

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL

May 8th, 2007

Attendees: Marcus Courtney, Todd Tollefson, Les French, Nancy Wright, Brian Globberman, Rick Saling, Dan Gillespie, Craig Gamble, Bill Montgomery, Barbara Rader

Minutes taken by: Barbara Rader

Monthly report - The at-large membership is stabilizing. Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) were filed against AT&T because new hires are paid more than workers with greater seniority doing the same job. Needed information is not being turned over. They say they will do their own investigation. Grievances are not being settled in a timely way.

The School district contract is stalled because of money issues. The contract is expected to be wrapped up by June

The contract for the Pierce County Radio Technicians should wrap up by the end of May

Political report – As a part of the new immigration legislation, Bill Gates testified before Congress that the H1-B visas should be unlimited in number because he can't find skilled technical workers to hire. CWA has launched a campaign to fight back with an ad showing Bill Gates with text refuting what he has said. So far WashTech has raised \$7,000 to pay for the ad. We want to raise \$12,000 to put the ad into Roll Call. We can't use Cope money because this is not a political campaign. Cope money is only for electioneering purposes. The proposed ad is considered lobbying.

An Employee Free Choice action day is planned for May 15th where union members from all CWA locals are supposed to call their Congressional Representatives. The immigration bill has passed the house and is currently in the Senate. CWA members should thank Congressional Representatives for their union support and urge other undecided Congressional Representatives to vote to limit the H1-B visas.

Elizabeth Loomis is running for Congress and seeks WashTech endorsement. Marcus presented a form for candidates to fill out before we consider endorsement.

Suggested additions to the form:

1. What will a candidate do for us if he/she wins the election with WashTech endorsement?
2. What are the candidate's top legislative priorities?
3. What will a candidate bring to the Washington economy? What will he/she do to prevent jobs from leaving Washington? What incentives would he/she support to keep jobs in the state?
4. If elected, what are the candidate's labor priorities?
5. If the candidate is an incumbent, what is his/her voting record?

Liz Loomis is a test case so we are flexible about the rules about whether we would ask candidates to come for in-person interviews or just base the endorsement on the questionnaire. Darcy Burner will be talking with Marcus but we won't commit to an endorsement right now.

The Strategic Industry Funds (SIF) proposal (Marcus) is to show the link between unemployment and low wages due to outsourcing. The draft is based on 8th district work during the last election. The project would zero in on workers trying to build grass roots representation. The National proposal is to have a project to increase the voting block in districts with a heavy tech presence. There is no timeline for presentation. Marcus wants to link it to the election cycle. As the election heats up, the proposed effort will expand to a national campaign. Marcus wants feedback sooner rather than later.

Nobody has filled the position of Chair for the Political Action Committee.

Rick – Treasurers Report -

The bottom line shows that we are over budget even though our expenses are under budget because the income from the National CWA is down by \$22,000. We have received \$51,000 less. We are only \$3,000 over budget. We still haven't received Jan and Feb amounts from CWA because there is a dispute. We will receive between \$18,000 and \$22,000. This will be resolved in the next two months. Staff expenses are about \$8,000 a month. Rick and Loretta will start on next year's budget next week..

Stewart applications – Nancy

Nancy handed out two documents: 1) Shop Steward's Duties and Expectations and 2) Shop Steward Application. Stewards have not had specific rules in the past and she felt that these forms are needed as a remedy. The documents would be put with the training documents. There is no formalized application now. These documents will formalize the process. The Shop Steward meeting will discuss where the files will be located. Once the application is submitted the completed forms can be scanned to be kept online. Stewards are subject to discipline by the Executive Committee. The removal of Stewards should be formalized. A vote by acclamation moved to adopt the forms.

Report on the District 7 Conference (Les) - There was a proposal to increase the board diversity by adding 4 at-large members. A district defense fund was established. Rick will go over points for a healthy local so we can see their areas of concern.

A Stewards Army will be organized for mobilization of activists who will be ready to put issues before the public and support legislative outreach. A Stewards Army volunteer will receive training (short education) on political organization. The Stewards Army will be similar to the way WA Jobs with Justice does political action. The goal for this district is 25,000 Stewards Army volunteers. The goal is to mobilize and focus a large army as a powerful force. The action plan is to get volunteers to build the army and then give orders to march. There is information on the Web.

Dave and Bill will discuss the newsletter. Some suggested topics include pending legislation of interest, a highlight of part of the contract, an article on the benefits of being in the union, and articles that are fun. The names of the Cats and Shop Stewards will be listed at top of newsletters.

Craig requested information. He pointed out that the goal for the number of new at-large members in the 2007 Strategic Plan is not being met. He questioned why the recruitment is not on track for increasing the at-large

membership. Todd said that he has been meeting with Microsoft members and running the fund drive for the anti-H1_B Ad. He has been planning a door-to-door campaign.

If a member doesn't renew on time, he/she is contacted by email, sent a snail mail message, members who have lapsed credit cards are contacted for changes. .

Additional tasks planned for increasing at-large membership:

- Online Take Action
- Soliciting for an Ad
- Email a Friend Campaign
- Focused and outreach to member of Microsoft
- Future Door-To-Door campaign

Craig wanted to know how many members will be added for each task. The question is simple, the answers are not. The Planning Council moved to table the discussion.

Technical Report – Brian is working with an IT consultant to help service the network. There are problems with multiple connections. There might be some firewall issues. The consultant's rates are reasonable. The sales model that Linux uses is that you can't call directly and you can't go to a vendor. Brian recommended that we hold off on the purchase of a new server and try to get everything on the VPN server including AT&T information. Kevin said the encryption level is an old 1999 technology. Brian will wait for a day off from work.

Legislative Report – Was already covered.

Nancy asked about whether the Communications Chair was filled. It is not.

Marcus is going to Rio de Janeiro for CESO conference for 5 days. This is an International Conference on Engineering and Technical Professionals. We get an opportunity to interact with union members from all over the world and learn about their issues. Members voted for CESO affiliation at the annual membership meeting. We vote on who will go to the conferences at the quarterly meetings. These issues were tabled until the next meeting. The discussion about the support for affiliation will be discussed with the budget soon. The specific delegates will be chosen in December.

Good of the Order – The Army of Stewards resonates with Rick. People got tired and the right wing was mobilized. There haven't been labor activists recently so he likes the mobilization.

The meeting was adjourned.