

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2011**

Present: Greg Georg, Layne Litwin, Margaret Schmelzer, Larry Kieck, Sandy Suchla, Gary Mertig, Mark Roe, Dave Rasmussen, Ed Berry, Erik Coaty, Bill Sawyer and Ruth Ginzberg.

Absent: John Fries, Mike Genthe, Steve Mahoney and Tim Whitcher.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents:

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Jim Bakken, Tim Hawks (via phone), Aaron Crandall and Barb Smith.

Meeting was called to order at 8:42 AM by Greg Georg.

Minutes of the December 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed. (0842– 0847)

Motion by Schmelzer to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2010 meeting.

Second by Coaty. Motion approved.

President's Report: (0847– 0915)

Georg reported that the Gang of 18 met in January and discussed the Governor's appointments that had been made to date. Bargaining had not resumed for any of the locals. They are waiting to hear from OSER. WSEU is doing a pilot project in Horicon trying to connect with that area's legislators. WSEU will be doing an ad campaign to bolster the image of public employees. When bargaining resumes, an attempt will be made to keep each local informed of progress. Beyond just doing ad campaigns to improve the image of specific unions, we need to improve the solidarity among all unions in WI to illustrate the importance of unionism. Applications are due for the Porter scholarships by March 30. A draft letter to OSER is being written dealing with the changes to the Department of Commerce. A stewards training will be held on February 24. The list of attendees is still being developed. Two trainees are expected from the UW Hospitals unit. AFT will be coming in to do contract campaign training on March 4 and 5. This is part of the membership mobilization efforts.

Membership Report: (0915– 0950)

Berry presented the report and noted that the data was a little older than usual. In January, there were more new hires than retirements. Membership numbers were flat but fee payers have gone up. We are still working on cleaning up the email problems related to Salsa. We are almost up and running on Membership Suite. Jim Bakken and Mark Roe will be working with the data. A discussion of the membership data and data fields

in the database followed. Getting the data organized and usable is key to any future internal organizing efforts.

Treasurer's Report: (0950– 0957)

Schmelzer presented and discussed the current report. 283 rebate checks will go out. The year end and quarterly reports are done. A discussion of moving CD's to get better returns followed. Work still needs to be done on identifying half time people in the database

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: (0957– 0958)

Mertig noted that we approved using the same accounting firm to do our audit at the last Council meeting.

Bargaining: (0958– 1000)

Georg stated that there was nothing to report.

Budget Committee: (1000– 1002)

Berry noted that the committee will meet after today's Council meeting.

Contracting Out: (1002– 1013)

Ginzberg noted that the committee needs to schedule their next meeting. Roe noted they last met on January 22. They are still looking for ways to get the media interested in this issue. Perhaps working with local weekly papers they can find some interest.

Unit Clarification: (1013– 1100)

Tim Hawks provided an update on unit clarification. A bill is currently being advanced in the Senate that would remove the ability of WERC to assign UW faculty and staff to a collective bargaining unit, effectively ending unit clarification. Hawks laid out how the positions in question would retain their current status until the position would become vacant. With passage of this legislation, those already in classified positions are at risk of being moved out of that status.

Georg commented that if WPEC agrees to opening up positions to review when they become vacant, we may be able to make some minimal membership gains at the individual level. Voting by classification for an assignment to a bargaining unit would likely be impossible. A general discussion on how to proceed with unit clarification followed.

Motion by Roe to proceed with unit clarification as laid out in the Hawks memo.
Second by Suchla. Motion approved.

SEC Report: (1100– 1110)

Roe noted that changes to the budget were approved at the last meeting. A presentation was given on EAP and a discussion of the confidentiality of EAP followed. In some cases, EAP is still run through human resource shops and that could be problematic.

AFT-W Report: (1110– 1120)

Georg noted that Krista Peters is returning to Canada. Her visa was not renewed. The budget is still being worked on. Furloughs are being looked at for staff as a way of bringing the budget into balance. The State federation conference will be held in Albuquerque in March. Georg will be attending.

UW Hospital Unit: (1120– 1122)

Georg noted that a couple of members from the Hospital Unit will be trained as stewards. The unit will be starting back into bargaining soon.

Badger Partnership: (1122– 1129)

Crandall circulated and discussed the principles that will guide UW Madison.

Newsletter Calendar: (1129– 1156)

Roe circulated the suggested publication schedule. It was based on a quarterly publication cycle. The concept was to use the Insider for more substantive articles and other venues would be used for time sensitive announcements.

Motion by Litwin to adopt a quarterly publication schedule for the Insider.

Second by Coaty. Motion approved.

Crandall noted that WPEC now has over 100 people signed on to its' Facebook page.

New Business:

March Executive Council Meeting Date: (1156– 1158)

After a brief discussion, the Council decided to keep the March meeting date on the 12th. Georg will not be able to attend due to a conflict. Litwin will take over the meeting.

District Meetings: (1158– 1214)

Berry stated that the District 6 meeting will be held on March 16. The other Districts are still working on setting dates.

Lunch: (1214– 1249)

Public Employees Conference: (1249– 1327)

Georg noted that we need to decide who will be attending.

Motion by Litwin to approve sending those currently interested in attending the PEC in Las Vegas. Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Georg noted that the Alaska delegation would be open to having WPEC cosponsor a reception at the PEC.

Motion by Ginzberg to approve sending up to 10 people to the PEC and to provide \$3000 to cosponsor a reception at the conference. Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Baseball: (1327– 1346)

Mertig commented that if those in Madison or any group around the state wants to arrange a baseball outing, they should be encouraged to, but should WPEC be footing the bill? Georg stated going forward, we need to determine the level of interest in other locals in keeping these baseball group functions going. Litwin felt that the Madison game should be continued given the high level of interest. Perhaps 3 or 4 others could be set up around the state. Georg noted that we could look at setting a cap on WPEC participation on a per person basis. Schmelzer added that we might look at reaching a minimum participation level and then WPEC would kick in for the tailgating. Georg will try to contact other locals to determine their level of interest.

990 Form Filing: (1346– 1350)

Georg circulated a copy of our current filing.

Motion by Schmelzer to have Wegner do our 990 filing next year. Motion withdrawn after a general discussion.

Mertig will contact Wegner to find out how much they would charge to do the 990 filing and bring that back to the next Council meeting.

Dues Increase: (1350– 1354)

Georg prepared a constitution/bylaw amendment that would increase WPEC dues by \$0.25.

Motion by Ginzberg to have this amendment shown as being submitted by the Executive Council. Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Public Employee Initiative: (1354-1409)

Litwin explained the concept of promoting the image of public employees and the fact that it needs funding to happen. He suggested that one of our reserve CD's be directed toward this purpose. Georg commented a statement of purpose for these funds would have to be prepared to direct them to a specific use.

Motion by Ginzberg to cash out a CD and that an account be created to use as seed money to fund the Public Employee Initiative. Second by Suchla. Motion approved.

Snow Emergency: (1409- 1441)

Ginzberg felt that the state told its' employees not to go to work, so we shouldn't have to use leave time to cover that day. A general discussion of inclement weather policy issues followed. Our contract could use some improvement in this area. Our language only notes advisories put out by the state patrol or Milwaukee County Sheriff's office. The state EOC promulgated the advisory for this storm event.

Labor Notes: (1441- 1500)

Barb Smith and two representatives from AFSCME (Carl and Tony) presented information on the upcoming conference. They asked for support from WPEC and for encouragement for our members to attend.

Motion by Mertig to give the conference \$250 and to fund 10 members to attend.

Second by Ginzberg. Motion approved.

Web Site Issues: (1500- 1508)

Georg explained that we continue to have issues with our website. Litwin stated that he has located a company that specializes in union websites. When he learns more about this company, a conference call will be set up with the Tech Committee to consider their services.

Release Time: (1508- 1510)

Georg noted that Art Foeste has asked for 2 days of release time to attend the PPC.

Motion by Ginzberg to approve paying for the release time. Second by Rasmussen. Motion approved.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Litwin. Second by Ginzberg Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Next meeting on March 12, 2011