 under budget. Current assets are \$146,776. These are provisional data and will be revisited at the November PC meeting after the FY2009 books have been closed by the bookkeeper, Marsha LeRoy, and reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Mitchell also presented the F&2010 budget as ratified at the General Membership meeting of 9/30/09.

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### **Legislative Committee Report (Les French in Place of vacant chair)**

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Les said that heavy local races are coming up and we will try to participate in the political process via Labor-to-Neighbor walks, phone banking, and sending out notices.

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### **Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford, Chair)**

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Derek presented the chart of statistics through the end of September. He reported on the Stewards' Potluck he held the previous weekend; attendance was sparse, but he will keep doing it. He has talked to John Wible, a campaign consultant, about putting together a brochure; he is a Wash Tech member, busy with the elections right now, but may work with us after those are over.

Les commented that the Membership Committee also functions as an organizing committee and that he, Jim, Anna Bloomquist, and Malachy Sreenan are active on it. Anthony Vogelsang also wishes to be active.

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

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Rennie said he was contacted by AFL-CIO, requesting stories about H-1B abuses. Rennie rounded up some people who had such stories and referred them. There is also a good H-1B story that Rennie has posted on our web site.

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

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Rennie asked the PC members if the spam filter he has installed has been working for them. For the main mailboxes, he said, it cuts out over 90% of the spam—and it costs only \$1 per mailbox per month. Rick

said he'd been getting Viagra messages, but there was no other negative comment. Les said we should continue it month to month for awhile, and Rennie said it's paid up through the end of 2009.

Rennie said he's been doing more work on switching over to our new site, including creating linkages to articles.

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**Women's Ad Hoc Task Force Report (Les French in Place of Chair Rose Hurban)**

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Les said Rose was absent because her work schedule has changed, but she's working on women's activities. Jim volunteered to bring up the subject of our women's project, "Dress for Success," at the AT&T Working Relations Committee, of which he is a member.

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**Old Business**

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None.

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**New Business**

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Brian moved, and Jim seconded, that the PC Governance handout presented at the GM meeting be put in the OPM.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Brian will insert it.

Washington Aerospace Partnership: Rick Bender sent a letter urging our support. Les moved we support it by allowing our name to be used in its publications. Jim seconded.

- **Action:** Passed.

Washington Free Trade Coalition: Asking for contributions. Les moved we donate \$120. Rennie seconded.

- **Action:** Passed.

Foundation for Working Families: This has funds people can apply for, and desperate employees at AT&T have been calling Dan and Les for help. Coffee purchase was suggested as a way to raise funds. No action was taken.

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**Good and Welfare of the Body**

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Les said that CWA VP Louise Caddell has died, and WashTech has made a donation in her name to the Denver Hospice.

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**Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary