

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2007**

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

Absent: Gary Mertig and John Verberkmoes.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents: Kevin Steffens.

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Bill Franks and Aaron Crandall.

Meeting was called to order at 8:50 AM by Greg Georg.

Roll was taken.

Minutes of the October 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Litwin to approve. Second by Mandell. Motion approved.

Presidents Report:

Georg reported that the Gang of 18 met once and will meet again on Monday. It is a useful group and should be kept active. DOR is planning on consolidating offices. A discussion of issues related to the consolidation followed.

Treasurers Report:

Dasso distributed the report and a discussion followed. Improvements to the report format were pointed out.

Grievance Committee:

Franks presented the committee's report and discussed recent arbitrations. A steward's retreat is planned for April 24, 2008 at the Pyle Center. Training for new stewards will be held by the end of February 2008. New sets of materials will be put together for the New Employee Orientation Program. A draft Position Description has been prepared for the position of Chief Steward.

Contracting Out:

Hynum noted that the annual report on contracting out was issued by DOA, one month late. A good article on contracting out was generated by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. There is still a need to clean up what information is used in the cost/benefit analysis done on proposed contracts. DOA is claiming that there is no appeal process for hiring off of established lists because at this point the process is no longer competitive.

Policy and Procedures Committee:

Litwin stated that the process of assembling committee duties is near finished. When completed, this information will be circulated among committee chairs for corrections and updates. The next item will be to assemble and update the duties for all Council members and table officers.

Audit Committee:

Dasso and Georg distributed copies of the finished audit and accompanying correspondence. A discussion of the audit followed.

Motion by Hynum to approve the audit, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, with amendments to Note 2. Second by Zellmer. Motion approved.

Annual Report:

Zellmer noted that a report will be given at the January 2008 Council meeting on the coordination of efforts to complete the report.

Communications Committee Report:

Crandall noted that an Insider just went out. There is a need to look at how material is posted to the WPEC web site. It could become cluttered looking. The committee met last Monday. Duties of the committee members related to the eInsider will become more structured. Crandall would like to put together a communications strategy session for 2008, perhaps in conjunction with the Stewards event.

Hynum noted that we need to get the date out for the 2008 WPEC convention as well as the dates for the district meetings. The Labor Notes conference is coming up soon and Crandall stated an interest in attending. A sampler for Union Activists is going to be put on at UW and Crandall would like to attend that as well.

WPEC Logo:

Crandall passed out sample logos to consider. A discussion of the logos followed.

Motion by Mandell to accept the logo recommended by the Communications Committee and provide a payment of \$100 for the production of the samples. Second by Steffes. Motion approved.

Membership Report:

Berry presented and discussed the membership report. The numbers are a little behind due to a delay in getting information from OSER. Fee payers are now around 3,430.

Budget Committee:

Berry noted that there are only four members and more help is needed. The committee will next meet in February 2008.

Bargaining:

Georg stated that a few sessions were held since the last Council meeting, most recently December 3 and 4, 2007. WPEC is still waiting for an economic proposal from management. A small group meeting was held on Tuesday to discuss PIP's. Office consolidations were also discussed and how they would impact the status of effected employees. Next session is scheduled for December 20, 2007 with a sidebar on December 17, 2007.

Classification and Compensation Committee:

Georg noted that there had been a couple of meetings since the last Council meeting. The PPA survey and class specifications are being finalized. A general discussion of PPA class issues followed. Trust Fund Specialists at ETF were also discussed.

Convention Committee:

Mandell noted that the Convention Committee and the Professional Development Day Committee need to get together to discuss plans. Hynum suggested going ahead with convention planning and coordinate with the Professional Development Day group as plans develop.

AFT-W Report:

Georg stated that he and Hynum had met with AFT-W President Kennedy on November 27, 2007. The discussion covered issues between AFT-W and WPEC as well as the direction of COPE. Kennedy appeared open to our concerns. An AFT-W summit meeting was held last Saturday to look at ways to move forward from the election.

SEC Report:

Georg noted that we need to identify the voting representative from WPEC.

Motion by Steffes that Kevin Steffens be reaffirmed as the voting representative with Greg Georg being the alternate. Second by Mandell. Motion approved.

COPE:

Murphy noted that COPE will meet at the AFT-W office next Saturday. Murphy will stay on the COPE Committee.

WPEC COPE Committee:

Georg stated that discussions were beginning on the establishment of our own COPE committee. The ramifications of having our own COPE fund need to be fully considered.

Promoting State Employees:

Murphy reported that 30 people were in attendance at the last gathering held at the Come Back Inn. The next event is scheduled for January 24, 2008 at a place yet to be announced.

Constitution Committee:

Litwin reported on behalf of Gretchen Davies. Proposed amendments are due in by January 27, 2008 and the committee will meet to consider them on February 16, 2008.

WPEC Convention:

Georg stated the District meeting dates should be set soon. Also, several District Representatives are up against term limits and will need to be replaced

AFT-W Convention:

Georg stated that many negative comments have been received on how the election was held. Also, there were 15 people from WPEC that didn't show up for the SEC luncheon. The hospitality room seemed to work reasonably well. Delegates should be expected to attend caucuses.

Authorization for Legal Advice:

Georg proposed that funding be approved for legal advice.

Motion by Mandell to approve up to \$1,500 for legal advice. Second by Steffes.

Motion approved.

Legal Committee:

Georg suggested that a committee or an individual be assigned to follow up on reimbursements from AFT for their share of legal costs. An appropriate individual will be sought out for this task.

Social Committee:

Georg noted that Mandell had expressed an interest in putting together a group to work on planning additional social events, including some non-bar oriented events.

Motion by Litwin to appoint Mandell and Barb Smith to serve on an ad-hoc Social Committee which will stand for a period of one year and which will be charged with the planning of new social events. Second by Gunderson. Motion approved.

The committee will need to develop a budget for its activities.

Retiree Involvement:

Georg opened a discussion revisiting the role of retirees in WPEC. Georg noted that Nelson Eisman has volunteered to remain active in WPEC after retirement. Some possible activities might require status as a member or staff. Eisman has offered to be a WPEC staff person for the rate of \$1 per year. The WPEC constitution currently allows retirees to remain as associate members without the power to vote. Georg and Litwin will work on a review of the constitution to see if we want to propose changes.

Lapel Pins:

Hynum noted that we are running out of the WPEC lapel pins that are given to new members and suggested that \$3,000 be spent on 1,000 new pins.

Motion by Steffes to approve \$3,000 for new pins with Hynum to develop the design. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

United Way:

Georg suggested that WPEC donate a sum of money to the United Way as a thank you for allowing us to make frequent use of their meeting rooms over 2007.

Motion by Mandell to donate \$500 to the United Way of Dane County. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

SCFL:

Hynum noted that SCFL is sponsoring a variety of workshops/classes. The workshops were reviewed and discussed.

Good and Welfare:

Kieck noted that a volunteer Recording Secretary will be needed for the January 12, 2008 meeting as he will be unavailable.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Litwin. Second by Steffes. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM.

Next meeting: January 12, 2008.