

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: July 20, 2010  
ATTENDANCE: President: Paul C. Vasquez  
Vice President: James J. Nolan  
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

Unit #1: Brendan Black  
Unit #2: William Bores  
Unit #3: Steve Rubbinaccio  
Unit #4: Dennis Allen  
Unit #5: Arthur Mazzacca  
Unit #6: Brian Kelly (D.I.F.)  
Unit #7: Henry Plimack  
Unit #8: Katherine Henry

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1. Ideas**

Zack Elliott inquired about a Local 16 employment referral system. Links to existing NABET-CWA related employment sites will be added to the Local 16 website.

**2. Pension Update**

Pension Trustee Dennis Allen reported that the Fund currently stands at approximately \$708 Million, and that the funding ratio is approximately 107%. The NABET Trustees anticipate that the Plan will pass (i.e. escape) the “pop-down” test currently being conducted based on June 30 figures. The calculation for the possible 3-year look-back pop-up will take place after December 31, 2010.

**3. CWA Equity and Civil Rights Conference**

The Board discussed the newly re-named CWA Equity and Civil Rights Conference, which will take place in New Orleans in September, and took no action.

**4. Clara Allen CWA Leadership School**

We have received a preliminary mailing regarding the CWA District One Clara Allen Leadership School, to be held in Ithaca, New York in September. The costs are not known at this time. The Board took no action, and will re-examine the issue as Old Business at the next meeting.

**5. 9/11 Memorial Story Corps**

The Board examined a presentation on an oral history project regarding the 9/11 attacks. There was general agreement that Local 16 should be involved.

**6. New Members**

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

T. Davis

J. Crothers

Moved: Mazzacca

Seconded: Gelber

Passed Unanimously

**7. Funding Requests**

The Board discussed numerous funding requests that have been received by Local 16. One request concerned the TWU Local 100 Annual Dinner-Dance. The following was proposed in light of the support, both tangible and intangible, that we receive from our friends at TWU Local 100:

Motion (#10-19): To allocate \$150 towards a full-page ad in the journal to be produced in connection with the TWU Local 100 Annual Dinner-Dance honoring Local 100 President John Samuelson.

Moved: Gelber

Seconded: Black

Passed Unanimously

In Favor: Gelber, Nolan, Black, Bores, Rubbinaccio, Mazzacca, Plimack

Opposed: Allen, Henry

Motion Adopted

**8. Old Business**

**A. Steward/Officer Training**

The online training course participation is being coordinated with the Unit 1 Stewards.

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2010 – Page 3**

**8. Old Business – Cont'd**

B. Executive Board Realignment and Local 16 Finances

Motion to go into Executive Session

Moved: Plimack

Seconded: Mazzacca

Passed Unanimously

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Moved: Plimack

Seconded: Henry

Passed Unanimously

C. First Hour Lunches

The Board discussed this continuing problem and will deal with it further at the next meeting on August 25.

D. New Activist Training

The Board discussed a possible candidate for this training, who will be sent to the course if interested.

E. Shop Visits

President Vasquez and Vice-President Nolan will continue the shop visits as they are coordinated with the Stewards.

**9. Bargaining**

A. Teleprompter Operators

Another unavoidable delay has prevented the resumption of bargaining for this group.

B. OPEIU

The Memorandum of Agreement regarding the new contract, which is already in force, is being circulated among the parties.

C. Citadel

Two conference calls have been held by the NABET bargaining committee, and another one is pending.

D. WOR Radio (Buckley Broadcasting)

The current contract, covering five members, expires on October 31, 2010. The Local 16 Leadership will consult with the members of the bargaining unit.

E. ABC

The NABET-CWA Negotiating Committee for the ABC Contract will meet face-to-face for the first time in Washington during the upcoming Conference and Convention. The first Mobilization conference call will take place on August 3 or 4.

The Board spent a considerable amount of time examining contract proposals submitted thus far by the various ABC locals.



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2010 – Page 5**

**14. Safety & Health**

Safety Chairman Plimack's e-mailed report is attached. The ABC EOHS (Employee Occupational Safety and Health) Committee met on June 30. A grievance will be filed over the scheduling of a WABC-TV ENG safety meeting.

**15. WABC-TV**

Newly appointed and former WABC-TV President Dave Davis has returned.

Access problems persist at 7 Lincoln Square for E-Board Rep., Unit #7, Henry Plimack.

**16. Mobilization**

President Vasquez reminded the Board members that he is still awaiting the designation of Unit Mobilization Representatives in most Units.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Gelber

RLG:ph  
opeiu153afl-cio

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2010 – Page 6**

**Safety Report:**

I have been reporting that I view my Safety contacts at ABC with great respect. We are fortunate to have the likes of Michael Miller, David Flammio, John Ziti, and Justine White to follow-up on issues. My problem however, is two-fold:

-The Company is required by 21.1 to hold meetings every other month with the Union on Safety.

I have yet to determine if the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Committee (EOHS) constitutes the Company's obligation in that regard. There is an *unconfirmed* meeting for Monday (4/19) to address this. EOHS currently meets quarterly.

-Monday's meeting will also address the safety procedures in place to deal with NABEs assigned to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill coverage. If this meeting does take place, there will be an update at the EBD Meeting on Tuesday.

As for WABC-TV, requests for an ENG Safety Meeting have been unsuccessful. It now looks like late August will be the earliest it will happen. However, issues concerning the Local engineers sent to the Gulf for Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill coverage, will be raised at the Monday meeting – should it occur. ENG is covered by a different Contract paragraph provision (21.3) requiring “no less than one meeting every six months” (and, of course, that gives the Company the right to meet a maximum of once every six months). Ironically, that deadline expired this week (7/15). If that position is upheld, I will be pressing the Local to instantly file with OSHA on each and every issue that WABC-TV declines to address spontaneously (when there is not scheduled ENG Safety Meeting). I am also preparing a grievance based on WABC-TV's failure to be in compliance with the 7/15 (6 months from 1/15) deadline.

The Company has also stated that non-ENG issues at WABC-TV are only an issue for WABC-TV's Safety Director. I see no contractual separation for WABC-TV from ABC, except ENG, in the contract language regarding Safety. That will also be covered when we meet with the Company on Monday. I have requested that my Vice-Chair (Brian Kelly) also attend any, and all, such meetings. And, for this meeting, Kelvin Story, when we discuss the WABC-TV ENG Safety matters (Deepwater remote, lack of Safety meeting in 6 months, etc.)

There are a number of extant Safety issues at 7 Lincoln Square (some from the Garage inspection, and another from an EXIT door I reported to the Building Safety Director). My other concern is the Company's operating procedure during excessive heat. It took a coordinated effort with my WABC-TV Field Safety Representative, to get the four Wolf ENG vehicles properly air-conditioned. Unfortunately, during heat waves frequent breaks, and water, is still an issue.

Each of you are reminded to read and post the CWA Heat Stress brochure (attached) in your workplace on the appropriate NABET Bulletin Board. In addition, CWA is conducting a Heat Stress Survey. Please have all your members go to:

[http://www.cwa-union.org/pages/cwa\\_heat\\_stress\\_survey](http://www.cwa-union.org/pages/cwa_heat_stress_survey)

to complete the survey. It is essential to get our industry covered in CWA's Heat Stress program. I have been listening to members ask about the value of our merger with CWA - this is an example, and will only work if THEY respond.

**Henry E. Plimack**