



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: March 19, 2012

Meeting called to order by President Williams at 6:40 PM.

New delegates were sworn in: Patricia Vaughn, UFCW 400; Phyllis Jackson, UFCW 400; James Jarboe, UFCW 400; Milton Dews, UFCW 400; Dietra Lucas, UFCW 400; Maria Cordone, MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans; Frank Stella, MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans.

President Williams introduced Renee Bowser, the Ward 4 labor endorsed candidate in the April 3rd DC City Council primary.

President Williams turned over the meeting to the Council's Election Committee, chaired by Ann Hoffman (National Writers Guild) and including Saul Schniderman, AFSCME 2910; Avis Buchanan, AFGE Council 1; Dan Fields, SEIU 722 and Dario Ferrufino, LIUNA 657. The names of all the nominated candidates were read to the delegates: Joslyn Williams, AFSCME 2477, President; Gino Renne, UFCW 1994, 1st VP; Doris Reed, ASASP, 2nd VP; Sandra Falwell,

DCNA, 3rd VP; Dena Briscoe, APWU, Secretary; Linda Bridges, OPEIU 2, Treasurer. Executive Board member nominees were: Vance Ayres, WBCTC; John Boardman, Unite Here 25; Dwight Bowman, AFGE District 14; Jamie Contreras, SEIU 32BJ; Dan Dyer OPEIU 2; Anthony Frederick, LIUNA 657; Carl Goldman, AFSCME Council 26; Jackie Jeter, ATU 689; George Johnson, AFSCME Council 20; Kendall Martin, Iron Workers 5; Michael Murphy, IUOE 99; Tony Perez, UFCW 400; Thomas Ratliff, IBT 639; Carnell Reed, SEIU 400; Jimmy Tarlau, CWA District 2. Trustees: Fred Allen, GCC 538C; Nathan Saunders, WTU 6; Katherine Taylor, 1199 SEIU. Sergeant at Arms: Riley Gaines, IBEW 26.

A motion was made by Jim Lowery (IUEC 10) to accept the entire slate; the motion was seconded. The delegates approved by acclamation the slate for a 3-year term. The oath of office was administered by Terry Stapleton, Special Assistant to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

The meeting was turned back over to newly re-elected President Williams at 7:04 PM and President Williams dismissed the election committee from their tasks, thanked them for their service, and thanked the delegates for electing him to serve another term as President of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO.

Minutes: February minutes moved, seconded and approved.

Financial Report: February report moved, seconded and approved

Correspondence: President Williams reported on four action items coming from the Executive Committee totaling \$1,900, which were moved, seconded and approved: \$250 Andrea Harrison (PG Council 5, Reception); \$1,000 Mid-Atlantic PAC Person of the Year Dinner; \$150 AVODAH Jewish Service Corps; \$500 Iron Workers (Dads Poker Run).

Presidents Report: The Executive Board approved raising and spending \$5,000 in the

Ward 4 and \$5,000 in Ward 7 primaries in support of labor-endorsed candidates Renee Bowser and Tom Brown. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the President's report.

Community Services Agency (CSA)

CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported that the Pre-Apprenticeship Program graduated 20 students; the program started with 20 and graduated 20. She is hoping to get the graduates into union apprenticeship programs. President Williams attended the graduation. A delegate asked whether students are D.C. residents; McKirchy replied that most of the participants were D.C. residents, but that residents from the metro area are accepted. McKirchy told the delegates that Building Futures is recruiting for the next class and encouraged them to send people to the program.

Union City

Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock told delegates that copies of



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the 2012 Union Directories were in the back of the room for distribution. Garlock reported that the directory was on the Union City website and that changes to the directory would be made on the website. Garlock also reported on UFCW 400 negotiations with Safeway and Giant and CWA Verizon Contract rally.

Assistant Mobilizer Julia Kann introduced Melisa Byrne from Occupy Our Homes DC who gave a report of the Fannie Mae protest to stop mortgage foreclosure on a homeowner from Prince George's County. Occupy Our Homes DC was able to negotiate a settlement with Fannie Mae and the foreclosure was canceled. The first meeting of the Occupy Our Homes DC coalition will be April 17th.

Kann reported on the Labor Walk Tour at IBEW and the Labor Seeder hosted by the Jews United For Justice (JUFJ).

Kann introduced Maria Nego and Nico Udu-Gama from the School of Americas Watch who asked for support for their rally on April 16th in Upper Senate Park to shut down the training camp in Fort Benning, Ga. that trains Central & South American military forces, resulting in labor leaders and civilians being tortured and murdered.

Kann also introduced Our DC's Kendall Fells who reported on the upcoming Pepco protest rally against the proposed rate increases. Kann reported on other upcoming actions which, as always, are posted on the Council's website and which include the Affordable Health Care Act rally and ATUs "Occupy Transit" action on April 4th.

DC COPE Report: Assistant Political Coordinator Alya Solomon reported on the candidates endorsed in the 2012 D.C. Democratic Primary. D.C. COPE Chair Fred Allen walked the delegates through the time line for the Council's endorsement process leading up to the Special Election in Ward 5. The DC COPE will receive notice referencing candidate interviews and details will be posted to the website., as will candidate questionnaires.

MD COPE Report: Political Coordinator Rick Powell reported on the 2012 labor-endorsed candidates running in the Democratic Primary in Maryland. Powell will follow up with affiliates for support of Rob Garagiola for Congressional District 6. Powell introduced Jim Lowery (IUEC 10) who gave a report on recent activities of the Tri-County COPE.

President Williams stated that after the April 2012 primaries in the District of Columbia and Maryland, "our focus will be on Northern Virginia to help re-elect President Obama." President Williams then introduced Dan Duncan, President of the Northern Virginia Area Labor Federation (NoVa Labor). President Duncan told the delegates that the Republicans are counting on winning Virginia in order to win the presidential election. He also said that the Virginia 2012 Labor-to-Labor campaign will kick off in mid-June with phone banks and labor walks later in the summer.

Delegate Updates

- **Jim Lowery (IUEC 10)** reported that their contract is up in June, but they have a tentative agreement which needs to be ratified by their members.
 - **Jim Jarboe (UFCW 400)** reported on the referendum campaign against Wal-Mart in LaPlata, Charles County. Jarboe told the delegates that he thinks they will be successful.
 - **Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400)** at the request of Tony Perez who had to leave, told the delegates that Karen Toles and Will Campos of the P.G.
- County Council have not signed on to a letter supporting UFCW 400 in their contract negotiations. Chuck Clay of IATSE 22 asked if Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot had signed the letter of support. President Williams responded that Franchot had not.
- **Russ Davis (AFGE)** asked if the Council is aware of proposed legislation that may limit protests in the District of Columbia. Alya Solomon, Assistant Political Coordinator, responded that there was legislation introduced by Councilmember Mendelson that on its face appeared to limited protesting and freedom of speech, but when the D.C. ACLU and labor attorneys analyzed the legislation they assured the Metro Council that it does not.
 - **John Brasseaux (IATSE 22)** reported that they have been bannerng SWANK audio visual company for not paying decent wages and benefits to their employees.
 - Katrina Dizon (APALA-DC) reported on the large population of Asians residing in Northern



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Virginia and their lack of engagement in the political process. In an effort to engage the Asian community, APALA is hosting a voter registration drive on March 31st to encourage participation in the upcoming Presidential election.

- **Elaine Newman (NCAUR)** expressed her disappointment at D.C. Councilmember Phil Mendelson for voting against Betty Noel for the Public Service Commission. President Williams responded that the Metro Council did everything it could to get Mendelson to vote in favor of the nomination.
- **Frank Stella (MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans)** encouraged eligible delegates to join the ARA.
- **Eleanor Lauderdale (AFGE 12)** commented on Wal-Mart and the need

for a Collective Bargaining Agreement and asked what position the Council has taken on Wal-Mart. President Williams recited the long history of opposition to Wal-Mart by the Council and the labor movement and explained to her that the Council has not taken the position to oppose Wal-Mart from coming to D.C. but instead has taken a position of supporting a Community Benefits Agreement if Wal-Mart enters the District of Columbia.

- **Eartha Isaacs (AFGE 2978)** asked DC COPE Chair Fred Allen if he knew of any DC Council candidates running in the DC Primary who were supportive of legislation currently before City Council that would give injured government workers fair access to disability compen-

sation. Allen said he was not aware of any at this time, but will check and get back to her.

- **Gwend Johnson (DC-CBTU)** reported that CBTU would be holding its 2012 convention in St. Louis, Missouri and urged delegates to register online at www.cbtu.org.

President Williams thanked Gwend Johnson of DC CBTU for preparing the food for the Executive Board and Delegates meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

50/50 winner - \$30 Nico Udu-Gama from SOA Watch

Delegate Attendance:

Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14); Brasseux, John (IATSE 22); Bridges, Linda (OPEIU 2); Briscoe, Dena (APWU); Buchanan, Avis (AFGE Council 1); Childs, Barbara (AFSA 4); Clay, Chuck

(IATSE 22); Courtien, Stephen (WBCTC); Davis, Russ (AFGE 2782); Dizon, Katrina (APALA-DC); Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2); Ehrmann, Rick (NEWSPAPER GUILD 35); Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU); Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26); Graham, Daryl (UFCW 400); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Henry, Denise (Local 3403); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Jeter, Roland (ATU 689); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC Chapter); Lauderdale, Eleanor (AFGE 12); Lowery, Ruth (IAMAW 193); Lowery, Jim (IUOE Local 10); Malachi, Rick (SEIU 722); Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers Local 5); Martin-Gross, Yvette (AFGE 631); Mayfield, Robert (AFGE 2978); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Murphy, Tom (AFGE Council 1); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400); Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Vaughn, Patricia (UFCW 400); Williams, Jos (MWC); Williams, Sybil (AFGE)

Guest: Diaz, Benito (Working America)

Staff: Garlock, Chris (MWC); Kann, Julia (MWC); McKirchy, Kathleen (CSA); Powell, Rick (MWC); Solomon, Alya (MWC).