

NABET-CWA Local 16 Executive Board

DATE OF MEETING: December 13, 2006
ATTENDANCE: President: Eugene J. Maxwell
Vice President: James C. Joyce
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard L. Gelber

Executive Board Representatives:

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

1. CWA District One Leadership Conference Report

Vice President Joyce distributed a copy of the agenda from the CWA District One Leadership Conference, which was held from November 28 through November 30. In addition to representing Local 16 at the Conference, Jim, in his role as Sector Vice-President, chaired the media sector workers breakout meeting for delegates attending from NABET-CWA, The Newspaper Guild (TNG-CWA), and the printing & publishing locals (PPMWS). Jim presented materials from the workshops he attended and noted that the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) seminar conducted by CWA District One Counsel Gay Semel was very instructive.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on November 9, 2006, were approved as amended.

Moved: Nolan

Seconded: Vasquez

Passed Unanimously

Secretary-Treasurer Gelber reminded the Board members that the minutes are mailed monthly to all Stewards for the purpose of posting in their work areas and asked that the Stewards be reminded to post the minutes sent to them.

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3. New Members

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

M. McAllan R. Humphries J. DeAngelo

Moved: Black Seconded: Schiraldi Passed Unanimously

4. Old Business

a. Shop Steward Training

President Maxwell and Vice-President Joyce have contacted CWA District One for training assistance and training is anticipated to happen early in the New Year.

b. D.H. Benefits Meetings

D.H. Benefits meetings will take place on Thursday, December 14, in the back of the cafeteria with Sean Dugan of the Flex Plan and Eric Zakarin of the CWA Savings and Retirement Trust (the D.H. 401K plan). E-mail announcements have been sent to the membership and bulletins faxed to stewards and work areas.

c. Union Night

The “Union Solidarity Night” at WABC-TV is scheduled for December 18 from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. at Peter’s on Columbus Ave., and sponsored by Local 16. Members of all WABC-TV Unions are invited to attend.

d. N.R.

Further ongoing jurisdictional and operational problems in Network Release were reported by F. Schiraldi and R. Gelber. Another meeting with management will be sought expeditiously by Vice-President Joyce.

5. Grievance and Arbitration Report

Grievance Committee Chairman Jim Joyce reported that the arbitration hearing over a warning letter issued to a Shop Steward who was disciplined for engaging in protected activity covered under the National Labor Relations Act was held on December 6. Briefs are pending.

A dispute involving a Desk Assistant’s vacation entitlement has been settled.

The arbitration over vacation entitlement for members who returned to work from LTD and had already accrued 6 or 7 weeks of vacation will be heard next week.

Local 16 officers have addressed with WABC-TV management some questionable treatment of shop stewards performing their duties.

[Bill Bores entered the meeting during this report.]

5. Grievance and Arbitration Report – Cont'd

Labor Relations has committed to hold WABC-TV and Network Grievance Meetings during the first two weeks of January, 2007 (exact dates are pending).

6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The November, 2006 income and expense report was distributed to the Board by Secretary-Treasurer Gelber. Individual items were explained as requested by the Board members.

The Secretary-Treasurer and Local 16's accountant are concentrating on the annual U.S. Department of Labor LM-2 Report filing which is due on December 29, and is anticipated to be completed some time next week.

7. Political Report

Vice-President Joyce reported that 9 U.S. Senators have written to FCC Chairman Martin suggesting that he drop for now proposals for changing the current ownership rules.

At the CWA District One Conference, CWA Executive Vice-President Jeff Rechenbach reported that exit polling conducted by the AFL-CIO on Election Day revealed that nationwide, 1 in every 4 voters came from a union household, and that these voters voted 75% of the time for the union endorsed candidate in all races in which they were voting.

Another ongoing recount fight is still underway in former Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris' former Congressional District. Somehow more than 18,000 voters in predominately Democratic precincts chose (according to the electronic voting tabulation) not to vote in the Congressional Race, while casting votes in other races. The Republican candidate currently leads by 369 votes. The election results have been certified, but numerous groups are calling for a complete re-vote. Harris herself ran for U.S. Senate, unsuccessfully trying to unseat incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson.

In the aftermath of the NLRB "Kentucky River" decisions regarding the legal definition of statutory supervisors, the AFL-CIO is organizing Congressional support for amending the National Labor Relations Act to restore the previous status quo.

The CWA District One Annual Political Retreat will take place in Saratoga Springs, New York in late January.

Paul Vasquez reported that the Working Families Party's vote total is now up to 151,000 but probably still will fall short of the number required for moving the WFP's ballot line up from Row "E" to Row "D".

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8. Funding Requests

a. Pediatric AIDS Foundation

The deadline is approaching for Local 16's annual quota for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the CWA's "Charity of Choice". An e-mail will be sent out soliciting individual contributions and Local 16 will make up the difference to reach our quota of \$1120. Executive Board members have already pledged \$100.

b. Other Requests

The Board considered numerous other funding requests and took no action.

9. Local 16 Staff Bonus

Motion (#06-026) to give the Local 16 OPEIU-represented office staff a holiday bonus consisting of one week's actual salary.

Moved: Ciccone

Seconded: Vasquez

Passed Unanimously

Abstain: Joyce, Gelber, Nolan

10. Media Reform Conference

The third National Media Reform Conference, sponsored by Free Press, will take place in Memphis, Tenn. in January, 2007. Paul Vasquez would like funding of \$1500 to attend (part of which will be on his own time). Jim Joyce will also attend, representing the NABET-CWA Sector.

Motion (#06-027) to allocate up to \$1500 for travel expenses and leave of absence for Paul Vasquez to attend the Media Reform Conference in Memphis, Tenn., in January, 2007.

Moved: Vasquez

Seconded: Joyce

In Favor: Joyce, Gelber, Black, Bores, Schiraldi, Ciccone, Nolan, Vasquez

Opposed: Allen

Motion adopted

11. Union Semester

The Union Semester program is coordinated by Queens College and provides participating Unions and Locals with a student to help with organizing, mobilization, and similar matters as part of his or her course work. Paul Vasquez would like Local 16 to participate in 2007 because of the ABC contract negotiations. A detailed request will be forthcoming, and the cost would be \$5210, paid to Queens College in two equal installments.

