

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2008**

Present: Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Larry Kieck, Gary Mertig, Jane Steffes, Layne Litwin, John Verberkmoes, Mike Genthe, Steve Mahoney, Rachel Zellmer, Karen Gunderson and Diane Mandell.

Absent: Phil Dasso, Ed Berry and Suzanne Murphy.

AFT-W Vice-Presidents:

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Bill Franks

Meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM by Greg Georg.

Roll was taken.

Minutes of the February 23, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

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

Presidents Report:

Georg reported that on February 25, he and Doug Swanson went to Eau Claire and La Crosse for District meetings. We still need to fill the District Representative positions for Districts 1 and 2. The Gang of 18 March meeting was cancelled due to conflicts with bargaining. The next meeting is scheduled for next Monday. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel open records request is on the agenda. July 1, 2008, the new Department of Children and Families comes into being with approximately 500 positions.

The labor management cooperation meeting held with OSER last Thursday discussed their new coordinator's position. They are still working on the PD. There will be another meeting in May. WPEC sent up to 10 people to the Labor Notes conference in Detroit. Bryan Kennedy recommended Art Foeste be appointed as a representative to the AFT Public Employee Program and Policy Council.

Communications Committee Report:

Zellmer noted that the web site is now simple to use and should be easy to clean up. A discussion of web site content followed. Litwin said that he created an on-line storage area for large electronic files, with controlled access.

Audit Committee:

Mertig noted that the committee would wait until after the convention to get new members involved.

Budget Committee:

Georg distributed draft budgets provided by Ed Berry for the Council to review. Hynum asked if the AFL-CIO dues increase was factored into the budget. AFT is also proposing a dues increase.

Grievance and Stewardship Committee:

Bill Franks presented the Chief Stewards annual report, as it will appear in the convention booklet. Michael Sadlier will be honored as the Steward of the Year. Franks has been re-elected as WPEC Chief Steward. There is a need for additional members on the Grievance and Stewardship Committee. The committee will next meet in mid-May. The final agenda for the Steward's retreat was circulated. Hynum circulated a list of activists who left the union during the last year.

Motion by Verberkmoes to get plaques to present to the activists at the WPEC convention. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

Motion by Hynum to have WPEC cover the expenses of the activists who attend the award presentation. Second by Mandell. Motion approved.

Contracting Out Committee:

Hynum noted that the State is putting IBIS on hold for 2 years. This is being done to save money to help balance the budget. An audit of the ACE initiative has been called for. A discussion of contract problems and inefficiencies followed.

Policy and Procedures Committee:

Litwin noted that the union increased its vehicle mileage reimbursement rate in January to 40 cents per mile. This has been placed into the manual along with language referencing one-way distances when mileage is stated.

Bargaining:

Georg stated that an agreement on economics was reached, the GWA and market money. A discussion of the details of the market money followed. The PPA survey will be redone. Ratification timelines shouldn't be an issue as WSEU is not ready to meet the early May JOCER window either. Steffes mentioned that the State agreed to meet and look at compensation structure, as the system appears to be broken. This meeting needs to be scheduled soon after ratification. A general discussion of bargaining and the participant's impressions followed. The bargaining of health insurance issues and the processes involved were also discussed.

Convention Committee:

Mandell noted that Al Nettleton will do a 30 minute introduction for delegates as a Q & A session at the beginning of the convention. There are still some committee reports outstanding. Future WPEC convention dates are April 25, 2009 and May 1, 2010. It is expected that the Professional Development Day (PDD) will precede each of these

conventions. The PDD may have to look for a larger venue as it is at the limits of the Pyle Center.

COPE:

Georg noted that COPE met April 5, 2008 and interviewed candidates for legislative races in the NW part of the state. Endorsements were made. At the national level, money was moved from the Solidarity Fund to the PAC.

AFT-W Report:

Georg noted that the board will meet next week in Superior.

SEC Report:

Georg noted that a meeting needs to be scheduled.

Social Committee:

Mandell stated that there have been successful film screenings and wine tastings, so far. There is a possibility of doing a hike with the Sierra Club for Earth Day but would need help to pull the event together.

Promoting State Employees:

Verberkmoes reported that the next event would be at the Avenue Bar next Tuesday. AFT-W will be pressed for more money for these events at the meeting in Superior.

DCA Representatives:

Georg stated that we need to find out who all is acting in this capacity and determine if all departments have a committee.

AFT Convention:

Georg noted that he had the amendments that will be considered at the convention at home and will circulate them by email. Verberkmoes said that the cost of a chartered motor coach was being looked into. Georg stated that he had put in for a block of 30 rooms. If there is a large number of delegates, they should get together and caucus 2 to 3 weeks before the convention.

Woodman's:

Mandell commented that Woodman's has been a union shop for many years. They are now trying to decertify their union. Georg circulated a draft letter to oppose this move. It will be sent out next week.

WERC Conference:

Mandell asked if we should consider sending people to this event. It will be May 1 and cost \$110 per person. Verberkmoes and Mandell expressed an interest in going.

Motion by Verberkmoes to fund up to 4 people to attend the WERC Conference.
Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Printer:

Georg stated that a small, portable printer is needed. It could be taken to general meetings, used in bargaining or in the Support Committee meetings.

Motion by Mertig to have the President designate someone to research the purchase of a portable printer. Second by Steffes. Motion approved.

Next Meeting:

The council will next meet on April 26, 2008, after the convention.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Mertig. Second by Verberkmoes. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.