

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, July 5, 2006  
ATTENDANCE: President: Eugene J. Maxwell  
Vice President: James C. Joyce  
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: (vacant)  
Unit #2: William Bores  
Unit #2: Frank Schiraldi  
Unit #3: Gregory Ciccone  
Unit #4: Dennis Allen  
Unit #5: James J. Nolan (vacation)  
Unit #6: Orlando Burgos  
Unit #7: Paul Vasquez

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

**1. CWA Retired Members Council / William Freeda Appearance**

NABET-CWA National Retiree Coordinator William Freeda (who is retired from NBC, and is a former officer of Local 11) appeared at the invitation of President Maxwell to discuss Local 16's participation in the CWA Retired Members Council. Bill Freeda is also a member of the CWA-RMC National Board. Local 16 has a charter for a Chapter of the Retired Members Council, but our chapter has been inactive for several years. Freeda encouraged Local 16 to reactivate its chapter, and the Executive Board discussed associated logistics.

**2. Old Business**

a. Scott Devitte

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber reported that Brother Devitte is on vacation and will be requested to appear at the August meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session

Moved: Ciccone

Seconded: Vasquez

Passed Unanimously

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### 2. Old Business – Cont'd

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Moved: Ciccone

Seconded: Vasquez

Passed Unanimously

#### b. Local 16 Picnic

The Board discussed the current status of the Local 16 picnic, currently scheduled for Sunday, July 23. The number of members and retirees who have signed-up to attend is relatively low, and the Board discussed the financial implications of holding vs. not holding the picnic. It was decided by consensus that the decision on whether or not to hold the picnic will be made by President Maxwell in consultation with Picnic Committee Chairman Bruce Giarraffa.

#### c. Special Election – Unit #1 Executive Board Representative

A Bulletin has been issued regarding the availability of nominating petitions for the Special Election for Executive Board Representative for Unit #1. The petitions are due back on July 28, and Frank Schiraldi is serving as Acting Elections Committee Chairman for this election.

#### d. OPEIU Contract Negotiations

A tentative agreement has been reached between OPEIU, which represents the Local 16 office staff, and the multi-employer group consisting of NABET-CWA Locals 11, 16, 31, 41, and 53. A Memorandum of Understanding is in progress concerning procedures for a ratification vote and wage retroactivity.

### 3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on June 6, 2006, were approved as corrected.

Moved: Vasquez

Seconded: Burgos

Passed Unanimously

### 4. Grievance and Arbitration Report

Vice-President and Grievance Chairman Joyce reported that two grievances were filed during the past month. One concerned violation of our jurisdiction over set-up that occurred when a vendor set up “24P” HD cameras in TV-23, and the other was over the suspension of a Shop Steward at WABC-TV.

ABC has supplied the individual member itemization information covering the national (“AIO”) arbitration over the payment of night-shift differential during vacations, which was won by NABET-CWA. The period covered is 7/1/05 through 5/19/06. Payments will be made with the payroll of 7/14/06.

The Network Grievance Meeting that was scheduled for 6/22/06 was postponed due to Jim Joyce’s illness. We are awaiting a rescheduled date from the Company, as well as a third quarter date, and also second and third quarter Grievance Meeting dates for WABC-TV.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber presented the June receipt and disbursement reports and year-to-date summaries. The Board discussed one-time items that have recently been paid including the annual tax and wage “escalation” payments that are part of our office lease. The Board also discussed the implications of the recent sale of 80 West End Ave., by TWU Local 100, and the general trends in our legal fees. Rather than increase the legal budget once again, the current legal bill was submitted for approval of payment.

Motion (#06-018): To approve payment of the bill submitted by Local 16 General Counsel Weissman & Mintz of \$16,468.66 for April and May, 2006.

Moved: Gelber

Seconded: Joyce

Passed Unanimously

Recent deaths of active and retired members, as well as several retirements of members who did not receive buyouts have made it necessary to increase the current budget for the death benefit and retirement gifts.

Motion (#06-019): To increase the budget for the Local 16 retirement gift to \$15,000 and for the Local 16 death benefit to \$20,000.

Moved: Gelber

Seconded: Ciccone

Passed Unanimously

Not present: Allen

**6. Disney/ABC Benefits - CIGNA**

Orlando Burgos brought up numerous problems involving late and erroneous claims processing and pre-certifications for diagnostic procedures by CIGNA, the primary insurance administrator in the Disney Signature plan. The Board discussed at length the persistent nature of these problems and Local 16 will request information from the membership and from Disney, and will seek to meet with ABC & Disney regarding CIGNA's poor performance.

**7. Pension Update**

Pension Trustee Dennis Allen reported that the Pension Fund reached the “snapshot date” for the pop-up adjustment of June 30 with an unaudited balance of approximately \$615 million. Completion of reporting by the investment managers will probably reduce this by about \$1 million. This would still represent a cushion of approximately \$22 million over the figure that the Fund's actuary previously indicated would permit a pop-up to the maximum 1.68% accrual rate provided for in the Sideletter. The actuary's formal report on the pop-up is due by the end of July.

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

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### 8. New Members

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

J. Damron	N. George	C. Hooker	S. Lowe
R. Tredonari	J. Shearer		

Moved: Burgos

Seconded: Ciccone

Passed Unanimously

### 9. ABC Negotiations

The NABET-CWA ABC Negotiating Committee met at the Local 16 office on June 20 & 21, and established all necessary ground rules for the Committee's operation. The Committee also discussed WABC-TV issues with Local 16 Executive Board Representative Paul Vasquez.

As has been customary, the Committee will decide issues on a "one vote per local" basis. Ties will be decided on a constituency vote basis.

The Committee will now solicit contract proposals from the membership, and Local 57 President Daszkowski has prepared a web-based system for collecting proposals which will be used by all the locals.

The Negotiating Committee will meet next in October in San Francisco.

### 10. Political Report

Jim Joyce distributed a report on CWA District One endorsements that were made for the New Jersey Congressional races.

Paul Vasquez reported that the Working Families Party was unsuccessful in achieving passage of the "Fair Share for Health Care" bill during the New York legislative session just concluded, and will try again in the next session.

### 11. Training Report

Paul Vasquez reported BURST is continuing work with Apple Computer on developing a new training program for Final Cut Pro. Staffing issues at CWA Headquarters have delayed the development of the BURST web site, but that work is now moving ahead.

### 12. Funding Requests

The Board considered numerous funding requests and took no action.

**13. Local 16 Retirement Gifts and Death Benefits / Dues Arrears**

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber reported that a member recently passed away while considerably in arrears for Sector Dues. The Officers feel that it is their fiduciary responsibility to the members to deduct any dues owed, for processing in the normal fashion, from any retirement gifts or death benefits, before such money is paid out to members or their beneficiaries. No objection was heard from the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber

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