

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2010**

Present: Greg Georg, Layne Litwin, Margaret Schmelzer, John Fries, Larry Kieck, Sandy Suchla, Mark Roe, Dave Rasmussen, Steve Mahoney, Mike Genthe, Bill Sawyer, Erik Coaty and Ruth Ginzberg.

Absent: Ed Berry, Shantara Glenn and Gary Mertig.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents:

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Fred McCabe, Art Foeste, Tom Ellett and Doug Swanson.

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by Greg Georg.

Minutes of the April 10 and May 1, 2010 meetings were reviewed..

Motion by Roe to approve the minutes of the April 10 and May 1, 2010 meetings.

Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

Minutes of the 2010 WPEC convention were reviewed for information.

Treasurer's Report:

Schmelzer presented the current report and noted a correction that had been made to the AFT convention posting and discussed a payment for legal fees for unit clarification and arbitration costs. A few expense claims have been turned in without receipts. We will pay them this time but we will stress the need for receipts in the future as they are documentation that the auditors require.

Grievance Committee:

McCabe noted that work has been done on clearing the backlog of arbitrations and presented a schedule for future arbitrations. Works is being done on resolving grievances related to furloughs. Several grievances still need to be passed through the committee and on to the Executive Council for further action. A committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

McCabe noted that Eric Thompson at the UW would like to become a steward. Linda Hilker has volunteered to join the Grievance Committee. A goal of the chief steward will be to activate the current group of stewards. Ellett commented on the list of arbitrations and developments in the area of arbitration scheduling. A general discussion of grievance and steward related issues followed.

Audit Committee:

Georg stated that we need to schedule our next audit.

Council Orientation:

Georg introduced Doug Swanson. Swanson explained his role as a AFT-W staff resource to WPEC and the duties of various other AFT-W staff. The upcoming Union Leadership Institute was given as an example of available training opportunities. Georg explained the Council meeting structure and processes. Georg, as part of the President's Report, explained the Gang of 18, how it was formed and its function. The Gang continues to meet on a monthly basis and examples of discussion issues were listed.

Newly elected Membership Secretary, John Fries, talked about plans for work that needs to be done in his area. New member packets, per caps and transitioning into the position will be the first tasks undertaken. Also, he will be learning how to use membership suite. Training is available on this from AFT but Berry has a good handle on it, too. Georg went over the WPEC budget, as presented at the convention, and explained the budget process. At this point, the new Council was given a tour of the AFT-W building and the meeting broke for lunch.

AFT-W/SEC Report:

Roe discussed endorsement activities from the last meeting. Georg explained the make-up and function of the SEC. AFT-W's budget problems were mentioned.

Baseball Tour:

Georg passed out the schedule of games on this year's tour and explained how other locals and AFT participate.

Release Time:

Georg explained the concept of release time and the need to approve time for the Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Ed Berry and Art Foeste.

Motion by Litwin to approve 12 days of release time for the Treasurer, 20 days for the Membership Secretary and 4 days for Berry and Foeste. Second by Coaty. Motion approved.

Committee Appointments:

Georg stated that appointments need to be made to the Organizing Committee.

Motion by Kieck to appoint Litwin, Georg, Kieck, Mahoney, Roe, Mertig, Foeste, Gail Pizzaro, Bonnie Faulkner and Jo Anderson to the Organizing Committee. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

Georg asked that appointments be made to the Policy and Procedures Committee.

Motion by Litwin to appoint Litwin, Roe, Kieck, Gretchen Davies and Diane Mandell to the committee. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

Georg asked for an appointment to the Grievance Committee.

Motion by Mahoney to appoint Linda Hilker to the committee. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

SCFL Delegates:

Georg explained the purpose of SCFL and that we can have up to 7 delegates to this organization. As there have been retirements, we need to update our list of delegates.

AFT Report:

Foeste stated that the SEC will meet next week and they need feedback on the Professional Development Day. The SEC has provided funds for the steward's retreat in the past. For this to continue, the scope of the day will have to be kept broad so that it doesn't take on the look of a WPEC only event.

Foeste noted that he serves on the Program Policy Council in the public employees section. A large issue under discussion is the need to make public budgets work again through revenue enhancement, not just tax cutting. The next public employees' conference is being planned. Possible dates are April 1 to 3 or 15 to 17, 2011 in Las Vegas or June 10 to 12, 2011 in San Diego. The consensus was that the best date of the three would be April 1 to 3 and the second choice would be June 10 to 12.

Resolutions for the AFT Convention:

Foeste and Georg circulated two resolutions for the Council to consider.

Motion by Schmelzer to support sending the "Stop Layoffs" resolution to the AFT convention. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

Motion by Coaty to support sending the "Closing the Tax Gap" resolution to the AFT convention. Second by Rasmussen. Motion approved.

Communications Committee:

Georg commented that Ginzberg had volunteered to contact the Communications Specialists represented by WPEC and try to get 10 of them to join the committee. Georg reminded the district representatives to the Council that they are also on the committee. Georg reminded the Council that we need to work on a communications plan.

Future Meeting Dates:

Georg offered July 24, September 25, October 23 and December 11 as possible meeting dates. The October meeting would take place at the United Way building in Madison and be a combined Council meeting and delegate caucus for the AFT-W convention delegates.

Meeting Structure:

Schmelzer asked that regular reports for the Council meetings be prepared a couple of days prior to the meeting and that they be circulated to the Council members electronically so that they can be read ahead of time. That way, only questions relating to the reports need to be raised at the Council meetings. Georg stated that this would be a good goal to pursue. Litwin asked if action/business items could be moved earlier on the agenda and reports be placed later.

Union Leadership Institute:

Georg noted that we budgeted \$4,000 for this training opportunity. We could send up to 5 people. Rasmussen expressed interest in attending and Ginzberg asked to be considered as an alternate. Stephanie LeSage also has expressed an interest in attending.

Motion by Schmelzer to provide 2 days of release time per new Council member to attend ULI if they can't use professional development time. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Fries. Second by Roe. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.