

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: May 14, 2009  
ATTENDANCE: President: Paul C. Vasquez  
Vice President: James J. Nolan  
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber (via telephone)

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: Brendan Black  
Unit #2: William Bores  
Unit #3: Stephen Rubbinaccio  
Unit #4: Dennis Allen  
Unit #5: Art Mazzacca (Vacation)  
Unit #6: (vacant)  
Unit #7: Henry Plimack  
Unit #8: Katherine Henry (Work)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 a.m.

**1. Minutes of the April 20, 2009 Meeting**

The minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Local 16 Executive Board, held on April 20, 2009, were approved as corrected and amended.

Moved: Rubbinaccio                      Seconded: Plimack                      Passed Unanimously

**2. Old Business**

A. Officer Spending Cap;

B. President's Vacation;

C. Death/Retirement Gifts;

D. New Office Chairs;

All tabled until next meeting.

**3. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

The Local experienced a deficit last month due to greater than usual Legal and Death benefit expenses, a three-payroll month, slow CWA dues processing, and lower ABC utilization of DHs.

A reorganization of our Local's telephone service will result in an approximately \$100 a month savings.

The resolution of a rent dispute with the former landlord has resulted in a net \$900 credit to the Local.

An NLRB charge filed by a right-to-work advocate against the Local has essentially been dismissed.

**4. Committees**

Elections

Election Committee Chair, Brendan Black, reports that the deadline for the return of nominating petitions to fill the vacated Unit 6 Executive Board position has passed.

Grievance and Arbitration

The Grievance and Arbitration Committee met recently to discuss pending arbitrations. A Network Grievance Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2009. A grievance concerning hours paid during the GMA train trip goes to arbitration July 30, 2009. The John McCurdy termination grievance goes to arbitration on July 14, 2009.

The following grievances have been filed: a manager patching at TSS on Election Day, 2008; One Life to Live out-time roll back; Art directors operating the VIZ; Sideletter HH; Management failure to post vacation blocks.

Mobilization

Kathy Henry, Executive Board Unit 8 representative and Mobilization Committee Chair, reports that 95% of the Graphics Department membership wore black in solidarity with a union sister who was scheduled to be laid off on May 10th.

Safety & Health

Safety Committee Chairman Henry Plimack reports that he recently participated with the CWA District 1 Safety Representative in safety meetings (in person and online) with other CWA Locals and the NY Committee for Occupational Health and Safety (NYCOSH). NYCOSH sent a representative to hold a Stress Seminar with our Local.

The ABC News Division is developing a safety plan with ICU Health and Safety.

**5. New Members**

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

	X. Guangmin	R. Brock	
Moved: Nolan	Seconded: Allen	Passed Unanimously	

**6. Pension Update**

Pension Trustee Dennis Allen reported that the NABET-CWA/ABC Pension Plan had assets of \$596 million and a funding ratio of 117% (assets over liabilities), as of the end of April.

**7. Ideas**

The Board discussed all ideas submitted. One idea suggested working out a discount with pharmacies for retiree prescriptions. Another suggested that when bargaining, we focus on compensation rather than wages while keeping in mind the increase in cost of living.

**8. Bargaining**

- A. OPEIU: Our Local is negotiating a new contract with the Union that represents our office staff.
- B. Citadel: Bargaining is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 29, 2009.
- C. ABC: A Contract bargaining committee is presently being organized.
- D. Teleprompter Operators: Negotiations remain stalled with WABC-TV.

**9. Funding Requests**

The Executive Board considered numerous funding requests but took no action.

**10. Executive Session**

Motion to enter Executive Session

Moved: Bores	Seconded: Plimack	Passed: Unanimously
--------------	-------------------	---------------------

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Moved: Black	Seconded: Nolan	Passed Unanimously
--------------	-----------------	--------------------

**11. Stress Awareness Class**

Fourteen members participated (on their day off) in an Occupational Stress Awareness class sponsored by our Local. WABC-TV was heavily represented.

**12. NVision Conference**

President Vasquez attended a one-day conference sponsored by the Newspaper Guild titled “The Future of Jobs in Journalism”.

**13. NCC Meeting Report**

President Paul Vasquez attended the (semi-annual) Network Coordinating Committee meeting. Local Presidents from ABC, NBC, and Fox locals met to discuss common issues and challenges including: NBC contract demands; NBC proposed transfer of commercial integration, transmission and graphics; local stations’ increased pool coverage of local events; ABC buyout/layoffs; and a money-saving meeting via video conferencing in July.

**14. Long Island Retiree Lunch**

Seventy-five people attended, including approximately fifty retirees. Noting that our Local’s 300 retirees represent roughly 20% of our membership, President Paul Vasquez urged the retirees to get involved in politics and support NABET-CWA Local 16.

**15. Retiree Appreciation**

The Board is considering developing a retiree appreciation certificate to present to members upon their retirement.

**16. WABC-TV**

The Board discussed a report from a member that details a hostile work environment at WABC-TV.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for June 17, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Bores