2016 Biennial Report of the Finance Committee



Communications Workers of America September 20-21, 2016 Washington, DC Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Your Finance Committee met in Washington, D.C. on September 20 and 21, 2016, to review the 2015-2016 expenses and the 2016-2017 CWA Operating Budget. Every supporting document requested was made available to us. The committee also reviewed the Consolidated Financial Statements for the period ending May 31, 2015, prepared by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Calibre CPA Group. The Auditors conducted their audit in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In the accountant's opinion, the financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC as of May 31, 2015.

The Finance Committee carefully reviewed expenses paid out during the 2015-2016 fiscal year and would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Districts, Sectors, and Divisions that were able to stay within their Administrative budgets. The committee also reviewed the paid expenses within those Administrative Units which were more than 1% over their budget allocations. The Committee then met with, or received communications from, representatives of CWA District 1, CWA District 2-13, CWA District 3, CWA District 6, NABET, and Public Health and Education Workers and was satisfied with each of the explanations. The majority of the expenses were due to lengthy bargaining, including but not limited to, hotel meeting rooms and last minute travel. It is imperative that we continue to find ways to efficiently bargain contracts in the most effective and productive ways possible. During our discussions with various District and Sector Vice Presidents, they shared creative ways that these bargaining challenges are being addressed and planned for in the future. We would also like to recognize those Administrative Units that were able to keep their expenses within their allocations despite those challenges. The committee also recognizes the continued effort that the National has taken to try and help solidify our financial position through cost containment while maintaining necessary service to our membership.

During the Verizon strike of 2016, more than 26,000 of our CWA members were assisted with strike and medical payments. Over the seven-week period, more than \$54 million dollars from the MRF were distributed to 41 Locals. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Secretary-Treasurer Sara Steffens and her staff, along with the representatives of the Marco Consulting Group. Through their partnership, all necessary funds were processed as seamlessly as possible. This proved to have minimum negative impact on our striking members.

Within the past year, the Finance and Membership department continued with the roll out of the new Concur system. This program has allowed the full time and part time employees to go paperless for expense reimbursements. It has also incorporated the part time payroll; allowing for the removal of duplicate keying. The Finance and Membership department also moved forward with offering ACH as the preferred method of payment for all employees and vendors. Implementing this change has enabled the department to send the payment remittance advice slips through email rather than mailing through the postal service. This change alone has saved numerous hours of people power and has allowed for a significant decrease in the department's postage cost.

The Finance Committee makes the following recommendations to further work with our budgetary challenges:

- Although steps taken by the Executive Board have improved the Union's financial position, we need to continue to closely monitor spending to ensure that our income forecasts match our cash flow and that our expenses do not exceed income, including closely monitoring contributions to the CWA pension on behalf of CWA employees.
- Each Administrative Unit must continue to keep their expenses within their generated due's income and budget allocations with further recognition of the need for all Units to contribute to the ongoing programs and administration of the National Union.
- All Locals must be in compliance with the CWA Constitution which requires timely
 remittance of dues payments. This committee would like to recognize and acknowledge
 the decrease in the number of delinquent Locals and the effort that they have put forth to
 bring their dues current. However, there continues to be Locals with delinquencies that
 are non-employer related. The committee recommends that the Secretary-Treasurer
 take the steps necessary to ensure these Locals fulfill their obligation.
- Labor is continuously being attacked with denial of both agency shop and the rights to
 organize. It is now more important than ever that each Administrative Unit and Local
 continue to aggressively pursue organizing, both internally and externally, and that, as
 stated in the CWA Constitution Article XIII Locals, Section 9 (t); To maintain an active
 organizing program and budget monies to support the Local's effort as well as assisting
 the Union in reaching a goal of 10% of resources to be spent on growth.
- The Finance Committee acknowledges the ongoing increase in cost associated with negotiating collective bargaining agreements. We recommend that the CWA leadership, at all levels, review our process and develop ways to minimize our expenses (such as negotiations with hotels) without diminishing our ability to achieve good agreements. We also recommend that CWA Executive Board investigate providing additional funds to Districts and Sectors during large contract negotiations.
- We recommend that CWA and the Executive Board consider opportunities to combine conferences, trainings and meetings to reduce travel costs.
- Any Administrative Unit, whose expenses exceed more than one percent of their budget allocation, must provide a reasonable explanation for the cause of the overage to the Finance Committee and if necessary, should be prepared to present that explanation to the committee or the convention delegates.

CWA has made great strides in addressing the recommendations from previous finance committees, including setting balanced budgets and living within our means. Organizing has allowed us to stabilize our membership numbers and bring union representation to new industries. Our membership has grown by nearly 2% over the past fiscal year.

The 2016-2017 Finance Committee would like to thank President Christopher Shelton, Secretary-Treasurer Sara Steffens, Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Wilks, and their staff for their time and efforts in aiding the committee in the review, development and preparation of this year's report.

The committee also wishes to thank representatives in all CWA Districts, National Units, and Headquarters for their ongoing efforts to achieve the financial targets outlined in the 2016-2017 budget.

In Solidarity,

Frank Tallarine, Secretary-Treasurer, CWA Local 1106 (Chair) Jodie Moore, Secretary-Treasurer, CWA Local 2204 Evelyn Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, CWA Local 6222 Robert Santucci, President, CWA Local 3806

2016 Biennial Report of the Finance Committee September 2016

Explanation of CWA Funds

There are six funds, all of which were examined and reported on by independent auditors for the period ending May 31, 2015. A copy of the report has been reviewed by the Executive Board and Committee.

The Funds are as follows:

- 1. General Fund
- 2. Defense Fund
- 3. Members' Relief Fund
- 4. Strategic Industry Fund
- 5. Building Fund
- 6. Pension Fund

General Fund

The General Fund is the fund from which the International operates. All the income money which comes to CWA is handled through the General Fund. The status of this fund is reported monthly to the Executive Board and monitored by the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

Defense Fund

The Defense Fund was established by the 1952 Convention and began to operate in September of 1952. Income to the Defense Fund is derived from membership dues and equivalent payers in the amount of \$.50 each month. Income is deposited in the Defense Fund account as dues reports are processed.

During the 2013 CWA Convention, delegates approved for existing monies currently in the Defense Fund to be distributed into the seven existing Strategic Industry Fund silos (Telecom, Media, Manufacturing, Passenger Service, Public/Health Care, Public Workers without the right to strike, and AFA). Funds are apportioned to the seven silos based on membership.

Locals whose membership pays into the MRF/SIF no longer contribute \$0.50 per member.

Locals whose membership does not pay into the MRF/SIF continue to contribute \$0.50 per member. These monies are directed into their respective silo each month.

Robert Lilja Members' Relief Fund

The Robert Lilja Members' Relief Fund (RLMRF) was established by 1990 Convention action. The purpose of the fund serves as relief for strikers, locked-out members, victims of collective bargaining strategies and other approved mobilization actions. The opening balance of the RLMRF on June 1, 2015, was \$454,691,196. In the year from June 1, 2015,

to May 31, 2016, there were earnings of \$227,346 or 0.05%. As well, there were \$53,754,459 paid in strike advances, COBRA payments, and strike line maintenance. This resulted in a balance of \$399,694,736 in the RLMRF on May 31, 2016.

Income to the Robert Lilja Members' Relief Fund is derived from membership dues and equivalent payers in an amount equal to .15% per month of minimum dues (1/4 hour) of those eligible to strike. Income is deposited into the Members' Relief Fund account as dues reports are processed. Income and expenditures from the fund are reviewed by the Defense Fund Oversight Committee according to the rules established by Convention action.

Effective September 1, 2006, all RLMRF contributions are being credited to the Strategic Industry Fund unless the RLMRF fund balance falls below the established floor created by 2006 Convention action. The RLMRF floor is \$377,484,108. If the RLMRF fund falls below the established floor, all contributions will revert back to the RLMRF until it reaches the established floor. When the RLMRF reserves reach \$500,000,000, the floor will be raised to \$400,000,000.

Strategic Industry Fund

The Strategic Industry Fund (SIF) was established by 2006 Convention action to finance major large scale campaigns to increase CWA bargaining power.

The SIF is a restricted fund, requiring a majority vote of the Executive Board and approval of the Defense Fund Oversight Committee before expenditures are made. The market value of the fund as of May 31, 2016, was \$64,880,621.

Growth Fund

At the 74th CWA Convention held in April 2013, the delegates approved the Defense Fund Oversight Committee's recommendation to establish a new Growth Fund. This new fund will allow CWA to search for better ways to change the course of movement for the company and the nation. Beginning and going forward with the annual investment earnings from the 2012 calendar year, one half of annual investment earnings from the RLMRF will be invested in building CWA's ability to fight for economic justice for members through this new fund. The market value of the fund as of May 31, 2016, was \$19,036,980.

The Defense Fund Oversight Committee's responsibilities are expanded to include participation with the Executive Board in the approval and evaluation of requests submitted for this new fund.

Building Fund

By Executive Board action in January 2006, the Building Fund was established for the purpose of recording the assets, liabilities, expenses, and income associated with the headquarters building property. As of May 31, 2016, the unrestricted net assets were \$93,438,862.

On May 31, 2016, the market value of the plan was \$173,815,257.

CWA Plan for Employees Pensions and Death Benefits Fund

This fund provides for CWA employees' retirement benefits. A periodic actuarial review is made of the CWA Pension and Death Benefit Trust Fund where our contribution is adjusted to meet CWA obligations. Like several other pension plans, the plan's investments suffered many losses as a result of the overall decline in the economy and the markets in 2008 and 2015. Annual contributions to the plan are necessary and are growing in dollar value.

The CWA Pension Fund was established in 1951 as a separate trust. It is a defined benefit pension plan substantially covering all employees other than PPMWS employees. On January 1, 2006, the IUE Pension Plan was merged with the CWA Plan for Employees Pensions and Death Benefits.

On May 31, 2016, the market value of the plan was \$173,815,257.

Financial State of the Union

This committee realizes that with ever increasing financial burdens and with causes needing the Union's attention, coupled with a continued uncertain economy, we must be continuously vigilant of cost overruns. This year each administrative unit must operate not only within their authorized budget, but also within the dues income they generate, as well as contributing to the ongoing programs and expenses of the overall Union.

Salaries – Elected Officials

Each year it is the committee's responsibility to review salary changes for our elected officials. The committee's previous recommendation of a salary increase that is commensurate with the negotiated agreements held with the CWA employee unions was used.

Staff Complement

The committee had recommended that only staff positions that are currently filled or have received approval, are to be filled at the time of this report. Requests to fill all staff positions must be made to the Budget Committee and authorized by the Executive Board.

The 2016 - 2017 Budget

The committee reviewed and considered the Report of the Budget Committee as adopted by the Executive Board of the Union. The 2016 – 2017 fiscal year budget used the following projections in calculating the income increase of 1% in membership, and a decrease of 1% in per capita dues. Although we continue to organize more members, the expected delay in first contract affects the projection of income.

The calculated estimate of overall income of the Union for the 2016-2017 CWA Operating Budget is \$93,245,624.

As in the past, we recommend the Executive Board use this budget as a positive guide and make every effort to operate within the actual income of the Union during the period represented by this budget.

The approved budget follows as:

Exhibit A (Communications Workers of America – Operating Budget) and Exhibit B (Administrative Units Budget)

A more detailed explanation of each item in the budget may be found on pages 11-14.

		Communications Workers of Ame 2016-201		
			2015-2016	<u>2016-2017</u>
Income				
	Dues - Mem	bers and Agency Fee Payers	\$ 88,784,286	\$ 88,195,624
	HQ Building		2,000,000	3,550,00
	Other Incom	P	1,500,000	1,500,00
				1,000,00
		Total Income	\$ 92,284,286	\$ 93,245,624
	_	Total Income	\$ 72,204,200	φ 93,243,024
<u>Expenses</u>				
LAPCHISCS	Netional Dr			
	<u>National Pr</u>	ograms		
029	Orgonizing F	und	4 025 000	4 025 000
	Organizing F		4,925,000	4,925,000
030	Community /		150,000	150,000
031		Unit Litigation & Misc.	600,000	625,000
032	Convention	Careford Maria District Constant Maria	250,000	200,000
034		, Conf, Human Rights & Board Mtgs	440,000	440,000
038	Taxes		780,000	500,000
039		ies - AFL-CIO & Other	3,588,406	3,588,406
040	Contingency		1,562,046	2,012,557
043	Information		850,000	700,000
045		ions (CWA News & PR)	1,400,000	1,400,000
145	Digital Media		175,000	235,000
046	Professional		570,000	570,000
047	International		30,000	30,000
048	Education		170,000	170,000
061A		efits (Health Care, Insurance)	7,000,000	7,000,000
061B		Other (Workers Comp., etc)	997,500	997,500
064	Staff Moves		150,000	150,000
066	CWANET Tra	aining	100,000	100,000
225	MRF Loan		<u> </u>	1,527,156
		Total General Budget	\$ 23,737,952	\$ 25,320,619
	Administra	tive Units		
A1	Salaries - Of	fficer & Staff	24,048,551	24,056,835
A2		III Time/Other	9,753,692	9,985,057
A3		enefits (Non-Pension)	8,581,497	8,512,973
A4	Employee Ta		3,133,029	3,098,722
A5	Employee Pe		3,453,083	3,405,189
B1	Office Occup		6,275,779	5,516,297
B1 B2	Staff Expens		4,066,580	4,062,182
B3		ve Operations	4,798,864	4,830,834
	Legal		4,435,260	4,456,917
B4	Legal	Total Administrative Units	\$ 68,546,334	\$ 67,925,005
		Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 92,284,286	\$ 93,245,624
		Total Income	\$ 92,284,286	\$ 93,245,624
		Surplus/(Deficit)	(0)	((

					Administr	Administrative Units Budget	Budget					
						2016-2017	5					
	Updated						Updated					
	<u>A-1</u>	<u>A-2</u>	<u>A-3</u>	<u>A-4</u>	<u>A-5</u>		찐	<u>B-2</u>	B-3	<u>B-4</u>		
						Total					Total Office	
District &		Salaı	Emp	Emp Taxes:	Emp. Pension:	Personnel	Office	Staff	Administrative		Admin.	Total Admin Unit
National Units	Salaries: 0&S	& Other	25%	9.1%	10%	Expenses	Occupancy	Expenses	Operations	Legal	Expenses	Expenses
District 1	3,570,485	778,089	1,087,143	395,720	434,857	6,266,295	1,089,117	532,920	802,574	2,005,845	4,430,456	10,696,750
District 2-13	1,669,436	456,806	531,560	193,488	212,624	3,063,914	347,615	254,600	211,023	491,145	1,304,383	4,368,297
District 3	2,158,972	610,170	692,285	251,992	276,914	3,990,333	251,434	341,400	354,932	305,546	1,253,312	5,243,645
District 4	1,779,722	404,599	546,080	198,773	218,432	3,147,607	287,378	271,960	271,082	10,000	840,420	3,988,027
District 6	1,883,285	449,492	583,194	212,283	233,278	3,361,531	507,517	281,420	264,518	756,722	1,810,177	5,171,708
District 7	1,802,760	446,572	562,333	204,689	224,933	3,241,287	144,923	289,320	203,478	246,951	884,672	4,125,959
District 9	1,469,735	512,717	495,613	180,403	198,245	2,856,714	533,231	219,880	287,669	118,590	1,159,370	4,016,084
PPMWS-CWA	320,980	54,992	93,993	34,213	37,597	541,775	20,299	68,380	15,918	76,435	181,032	722,807
IUE-CWA	3,043,849	435,876	869,931	316,655	347,973	5,014,284	49,090	579,880	246,268	99,010	974,248	5,988,533
TNG-CWA	1,149,888	246,615	349,126	127,082	139,650	2,012,362	162,533	226,750	170,579	262,823	822,684	2,835,046
NABET-CWA	767,367	107,150	218,629	79,581	87,452	1,260,179	60,613	162,360	138,516	82,625	444,114	1,704,292
Т&Т	607,748	172,944	195,173	71,043	78,069	1,124,977	132,015	88,900	70,279	1,225	292,419	1,417,397
Public Wkrs	359,351	65,794	106,286	38,688	42,515	612,635	62,855	64,330	24,952	·	152,137	764,772
Total	20,583,579	4,741,815	6,331,348	2,304,611	2,532,539	36,493,892	3,648,619	3,382,100	3,061,788	4,456,917	14,549,424	51,043,316
Headquarters	3,473,256	5,243,242	2,181,624	794,111	872,650	12,564,884	1,867,678	680,082	1,769,046	İ	4,316,806	16,881,689
Grand Total	24,056,835	9,985,057	8,512,973	3,098,722	3,405,189	49,058,776	5,516,297	4,062,182	4,830,834	4,456,917	18,866,230	67,925,005

Explanation of National Programs Exhibit A

Organizing (029)

We must continue our internal and external organizing efforts in order for CWA to remain an effective organization. The salaries of permanent Organizing Coordinators are included in line item A1 of their Administrative unit. All organizer expenses are charged to the Organizing account.

Community Action (030)

This allocation allows CWA to respond to a small percentage of the meaningful requests we receive from community and civic organizations, programs, and activities dedicated to the welfare of all citizens.

CWA upholds membership and serves on executive boards of a number of organizations. Fees associated with these activities are included in this budget allocation.

Legal Administration Unit Litigation and Miscellaneous (031)

Our legal costs continue to be a significant part of our budget. A portion of these expenses are budgeted to the Administrative unit section. This allocation is for the remainder of our legal expenses.

Convention (032)

This allocation includes funding for the biennial convention, including auditorium and meeting room rental and setup, printing of verbatim reports and other convention materials, postage, wages, and expenses of convention committees.

Committees, Conferences & Executive Board Meetings (034)

Permissible expenses are associated with meetings of the Union's Executive Board including travel expenses of Executive Board members and others required to be in attendance. If required, the cost of the meeting room is also included. The budget allocation further includes a provision for committee meetings and conference expenses. Expenses for the Minority Leadership Institute in the amount of \$40,000 have been moved out of the Education Budget line into this line. The allocation does not cover expenses of these attendees for committee meetings and conference expenses of these attendees for committee meetings and conference expenses unless authorized by the President of the Union.

<u>Taxes</u> (038)

This allocation covers non-related payroll taxes, such as the costs of district building and personal property taxes.

Affiliation Dues (039)

This allocation is for affiliation dues paid to organizations such as the AFL-CIO Departments, Union Network International, IAPTA, International Metal Workers, International Federation of Journalists, and others.

Contingency (040)

The purpose of this account is to provide for unexpected and unknown costs or those expenses that cannot be budgeted to appropriate accounts at the time the budget is prepared.

Information Systems (043)

This budget item reflects the costs of office automation, internal communication networks, training, and updating of equipment in the headquarters and district offices.

Communications (045)

This account includes the funding of the CWA News, which is mandated by Article XXVI of the CWA Constitution. The allocation includes the cost of printing and postage and is also used for the Union's publicity and public relations program which brings the story of the Communications Workers of America to the public through the mass media of radio, TV, newspaper, and social media.

Digital Media Operations (145)

This allocation will pay for ongoing recurring expenses related to our digital media operations, such as hosting fees for our online communications systems, Salsa email, advocacy, Mobile Commons text messaging, and the purchase and renewal of domain names.

Professional Services (046)

This budget item allocation reflects expenses for audit fees and miscellaneous professional services such as accountants, actuaries and consultants, including those hired to support bargaining and contract negotiations.

International (047)

CWA is involved in the free world trade union movement. This budget allocation funds activities with our labor colleagues from a number of countries.

Education (048)

This budget account allocation is for the expense of week-long leadership conferences and the development and delivery of training programs.

Retiree Benefits (061A)

The allocation to this account is for the general insurance policies of the Union, which include group healthcare, pharmaceutical, vision, dental, and life insurance for retirees. Employee healthcare expense is reflected in the Administrative Unit budgets – Line A3.

Insurance – Other (061B)

The allocation to this account is for insurance coverage other than employee healthcare and automobile.

Staff Moves (064)

This allocation is for the costs associated with relocating staff.

Apprenticeship & Training (066)

This budget allocation is for existing apprenticeship, training activities, and new programs which may be implemented in this budget year.

Total National Programs - Total of Budget accounts 029 through 066.

Total Administrative Units - Total of A1 through B4.

Total Budgeted Expenses - Total of National Programs and Administrative Units.

Explanation of Administrative Unit Budget Exhibit B

Budget Line A1-A5 & B1-B4 Formula Applications

To determine certain allocations, the budget is based on April 2014 per capita counts.

A1 Salaries – Officers and Staff

Reflects annual salary cost for administrative unit officers, staff, and professional employees. The following chart indicates the officers' salaries:

POSITION	SALARY
PRESIDENT	\$199,009
SECRETARY-TREASURER	\$178,199
DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS, TNG-CWA VICE	
PRESIDENT, NABET-CWA VICE PRESIDENT, IUE-	
CWA VICE PRESIDENT, T&T VICE PRESIDENT	
AND PUBLIC WORKERS VICE PRESIDENT	\$155,402
AFA-CWA VICE PRESIDENT	\$133,486
PPMWS EXECUTIVE OFFICER	\$127,970

A2 Salaries Full Time and Other

Reflects annual salary cost for administrative unit full-time clerical employees and supervisors.

A3/A5 Employee Benefits

This allocation reflects 30% of administrative unit salaries for employee medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and 401(k) match, plus sufficient funds to meet the pension plan fund commitment.

A4 Employee Taxes

Each administrative unit is allocated 9.1% of administrative unit salaries for employee tax expense.

B1 Office Occupancy

Each administrative unit allocation includes known increases that could be determined. Figures include projected common area maintenance and rent increases projected at 2% for the 2014-2015 budget year.

B2 Staff Expenses

Reflects funds allocated for Staff travel, auto, and communication expenses.

B3 Administrative Operations

This line includes expenses for the following items: part-time salaries and expenses, supplies and printing, postage and freight, rental and maintenance of equipment, contract services, electronic communications, and any other operating expenses.

B4 Legal

This includes each administrative unit's allocation for expenses such as retained counsel, arbitration, charges and litigation.

Concluding Remarks

Despite ongoing anti-union legislation, CWA has seen gains in its membership. While a good percentage of those gains were in jobs that do not pay as well as those traditional jobs in telco, media, etc., organizing those jobs now gives a conduit to raise the standards through collective bargaining. As witnessed by the wherewithal of CWA during the Verizon strike, we will bring that same tenacity to the bargaining table to secure gains to all units in CWA, improving the financial conditions of both our members and the Union. Our Executive Officers, Local Executive Boards, and members must continue to work together to contain costs, meet our financial obligations, and grow our Union. Working together we can meet the growing challenges that we face and continue to provide the level of representation that the members of CWA expect and deserve.

The CWA Finance Committee will be meeting in 2017 to review the finances and make adjustments to the proposed 2016-2017 operating budget as necessary and will present their report at the 76th CWA Convention.