

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
September 9, 2008, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

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

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 8/12/08 were read and approved with a correction on p. 2: "60 months" instead of "6 months."

President's Report (Les French)

Les reported that the campaign to organize the AT&T Network Operations Group will require us to have 61 cards signed; there are about 126 workers in the unit.

We are not doing well in our participation in the Million Member Mobilization. We committed to getting 15 percent of our members to sign, but to date only about 50 cards have been signed.

Our grievance load is growing. We have 15 grievances open, with more coming in almost daily; and there are eight arbitrations in process. We are getting the shop stewards trained to deal with these issues, and have asked for help from District 7 of CWA.

Executive Committee Report (Brian Roberts, Secretary)

There was no report, but there was a question as to how nominations for the triennial officer elections are accepted. Brian read the pertinent clause from the WashTech Election Rules.

Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitch submitted a detailed financial report that included the year-to-date (YTD) summary and current expenses. Our expenses YTD are \$2,873 over budget. We have had savings mainly from lower-than-budgeted employee expenses and general operating expenses.

Our income YTD is \$341,052, which is under our budgeted income by \$8,258. We will also have to spend another \$3,800 in September for the server upgrade and \$1,439 for the new laptop to replace the one destroyed by misuse earlier in 2008. The category Committee/Membership Meetings is over budget by \$2,270, including \$1,112 spent for a farewell for WashTech's founding president, Marcus Courtney.

The new budget for 2008-2009 is ready to be presented to the general membership pending PC approval.

Resolutions:

- The PC approved the budget overrun, including \$2,270 for Committee/Membership Meetings.
- The PC approved the budget for 2008-2009 to be presented to the general membership at the GM meeting on 9/23/08.

Membership Committee Report (Dan Gillespie, Chair)

Dan presented the August monthly membership statistics. The number of at-large members as of 8/31/08 is 243, still below the threshold of 300 that triggers the election of an at-large vice president.

The first mailing for the American Income Life (AIL) Insurance Company has gone out, and half of the envelopes came back undeliverable. Jennifer Grey of AIL will report on the number of cards received back and will follow up on Oct. 6-8. We will also announce the benefits available in the Unity newsletter.

It was proposed that we reinstitute the WashTech Leadership Award, which has lapsed for several years now. Mitch recommended that the Membership Committee develop a proposal and that the general membership vote on who deserves it.

Bill Montgomery noted that the AT&T CBU membership is now very close to 1200, which would trigger the election of a 4th CBU vice president. He opined that if that number goes over 1200 in the next 3 years, we might consider naming another vice president for the interim, so that all members of the AT&T CBU could feel they are represented.

Dan has decided not to run for Membership chair again and has joined the Election Committee. As a member of that committee, he cannot be on the ballot for the October election.

Dan presented the cooperation/discount/scholarship proposal of Capstone College, which would be a boon to our members who wish to take Microsoft certification courses. However, Mitch pointed out that CWA National already has a relation with CWA/NETT Academy for training, and they might require us not to get into an agreement with a competitor.

Action Items:

- The At-Large Vice President will not be on the ballot for the October election. No action was taken in regard to a 4th CBU vice president.
- Develop proposal for the WashTech Leadership Award (to be done by Membership Committee).
- Investigate and report back to the next meeting on whether a relation with Capstone would put us in conflict with CWA National (to be done by Dan).

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie reported that he followed up on Marcus's suggestion that we see about advertising in *The Nation*. They have rates for nonprofits: \$3500 for a full-page ad, \$1000 for 1/6th of a page. Rates will rise by 5 percent next year. Another option is to do more radio spots.

Dan asked who would develop our content if we advertise in *The Nation*. Rennie mentioned Ellen Bollinger, and Curt Eidem said they have good ad writers and graphic designers at CWA National.

Rennie reported that we are regaining control over all our web site material. To complete it, it might be necessary to shut down for a day. We recently retrieved e-mail from the old Washtech.org e-mail address, and found a message about organizing in Bellingham that Les is following up on.

Technology Committee Report (Brian Globerman, Chair)

Dan, reporting for Brian, discussed the latest telephone proposal. Having the phone system on the computers is the best buy. We can use specifications developed by Costco to approach Qwest for an estimate. The system would use virtual phones, which saves rewiring the office and buying handsets.

The new copier/scanner/printer/fax is in place, and Dan said this is a big step forward for us. Les said that we will now be able to fax to e-mail addresses without leaving our desks.

Legislative Committee Report (Curt Eidem, Chair)

Curt reported that he is starting a new program this month to reach out to the membership to advocate for our issues and candidates. CWA International is paying for this program. We need to work on the Million Member Mobilization, which may include tabling in the lunchroom at AT&T and pitching the campaign to the new hires.

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

Bill expressed praise for Priyanka Joshi for her timely articles on contract issues. He also expressed his wish that the local would offer more information on the arbitration process, which many of the rank and file do not understand.

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 (chief steward/Bill/Emily/Curt). (not on schedule, but in work)
- 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 reported that the copier lessor wants us to have \$35,000 commercial insurance coverage on our copier; currently we have only \$10,000.

Resolution:

- The PC approved taking out insurance coverage of \$35,000 for the copier.

Good of the Order

Rick Saling recommended YouTube as the place to go for the best national election coverage. Mitch expressed thanks to Barbara Rader for her party last month where attendees viewed Barack Obama's speech accepting the Democratic presidential nomination.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, October 13, 2008, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary