

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
August 12, 2008, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rick Saling, Executive Vice President. Seven other members were present in person. Emily Baty, Rennie Sawade, and Brian Globerman were absent.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from 7/8/08 were read and approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les reported that SIF training has started: there are 13 in the first class, and there will be 18 in the second class, which starts tomorrow.

We have kicked off the campaign to organize the AT&T Network Operations Group, consisting of 120 workers. We need to have 60 cards signed, and are shooting for 75. The campaign is one week along, and we have 60 days in which to complete it.

Les attended the Washington State Labor Council conference on August 6-7. There was much attention paid to the Worker Privacy Act, which the Council has endorsed.

Les discussed our budget-setting process. We have had no approvals from District for our staffing for 2008-2009, but this is not a new problem. Our target is to have our 2008-2009 budget completed in time for the September General Membership (GM) meeting although we cannot project income, just outgo.

Curt Eidem asked what is proposed for staffing in the new budget, and Les replied that staffing is not on the table. Mitch McMurry commented that we are starting from ground zero and the organization is totally changed. Regarding the web site, Les said he has asked for a budget proposal from Rennie Sawade and should have it next week. Barbara Rader asked if the Ford Foundation money will be included in the budget, and Les replied that it will be separate.

Action Item:

- Prepare proposal for advertising and communications expenses for 2008-2009 budget (Rennie).
- Complete 2008-2009 budget for the general membership to vote on at the 9/23/08 GM meeting (Les).

Executive Committee Report (Brian Roberts, Secretary)

There was no report, but there was discussion of the bylaw amendment, to be voted on at the next GM meeting, to lower the threshold for the office of At-Large Vice President from 300 to 50 at-large members. Bill Montgomery proposed an amendment to the amendment, removing the threshold and retaining this office as long as there are any at-large members. Curt asked whether at-large would include the small bargaining units. Les expressed the opinion that 50 should be the threshold for at-large, and a vice president should be added for any bargaining unit that exceeds 50 members.

Bill withdrew his proposal, and the existing amendment will be voted on at the GM meeting.

Finance Committee Report (Mitch McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitch submitted a detailed financial report that included year-to-date (YTD) summary, current expenses, and a budget planning sheet. Our expenses YTD are \$5,071 under budget. The main savings have come from lower-than-budgeted employee expenses.

Our income YTD is \$291,776, which is under our budgeted income by \$25,779. The shortfall is due largely to delay in receipt of \$35,177 of our CWA subsidy, offset somewhat by dues from the AT&T CBU that exceeded the budget estimate by \$11,598.

Mitch reported that our new checks have been printed with two lines for signatures, but that the bank may still honor checks that have only one signature. We may need internal controls, he said, to ensure that there are always two signers.

Dan Gillespie reported that a lease has been proposed for our copier that would have us pay \$280 per month for 6 months. He recommended we agree to this because the copier is a multifunction device that we can use for copying, scanning, and printing from the computers.

Resolution:

- The Planning Council authorized the copier lease to be signed.

Membership Committee Report (Dan Gillespie, Chair)

Dan presented July's monthly membership statistics. There was discussion about how current our figures are. Dan said we are always 30 to 60 days behind on the AT&T CBU members because the membership cards go first to CWA International, which then gives us a report of who joined or was dropped.

As it stands now, there will be no election for At-Large Vice President because the at-large membership is below 300. Curt noted that the total is now growing again (up to 243) and asked at what point we determine the number of at-large members for purposes of the October election of officers. Les said we would determine it when nominations are made at the GM meeting on September 23. Dan said the figure would be reported at the September Planning Council meeting.

Action Item:

- The consensus was to use the at-large membership total reported as of the end of August 2008. Dan will report that figure at the September Planning Council meeting, and if it is above 300, the At-Large Vice President will be on the ballot.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie was absent because of his wife's illness, and thus he had no report this month. The membership report included totals on web site subscribers: the WT&TU Get Active site has 27 new subscribers for a total of 13,916; and the TechsUnite site has no new subscribers for a total of 7,188.

Other Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Bill Montgomery)

Bill reported that more articles are needed for the Unity newsletter.

Unfinished Business

Action Items Carried Over from Prior Meetings:

- Staff all committees by 12/31/08 (PC).
- Develop 50 new CATs, using SIF training, by 8/1/08 (Dave/Bill/Emily/Curt). This is partially implemented; see President's Report.
- Develop PowerPoint presentation by 8/1.
- Survey at-large members about their representation issues by 12/31 (Barbara Rader).
- Recruit an organizer by 12/31.

New Business

Les moved that Jim Burdick be appointed to replace Mitch McMurry as an AT&T CBU Vice President now that Mitch has become Treasurer. Brian pointed out that it was unclear under the CWA Constitution whether Mitch's new appointment made him ineligible to continue as a CBU Vice President. Mitch solved that problem by tendering his resignation as CBU Vice President.

Les also stated that it was necessary to expedite the election of new stewards at the AT&T CBU, and he therefore moved that the 3-month waiting period between completing stewards' training and being eligible for election as a steward be modified to 3 months after first being employed in the CBU.

Les introduced Lily Wilson Codega of the King County Labor Council, who gave a presentation on the Labor-to-Neighbor campaign and asked for our support.

Les also introduced Stephanie Celt of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, who gave a presentation on HR6180, the Trade Act, and asked for our support.

Resolutions:

- Jim Burdick is appointed an AT&T CBU Vice President to complete the unexpired term of Mitch McMurry.
- Members of the AT&T CBU are eligible to become shop stewards after being employed 3 months in the CBU and completing stewards' training.

Good of the Order

The annual WashTech picnic will be at Woodland Park, Seattle, on Aug. 23, 2008, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. An announcement has been posted on the web site.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, September 9, 2008, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary