Delegates to the 27th Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector Conference showed they agreed with President Shelton by approving a merger extension with CWA for another eight years.

The Conference, held in Detroit in early June, was well attended by a diverse number of Locals from across the U.S. Delegates heard from several guest speakers including retiring CWA President Larry Cohen. This would be Larry’s final address to the delegates as CWA President, and he did not disappoint. President Cohen gave an energizing and uplifting speech and at the end, Sector President Dan Wasser presented him with a plaque honoring all that he has done for the Sector, CWA, and the labor movement as a whole.

“I lived the American Dream because I was lucky enough to have a union job, a CWA job, and CWA knew how to fight so that all its members could enjoy their piece of the American Dream,” Shelton said.

“CWA needs each and every one of us to unite to join the fight to become a union like we have never been before, one where every member has every other member’s back, one where every Local joins with every other Local, and there are nophony dividing lines between districts and sectors or from one occupation to another. A union where we all fight side by side in every fight, everywhere.”

In his opening address to the full CWA Convention, newly elected CWA President Chris Shelton pledged to spend every day for the next four years strengthening our union and rebuilding our beloved labor movement.

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Conference Delegates Unanimously Adopt Proposition on Organizing; Approve CWA Merger Extension

Conference laws - Conference

Proposition No. 1
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article I, Section 5, “Conference Laws - Conference” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 5. No distribution of printed matter shall be allowed in any conference of this union unless it bears a label that was issued to.

Proposition No. 2
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article X, New Section 1 and 2, “Locals” by deleting matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Prop. 1. Local unions must comply with the obligations of the Sector Byelaws and CWA Constitution. The Local unions failure to do so may debar them from benefits.

Prop. 2. Local Unions within the Sector may be compelled to merge into other Sector Locals for violating the CWA Constitution and/or Sector Byelaws.

Proposition No. 3
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article XII, Section 13, “Contracts - Arbitration” by adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 13. Local unions are prohibited from establishing piece or bonus scales and members of the union are prohibited from accepting a fluctuating basis of compensation which in effect constitutes a piece or bonus scale as a wage or salary computed on the basis of production. Provided, the Sector President may approve contracts which establishes piece or bonus scales that are in the best interest of the Sector and/or members.

Proposition No. 4
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article VII, Section 3, “Revenue and Funds” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 3. CWA and Sector dues for each month shall be collected by local unions and transmitted to the CWA Secretary-Treasurer [and postmarked] via means established by CWA, no later than the 20th day of the succeeding month. Locals failing to conform to these provisions shall be considered delinquent and debarred from benefits.

Proposition No. 5
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article VII, Section 2, “Revenue and Funds” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 2. Retirees who wish to be eligible for full membership in the CWA will be required to pay dues in accordance with the Merger agreement [20% of monthly]. If a retiree remains a full member of the CWA, he/she will be eligible to vote, run for and hold elected office.

Proposition No. 6
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article VII, Section 1(c), “Revenue and Funds” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

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Sec. 2. Retirees who wish be eligible for full membership in the CWA will be required to pay dues in accordance with the Merger agreement [20% of monthly]. If a retiree remains a full member of the CWA, he/she will be eligible to vote, run for and hold elected office.
By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article VII, Section 1(a), “Revenue and Funds” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets, as follows:
Each active member will pay 61 percent of projected monthly earnings, to the CWA. [They will also pay 50 cents a month to the CWA defense fund].

By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article V, Section 6, “Duties of the Sector Officers, Laws and Finance Committee” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 6. This Committee shall meet at least once a year at Sector Headquarters during the recess of the Sector Conference, and such meeting(s) may be held by telecon-

By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article II, Section 15, “Duties of the President” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 1. These conference laws may be amended by two-thirds of the delegations present and voting at any session of the [annual] conference, and as amended may, if so directed, become effective immediately. Any amendment shall first be referred to the Committee on Laws/Finances. The Committee on Laws/Finances shall act and report on such a proposal as early as possible.

By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article II, Section 15, “Duties of the President – Motions” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

21. A motion for the previous question shall not be entertained unless seconded [by twenty-five delegates], and shall be decided without debate.

By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article II, Section 17, “Conference Laws – The Question and Vote” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets, as follows:

All propositions, motions and resolutions, unless merely affecting the order of business, shall be submitted in writing. No proposition, motion or resolution [proposal, resolution or amendment] shall be received after 5 p.m., eight days preceding the first day of the conference, other than propositions, motions or resolutions offered by committees or referred to the Committee on Laws/Finances by other committees, except with the unanimous consent of the conference.

By Committee on Laws and Finance
Amend Article II, Section 20, “Conference Laws – Alteration of Constitution and/or Sector Bylaws.” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets, as follows:

Whereas, the parties recognize the need for the yearly payment of $100,000 made by the PPMWS is set to expire with the closing of budget year 2014-2015. However, the parties have agreed to extend the yearly payment for an additional eight (8) years, subject to the approval of the delegates to the 2015 Sector Conference. Additionally, the reasonable amount of time for two (2) clericals has passed as stated in item 4b, and now there will be no less than one (1) clerical. All other terms and conditions of the 2011 PPMWS Agreement shall remain unchanged.

Whereas, the parties recognize the original Merger Agreement states that merger of Local Unions within the Sector will be voluntary and will not be compelled. However, the parties now desire to amend this single portion of the original Merger Agreement, subject to the approval of the delegates to the 2015 Sector Conference. The parties agree that mergers of Local Unions within the Sector may be compelled into other Sector Locals for violating the CWA Constitution and/or Sector Bylaws.
Proposition No. 16

By Committee on Laws and Finance

Amend Article V, Section 7, “Law and Finance Committee” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets and adding matter printed in bold face and underscored, as follows:

Sec. 7. The duties of this Committee shall be to:
(a) perform those duties that are required under the Conference Laws;
(b) examine the financial statements and audit reports for all Sector funds and submit its findings and / or recommendations to the Sector Conference;
(c) establish appropriate financial practices and procedures for the approval of all expenditures of monies from all Sector funds including but not limited to: pre-approve the transfer of funds and / or investment income between various Sector funds; pre-approve all political contributions and / or related expenses not provided for in the Budget; and pre-approve all charitable contributions not provided for in the Budget. [in establishing] A majority of the entire Committee shall constitute approval of such practice and / or procedure, which may not be in conflict with these Bylaws or any direction of the delegates of the Sector Conference; and
(d) review the Sector Budget; and
(e) annual review and approval of organizing budget.

Everyone Committed to Growing the Sector

The unanimous actions taken by the Delegates sent a clear message that organizing is among the top priorities they would like to see addressed, and that everyone is committed to growing the Sector.

“It is unprecedented that the Delegates took the steps to open up the Sector Strike Fund to organize,” said Wasser. “I applaud each and every one of them for taking this extraordinary step to continue the Organizing Cooperative.”

Wasser explained that the Sector’s Laws and Finance Committee will be an integral part in the Sector’s organizing activities, and that the parties already met in Philadelphia to discuss the best way to continue moving forward.

Sector, CWA Merger Agreement to Continue

The original merger Agreement between the Sector and CWA requiring an annual contribution of $100,000 towards any deficit spending will continue for the next eight years, however the language of the merger agreement was slightly modified as you see in Proposition #15. In conjunction with Proposition #15, Proposition #2 provides the ability to strengthen local accounts and enforce real accountability where needed.

To further maintain the Sector’s commitment to control costs and be as efficient as possible, meetings of the Laws and Finance Committee can now be held by teleconference when appropriate. In addition to these cost containment measures, the Sector has now moved its headquarters location from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, PA (see accompanying story).

Laws and Finance Committee

As an election year, new Laws and Finance Committee members were duly elected as follows: Don McConnell (Pittsburgh Typo 7/14827); Michelle Tovo (Chicago Typo 16/14408); Art Delanni (New York 6/14156); Pat Earley (New York M-6/14170); and Steve Stasenko (Pittsburgh M-22/14842). Shortly after the Sector Conference, Don McConnell and Michelle Tovo were elected chairman and secretary respectively, of the Committee.

“I look forward to working with the new Committee; they have such a great energy and willingness to move the Sector forward. I also want to thank our members, Maida and Mark Pulium, for their outstanding work and commitment while serving on the Committee,” President Wasser said.

Additionally, Dan Wasser was re-elected by acclamation as Sector President.

In his address to Conference delegates Wasser said, “it is not only humbling but an honor to be re-elected. I sincerely want to thank each and every member and delegate for their continued support and dedication to the Sector.”

Sector Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Two long-time Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector staff members retired earlier this year, Betty Shipe and Staff Representative Ron Miller.

Shipe, administrative assistant for the Sector retired at the end of June after more than decade of service. Betty’s career spanned five decades and included time working at CWA International before joining the Sector.

With a strong background in administrative support and human resources, I expect that Kiersten will be an invaluable asset to the Sector,” said Dan Wasser.

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Staff Representative Ron Miller retired in early 2015 after 15 years with the Sector. After a long search, the Sector hired Steve Delanni as Ron’s replacement.

“When Ron retired, he left huge shoes to fill,” said Wasser. “We took our time to find a replacement who could understand the nature of the work and step in as seamlessly as possible to advocate for our Locals.”

Delanni also hails from a strong labor family. “I have always been interested in the Labor movement since I was a child.”

A New York-native native, Steve began his career in Human Resources at the NY State Authority, Battery Park City Authority and later took a job at CWA Local 14156, New York Typographical Union. Steve held the position of Business Representative for the Local until eventually being elected to the office of Vice President before taking the position with the PPMWS.

In addition to his other responsibilities at Local 14156, Steve also assisted with the administration of the Health and Welfare Fund for Local 6.

“I look forward to working with all PPMWS and CWA staff,” says Steve.
Representative Report

By Linda Morris Cooley

By Kim Gill, Organizer

Central-southern Ohio—and have a large 200+ list of a few different places such as southeast Michigan and not. I am currently in different stages of organizing in forward to implementing the creative ideas.

With open arms by everyone we met. We had the honor to meet and greet a great number of you and one we met. We had the pleasure to see the new CWA-PPMWS office in Pittsburgh and it is looking great. I look forward to working with Kim and visiting the office in Pittsburgh and it is looking great. I look forward to working with Kim and visiting the office in Pittsburgh and it is looking great. I look forward to working with Kim and visiting the office.

It has been a busy summer in Pittsburgh. We started the summer out with being a part of the PPMWS Sector Conference in June where we got to meet many members who support our efforts to grow the union while helping workers have a voice. Through the summer, we received some referrals from the website from workers wanting to possibly form a union to make their workplace better. There also were a couple of referrals from smaller shops also who understand the importance of union membership for their small business to show they treat their workers right and stand the importance of union membership for their workplace.

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