

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 1, 2009**

**Present:** Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Margaret Schmelzer, Ed Berry, Larry Kieck, Gary Mertig, Mark Roe, Layne Litwin, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahoney, Rachel Zellmer and John Fries.

**Absent:** Linda Thompson Mike Genthe, Karen Gunderson and Jane Steffes.

**AFT-W VP:**

**Staff/Guests/Members Present:** Wayne Mertens and Bill Franks.

Meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM by Greg Georg.

Minutes from the June 27, 2009 meeting were reviewed and amended.

Motion to approve, as amended, by Mertig, second by Roe. Approved.

***President's Report:***

Georg reported that he, Jill Hynum and Doug Swanson met with Kathy Kopp and Jim Pankratz of OSER on Tuesday to give them WPEC's draft of a furlough MOU. Several of the options we proposed were discussed. We got their approval on language regarding flexible scheduling of the non-predetermined furlough days, the use of more than 8 hours of furlough time in a day for those working 9 or 10 hour shifts, 128 hour maximum limit to furlough days over the life of the MOU and union/management meetings can now be called by either party rather than by consensus. A mailing went out to the membership on July 31, 2009 with return requested in 10 days time. A discussion related to furloughs followed. During the biennium, we need to make sure that the workload placed on our members is in sync with the reduced hours they are being allowed to work

***Membership Report:***

Berry reported that Peggy Conrad (AFT-W) has mailed out welcome letters to new members last month. The most recent count shows 26 membership cards came in during July. There is still a difference between the email lists used by WPEC and AFT-W. We are working on reconciling them. A discussion of email problems followed. We are still following up on Membership Suite, more time will be spent on it once the furlough issue quiets down.

***Audit Report:***

Mertig noted that the audit was to have been done next week. However they are doing AFT-W's next week and ours will be rescheduled.

***Budget Committee:***

Berry noted that there was nothing to report.

***Grievance and Stewardship Committee:***

Bill Franks reported on progress made on grievances since his last report on June 27. Meetings are still being held with DOJ to discuss a variety of issues. Analysis is now being done by AFT-W staff on the data requested by John Fries on vacancies. A stewards training will be held during the last week of August.

Motion to approve release time for up to six new steward trainees made by Litwin.

Second by Fries. Motion approved.

A new stewards list has been placed in the new member packets. The Chief Stewards position is still being redefined and in need of being filled. Franks announced a long awaited arbitration win which enabled a member to be placed in the classification that she wanted. A discussion of grievances related to night differentials followed.

***Treasurer's Report:***

Schmelzer distributed and discussed the financial reports. On September 1, AFT has a dues increase which would cause our dues to go to \$43.54 per month. A discussion of how best to implement the dues increase followed.

Motion by Mertig, second by Kieck, to pass the dues increase on to our members in September 2009. The vote was a tie and the motion failed.

Motion by Mertig to reconsider the motion to pass the dues increase on in September 2009, second by Fries. The motion failed.

Motion by Berry to reduce the WPEC dues to \$2.90 per month effective in September 2009, until the next WPEC convention, to cover the AFT dues increase. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

A discussion of convention reimbursements and the need to submit the proper receipts when seeking a reimbursement followed.

***Policy and Procedures Committee:***

Litwin stated that the committee was looking into a new reimbursement form so that it would be easier to assign cost to proper budget line items. A meeting of the Policy and Procedures, Constitution and Elections committees should be held to discuss issues of mutual concern.

***Contracting Out Committee:***

Hynum reported that work is being done on developing a database on contracting out. There are contracting out issues that need to be publicized such as contract extensions that are not bid. Contacts have been made with the print media to keep the issue in the forefront. Piggybacking on to existing is routinely practiced and abused. For example, an open contract is used to purchase item not originally bid. Recent cost benefit analyses have come in showing the cost of

state employees at the high end of the scale, not anywhere near reality. The long term goal of the committee is to be able to post the contracting out abuses on a web page to make it more apparent to the public and the media.

***Classification and Compensation Committee:***

Georg noted that there is nothing to report. There are still outstanding issues with DFI. The classification specifications for the PPA's, URP's and Real Estate Specialists are still being finalized.

***COPE:***

Georg said that the committee will next meet in Appleton on September 26, 2009. Part of the meeting will be given up to training.

***Social Committee:***

Murphy reported that the next event is scheduled for August 20, 2009 at the Memorial Union.

***Bargaining:***

Zellmer stated that the Bargaining Support Committee met and is putting together materials on layoff procedures. Another meeting will be held on Monday. The next issue to focus on is hours of work. Georg stated that no bargaining dates have been scheduled.

***Communications Committee:***

Georg stated Aaron Crandall had submitted a committee report by email. Suggestions for the next Insider were discussed. A suggestion was made that all district representatives on the Executive Council become part of the Communications Committee to give it more of a statewide perspective. Roe commented that district representative involvement in the committee would be good. Litwin commented that the representative or a designee should have input into communication issues. Georg noted that it would be better to have meetings at the AFT-W office so that attendance by phone would be possible. Hynum felt that the committee should do more than just focus on the newsletter. There are other types of communications that need to be addressed. A discussion of electronic communication for the union followed. Litwin pointed out that the scheduling of committee meetings needs to be done in consideration of all the other deadlines on the union's calendar. Hynum added that the production timeline for the Insider needs to be kept in mind, too.

Motion by Mertig that the Communications Committee's meetings be set up according to a definite schedule, that the District Representatives be made aware of the schedule and that the meetings be held at the union office to make use of the teleconferencing capabilities. Second by Litwin. A friendly amendment was offered by Hynum to delete the direct reference to the union office and just make it necessary that any meeting site have teleconferencing capabilities. Friendly accepted. After additional discussion on the motion, it was withdrawn.

Motion made by Litwin to have District Representatives appointed to the Communications Committee. Second by Roe. Motion approved.

Motion by Mertig stating that in recognition that communication is a statewide responsibility for WPEC, Communications Committee meetings be held in a location with teleconferencing capabilities. Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

***Organizing/Unit Clarification:***

Georg discussed the exchange of correspondence regarding unit clarification between AFT-W and UW. There is a need for the attorneys from WSEU and WPEC to discuss items of interest prior to filing unit clarification paperwork. WSP is not going to be going along with unit clarification.

***Baseball Tour:***

Georg stated that the Beloit, Madison and Green Bay games have played and that the attendance was good at the Madison game. There will be a bus for Madison fans to attend the Brewers game at Miller Park August 29, 2009. There are about 25 people signed up for the game in La Crosse.

***WPEC Elections Committee:***

Litwin restated the need for the Policy and Procedures, Elections and Constitution Committees to hold a joint meeting.

***Computer:***

Hynum reported that a database for contracting out is being designed and that we need a laptop computer to dedicate toward that task.

Motion made by Mertig to approve up to \$800 to purchase a new laptop. Second by Roe. Motion approved

***AFT-W Convention:***

Georg noted that one amendment to the AFT-W constitution has been drafted concerning Vice President nominations.

Motion by Mertig to submit this amendment to the AFT-W convention. Second by Mahoney. Motion approved.

Georg asked if we should encourage people to attend certain committee meetings. There will be a lot of discussion on the constitution and we should have input. The October 24 Executive Council meeting at the United Way office will be followed by a delegate caucus. The hotel was contacted about the availability of a room for a hospitality room. An 18 by 14 foot room would be available for the normal room rate (state rate).

Georg stated an interest in running for a AFT-W board position.

Motion by Hynum to nominate Greg Georg for the position of AFT-W Executive Vice President. Second by Kieck. Motion approved.

Berry and Roe expressed interest in the SEC Vice President position.

***Good and Welfare:***

Mertig asked that Ron Blascoe not be forgotten when retired activists are honored at our next convention.

Motion by Hynum to pay for Blascoe's first year's dues to the WPEC retiree's chapter. Second by Mahoney. Motion approved.

***Additional Business:***

Schmelzer asked if there had been any additional talk with AFT-W about hiring a half time employee, either to be shared with them or just for WPEC. Georg noted that this has to be discussed further with Bryan Kennedy. Schmelzer also pointed out that we could use some additional volunteers to help organize and set up the WPEC office. Perhaps some could use their furlough days for this purpose.

***Adjourn:***

Motion to adjourn was made by Mertig. Second by Georg. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Next meeting will be September 12, 2009.