

MINUTES OF THE TNG-CWA Human Rights and Equity Committee

November 24, 2007

Telephone Conference

PRESENT: Michael D'Souza, Chair; Yoko Kuramoto-Eidsmoe; Melissa Nelson TNG-CWA Sector Rep; Carl Younger; Olivia James.

ABSENT: Judy Lee; Vernon Clark; Randye Gilliam; Natalie Hill; Fareed Mohammed; Sheila Lindsay.

ALSO ATTENDING:

Linda Foley, TNG President

Scott Stephens, TNG Regional vice president.

Dan Totton, President of local 31245 in Boston.

MINUTES PREPARED BY MICHAEL D'SOUZA

The committee started its meeting on schedule at 1:00 p.m. Eastern, 10:00 a.m. Pacific.

Carl Younger Library project:

The committee spent much of its time discussing a proposal from Carl Younger to hold an outreach social event to promote the library project. The proposal was prepared on the suggestion of the TNG Human Rights executive committee to build on the library project and promote it.

The event proposed by Carl would be held on Thursday, January 24 in the evening at the Italian American Hall in Quincy, Massachusetts, near Boston. About 250 members of all backgrounds are expected to attend including local dignitaries. The complete Younger proposal is attached to the minutes.

The committee discussed the proposal extensively and in detail.

There was consensus that:

- This event should not be linked to the TNG elections. While candidates contesting positions may be invited this should not be a campaign event.
- The event must have a Human Rights and Equity focus perhaps with short addresses by representatives of Equity Seeking groups such as the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Women's groups, Gay and Lesbian Rights Organizations. Members from different backgrounds could be asked to speak about themselves and how they got to this point in their careers and in the union movement.
- The event must be linked directly to the library project.
- The budget of \$5,000 is high. The contribution of \$4,000 from the TNG is high.

The committee agreed to discuss this project further at its meeting on December 8th.

Conference on Equity Issues:

The committee briefly discussed the proposed conference on Equity Issues to be held with the Minority Caucus of the CWA in Vegas in June. Scott Stephens said he would report shortly on the logistics of holding such a meeting.

Linda Foley said that this conference could also be discussed at the sector conference in Providence, Rhode Island early next year. She said that Human Rights and Equity will be one of the committees formed at the sector conference and members can discuss the upcoming meeting there. This sectoral committee in Providence will also discuss other human rights and equity issues.

Chauncey Bailey Project.

Linda Foley advised that the TNG may become involved in this project. It's an investigation into the murder of investigative journalist Chauncey Bailey. Details are attached below.

Adjournment.

The committee adjourned at 2:04 pm Eastern, 11:04 Pacific, and agreed to meet again on Saturday, December 8 at the same time. The meetings are being scheduled so close together to deal with the outreach at the Carl Younger Library project and the conference on Equity issues in Las Vegas in June.

The TNG New England Function

A proposal from Carl Younger

On Tuesday Nov. 20 I had a meeting with members of the Boston Newspaper Guild Executive board President Dan Totton and At Large member Kathy Dalton to discuss the logistics of having a function to build support for the Human Rights and Equity project.

Several things came out of that meeting, the first being that we should combine this function with a mobilization effort sending invitations to all Union members in the New England District council area and asking that Linda Foley and Burnie Lunzer attend to address issues that affect our future.

I have come to the conclusion that one problem that my program faces is that something with the title Human rights and Equity may be perceived as something that all members are not welcome to attend and work is needed to persuade people that that is not the case.

It is my opinion that in order to work to achieve Human Rights and Equity the main qualification is that member are human beings who celebrate and want to learn more about the cultures, histories and languages of all our union brothers and sisters.

The human qualification may exclude some management and exempt employees but I see no barriers to any others. It was discussed that we should have a members appreciation function thanking everyone for past support and letting them know that in these troubled times that member support is more important than ever.

The function will also provide a way to promote unity for our local and members of other New England locals driving home the fact the we are all members of the Newspaper Guild and thus one family and that the Human rights and equity projects are there for all to participate in.

Currently the library project has a very limited amount of videos to use as a draw for our members.

Originally the library project was to be geared to have the resources to give our members incite into the language, cultures and histories of our diverse membership. Video lecture programs from major universities can be made available as well as language courses like Pemsler, and Rosetta stone if we had funding.

Having a Members appreciation/celebration of diversity function may help in drawing members from New England locals to future events and giving us a possible method of gaining revenues for needed materials for the library project through things such as raffles and donations.

It was also discussed that we should invite local politicians such as the newly elected mayor of Quincy Massachusetts Tommy Koch and other public figures that have supported Unions and diversity in New England. There is a possibility that some political figures may be helpful in the future

We also thought having Ethnic dancers from local schools demonstrating African, Irish and Asian dance.

To limit cost Ethnic food would be limited to hors d'oeuvres unless we can find restaurants that are willing to donate food to promote their establishment.

A Disc jockey to supply a variety of music formants

Recognition for members that have supported union actions and participated in the Human Rights and Equity project..

Ticket raffle Prizes

President Dan Totton local 31245 said he is not opposed to presenting a motion to our local to contribute to this event. Dan Totton will participate in our Saturday meeting in case there are any questions he may need to answer.

Below is an event cost breakdown supplied by Kathie Dalton At Large local 31245.

Hall	600
DJ	450
Food	3600 based on 200 @\$15 per head w/tax & Gratuity. Includes International food
Cultural entertainment	300
Materials	350 postage, stamps, programs, etc.
Incidentals	800 paper products, prizes
Total cost	\$ 5500

http://www.maynardije.org/programs/bailey_project/projectpage/

Chauncey Bailey Project

New America Media and the Maynard Institute have convened an array of Bay Area journalists, as well as highly respected media organizations and local university journalism departments to form an investigative team to honor and continue the work of journalist Chauncey Wendell Bailey Jr., and answer questions regarding his death. Bailey, the editor of the weekly Oakland Post, was murdered on Aug. 2 while reporting on a story regarding the suspicious activities of the Your Black Muslim Bakery.

In an unusual collaboration, more than two dozen reporters, photographers and editors from print, broadcast and electronic media, and journalism students are launching the Chauncey Bailey Project - an investigative unit that will continue and expand on the reporting Bailey was pursuing when he was gunned down. Devaughndre Broussard, 19, a handyman for Your Black Muslim Bakery, has confessed to the crime, according to police, but many questions about the possible motive for the killing have yet to be answered.

