

Western Wisconsin Organizing Co-op Steering Committee Meeting
May 25, 2016
Eau Claire, WI

1. **Attendance:** Joe Plouff (Chair), Karli Wallace Thompson, Paul Miller, David Huber, Nick Smiar, Barbara Wise, Joan Pougiales, Judith S. Hull, Kelly Holzer, Jeff Smith **Absent:** Myron Buchholz, Steve Hanson, Terry Meyer (Vice Chair), Elaine Wendt, Caryn Treiber, Craig Brooks
2. **Called to order** at 6:05 pm by Joe
3. **Adopt Robert's Rules of Order:** Nick moved that we adopt Robert's Rules of Order, Barb seconded, unanimously accepted.
4. **Choose recording secretary:** Joe suggested that we have a recording secretary; Barb nominated David, Nick seconded Nick moved to close the nominations and vote, unanimously accepted.
5. **Update on Steve Hanson's communication platform:** Steve was not able to be here, so Jeff asked that we move on. Steve sent email invites to everyone to a webinar on the evening of May 26th at 7 pm. There was some discussion about the advantages of also doing occasional video meetings to save travel times and cost.
6. **Membership update/Drive to turn in pledges into dues paying members/future membership drives:** Jeff reported that we are at about 160 people who have paid. We have a number of people who paid their money upfront, which is helping with current cash flow, but down the road we will need to get our paying membership to 210. We had 212 pledges. Jeff would like everyone to give him an update of who you have called and not called, and what the results of the conversations were. Jeff suggested that we create a communications committee that will come up with a mission statement, put together a one-page sheet of information to say who we are and what we are doing (which we can use then for recruiting purposes), and develop a communication plan with the membership. We formed a membership/communication sub-committee: Paul, Joan, and Carly have volunteered to be the team, using Jeff as a resource, to come up with a plan and strategy and then report back to the steering committee.
7. **Report from Organizer.** Jeff reported on the following:
 - a. Living Wage Ordinance progress: The ordinance was presented to the County Board, and has been looked at by three committees (Human Services, Human Resources, and Finance). Human Services has sent a survey to the agencies they work with. Jeff has been meeting with Supervisors. The next regular County Board meeting is June 21. Jeff may also enlist the co-op to make calls to their County Supervisor in favor of the ordinance.
 - b. WiLD training from May 12-14 report: The group who went reported on some of the things that they learned and experienced. Joe asked those who went (and those who went to others) to get together and bring some kind of training/overview back to the steering committee.

- c. Issue Team Meetings: We have four issue teams running now, and each has had at least one meeting.
 - d. Discuss Kevin Kane's Proposals: Kevin Kane offered two proposals to us to work with 9to5 (family leave issues) and/or the PayDay Lending Fight (to reduce the predatory payday loan businesses), both of which would offer some financial resources to our co-op. Nick moved to encouraged our organizer to work on the 9to5 and payday loan issues, Judy seconded, unanimously accepted.
 - e. June 6th Robert Kraig strategy Session: Robert is here on June 6 doing a presentation during the day for another group, and thought we should hold a strategy session evening event for the Membership that evening.
8. **Chippewa Valley Forum messaging platform potential:** Joe reported that he and another person have developed a web platform (Chippewa Valley Forums) for collaborative writing, including google docs, teleconferencing, calendar, and a facebook page, designed to help writers and researchers get together to share creation in editorials, letters to the editor, and so on. The communications group has been invited into this system.
 9. **General Membership assembly meeting schedule:** Jeff will send out an email to the membership about the June 6 meeting, and include a mini-survey in the email asking people how often they would like to have meetings of the general membership.
 10. **Review, discuss, and possibly vote on bylaws:** Paul presented a proposed addendum to the guidelines, which we discussed and offered some changes. Jeff will email the Steering Committee the most recent guidelines, and include Paul's proposed changes.
 11. **Future schedule for Steering Committee:** The first, second, or third Wednesdays, or the fourth Tuesdays, are the times that seem to be the most accessible for the steering committee. Our next meeting will be July 6 at the Menomonie Food Market, 6 pm.
 12. **Adjourned** at 8:12 pm.

Action items:

1. Everyone send to Jeff the results of the follow-up calls you have made or not made, and what the results of those conversations were. Jeff will create a googledocs spreadsheet for us to use to input our results.
2. Read Robert's Rules of Order
3. Watch the webinar on May 26 at 7 pm
4. Jeff is to work with 9to5 and PayDay loan issues

Some other ideas:

1. Paul suggested that communications should include bi-weekly updates on successes. He also suggested that paying members receive more information than non-paying. He also thought that we should send out a mailing with the paper pledge cards that we used during the campaign. And have one person in charge of the database.