

## **WashTech Planning Council (PC) Meeting**

January 8, 2008, 6:30 PM

Minutes Taken by Brian Roberts

Attending in person: Marcus Courtney, Todd Tollefson, Kenneth Saling, Brian Roberts, Bill Montgomery, Rennie Sawade, Brian Globerman. Attending by conference phone hookup: Les French, Barbara Rader. Absent: Curt Eidem, Dan Gillespie, Nancy Wright.

### **President's Monthly Report: Marcus Courtney**

Marcus went over the monthly report he had distributed earlier. He corrected it, saying we acquired 10 new out-of-state members at large through TechsUnite mailings. Two new ULPs were filed with AT&T, and 3 new grievances were opened. The grievance about holiday pay is still being negotiated. Six new stewards have been trained, and 5 more are about to be trained.

### **Speed Matters Campaign**

Speed Matters is a CWA initiative to bring the USA up to the internet speed level now being achieved in other countries such as Japan and South Korea. Marcus reported that he is working closely with State Representative Zack Hudgens, who is sponsoring a bill in the Washington Legislature to implement the Connect-Kentucky model of high-speed universal internet, which has been shown to be a success in Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and California.

### **General Membership Meetings**

The PC set the year's schedule for the 4 general membership meetings: Feb. 20, May 21, Sep. 23, and Dec. 9.

### **Retreat**

The PC's annual retreat will be Jan. 19, 10 AM to 5 PM, at Lake Sawyer. Rules and directions will be e-mailed. Dinner is a potluck, and members can sign up to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. WashTech will provide the main course.

### **Legislative Update**

(See remarks above regarding Speed Matters.)

### **Executive Vice President's Report: Todd Tollefson**

Todd reported that the second organizing election for the AT&T Mobility IT Unit was held, and again we did not win. However, the votes were very close and we did significantly better than the first time. He believes a third attempt will put us over the top.

Bill Montgomery commented that at AT&T, everyone from supervisors on up appears to be antiunion.

**Vice President's Report: Bill Montgomery**

Bill said '08 will be a difficult year because we have two contracts coming up for renewal. He proposed we put out feelers to find out what's important to the workers and pass the information on to the District level.

Endorsing that, Les French said he's very interested in doing a survey of our workforce, and we could use Mitch McMurry's compilation of items of interest to be negotiated. Marcus replied that this will be one of the topics to go over in depth at the retreat.

**Vice President's Report: Brian Roberts**

Brian reported that the nomination period had closed for the AT&T Chief Steward election, and Ben Schlechty, Emily Baty, and Dave Hildebrand had been nominated. The PC decided to cut off the voting period at Jan. 23 and allow the nominees until Jan. 13 to post their presentations.

**Treasurer's Report: Kenneth "Rick" Saling**

Rick showed the Oct.-Dec. budget and actuals, which showed us considerably over budget. The chief reason is that we've received only \$17,000 of the \$42,000 subsidy expected from the CWA International. Marcus said we know of no reason for them to withhold, and we expect that it will come through.

Another thing that put us over budget was the organizing drive for the AT&T Mobility IT Unit, which was fairly expensive. Also, unit dues income is down (\$39,000 versus \$43,000 last quarter. Rick didn't know why, and thought perhaps Dan Gillespie could do some research to find out.

We are in the course of a federal audit, and so far there have been only positive comments from the auditor.

We have over \$100,000 in an account at Bank of America, and International strongly urges us to move it into some kind of 1-year investment vehicle. Rick and Loretta Crawford will make a recommendation at the next PC meeting.

Rick will report at the retreat about the requirement that we have general membership approval whenever we are about to go over budget.

**Communications Committee Report: Rennie Sawade**

Rennie consulted with the advertising department of radio KPTK, who told him we must first analyze the target audience. We're budgeting \$2800 per month, and we need to come up with a packer factoring in (e.g.) time of year and whether we want to do a 1-month blitz campaign or spread it over 12 months.

Todd and Rennie will be the point men to develop the package, starting with research Dan has already done on the target audience.

### **Technology Committee Report: Brian Globerman**

We are backing up the integrator, and will do that regularly at about 1-month intervals. Brian has a concern about our having all our data on one drive.

We have a new server with SQL, and we have to figure out how to give the shop stewards access to it. Secretary Barbara Rader has SQL experience and agreed to be our resident SQL expert.

### **Membership Committee Report: Marcus Courtney for Dan Gillespie**

There was no report from Dan, who could not attend because of a family matter. Marcus reported that, while we gained 10 at-large members (see President's Monthly Report above), we lost 4 others for reasons unknown.

### **Good and Welfare of the Body**

Rennie asked about the policy on donations. His son is on his school robotics team that is going to compete in the national robotics competition in Atlanta, and he wondered if WashTech would be a sponsor. The question was taken under advisement.

### **Summary of Decisions**

- The schedule of general membership meetings for 2008 was set (see above).
- The AT&T Chief Steward election will be by e-mail to Brian Roberts, ending Jan. 23 (see above).
- Barbara asked if we could make the offices available for the meetings of the 2 user groups she belongs to. This was approved.
- Marcus under our bylaws is our delegate to the upcoming Newspaper Guild convention, and it was proposed that we NOT send a second delegate with him. This was approved.
- Our continuing financial support of Union to Union and Pediatric Aids, both of which are initiatives of the International, was approved.

### **Next Meeting**

The next PC meeting is Feb. 12, 6:30 PM.