

NABET-CWA LOCAL 16 EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, July 21, 2004
ATTENDANCE: **President:** Eugene J. Maxwell (DIF)
Vice President: James C. Joyce
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 p.m. with Vice-President Joyce as chairman.

1. Safety Report

Local 16 Safety Chairman Steve Barerres joined the meeting by telephone from Madison, Wisconsin, where he represented NABET-CWA 16 at the OSHA-required ABC "safety abatement". Meetings regarding camera platform safety were held involving NABET-CWA, ABC, Liberty Mutual Insurance, and a local construction contractor working for Camp Randall Stadium of the University of Wisconsin.

Contrary to Local 16's expectations, no actual working permanent platform replacement has yet been built, despite the previous construction of a plastic mock-up at NMT's facilities in New Jersey. A collapsible top railing will be used in front of the platform cameras this season, and as a result of there being no passive fall restraint, cameramen will have to wear harnesses.

Steve reports that, in general, the stadium personnel seem to be very cooperative.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on June 5, 2004, were approved as submitted.

Moved: Nolan
Abstain: Gelber

Seconded: Boyarsky

Passed Unanimously

3. Grievance and Arbitration Report

Vice-President Joyce reported on the following:

The Arbitrator ruled against the Union's position in the Miles Taylor recall case. Even though the decision was based on narrow grounds, the Union is very disappointed. Fortunately one of the Company's central arguments, that the "availability" language in Article A-XIV overrides the recall language in Article XI, was rejected by the Arbitrator.

Copies of recently filed grievances were distributed to all Executive Board members.

ABC News has announced an "experiment" in convention coverage, which will be carried on the digital "7.2" channel on all O&O stations. Local 16 has met with the Company over the jurisdictional issues presented, and a possible agreement is pending.

Also pending are grievance meeting dates, which are being discussed with the Company.

4. New Members

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

M. Drazin	S. Walsh	M. Posillico
V. Rostkowski	V. Mathews	T. Hamsley
W. Brundige	J. Lukas	L. Denson
D. Espy		

Moved: Boyarsky

Seconded: Bores

Passed Unanimously

5. Michael Drazin Appeal

By e-mailed letter to the Board, sent to Secretary-Treasurer Gelber, newly accepted member Michael Drazin has appealed the amount of his Initiation Fee.

Resolution (#04-025):

Whereas Brother Michael Drazin has appealed the amount of his Local 16 Initiation Fee; and
Whereas the Local 16 Executive Board has fully discussed this appeal; and

5. Michael Drazin Appeal – Cont'd

Whereas the circumstances described by Brother Drazin do not in any way appear to justify deviating from the Initiation Fees prescribed by the Local 16 By-Laws;
Now therefore be it resolved that the Initiation Fee appeal of Michael Drazin is hereby denied.

Moved: Boyarsky

Seconded: Allen

Passed Unanimously

Abstain: Gelber

6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber distributed the receipt and disbursement reports for May and June, 2004 and a cumulative report for the nine month period ending June 30, 2004. Some investment income figures are estimated because of late receipt of reports from the bank. July is local dues month (for ABC staff members), so the "snapshot" of our financial picture changes dramatically after the July receipts. August is also expected to be a positive month due to July being a 3-paycheck month.

Several thousand dollars in premium refunds from the State Insurance Fund are pending, due to the resolution of a long-standing dispute. Also, the NABET-CWA Sector is reimbursing Local 16 for Vice-President Joyce's salary while he represents the Union at the Olympics in Athens.

Attempts will be made to schedule an initial Finance Committee meeting during August.

7. Political Report

Paul Vasquez reports that a legislative deal has been announced today to raise the New York State minimum wage, in three stages, to \$7.15, by January 2007. This is considered to be a major victory for the Working Families Party.

Jim Joyce reports that there is still extensive activity on various ways to block implementation of the Bush administration's overtime changes.

NABET-CWA and the CWA continue to promote all possible means of encouraging the FCC to hold public hearings regarding media ownership rule changes. A press conference on the matter was held by CWA on July 20th.

Phone banking for the November elections is coming up soon.

8. Training Report

Paul Vasquez reported that BURST is still awaiting word from New York State on the 501(c)3 application. An Apple seminar is coming up in November and a road show will take place in two additional cities. Also in November, BURST will sponsor Sony switcher training. BURST representatives attended the DV Expo in New York and made some good contacts.

8. Training Report – Cont'd

Jim Joyce reports that the NABET-CWA Sector's Task Force on Technology and Training, which he chairs, has a survey out on training needs, which has not had many returns. Much more participation is needed. Also, the Task Force has access to grant money for fully-subsidized Cisco "A-Plus" and "CCNA" training for NABET-CWA members.

9. SEC (Sector Executive Council) Meeting

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Jim Joyce (as Sector Vice-President) and Rich Gelber (as Regional Vice-President) attended the Sector Executive Council last week in Buffalo, New York. Some of the meeting (and a conference call several days earlier) was taken up with a request from some upstate N.Y. local officers to observe the meeting. The request was denied by the S.E.C. Delegates will have the opportunity to address the open or closed meeting question via By-Law changes, if they desire, at the 2005 Sector Conference in Chicago.

Former NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator (and RVP-1 Emeritus) Howard Atlas passed away just before the meeting, after a long illness. Local 16 sent condolences to his family. The current National Retiree Coordinator, Bill Freeda, made a brief presentation to the S.E.C. on the final day of the meeting, and reported success in dealing with ABC (along with Local 16) on retiree benefit problems.

10. Labor Day Event

The NYC Central Labor Council is sponsoring a major demonstration at the Republican convention on Wednesday, September 1, beginning at 4 p.m. CWA President Morton Bahr is to be one of the featured speakers. Current security plans call for the only entrance to the demonstration area to be at 23rd St. and Eighth Avenue. Local 16's share of the costs will be \$400.

11. Union Officers' Benefits

Gary Boyarsky suggested some ways to limit benefits for newly-elected Local 16 officers. Members of the board pointed out that some of these ideas had already been implemented in 2002. No action was proposed to nor taken by the Executive Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber
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