

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: July 9, 2008
ATTENDANCE: President: Paul C. Vasquez
Vice President: James J. Nolan (Vacation)
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: Brendan Black (Ill)
Unit #2: William Bores
Unit #3: Gregory Ciccone
Unit #4: Dennis Allen
Unit #5: Arthur Mazzacca
Unit #6: Orlando Burgos
Unit #7: Henry Plimack (Vacation)
Unit #8: Katherine Henry (Work)

The meeting was called to order at 10:27 a.m.

1. Old Business

a. Newsletter

The publication deadline for Scene-16 may slip to the end of July due to Brendan's illness. The Board discussed the major areas to be covered.

b. Committees

President Vasquez has distributed to the Board the Committee Chair assignments; a solicitation is pending to find members interested in serving on the Committees.

c. New York State AFL-CIO Convention

The Convention will be held in New York City over August 17, 18, and 19. Local 16 is entitled to three delegates. The Board agreed by consensus that the three Local 16 officers will be the delegates, with alternates designated so that others can attend when available.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Local 16 Executive Board, held on June 11, 2008, were approved as corrected.

Moved: Burgos

Seconded: Mazzacca

Passed Unanimously

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

The June, 2008 income and disbursement reports, and the fiscal year-to-date totals were distributed to the Board by Secretary-Treasurer Gelber. June ended with positive results, which will grow even slightly better when all interest and dividends are posted. Most income and expense items continue to follow projections.

A revised estimate of the savings to be gained by switching to a bi-weekly payroll was given by S-T Gelber. New 401K funds transmittal requirements will make this change even more advisable. At this point October is the target.

The lawsuit filed by the former landlord of 80 West End Ave. is still pending, but we continue to be confident of eventual success.

4. **Grievance and Arbitration Report**

Former Grievance Chairman (as of July 1) Jim Joyce reported by telephone from vacation.

In the Steve Kuebler outside employment case, the next Arbitration date is July 23, 2008, at which the Company is expected to present a Fox representative to verify a Fox payroll document. ABC continues to harass and interrogate Steve outside the Arbitration process.

The June 30th Arbitration for Martin Bell went well. Local 16 filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge in order to obtain the Company's video evidence. We have raised issues regarding decision making and withholding of information on the Company's part.

Briefs are pending in the arbitration over the amount of severance due to Dave Elliot.

NABET-CWA met with ABC News and Labor Relations concerning the new ABC News initiative called "ABC News on Campus". The Company claims that any news product would end up on ABCNews.com. Training would be geared more towards News standards and practices rather than any technical training.

The Union held a meeting with the Company concerning a warning letter about missing tapes containing personal information on Disney stock holders which could conceivably lead to identity theft problems.

5. **Pension Update**

Pension plan Trustee Dennis Allen reports that the Fund was 125% funded versus current liabilities as of the end of May. The Fund balance was slightly down to \$662 Million as of the end of June, but this is now a much less significant number than the funding ratio.

6. Political Report

The CWA is conducting one-day training sessions for the Million Member Mobilization campaign, and Local 16 is trying to recruit volunteers.

President Vasquez identified the CWA's targeted Congressional races in New York State.

7. Training Report

The NABET-CWA Sector has 100 licenses for use of the training web site "lynda.com", of which Local 16 has been allocated 6. The licenses can be transferred among members using the training at will. Policies are being developed regarding the use of the Local 16 licenses. Paul encouraged each Executive Board member to use the service for at least one day.

8. Funding Requests

a. CWA Local 1109, which has been a great friend to Local 16 over the years, is conducting a fund-raising event for their Joseph Beirne Memorial Scholarship Fund. Joe Beirne was a long-time former President of CWA.

Motion (#08-20): To buy a one-half page journal ad for CWA Local 1109's Scholarship Fund event, at a cost of \$225.

Moved: Ciccone

Seconded: Burgos

Passed Unanimously

b. TWU Local 100 Family Day

Motion (#08-21): To buy a full page journal ad supporting the annual Family Day, conducted by our friends in TWU Local 100, at a cost of \$300.

Moved: Mazzacca

Seconded: Gelber

In Favor: Gelber, Ciccone, Allen, Mazzacca, Burgos

Opposed: Bores

Motion Adopted

9. NABET-CWA Sector Conference

Paul Vasquez, and Rich Gelber reported on the NABET-CWA Sector Conference, recently held in Las Vegas. Highlights were as follows:

An address by FCC Commissioner Adelstein, which was followed by an extensive question and answer session, was extremely well received. Commissioner Adelstein encouraged NABET-CWA and its members to take a leadership role in educating the public about the upcoming digital television conversion.

Numerous Sector By-Law changes were considered and adopted. Most were not particularly contentious, but the most controversial was a change relaxing annual audit requirements for small locals. Local 16 and other large locals are not affected.

Lowell Peterson, the new Executive Director of the Writers Guild of America – East,

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13. **Steward Update**

President Vasquez announced that, going forward, the publication "Steward Update" will be distributed by hand by the Executive Board Rep's.

14. **Million Member Mobilization**

This AFL-CIO project is heavily endorsed by CWA, in order to get the Employee Free Choice Act passed. The goal is to get 15% of all union members to send in cards asking Congress to pass this vital legislation.

15. **Ideas**

All ideas sent in by members via e-mail were discussed.

16. **Scholarship Winners**

Donald DiFranco Scholarship – Allison Graham – Daughter of Doug Graham – SMAG

James P. Nolan Scholarship

Erin Maxwell – Daughter of Gene Maxwell – WABC-AM

Lauren Black – Daughter of Brendan Black – ABC-BO&E VTR

Matt Holland – Son of Kathy Holland – ABC-TV

Walker Esner – Son of Alan Esner – Editor – 147W

Meaghan Keith – Daughter of Adam Keith – ABC-TV 23

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Board will take place on Wednesday, August 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber

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