

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2010**

Present: Greg Georg, Layne Litwin, Margaret Schmelzer, John Fries, Larry Kieck, Gary Mertig, Mark Roe, Ed Berry, Mike Genthe, Steve Mahoney, Erik Coaty, Bill Sawyer and Ruth Ginzberg.

Absent: Sandy Suchla, Dave Rasmussen and Shantara Glenn.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents:

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Mike Hablewitz (Wegner LLP)

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

Minutes of the September 25, 2010 meeting were reviewed and amended.

Motion by Coaty to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2010 meeting, as amended. Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Audit: (8:45 – 9:20)

The WPEC audit was presented by Mike Hablewitz, both the financial audit and Hudson audit. The audit process was explained for the Council. The financial audit is done on a cash basis. Georg pointed out the impact of absorbing a dues increase rather than passing it on to the members right away. Mike Hablewitz explained the concept of the Hudson audit.

Executive Council expenses are divided by agenda categories from meeting minutes to determine what percentage would be non-chargeable. A management letter was distributed commenting on check handling practices, including a tracking form which has already been adopted.

Treasurer's Report: (9:20 – 9:30)

Schmelzer presented the current report. A question was raised regarding a check for \$80 to Tom Ellett for filing unfair labor practice (ULP) actions. A discussion followed on CD renewals.

President's Report: (9:30 – 9:43)

Georg stated that the Gang of 18 had a meeting on October 11, 2010, a furlough day. There were updates on bargaining and a discussion of the election. The TAA has begun meeting with OSER and are trying to work on domestic partner issues. The nurses settled their contract with a "me too" clause relating to health insurance premiums. Several locals are meeting with OSER, primarily discussing language issues. Contracting out, as an issue, is still being worked on across locals. The next meeting will be on November 8, 2010. WSEU has been meeting regularly, hoping to reach an early tentative agreement.

Membership Report: (9:43 – 10:03)

Fries presented and discussed the current report. The difficulty in getting good worksite addresses was discussed. The receipt of appointment letters is variable between agencies. There appears to be a great deal of room for interpretation as to who needs to be included. The adoption of Membership Suite is moving along. A few test files have been entered. Berry reported that there have been problems at AFT with Membership Suite and LeaderNet. Litwin mentioned that the total bargaining unit numbers have topped 5,000.

Bargaining: (10:03 – 10:43)

Georg noted that bargaining sessions with management had been happening regularly and tentatively agreements have been reached on several minor language items. We are still hopeful of getting an agreement around election time. OSER still seems to be interested in getting an agreement prior to a change in administrations. More will be needed before WPEC would be able to present any tentative agreement to the membership. Some preparations are being considered in order to be ready to undertake a ratification vote. Work is being done to get better language for at-risk/layoff and grievance investigation situations. A general discussion of bargaining progress and furlough related issues followed.

We are limited in our ability to get out electronic versions of the Bargaining Bulletin due to email address problems. We need to look at doing a print version. Even a one page edition would cost around \$1,500. By November 8 or 9, we could expect to see movement towards a tentative agreement. What we send to the members would need to be revenue neutral.

UW Hospital: (10:43 – 10:47)

Georg stated that the UW Hospital unit has ratified a one year agreement. The plan is to have the agreement signed on December 2, 2010. Georg suggested setting shirts for the bargaining team to wear at the signing. They would need a total of 6 shirts.

Motion by Mertig to approve up to \$300 to purchase shirts for the hospital unit bargaining team. Second by Mahoney. Motion approved.

MOM's Mailing: (10:47 – 11:00)

Georg stated that we need to send a notice out in early November to the 900 or so MOM's to inform them that they are not members of the union and cannot vote on the contract. This should be sent out prior to the rebate letters and include a membership authorization card for them to fill out. A general discussion of rebates followed.

Technology Issues: (11:00 – 11:10)

Ginzberg noted that the committee hasn't been able to deal with the technology issues due to most of the committee's members being involved in bargaining. Georg asked about purchasing of new software. Ginzberg said that the software licenses could be purchased through UW for \$80 per copy. Also mentioned, Microsoft Volume Licensing is available to nonprofits that are buying five or more licenses. Roe suggested that we should purchase the licenses now through the UW and pursue the Volume Licensing later.

Motion by Mertig to approve up to \$500 for software purchases. Second by Coaty. Motion approved.

Roe noted that we should also move on getting a wireless router for the WPEC office.

Motion by Kieck to approve up to \$125 for the purchase of a wireless router. Second by Coaty. Motion approved.

Ginzberg commented that after bargaining concludes, the committee needs to meet and develop a technology plan, with budget, for WPEC.

SCFL Delegates: (11:10 to 11:16)

Fries noted that we need to determine who is and still wants to be a SCFL delegate. Georg noted that WPEC can have a total of seven to nine delegates. The current list of delegates will be contacted to see if they still wish to serve. If so, they will be put up for reappointment. A discussion of regional labor councils followed.

March 2011 Meeting Date: (11:16 – 11:20)

Georg noted that we need to move the March 2011 Executive Council meeting date due to a conflict with the AFT-W board meeting.

Motion by Berry to move the WPEC Executive Council meeting date to March 12, 2011. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

Contracting Out: (11:20 – 11:26)

Mahoney noted that we still need to hold a meeting of the newly constituted committee. The new state rules for purchasing agents appear to be an offloading of responsibilities. Ginzberg noted that purchasing agents names will not be included on some transactions for larger agencies. This should be the same for all agencies. Litwin noted that the committee members should try to get together at the AFT-W convention to have their first meeting.

Communications Committee: (11:26 – 11:40)

Georg stated that the Insider has gone out. Georg put it together with AFT-W staff. Ginzberg offered to contact Publication Editors represented by WPEC to see if one of them might be interested in becoming the editor for the Insider. We need a list of duties and responsibilities to present to any prospective candidate.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Mertig. Second by Coaty. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Next meeting on December 11, 2010.