

NABET-CWA LOCAL 16 EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, May 5, 2004
ATTENDANCE: **President:** Eugene J. Maxwell
Vice President: James C. Joyce
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: William Bores
Unit #2: Gary Boyarsky (at work)
Unit #3: Gregory Ciccone
Unit #4: Dennis Allen
Unit #5: James J. Nolan
Unit #6: Orlando Burgos
Unit #7: Paul Vasquez

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on March 11, 2004, were approved as corrected.

Moved: Nolan

Seconded: Ciccone

Passed Unanimously

2. Grievance and Arbitration Report

Vice-President Joyce reported on the following:

We are still waiting for the arbitrator's decision in the Miles Taylor recall case.

A grievance meeting was held on April 8 for the Net ENG and Maintenance groups.

2. Grievance and Arbitration Report – Cont'd

A meeting is scheduled for next week with WABC-TV management to discuss “tapeless” operation in News.

Another grievance meeting is pending for Net ENG.

A grievance has been filed over the rate paid for vacation pay to a member who is on long term disability.

3. Joseph Falco, R.I.P.

President Maxwell noted, with deep regret, the tragic and untimely death of Joe Falco, of TV Master Control.

4. Organizing

President Maxwell presented to the Board a proposal from Local 11 for Local 16 to use Local 11 organizer Gene Garnes as NABET-CWA Region One organizer performing organizing duties for both Locals 11 and 16. Garnes appeared at the invitation of President Maxwell to explain the proposal and his duties. Under the proposal Local 16 would be responsible for 50% of Brother Garnes’ salary and benefits not already covered by CWA.

The Board discussed the proposal but took no action at this time. President Maxwell will discuss this proposal further with Local 11 President McEwan.

5. New Members

The following members were accepted into membership contingent upon payment of initiation fees, dues, and verification of application.

M. Beckford A. Bielen S. Scaife

Moved: Allen Seconded: Gelber Passed Unanimously

6. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber distributed the receipt and disbursement reports for April, 2004 and for the six month period ending March 31, 2004, and responded to Board members’ questions. Some income figures will have to be adjusted because of late receipt of income and dividend reports from the bank.

Gene Maxwell and Paul Vasquez elected to waive their Executive Board fees for the month of April.

6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report – Cont'd

The legal expenses are currently close to the annual budget figure due to a greater than anticipated number of arbitrations and OSHA matters relating to the death of Richard Umansky.

Motion (#04-018): To increase the 2004 fiscal year budget item for legal expenses by \$30,000.

Moved: Vasquez

Seconded: Ciccone

Passed Unanimously

7. Political Report

Jim Joyce, Paul Vasquez, Mike Cullen, and Debbie Simmons represented Local 16 at the CWA Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Jim distributed handouts regarding pending legislation endorsed by CWA including the "Employee Free Choice Act". During the Conference a delegation from NABET met with FCC Commissioner Edelstein regarding items of concern.

Yesterday was the annual CWA District One New York State lobbying day. The labor movement in New York is pushing for a long needed increase in the New York State minimum wage.

CWA, as always, is encouraging increased COPE contributions; Vice-President Joyce increased his own once again.

Paul Vasquez reported that the Working Families Party candidate endorsement meeting is this Saturday.

[At this point, D. Allen left the meeting.]

8. Training

Paul Vasquez reported that BURST is still awaiting word from New York State on the 501(c)3 application. The final draft of the BURST By-Laws was distributed. The BURST newswriting class has been put off until June. A program on basic video is coming up soon. Computer networking classes from COMP-USA are being arranged.

There are some indications that more cooperation from ABC regarding BURST may be forthcoming. Local 16 is hopeful.

Jim Joyce reported that the Sector Technology Task Force met in March, and the BURST model is being used for national expansion of training activities.

[At this point, G. Ciccone left the meeting.]

9. Nolan & DiFranco Scholarships

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber reported on the status of the funds set aside for the James P. Nolan and Donald DiFranco Memorial Scholarships, and recommended that the same number of scholarships be awarded as in 2003. The Board discussed several possible modifications.

Motion (#04-019): To award four (4) James P. Nolan Memorial Scholarships and one (1) Donald DiFranco Memorial Scholarship during 2004, each such scholarship to be in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000).

Moved: Vasquez

Seconded: Bores

Passed Unanimously

10. CWA Convention Delegates

The CWA Annual Convention will be held on August 30 & 31 in Anaheim, California. Local 16 will most likely be allowed 4 delegates (the CWA count has not yet been received). Three delegates have already been elected when they were elected as Local 16 officers, and the Executive Board has the option to call for the election of one additional delegate.

Motion (#04-020): To elect one additional delegate (total of 4) to the 2004 CWA Annual Convention;

Non-winners to be considered alternates in order of votes received.

Moved: Nolan

Seconded: Burgos

In Favor: Joyce, Gelber, Nolan, Burgos

Opposed: Bores, Vasquez

Motion Adopted

11. Clara Allen District One Leadership School

CWA District One will hold the Clara Allen Leadership School in Ithaca, NY during September, 2004. A flyer was distributed to the Executive Board.

12. S.E.T. Training

The New York State AFL-CIO has a training program, held at the Cornell-New York State Labor School (in Manhattan) on trends in the entertainment industry. An appeal for financial support has gone out to the entertainment industry unions.

Motion (#04-021): To give \$1000 to the New York State AFL-CIO S.E.T. Training project.

Moved: Joyce

Seconded: Nolan

In Favor: Joyce, Bores, Nolan, Vasquez

Opposed: Gelber, Burgos

Motion Adopted

13. Requests for Funds

Numerous requests for funds have been received during the past month, and after discussion, the Board acted as follows:

Motion (#04-022): To make the following contributions in connection with scheduled organization functions:

ACORN (5/26/04): One ticket (\$125)

NAACP (6/4/04): One half-page journal ad (\$150)

The Actors Fund: Membership & Contribution (\$1000)

Moved: Vasquez

Seconded: Gelber

Passed Unanimously

14. Thomas P. Kennedy Scholarship

Motion (#04-023): To contribute \$500 to the NABET-CWA Thomas P. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship.

Moved: Joyce

Seconded: Nolan, Gelber

Passed Unanimously

15. Labor Day Coordinator

There will be no Labor Day parade in 2004, but a demonstration will be held on Wednesday, September 1. Paul Vasquez has volunteered to be the Local 16 contact.

16. Executive Session

The Board discussed several matters of concern in Executive Session.

17. Safety

President Maxwell reported that six NABET engineers participated in a camera platform safety study project that was organized by ABC and which took place at National Mobile Television in Somerville, NJ.

18. Republican National Convention

Paul Vasquez brought up some important safety concerns regarding our ENG crews covering the Republican National Convention at the end of August. Discussions with management will be requested.

19. Payroll Problems

Jim Nolan brought up the continuing ABC payroll problems. A national (“AIO”) grievance has been filed. President Maxwell will check on additional problems with the 401K plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber

RLG:ph
opeiu153afl-cio