

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE "LIFE AFTER I-134" TASK FORCE  
FEBRUARY 17, 1993

Present: Carla Nuxoll and C. T. Purdom, Co-Chairs, Bill Hansen, Darlene Hensley, Don Maekawa, Cathie MacDonald, Bill Miller, Maureen Ramos, Rod Regan, Bob Fisher (ex-officio), Steve Kink (ex-officio), John Chase and Kathy O'Toole, Advisors, Staff Consultant Bob Maier, and LeAnn Perry, Associate Staff

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Task Force introduced themselves and it was noted by Carla Nuxoll, Co-Chair that the Task Force will be expanded by one or two members to achieve balance.

Carla Nuxoll reviewed the Agenda. The goal of the day's meeting was to make some short-term decisions. Specifically, a NBI at RA - asking for a one-year contingency assessment for "community education" - this assessment will replace PULSE dues. We also need to decide on how to present this item to the PULSE General Membership.

2. REVIEW OF CHARGES, PURPOSE OF GROUP, TIMELINE

The charges to the task force were reviewed by Nuxoll.

Comment on Charge 3: Issue #1: What are our issues and are they being promoted? Issue #2: Electing friends. It is still a significant interest of our members to participate in political action and to have a vehicle to do so.

The group agrees with the charges and that we have no pre-determined structure, it's completely open.

3. INFORMATION ON OTHER STATES

- X John Chase, NEA Advisor, outlined other states' structures. Of particular interest, was the California system (ABC). ABC is a political fund. There are no members of ABC. One dues deduction is made which includes a "factor" which is designated to ABC, but the money is always kept separate from the general fund to avoid problems (ie. IRS, cannot accumulate interest, cannot be invested). As the dues checks come into CTA, the two amounts are immediately segregated (X amount into General Fund, Y amount into ABC). This is done on a daily basis in order to keep the ABC money "clean." Members may choose to opt out. If they don't want their money going for political purposes, the entire check is put into

the general fund. This has been in effect since 1966. Colorado has replicated this system. Once this sum has been segregated, it can be used for anything. Concern: If you're hiding under the continuous membership operation - like we have now, would we be jeopardizing our entire dues collection program? Question: How are the state employees able to do this?

We can use the assessment to finance fund-raisers to make money that can be used for contributions. *If assessment is granted, the people (Rs) will be watching to see how we spend this money.*

Three basic problems:

1. How to get the money
2. How to spend the money
3. How to define the playing field

What is defined as not an initiative-restrictive expenditure? Comparisons, issue promotion - in a generic way? We need to affect voter turn out. Define activities, useful, direct push to issues we care about. Anything we historically had to report, you can't do now. How do we get the segregated fund? Different methods were considered and discussed. Electronic transfer system was suggested - John Chase said states that use this is because it's their only vehicle and it has proven extremely problematic.

Chase suggests we continue to discuss impact so we know where we're  
\* going with the solution. Emphasis is not to lose revenue and to maintain our continuous structure.

Keep playing out next-best scenarios in descending order. Dues route and ease of mechanics. Do we need to deal with the NEA-PAC component? No. Members are signed up individually and once they're signed up, it's forever. I-134 does not affect federal PACs.

### 3. REVIEW OF I-134 RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Kathy O'Toole, Advisor to the Task Force discussed the legal aspects and distributed selected language from I-134 that is important to note. *No employer or other person or entity responsible for the disbursement of funds in payment of wages or salaries may withhold or divert a portion of an employee's wages or salaries for contributions to political committees or for use as political contributions except upon the written request of the employee. The request must be made on a form prescribed by the*

in now that wouldn't be in effect until (1995) to avoid the two-year wait, that could pass with a simple majority. There is not the political will on the part of the Democratic majority to do this during this session (mess with I-134). They're still trying to get over public opinion of legislators after PDC problem this year. They want to look good and are not anxious to do anything that will make them look bad.

✧ Question: Anyone going to ask PDC about the state employees dues deduction method? It would help us if we find out it's OK.

Not a good idea. Fisher will ask Graham Johnson, PDC and Kathy O'Toole will talk with state employees' attorney. We don't want to rock their boat. But if we could find out how they get around this, then maybe we could do the same.

#### 4. SHORT TERM DECISIONS

Suggestions to RA

one-year assessment - similar to member awareness - only used for Public/Community Education, not contributions.

Purpose statement should identify activities that we can do. Direct replacement approach. Do away with PULSE and replace with dues assessment on January 1.

Keep definition of concept broad.

Define how we will use the fund. "Those activities deemed to be consistent with I-134 previously done by PULSE." Part will be used for communicating with the community on quality education. Use the fund for purposes not considered political contributions under I-134. Save existing PULSE money for direct contributions (Hard money). Everything else will come out of the new general fund (Soft money).

There needs to be a local component. We must honor LEAF applications from councils. They don't care where the money comes from as long as they get it. We can use the "soft money" for the majority of council operations and if they want to make a direct contribution, we can send them a check from the "hard money" pot.

We might point out to RA that I-134 can be a positive change. Using our resources to educate candidates and communities about our issues and why they are important. Does a dues assessment

preclude us from a voluntary sign-up? No. We can use this money for fund-raisers and use that money for direct contributions.

Timelines were discussed. The assessment will be for one-year and then we go back to the next RA with longer-term plan. What about 4-month period between August 31 when LEAF ceases and December 31 (when current PULSE membership expires)? We need to meet commitments with LEAF. Otherwise, it would put us in competition of locals that would begin to raise funds and put together their own PAC. We need to save as much hard money as we can and make sure hard money is in supply to meet the needs of the organization.

There needs to be a local component. Conceptual - 100% hard money September - December and commitment to give to locals soft money for some expenditures and hard money as they need it. Ask them to rebate back to us?

Question: Will we offer a NBI? - yes

- #1 It will be a straight replacement with a 4-month overlap (dollar-for-dollar). It was agreed we go for \$15.00 (that's \$1.25 per month) with \$2.00 going to community awareness, public education, etc.
- #2 The Political Education Fund will be for activities consistent with I34.
- #3 One thing that would come out of it is to create campaigns to raise hard money, unless we can get system like ABC

If we win lawsuit, will it be business as usual? The intent would be for the 93-94 school year. Sunset, if lawsuit wins - null and void. If we win lawsuit, we can come back to next RA with long-term plan to deal with it. Maybe we want to make some proactive changes to what we're doing. Take a different look at how we're doing business. We could still use the \$2.00 portion of the assessment for our member/community education. We would still have to live under contribution limits even if we win lawsuit. So the assessment is still needed.

It was felt delegates would be OK with the assessment if we will guarantee 40% returned to Council to spend. They will, however, have new guidelines (hard/soft monies).

Suggestions to the PULSE General Membership:

Good Faith Motion/Information Item

Do we take to the RA or the PULSE General Membership first? This issue was discussed and decided to take to RA first - to get the organizational stamp. What does PULSE need to do? Hear information and discuss NBI. Vote on constitutional changes. Brainstorm with delegates and get an update.

5. NEXT MEETING

MARCH 26th - 10:00 AM - Federal Way Building

\* Agenda Items:

1. I-134 affect on NEA/PAC? - O'Toole with find out
2. Develop things we can do
3. Details on California and Colorado Systems - Is it a viable option? - O'Toole/Chase
4. AFSME Letter - handout - investigate -  
Exactly how they do it - technically - O'Toole  
Will PDC eventually uncover this letter? - Fisher
5. Fund-raising - voluntary hard money contributions

Chase suggests that we begin as soon as possible after RA (if we lose lawsuit) to rebuild our sustaining membership for hard money.

/ldp