

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2007**

Present: Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Phil Dasso, Ed Berry, Larry Kieck, Janice Wnukowski, Jane Steffes, Layne Litwin, John Verberkmoes, Mike Genthe, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahoney, Karen Gunderson and Diane Mandell.

Absent: Gary Mertig and Rachel Zellmer.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents: Kevin Steffens.

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Aaron Crandall.

Meeting was called to order at 8:37 AM by Greg Georg.

Roll was taken.

Minutes from the March 3, 2007 meeting were reviewed. A typo was noted on page 3.

Approval, as corrected, moved by Litwin. Second by Berry. Motion approved.

President's Report:

Georg reported that a labor/management meeting was held on March 13, 2007 which discussed a labor-management cooperation project. They also discussed IBIS, transit passes and back pay issues from the implementation of the current contract. An error was found in the contract on page 115. The appointment maximum no. 1 for pay range 2 should be \$39.277. The gang of 18 met last Monday and discussed the dental insurance plan which is expected to be offered by the State in bargaining. Consensus seemed to be that pay increases would be preferable to dental insurance, especially if there is a substantial copay. Other issues discussed included background checks and contracting out.

There was a request for a list of retirees from the AFT-W retiree's chapter but the sense was that this data was not easily available. Tickets for the SCFL Bean Feed on May 23, 2007 were dropped off and a donation requested.

Motion by Verberkmoes to buy the tickets and distribute them as door prizes at the WPEC convention. Second by Gunderson. Motion approved.

Union records at Tim Hawks office from 1983 to 2001 will be destroyed beginning April 23 unless otherwise advised. Verberkmoes suggested retrieving the material and storing it at the WPEC office. There is a fee for file retrieval.

Motion by Steffes to approve up to \$400 for the retrieval of records with continuing interest to WPEC. Second by Verberkmoes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Dasso discussed the financial statements that had been distributed. A discussion followed of the statements and rebate checks.

Membership Report:

Berry presented the membership report. The data on the report was from February 17. We had 33 new members sign up in the first quarter of CY 2007. Murphy pointed out that requests are coming in for new member packets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Contracting Out Committee:

Hynum reported that the committee will meet next Monday. This meeting will focus on preparing language for bargaining. A discussion followed of recent activity with various contracts. The committee is working on getting more contacts in various agencies to watch for contracts.

Policy and Procedures Committee:

Litwin circulated changes to our financial policies which put current practice into print. A discussion followed of lodging expenses above the state rate. Language will be written to address higher cost lodging and who is authorized to approve these costs. For reimbursement of distance traveled, a note will be inserted that travel should follow the most direct route unless previously authorized by a yet to be determined individual.

Audit Committee:

Georg stated that Mertig had sent a RFB to several firms to undertake our audit. So far, only one response has been received and the bid was for \$3,200.

Budget Committee:

Berry distributed draft budgets for FY 2008 and 2009. A discussion followed of the budgets and the assumptions used in their development.

Motion by Verberkmoes to approve the 2008 budget for presentation to the WPEC convention. Second by Mandell. Motion approved.

Motion by Kieck to approve the FY 2009 budget for presentation to the WPEC convention. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

Bargaining Report:

Steffens noted that the BSC survey will end around 4:00 PM on Monday. To date, 910 completed surveys have been received. The results will be made available to the BSC members. The Stewards survey will be distributed soon. A discussion followed of the release of bargaining survey data. An issue has been raised of the role of the Executive Council in crafting bargaining language. Language is being developed to allow Professional Development time automatically for various union functions. Hynum and Georg noted that there will be a joint meeting of the Bargaining Team and the Bargaining Support Committee to discuss economic issues and strategy.

Classification and Compensation Committee:

Georg noted that the committee had not met recently but will get together on Tuesday. Mandell asked if there has been any news on the PPA survey. Georg stated that nothing has been happening since the person who was working on it left

Convention Committee:

Mandell passed around a sample of this year's convention gift – a LED flashlight. The convention budget is now \$3,709, without travel expenses added in. The committee plans to assemble gifts from past years conventions to use at next years so there should be no gift cost for next years convention. A discussion followed of convention organization and scheduling details.

COPE Committee:

Murphy reported that the committee's next meeting, which was to have been held next Saturday in Eau Claire, has been cancelled. The committee is currently reviewing their by-laws.

AFT-W Report:

Steffens reported that the last board meeting, which was to have been held in Superior, was cancelled due to inclement weather. The board has been working by email to get the budget together. Cathy Rought has resigned and will be moving to Washington, D.C. Gabe Kirchner has cleared probation. The AFT-W scholarships were awarded recently. The Dues Structure Subcommittee is getting new data from locals to work on fractional percaps.

SEC Report:

Steffens reported that they are working with AFT regarding release time to the President. Steve Kowalski has deferred his resignation into the next fiscal year. A discussion followed on equipment needs and AFT election issues.

Promoting State Employees:

Verberkmoes noted that 40 people showed up for Thursday's event, 25 were from WPEC. We have received \$3,000 from AFT-W to hold social meetings. The next one is set for May 24 at Pedro's East and other will be announced soon on the website. Hynum expressed the need to promote successes in state IT projects to counter the image being

created that all state IT projects are failures. Litwin pointed out that the committee's charge is to promote positive images of state employees. A discussion followed of various ways to promote positive images of state employees. A plan will be developed by the committee to promote positive images.

Communications Committee:

Crandall reported that the latest Insider has gone out and is posted on the website. Plans are still in place to hold a communications retreat on May 19, 2007. 30 people are expected to attend. The plan is to survey members on communications issues prior to the retreat. Committee meetings are held the third Monday of the month at Ground Zero.

Public Employee Conference:

Georg stated that two additional people have expressed an interest in attending the conference. They are Gail Maly and Fred McCabe.

Motion by Mandell to approve the additional delegates. Second by Litwin.
Motion approved.

Annual Report:

Georg noted that Zellmer is working on the report and is still collecting information.

Stewards Retreat:

Georg stated that the list of stewards attending the retreat was sent to Wil Mikelson about one week ago and that 38 names were on the list. It has since grown to 42 names and Murphy expressed interest in attending too to pick up pointers on new employee orientation. Georg stated that he needs to get the final list to OSER this coming week. Georg suggested that stewards be used to make first contact with new employees.

AFT-W Events - Reimbursement Approval:

Georg stated that policies need to be improved to enable a quick turn around on decisions relating to expense reimbursement. Litwin commented that current policy allows the President and the Treasurer to approve expenses up to \$250. And, for expenses up to \$100, the President alone may make the approval.

Appointments:

Georg noted that Joanne Moore (DOT) and Krista Knight (DNR) requested appointment to their respective DCA committees.

Motion by Mandel to approve appointments. Second by Berry. Motion approved.

Litwin pointed out our constitution calls for a COPE committee. Berry asked if we should move from the floor to remove it from the constitution. Georg felt that it was a decision we need to make, but not prior to the convention. Gunderson suggested that we establish the committee and have it set its agenda and level of involvement. Georg asked

that the Executive Council provide suggestions for members to serve on the committee. A general discussion followed of COPE issues.

Academic Staff:

A discussion was held on academic staff organizing.

Motion by Mahoney to approve spending up to \$4,000 on organizing efforts.
Second by Verberkmoes. Motion approved.

Conference Attendance Request:

Georg advised that Barbara Smith was interested in attending Labor Voices in NYC on April 27, 2007. The cost would be \$270 for one day.

Motion by Mandell to approve attendance at Labor Voices. Second by Litwin.
Motion approved.

Release Time:

Georg noted that Berry would like 3 additional days of release time.

Motion by Mandell to approve the release time request. Second by Murphy.
Motion approved.

Business Cards:

Georg commented that the stewards could use business cards. The stock would cost about \$17 for 250 cards. The Chief Steward should be informed that they are available

Motion by Litwin to allow Executive Council and stewards to get business cards, at their request. Second by Kieck. Motion approved.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kieck. Second by Mandell. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Next meeting: June 2, 2007.