

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2009**

Present: Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Margaret Schmelzer, Ed Berry, Larry Kieck, Mark Roe, Layne Litwin, Suzanne Murphy, Mike Genthe, Jane Steffes, Steve Mahoney, Rachel Zellmer, Karen Gunderson and John Fries.

Absent: Linda Thompson and Gary Mertig.

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Aaron Crandall.

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

Minutes from the September 12, 2009 meeting were reviewed.
Approval moved by Berry, seconded by Roe. Motion carried.

President's Report:

The Gang of 18 met on October 12, 2009 and discussed furloughs. Issues we have had with DOR and DOJ seem to have been worked out. WSEU was scheduled to meet with OSER to bargain this week. We have our first meeting scheduled for October 16, 2009. The bargaining process is moving very slowly. The Gang discussed contracting out. Legislation to strengthen the rules concerning contracting out which is moving in the Legislature. Joe Wineke will be coming to the next Gang of 18 meeting. Layoffs have begun for SEA members.

Unit clarification is still moving forward on 6 campuses. A meeting was held with Gale Spangler. There is a need to do internal organizing on the campuses. Georg attended the AFT-W treasurers training with Berry and Schmelzer. Informative presentations were made by Tim Hawks and our auditing firm.

Membership Report:

Berry reported that we have reached an all time high for the number of people paying dues/fees. Membership numbers are up, too. We are progressing on our work with Membership Suite. A general discussion of membership issues followed.

Treasurer's Report:

Schmelzer discussed the current report. CD rates at the UW Credit Union are very low. It would be worth looking for a better deal. Our taxes still need to be filed. Also, need to know what costs will be reimbursed from the convention.

NEW BUSINESS

Hudson Escrow:

Georg noted that Tim Hawks has been pushing to get our local to escrow all funds potentially subject to a rebate. A separate account would have to be set up with limited access. WSP set up an escrow account with an attorney that seems to work. Our escrow amount is estimated to be approximately \$35,000. This would be a permanent set aside to guard against any rebate complaints. The timing of setting up this account needs to be considered because it will tie up \$30,000 to \$35,000. Georg will get more information on this and bring it to the next meeting.

Wisconsin ULI:

This will be held in Wisconsin Dells on November 13 to 15, 2009. It would be a good opportunity to train activists from UW to work on unit clarification. There is still room for more people to attend. We have 10 people going from WPEC, so far. There will be some costs that we have to pay.

Motion by Litwin to cover the WPEC share of costs for the participants we send to ULI.
Second by Schmelzer. Motion approved.

Retiree Chapter:

Hynum and Georg noted that Dennis Hanson has just retired. Mahoney mentioned Geraldine Slager just retired, too. These two should be considered for the retiree chapter.

Motion by Kieck to cover the first year's retiree's chapter dues for these two individuals.
Second by Litwin. Motion approved.

Casey Jordan Memorial:

Georg stated that Casey Jordan had passed away this past week. She was an original activist and long time member of WPEC. An Irish wake will be held at Brocach Irish Pub on Monday. A request has been made for memorials to be made to the AFT-W Scholarship Fund.

Motion by Gunderson to donate \$500 to the AFT-W Scholarship Fund in Casey Jordan's name. Second by Kieck. Motion approved.

Hynum noted that additional private contributions for the scholarship fund could be forwarded to Georg or herself for inclusion as part of the memorial.

DOA/DET Layoffs:

Fries stated that an email came out a week ago at DOA on budget issues. Part of the resolution of the growing budget deficit will be up to 40 layoffs at DET. Contractors and LTE's would also be placed at risk. Layoff letters will go out in early November with staff reductions to begin in February of 2010. Hynum noted that DET has 88 contractors and up to 10 LTE's. There have only been 2 new hires in this division this year but 10 contractors have been added. Georg and Hynum commented that the number of contractors and the layoff of FTE's could be the source of a grievance, certainly a media release. Georg and Hynum should be involved in any meeting

with management on this issue. Georg stated that WPEC will continue to be involved and informed in this process as it goes forward.

OLD BUSINESS

WPEC Expense Form:

Litwin discussed the expense form that he has been developing. Georg asked if there is a time limit on filing an expense claim. Litwin noted that there is nothing in the policy manual that addresses a time limit. A couple of spelling errors were pointed out on the form, which will be corrected.

Motion by Gunderson to approve the expense form, as corrected. Second by Roe.
Motion approved.

Reimbursement Issues:

Mahoney presented members correspondence regarding attendance/participation at conventions in order to be reimbursed for expenses. Georg stated that all delegates were sent instructions on what is expected of a delegate. You have to be in attendance for all business of the convention to be eligible for reimbursement. A general discussion on the duties of a delegate followed.

Motion by Hynum to reaffirm our convention reimbursement policy and to communicate it to affected members. Motion approved.

Unit Clarification:

Hynum noted that we are getting emails to the WPEC web site looking for follow up information on unit clarification. We need to develop a response. Georg will meet with AFT-W staff to develop a response. It would be bad to leave people with questions unanswered and wondering what is going on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee:

Georg explained that the audit has been completed and we are waiting to receive a draft copy.

Bargaining Update:

Georg noted that we had our first meeting on October 16, 2009. It lasted about 1 hour. It was mostly introductions for both sides. The SEC presidents will be meeting soon with Joe Wineke. We received an economic proposal that contained health insurance cost increases. The next bargaining dates will likely be at the end of January 2010. Zellmer stated that the bargaining support committee's goal is to have a package on Articles 6 to 8 to hand over to the bargaining team by the end of November. The plan is to continue to work on additional language after that. If the bargaining team requests anything specific, that will be worked on right away. Georg noted that there are some issues remaining from the last bargain and that we are still working on our economic proposal. Mahoney commented that management stated they did not want to see

any language changes that had an economic impact. Zellmer noted that the first Bargaining Bulletin will go out next Tuesday.

Communication Committee:

Crandall reported that the Insider has gone out. The web site has been updated. The new stewards list is now on-line. 60 people have signed up for the facebook page. A committee meeting will be held soon to look at scheduling of Insiders and the process of getting them out. Hynum commented that the WPEC convention is May 1, 2010 and that we need to be aware of the 60 and 90 day deadlines for delegates and amendments when scheduling Insiders. February 1, 2010 is the cutoff for filing constitutional amendments. Georg stated that an Insider should go out in December to handle these issues. Hynum noted that the district meetings would need to be held in February. Georg asked that a committee meeting be held in early to mid November. Crandall suggested November 10 at 5:30 PM at the AFT-W office. Crandall also asked that the Insider become an agenda item at Executive Council meetings so that topics could be discussed and authors recommended.

Election of Officers Committee:

Georg reported that the committee met to discuss issues relating to elections and that recommendations they make could lead to a major rewrite of the WPEC constitution. Jim Newton is the committee chair. They discussed doing elections by mail and how that would effect the annual convention. They also discussed replacing the convention with an annual meeting. More information will be coming on these issues at future Executive Council meetings.

Contracting Out Committee:

Hynum stated that the SEC Contracting Out committee met and is working on legislation with Rep. Julie Lassa. They are working to change the statutes where it states "less expensive or more efficient" to read "less expensive AND more efficient". They are also advocating random audits of contracts and over a certain dollar amount, all contracts be audited. Rep. Lassa will be meeting with the Governor this week on this issue and will then be attending the AFT-W convention.

The appeal process for a contract does not include a challenge to the cost/benefit analysis. Our members stand as the monitors of the contracting out process looking out for the interests of the taxpayers. No other party takes on this oversight responsibility. A discussion of contracting out issues followed.

COPE Committee:

Georg said that the next meeting will be December 12, 2009. If anyone is interested in being on the COPE committee, it will be reformulated at the AFT-W convention. We need to get the names of those interested to Bryan Kennedy.

Grievance Committee:

Georg commented that the committee met and that there was nothing pressing to report. Recommendations for arbitrations will be handled at the next Executive Council meeting.

Baseball Tour:

Georg stated that a debrief was held. 641 tickets were sold for all games. We need to look at improvements for next year, particularly with the registration process. The cost to the membership mobilization fund came in around \$8,000. This was well under budgeted projections.

Next Meeting Date:

Georg noted that there could be a potential conflict with the AFT-W board meeting if both he and Mark Roe get elected to the AFT-W board. We will deal with this after the AFT-W convention.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Berry. Second by Litwin. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Next meeting: TBD