

WASHTECH GENERAL MEETING

September 27, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Attendees: Officers (6): Marcus Courtney, Todd Tollefson, Barbara Rader, Barbara Kempf, Rick Saling

Staff (1): Craig Gamble

At Large: Brian Roberts, Dan DiLeva, Brian Roberts, Steve Gentry

Cingular shop stewards: Les French, Ben Schlecty, Bill Montgomery, Nancy Wright, Mitch McMurry

Secretary's Report (Barbara Kempf):

-Approval of minutes. Approved without corrections.

Election Committee Report (Brian Roberts): Nominations for special election: Brian Roberts took nominations.

Nominations for Cingular VP: Nancy Wright, Les French, Bill Montgomery, Ben Schlechty

At Large VP: Craig Gamble, Barbara Rader
(Barbara declined.)

Ballots will be out by Oct. 3. There will be an envelope stuffing mail preparation night Oct.3 at the local office. Then they'll be mailed and should be returned by Oct. 18.

Communications Committee (Roberta was absent.)

Legislative Committee (Erik is on vacation.)

Technology Committee (Brian was absent.)

Membership Committee (Dan was absent.)

Education Committee Report (Barbara Rader):

Update on training. We found out that we had to have an accredited program to offer classes. There wasn't enough interest to offer any classes.

Treasurer's Report (Rick Saling):

We're able to make the budget balance because of the subsidy we receive from CWA. The budget is now in QuickBooks. Any item is available to be seen and can be compared month to month.

There was a question about how the web site cost is listed. There was a request to break it out into types of contractors who produce the site, writers, web developer, etc. There was also a request to put a bid out to allow others to apply for the contract to maintain the site. The suggestion was made to look at other services that we contract out. We could put those out for bid as well. We'll also be looking at how many delegates we'll be sending to various conventions, etc.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

President's Report (Marcus Courtney)

We're continuing to build steward recruitment. We participate in a task force on attrition rate at Cingular. Bill Montgomery and Les French are on the committee and reported that there are a lot of positive things coming out of it. Management is involved and is looking for help and input. There is a possibility of including stewards in management meetings. There seems to be a real interest in cooperation.

Cingular: Cingular survey results (Craig): Majority thought turnover was a serious problem. Top reasons for leaving were finding better opportunities elsewhere and no additional pay for extra work.

Close to 20% of Cingular members are now members of COPE.

We're continuing organizing efforts with IT and Network Operations Center. IT hasn't been interested but the Network group seems more receptive. Todd will concentrate efforts there.

Political Action: Marcus attended CESO and lobbied on H-1B visa reforms. We've been working with District 7 and through COPE working with Darcy Burner, former CWA member and Dave Reichert's opponent in the 8th congressional district of Washington.

Research Activity: Our flash animation piece was launched to raise our profile but not much response so far.

Bylaws change: Some of our revisions weren't accepted by CWA. We received a letter from CWA with recommendations for alternate wording. We need to be in compliance with CWA. A motion was made to accept the changes proposed by CWA. It was moved and accepted. It will be voted on at the next meeting.

Brian R. wants to have written documentation on our elections process. He will have a proposal written for consideration for the next general membership meeting.

Jobs with Justice dinner: We have 10 tickets available for members. Several Cingular members agreed to go.

Unfinished business: Suggestion to make contractor positions available to bid. We'll write up a suggested policy to be voted on at the next meeting.

Candidates will be able to submit statements that we will post on the web site. They'll have to be in by Oct. 3rd.

Good and Welfare: (Rick Saling) He recommends the publications that we get from CWA and TNG for more in depth information about other related union business.