

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, May 11, 2006
ATTENDANCE: **President:** Eugene J. Maxwell (CWA business)
Vice President: James C. Joyce
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: William Bores (late: ABC)
Unit #2: Frank Schiraldi
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. with Vice-President Joyce in the Chair

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on April 5, 2006, were approved as submitted.

Moved: Burgos Seconded: Nolan Passed Unanimously

2. Old Business

a. Communications Committee

Jim Nolan reported that a meeting of the Communications Committee was held during April and that the Committee members felt it represented a good beginning.

3. ABC – Writers Guild of America (East) Negotiations

Paul Vasquez informed the Board of certain aspects of the negotiations ongoing between the Writers Guild and WABC-TV. The Company is insisting on the right to remove certain jobs from the bargaining unit. The Guild members are planning to leaflet the ABC “fall rollout” presentation at Lincoln Center on Tuesday, May 15, and would appreciate support from NABET.

[During the above discussion, Bill Bores entered the meeting]

4. New Members

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

C. McGourty D. Stanley

Moved: Ciccone Seconded: Bores Passed Unanimously

5. Grievance and Arbitration Report

Vice-President and Grievance Chairman Joyce reported that the Arbitrator ruled against the grievant in a suspension case at WABC-TV. Local 16 is deeply disappointed with the decision and the arbitrator’s reasoning.

We are waiting for the arbitrators’ decisions in the following cases:

Another suspension at WABC-TV (briefs have been filed)

The National “AIO” case over insufficient night-shift differential payments for vacations

Pro-ration of 2006 vacations for 4 members who returned from L.T.D. during 2005.

An arbitration hearing was held on May 2 over non-payment of on-camera appearance fees on Good Morning America.

The NLRB “Collyerized” (deferred pending arbitration) our charge over the Company’s threats against a steward. A grievance has been filed and will be discussed at the next grievance meeting.

Second quarter grievance meeting dates are pending from both B.O.& E. and WABC-TV.

The grievance over the 2006 WABC-TV vacation process has been settled and the Board charge filed by Local 16 will be withdrawn upon execution of the resulting agreement, which will include an upgrade of an editor.

Two members in TV-17 have been issued suspensions over confrontations. One has already been referred to arbitration and a grievance has been filed over the other.

6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber presented the April receipt and disbursement reports and year-to-date summaries. Overall income and certain expense categories are running over budget. The Board discussed the collection of Local Dues from Daily Hires and current progress, which is running ahead of last year's pace. It is still expected that unusually large receipts during July will erase most of the deficit accumulated by that time.

Motion (#06-011): To increase the budget line for short-term leaves of absence to \$44,000, the budget line for transcript services to \$4500, and the budget line for travel to \$21,000, representing a total budget increase of \$20,500. The bill currently pending from Weissman and Mintz (general counsel) of \$25,401.98 is authorized for payment.

Moved: Gelber

Seconded: Vasquez

Passed Unanimously

7. Network Negotiations

a. ABC

Vice President Joyce reported on the composition of the 2007 NABET-CWA/ABC Negotiating Committee. The Committee consists of:

Gene Maxwell	Local 16 New York
Richard Daszkowski	Local 57 Los Angeles
Ray Taylor	Local 41 Chicago
Kevin Wilson	Local 51 San Francisco
Maurice Thomas	Local 31 Washington

A Chief Spokesperson has yet to be determined.

The Committee plans to have a preliminary meeting during the summer. It is likely that a web-based system will be set up on a national basis for member submission of proposals.

b. NBC

The NBC Contract expired on March 31, no agreement has been reached, and there are numerous outstanding issues. Informal bargaining continues, and no formal extension agreement is in force. The NABET Negotiating Committee is considering a strike vote.

8. Political Report

Jim Joyce attended a fund raiser for the Working Families Party, along with numerous elected officials who support WFP issues. Bill Bores met Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer on two occasions and B.P. Stringer made a point of recognizing the important support he has always received from Local 16. Paul Vasquez is working with NABET-CWA members who work at Public Access centers on Cable TV public access channel issues. Yesterday, the City Council unanimously passed Resolution #136 which calls upon the New York Congressional

8. Political Report – Cont'd

delegation to make every effort to maintain funding for public access television. Paul also attended today a meeting of the NYC Central Labor Council political directors. Labor's current political focus is on the New York State Congressional races.

9. Training Report

Jim Joyce reports that the laptops equipped for editing training have been approved and delivery to BURST is pending from CWA-NETT.

Paul Vasquez reported that the BURST website material has been submitted and will shortly be going on-line.

10. Organizing Report

Jim Nolan is following up with several internal and outside groups.

11. Pension Update

Dennis Allen reported that the Pension Plan ended April with an unaudited total of \$633 million. The Board discussed some general demographic aspects of Plan participants and the asset allocations of the Plan's investments.

12. CWA Convention Delegate Election

Two candidates, Jim Nolan and Paul Vasquez, submitted valid petitions for the open delegate position. Vasquez offered to serve as an alternate in order to save the Local the cost of conducting an election. Paul asked to attend the Convention as an alternate, and Secretary-Treasurer Gelber reported that, after getting a free airline ticket using Local 16's frequent flyer mile balance, the total cost of Paul's attendance, including LOA, will be less than the election would have cost. Jim Joyce noted that Paul will also conduct fund raising for the Don DiFranco Scholarship Fund (see next item) at the Convention.

The result of Paul's volunteering to serve as alternate is that Jim Nolan will be declared elected, without opposition, as a delegate by the Election Committee.

Motion (#06-012): To approve expenses of up to \$1700 for Paul Vasquez' attendance at the 2006 CWA Annual Convention as an alternate.

Moved: Gelber

Seconded: Bores

Passed Unanimously

Abstain: Vasquez

[At this point, Dennis Allen left the meeting]

12. CWA Delegate Election – Cont’d

Also in connection with the Convention, the CWA Executive Board’s report on the 2005 Convention’s Resolution #1, “Ready for the Future” was distributed to the Local 16 Executive Board members.

13. Donald DiFranco Memorial Scholarship Fundraising

Jim Joyce has designed T-shirts to be sold to raise funds for the Donald DiFranco Memorial Scholarship Fund, and showed the design to the Board.

Motion (#06-013): To allocate up to \$5000 for the purchase of T-shirts for the Donald DiFranco Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will be sold at appropriate events, with proceeds in excess of Local 16’s cost to be allocated to the Fund.

Moved: Joyce & Vasquez Seconded by all others present
Passed Unanimously

14. National Income Life Insurance Company

Jim Joyce distributed brochures from National Income Life. No action was taken by the Board.

15. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session

Moved: Vasquez Seconded: Ciccone Passed Unanimously

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Moved: Vasquez Seconded: Nolan Passed Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber