

3. Grievance and Arbitration Report

In the case regarding James Kennedy's right to retiree medical coverage, the arbitrator ruled in the Union's favor that the underlying issue was, in fact, arbitrable. A hearing was held on the merits last week and there is one more hearing date to come.

ABC's attempt to consolidate two Local 57 cases with the national "AIO" case over the 2001 layoffs was rejected by the arbitrator. Another hearing in this case was held in Washington.

Miles Taylor's layoff recall case began hearings on October 22, and continued earlier today. One additional hearing date will be required.

In addition to Howard Edelman, the new contract names Jack Tillem as an Impartial Umpire. Tillem will begin hearing NABET-ABC cases in 2004.

A grievance is being filed over stage managers moving monitors in TV-24.

ABC and Local 16 are conducting discussions regarding several provisions of the new contract.

Grievance meetings in all areas are in the process of being scheduled.

4. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber distributed the October, 2003 receipt and disbursement reports.

The Local 16 Finance Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

A "thank-you" letter received from Local 43 (Detroit) in response to our recent mobilization contribution was circulated.

We will move the Local 16 cell phone accounts from AT&T to Cingular in the near future to achieve some cost savings and recognize CWA's organizing successes at Cingular.

Gelber reported that the elimination of three telephone lines in the Local 16 office, some rearrangement of line usage, and the incorporation of a flat rate plan on one line will together amount to a cost savings of about \$200 per month.

5. Political Report

All of the incumbent NYC City Council candidates who were running won re-election. The Mayor's Charter revision proposals (strongly opposed by labor) were defeated. Tish James won election to the City Council with over 75% of the vote, and is the first "pure" Working Families Party candidate to be elected to office. Paul Vasquez attended James' swearing-in at City Hall.

Paul also attended the AFL-CIO-sponsored Conference on Media Reform in Madison, Wisconsin. He reports that it was a very worthwhile event and will present a report at the next meeting.

11. Outside Employment

After discussion, it was agreed to set up a meeting to discuss the status of the open grievance regarding the 2002 suspensions over outside employment.

12. ABC Telephone Access Letters

Operating management at ABC has issued letters regarding the requirement in the new contract for access to employees “blocked” telephone lines. Local 16 will study the situation.

13. ABC Medical Leave Letters

Operating management at ABC has also issued letters regarding changes in sick leave policy contained in the new contract. Local 16 will likewise study.

14. Bargaining Study

Paul Vasquez requested that the ABC bargaining committee conduct a study of the negotiations just completed. President Maxwell will bring the issue before the ABC Local Presidents.

15. CWA District One Leadership Conference

The annual CWA District One Leadership Conference was held from November 5-7 in Providence, Rhode Island. Vice-President Joyce and Secretary-Treasurer Gelber represented Local 16. Workshops and general meetings were held about a wide range of topics. Joyce co-chaired a workshop (with TNG-CWA representatives) about bargaining trends in the media field. A demonstration was held at the Providence Journal, which is currently engaged in bargaining with The Newspaper Guild.

16. Sector Executive Council Meeting

Sector Vice-President Joyce and Regional Vice-President Gelber attended the NABET-CWA Sector Executive Council meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida from November 14-16. The SEC discussed, among other things, status of the ABC, NBC, FOX, and CNN contracts, issues regarding the Flex Plan, contract and grievance issues at the independent locals, and NABET-CWA Washington Sector office staff issues.

A new dues rebate plan was passed for Local 31 (Washington).

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,