

WASHTECH GENERAL MEETING

December 12, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Attendees: Officers (6): Marcus Courtney, Todd Tollefson, Barbara Kempf, Rick Saling, [Erik Landahl](#)

Staff (1): Craig Gamble

At Large: Brian Roberts, Dan DiLeva, ~~Brian Roberts~~, ~~Steve Gentry~~ [Rennie Sawade](#), [Dan Melhorn](#)

Cingular shop stewards: Nancy Wright, [Les French](#), [Bill Montgomery](#)
~~Les French~~, ~~Ben Schlecty~~, ~~Bill Montgomery~~, ~~Nancy Wright~~, ~~Mitch McMurry~~

Installation of new officers: Craig Gamble, Nancy Wright, Les French, Bill Montgomery

Secretary's Report (Barbara Kempf):

-Approval of minutes. Approved without corrections.

Election Committee Report (Brian Roberts): Election was concluded and officers were installed.

Communications Committee (Roberta was absent.)

Legislative Committee (Erik): He's resigning. We'll be looking for a replacement and also he'll have to be replaced on the elections committee.

Technology Committee (Brian was absent.)

Membership Committee (Dan): He described how we take care of three part cards that we get from Cingular for new hires: membership, dues, and COPE cards. ~~They're~~ [The membership packets are](#) being made by the CATs now. The cards come back to the membership committee. The cards go to the company, international and local. There's about a month turnaround before they extract dues from pay. There are inconsistencies in the reports because some people stay on the pending list a long time. Craig is meeting with Jana this week to try to improve the process. How and when people are put on the pending list is in question. It's potentially a violation of our agreement with the company.

Education Committee Report (Barbara Rader was absent)

Treasurer's Report (Rick Saling): The budget is two months worth of our budget. We're about \$200 over but that will fluctuate from time to time. The audit will be started

at the end of ~~January~~December.- Employee wages are over because of combining staff and Cingular employee time off pay. Also, member accounts by county gave us guidelines to re-assess our membership dues to county labor councils.

Nancy questioned the amount allocated for leadership training. Marcus explained that part of it was included in employee wages and benefits for time off for Cingular employees. He also mentioned the money spent for t-shirts to increase visibility.

Nancy wants an amount allocated for Cingular to spend on what they think they need. She was invited to write a proposal.

Les suggested setting up funds for marketing/recruiting. That aspect could be part of a proposal also.

Craig moved that we amend the county council affiliations and it was seconded. He thinks that we should maintain our affiliation in Pierce as long as we have ~~members~~members in two units down there. ~~We will~~Vote to re-affiliate with Pierce County ~~passed~~.

President's Report (Marcus Courtney): Membership about 1300; 900 in Cingular and about ~~400~~900 other members.

Cingular: We now have three new VPs, signed up 191 Cingular employees on COPE, and the labor membership task force continues to focus on attrition and prepare information to present to Cingular management. Todd has been concentrating on organizing the Network ~~Operations Center Unit and related groups~~.- He's been house visiting, calling and tabling. Anti-people have been very vocal and the workers weren't strongly pro. We'll look into organizing them again in January next year.

Political action: We're continuing to work on H1B and TAA reform. We're trying to expand TAA coverage from manufacturing to service workers. We're continuing to pursue ideas for legislative action. The legislature will be talking about expanding support for family medical leave.

For the election we backed Darcy Burner and promoted her stance against expanding the H1B programs. With all the money spent on this issue, even though she lost, because it was so close the CWA-COPE made a significant difference and showed the power of this issue.

We're looking at the question of independent contractors. Marcus gathered information on web skills needed for the web designer position.

The motion to amend the bylaws made at the last meeting in response to the changes recommended by District 7 was moved and seconded. We need to be in compliance. If we aren't it could put our future elections in question. We voted and approved the changes.

New business: No new business.

Unfinished business: None

Good and Welfare: (Rick) He said that he heard Cindy Sheehan on KBCS and she was encouraging people to keep after the newly elected Democrats to follow through on all their promises on issues important to us.

Todd mentioned how we got angry responses from people in the offices of legislators who received hundreds of faxes as a result of a Get Active campaign. They only accept email and other communications from constituents but it's a problem when those congresspersons are on committees and subcommittees and are supposed to represent the entire country.

Bill recommended having the Cingular unit meeting on another night, not after the general meeting. It makes for a long night.