

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL

September 12, 2006

Attendees: Marcus Courtney, Barbara Rader, Rick Saling, Todd Tollefson,

Roberta Wilson, Nancy Wright

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Membership cards (Nancy Wright): Their concern is for new hires. Cards have been delayed. They'll be sent out with election ballots at the next membership meeting. To save money on postage we decided to wait to send them together. Nancy is concerned that the postage for these should have been planned for in the budget. Unfortunately, in the past, CWA International always sent them out. This time they sent them to us and we didn't have an opportunity to plan for the postage. Going forward the new VPs from Cingular will be able to suggest how to handle it.

Monthly Report (Marcus):

We met with shop stewards to discuss recruitment and how to increase diversity. We're also trying to find ways to deal with and reduce attrition. We're working toward getting stewards more involved in the process. Grievances are going well. We've helped three Cingular employees get their jobs back and one received back pay.

National has launched a mobilization effort to try to get information to work toward getting workers better pay, etc.

(Todd): We sent out information about the union to network techs and the IT department. Kaiser Permanente union members are self organized and they wanted to affiliate with us. They have members in other states and they may align with TNG because of their widespread membership and DC location.

We're looking into organizing political consultants to have a union bug on their web site. We've talked to an employee of Moxie Media where they create web sites for political consultants. Also, moveon.org has 70% of their members here. There is potential to get progressives to organize and get health care, etc. and talk to employers about a union connection. It's also a way to grow membership. We're also looking at forming a union temp company.

We worked with the state legislature to get a letter to the Dept. of Homeland security on the state of H1B. They were required to produce a yearly report and have failed to do so. We've been working with AFL Working America to identify and to communicate with voters in the 8th District to vote for the CWA endorsed candidate, Darcy Burner.

Next month we'll have the Cingular VP election. We'll have a general membership meeting Sept. 27th. We'll continue trying to make our flash animation more visible.

Marcus will attend the CESO meeting in D.C. and stay to visit lobbyists. We'll hopefully have money from CWA to give to Adam Smith for his campaign.

Budget (Rick): This is our first WashTech operating budget that is derived from last year's budget factoring in percentage changes. Categories are nested to organize and make sense of them on a regular basis. Our CWA subsidy is still in discussion. We may also get money from the AFL-CIO since we'll be working on an organizing campaign

with them. We have a contingency fund in case we need to tide ourselves over if there is a delay in our CWA subsidy.

Communications Committee (Roberta): Jeff Nachtigal is working on the Microsoft compensation story. We need more writers because Roberta is working more and needs help with stories. Once Erik is on board he may be contributing on the H1B letter, the 8th District election, and other issues. We're aiming for about three stories per month.

Education Committee (Barbara R.): We sent out the brochure on online training and we only got negative responses related to outsourcing. As a result, we won't be pursuing it unless we get enough requests from Cingular for training for basic Office applications. The online grievance program may be quicker to start from scratch because it came without documentation. Barbara is working on it with Dan.

Legislative Committee: None, Erik is absent.

Technology Committee (Brian sent email): The main report from the Technology Committee is the problem with PPTP (VPN). No callback from Brandon with Union Built PC. We'll probably need to get assistance from Blacksheep. The problem is that a user cannot VPN in more than one time, and Loretta has not been able to connect at all. (Roberta says that she experienced a similar problem and will email Brian.)

A broader problem with Net I is that the manufacturer provides no support, so we are completely dependent on a value-added reseller like Blacksheep. We should look into replacing it unless we can get a commitment from Blacksheep to be more responsive to our needs.

Good and Welfare: None