

WASHTECH GENERAL MEETING

March 30, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Attendees: Officers (6): Marcus, Todd, Barbara R, Barbara K, Rick S, Dan G

Staff (1): Craig Gamble

At Large (8): Dan DiLeva, Chris Veal, David Larsen, Richard Stallworthy, Xeno Campanoli, Zack Hudgins, Stephen Gentry, Lee Campbell

Cingular shop stewards (4): Les French, Jim Burdick, Nancy Wright, Ben Schlechty

Cingular members (5): Robyn Abramson, Effie Geanous, Ronda Aflakian, Bernadette Jacobs, Karen Solbeck

Secretary's Report (Barbara Kempf)

-Approval of minutes. Approved without corrections.

Legislative Committee (Zach Hudgins)

-He's on three committees: Transportation, Commerce and Labor, and Tech. The legislature passed a task force bill on outsourcing but the real hope is to stop it, i.e. outsourcing. When asked about H1Bs he said that H1Bs are a federal mandate. Here on the state level we're concentrating on opposing state outsourcing.

Education Committee (Barbara Rader)

-Online courses will be in conjunction with CWA. When we asked what members wanted they asked for web development. Other possibilities may be available. We're waiting to hear what CWA decides about pricing structure and then we should be able to start classes in the next 6 or 7 weeks. Reimbursement may be available to Cingular employees.

Membership Committee (Dan Gillespie)

-Responsibilities include processing of members' cards and social aspects. We're trying to plan activities to make Cingular members visible with buttons, etc. We'll also be planning our annual picnic. We'll be reaching out to like-minded organizations to have links to our site. Cingular and at-large members are welcome to join.

The next general membership meetings will be June 20th and Sept. 20th.

Communications Committee (Marcus because Roberta is absent)

-Cingular members get Washtech news and Washtech at Cingular. We're working on stories on the H1Bs and we just recently published the story about Microsoft compensation levels.

Treasurer's Report (Rick Saling)

-The budget shows how our subsidy from CWA went down and dues went up due to the new Cingular members. Rick also had a breakdown of where union dues go. It shows the CWA contribution, strike defense fund and affiliate obligations.

President's Report (Marcus Courtney)

-Membership increased with over 100 card signers since Dec. 2005. Our subscriber level is now over 16,000. At Cingular there are now trained shop stewards and CAT members and members signed up on COPE. All are increasing.

-In other organizing actions, at Chelan County PUD PERC after voting for a union two years ago they still don't have a union. At Microsoft the article on pay scales generated 25,000 hits on our site but no significant organizing leads.

-In terms of political action, we attended the CWA legislative conference in D.C. We'll be reaching out to our co-sponsors on the H1B visa reform bill. We attended the WA state labor council legislative conference and the CWA district 7 conference in Eugene. Nancy said that it was an interesting experience to see how all these other workers from different industries within CWA had similar issues: national health care, communications plan and strategy, accountability. She was impressed with the way they made an effort to maintain a strictly democratic process.

-We'll have an update on the high tech bust report in the first quarter of 2006.

-Future activity includes Cingular organizing committees building, launching new training and the WA state COPE convention.

-Election of two CWA delegates to the national convention, July 7-11 in Las Vegas. Marcus is one because it is included in the president's responsibilities. Nancy Wright, Margaret Bartley, Ben Schlechty and Todd were nominated. Todd declined. Margaret was elected.

Health Care Resolution (submitted by Andrea Borning)

-The group supported it. Proposed amendments included were that national health care would make employers more competitive globally, a poll says 70% of people asked support it, it would make organizing easier and the U.S. spends more than any other country on health care.

New Business:

-We'll be discussing the responsibilities of the membership committee as it relates to other committees, education and communications. There seems to be crossover that needs to be discussed and resolved.

Good of the order:

-This Sat., HUB ballroom there will be a talk on what was hidden about 9/11.(Margaret)

-Tell other people about Washtech to give us more name recognition (David)

-Drinking Liberally meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. at the Montlake Ale House for left-leaning discussions (Barbara K.)