



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: April 23, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by President Williams.

4 New Delegates Sworn In: Jennifer Hyson (UFCW 400); Katrina Clark, (DCNA); William Brown (AFGE 17); Janis Daley (AFGE 17).

President Williams introduced Corey Powell and Clint Forrest Mann, representatives from MetroTowns at Parkside, who awarded him a plaque of recognition for his help spreading the word about this affordable housing opportunity in the District. They gave a brief presentation and handed out fliers about the housing program and eligibility. Twelve District government employees have already bought homes. The question was raised of whether the homes are union-built; they are not. President Williams committed to work with the developer to ensure that the homes will be union-made in the future and said the Council would share information about this opportunity.

President Williams introduced the DC Labor Chorus, who performed "Soon and Very Soon" to get folks excited about their upcoming Spring Concert, "One Planet, One Future" which will benefit the African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation. They are asking union members to spread the word and get tickets (\$20). People who cannot attend can donate money and it will be used to help other people attend. The concert is May 12 and tickets can also be bought on the labor chorus website and of course on the Council's calendar posting. They closed singing "Solidarity Forever" and reminded the delegates of the upcoming Great Labor Arts Exchange June 22-25.

Minutes (March) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Financial Report (March) moved and seconded to receive. Approved.

Correspondence

Moved and seconded to accept the following donation actions recommended by the Board. The following donations were approved: 2 tickets to APRI awards dinner (\$120); 2 tickets and a full page ad for NoVa dinner (\$650); Tee at WBCTC golf tournament (\$300); Contribution at Teamsters 639 scholarship golf tournament (\$250); ½-price full-page ad at CBTU National Convention (\$500); 4 tickets and ½-page ad at MD/DC State AFL-CIO Salute to Leadership (\$800); Hole at IUEC 10 golf tournament (\$200); Tee at Boilermakers 193 golf tournament (\$200); Contribution to DC Employment Justice Center (\$250); Contribution for development of Ward 8 Workforce Development Council web-

site (\$175) (CSA is donating \$175 as well, names will appear on website)

Community Services Agency

CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported that the United Way is trying to be more involved in community projects (not just funding member agencies); they have kicked off the shoebox project to collect personal care items between now and June 2nd; Machinists, AFL-CIO, CWA, and others have signed up to conduct collections; CSA is collecting items (and can even come pick them up) from unions through June 2nd; if you donate please take pictures and share them with Chris (or at least tell the Council that you donated); donations may also be made to "purchase" a box – contact Kathleen for more information.

McKirchy reminded the board that Labor Night at the Nats is coming up on 8/3 (against Miami Marlins); tickets are \$10 again and are already on sale; in the past they have sold about 5,500 tickets; whoever buys the most tickets will get to select the person who throws the first pitch (last year the winner sold 600 tickets at \$10/each); CSA makes \$1-3 per ticket; the event is a fundraiser for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

McKirchy reminded the Board that the golf tournament is on 9/24; anyone interested in serving on golf committee should contact Kathleen; the event is a fundraiser for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock introduced Tony Perez (UFCW 400) who reported that UFCW 400 ratified a new 18-month agreement with Giant and Safeway on April 3. They are very grateful to everyone in local labor who helped win this great victory. The new contract includes some successes for the first time in the country such as significant wage increases and pension contribution increases. It is an 18-month agreement because of the looming questions of healthcare. "I just want to say that in your time of need we won't forget you. Thank you," said Perez.

Perez added that they had a lot of success activating members to set up for a long haul of negotiations. Local 400 members recently visited Amsterdam, where Ahold operates union, seeing how it works there and getting motivated to keep putting pressure on non-union competitors in the market share. This fight will continue to Shoppers, where contracts are up in June or July, and will bring active members from Giant and Safe-



DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: March 19, 2012

way into other stores in the area. "It doesn't just stop here" says Perez.

Garlock introduced Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) and Dena Briscoe (APWU) who reported in detail on the unions' fight to save the Postal Service. A vote could take place as soon tomorrow in the Senate on a bill that would essentially dismantle the Postal Service. "It should be called the 'postal destruction act'" said Lerch. There are friends in the Senate proposing amendments which would keep six-day service, add more work to the agency, stop closing post offices and more. Briscoe and Lerch asked everyone to contact senators to encourage them to pass the bill with the amendments. Check apwu.org for more information. They added that the bill sets a dangerous anti-union precedent since it is a "back door" attempt to undo an already-ratified contract. More information will be made available about the issue on the Council website.

Motion made to support the NALC 3825 resolution calling for the firing of the Postmaster General. Seconded. Approved. The Council will send a copy of the resolution to affiliates so they may adopt similar resolutions of support.

Garlock reported on last month's successful events at the Supreme Court on healthcare and upcoming action on Wednesday at the Supreme Court on immigration reform. He also acknowledged recent press about bribery and corruption at Walmart in Mexico that is reaching to the very top in the U.S. and urged delegates to stay tuned as this issue develops.

Garlock noted that CWA and IBEW still don't have a contract at Verizon and continue frustrating negotiations.

Garlock reported that Unite Here Local 25 is "working and walking" at the Marriott Wardman Park (7a-7p, particularly early morning and afternoon) and the Council will be in touch with specifics on how to support them. He told board members to look for an upcoming sponsorship mailing on the DC Labor FilmFest and encouraged them to check the list of upcoming actions: 4/24: Unite Here 23 Rally for a Fair Contract at GSI; 4/27: National Labor College Workers Memorial Day Symposium & Ceremony; 5/1: Democracy and An Economy for All: From Protests to Strategies for Change; 5/3: Workers' Rights Board Hearing: Economic Issues Affecting Working Women in D.C.; 5/3: Verizon Shareholders Meeting and National Day of Action; 5/5: Labor 2012 Kick Off/International Worker's Day/Cinco De Mayo; 5/12: DC Labor Chorus: "One Planet, One Future" Spring Concert

MD COPE Report

Rick Powell, Legislative/Political Coordinator, reported that a subcommittee of the Prince George's/Montgomery County COPE will be proceeding with a plan to thoroughly evaluate politicians' actions and records in the Maryland State Legislature.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) reported on the surprising success of the Privileged Communication Bill, which allows notes on negotiations and grievances to be considered confidential

and privileged and not subpoenaed in the event of a court case.

Powell reported that Tri-County COPE will meet April 24. They are still working on Walmart issues and are gearing up for the 2012 November Elections in Southern MD. They are working with the Steny Hoyer campaign.

Powell continued reporting that Rob Garagiola, candidate for the 6th Congressional District in Maryland, lost by a significant margin in the Maryland primary; John Delaney (Democrat) won and will face Roscoe Bartlett (Republican) in the November General Election; the Maryland and DC State AFL-CIO will consider Delaney for endorsement April 24.

President Williams reminded the Council that the Council has already voted to endorse Delaney and that this recommendation will be brought to the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO on April 24. He added that he believed Delaney will be good to labor.

Powell reported that Virginia will be a battleground state again this year in the Presidential Election. NOVA Labor President Dan Duncan is making a plan for Northern VA and Powell will send it out to affiliates right away. The Campaign will begin late June or early July.

President Williams acknowledged Delegate Tom Hucker from the 20th District in Maryland. Hucker thanked everyone for all of their work on the Privileged Communication Bill and reported that the Maryland State Legislature had passed a budget but not yet a revenue bill, though he is confident they will do so soon. He highlighted successes from the year including Jeff Guido's (Plumbers) bill, saying apprentices for over three terms have to take a journeymen's test; getting close to passing the offshore wind bill (which will come back next year) – and looking toward insuring it creates good union jobs – and the Storm Water Bill success, which is both an environmental issue for the Chesapeake Bay, but also a jobs bill that says the biggest counties in Maryland need a storm water remediation fee, which created 3,300 construction jobs in Montgomery County. Hucker also commended the Laborer's Asbestos Workers Protection Bill, which requires independent training for safety and quintuples the fine on management for unsafe work environments.

Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910): Thanked Hucker on behalf of people who have lived with cancer for fighting against asbestos, arsenic and other cancer-causing chemicals in the community.

DC COPE Report

Alya Solomon, Legislative/Political Assistant, thanked everyone who helped out with the DC Primary Election and reported that endorsed candidates won Wards 2, 8, and At-Large and lost to the incumbents in Wards 4 and 7. For the Ward 5 Special Election on May 15th to replace former Councilmember Harry Thomas Jr., Solomon urged affiliates to send letters in support of endorsed candidate Kenyan McDuffie and asked for volunteers on Election Day to work polls; anyone interested



DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: March 19, 2012

should contact Alya.

Solomon reported that due to the District's \$240 million surplus, Mayor Gray submitted a supplemental budget to the DC City Council that includes a proposal to repay District employees for the unnecessary furlough days in 2010. The Council subsequently suspended the vote on the budget due to specific questions of which employees would be included. A vote is expected next Tuesday and everyone is encouraged to reach out to Councilmembers and ask them to support the provision to repay workers for the furlough days.

Solomon continued reporting on the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) nominations. The Mayor re-appointed Don Wasserman to the PERB and appointed Ann Hoffman (National Writers Union). Councilmember Muriel Bowser had a hearing on the nominees and the Council is hoping she confirms these nominations in the weeks to come. Wasserman's time expires soon and would leave PERB without a quorum; Bowser said she will push at least one nominee through to prevent a lack of quorum.

Reports of Board Members

Jim Lowery (Elevator Constructors Local 10) reported that they ratified a new 5-year contract and thanked *Union City* for reporting on it and asked that people come out for their upcoming golf tournament, Christmas in April celebration, and NEI-EP educational program fair on May 3.

Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) thanked President Williams and CSA's Kathleen McKirchy for brokering a meeting between himself and Lionel Thomas of the DC Arts and Humanities Commission regarding the Lincoln Theatre. He is cautiously optimistic about the outcome regarding organizing workers there, more information to come at the start of the fiscal year. He added that he would be grateful for help brokering a meeting between IATSE 22 and the Howard Theater management.

Mike Golash (ATU 689) reported that ATU 689 has endorsed the Occupy DC May Day March and others are invited to endorse it as well. Rick Ehrmann (Newspaper Guild) made a motion that the Council support the May Day teach-in. Seconded. Approved.

Franks Stella (MD/DC ARA) distributed ARA Congressional voting record information.

Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) reported on his recent experience with the Council's Labor-to-Labor efforts, noting that "I participated in my first labor-to-labor walk; it was exhilarating and I recommend it to everyone!"

Guest Tom Hale (AFGE 1923) reported that he is working with the Occupy DC Labor Committee on a May Day action to support education around the labor movement. On May Day they will meet in Malcolm X Park at 3pm where there will be teach-ins on why unions are important – perhaps with the endgame of ending Taft-Hartley – and discussions of labor history. At 5pm there will be a march to the White House. He asked that people share fliers and turn out members.

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) added that there is an important correlation between the decline in unions and the decline in the middle class in America.

Eric Starin (OPEIU 2) added that May Day is based on the *American* struggle for the 8-hour day.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:24pm. Approved.
Chuck Clay, IATSE 22, won the COPE 50/50 raffle.

Delegate Attendance: Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Ayres, Vance (WBCTC); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Brasseux, John (IATSE Local 22); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local); Brown, William (AFGE 17); Bynum, Tina (AFGE 12); Carson, Carl (Cement Mason Local 891); Clark, Katrina (DCNA); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 Pg); Courtien, Stephen (WBCTC); Daley, Janis (AFGE 17); Diaz, Benito (Working America); Dixon, Vanessa (DCDC/AFSCME NUHCE); Dizon, Katrina (APALA-DC); Ehrmann, Rick; (NEWSPAPER GUILD 35); Frederick, Anthony (Laborers 657); Freeland, Ronald (Laborers 657); Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Greenhill, Larry (IBEW 26); Hatton, Michelle (AFGE District 14); Holmes, Trent (SEIU 400 PG); Hyson, Jennifer (UFCW 400); Jacob, Doug (Unite Here 23); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Johnson, Gwend (DC CBTU); Lowery, Ruth (IAMAW 193); Lowery, Jim (IUOE Local 10); Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers Local 5); Martin-Gross, Yvette (AFGE 631); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400 PG); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Williams, Sybil (AFGE 2876); Williams, Jos (Metro DC Council, AFL-CIO)

Guests: Golash, Mike (ATU 689); Hale, Tom (AFGE 1923); Hucker, Tom (MD House of Delegates); Mann, Clint (McWilliams/Ballard); Powell, Corey (Enterprise Homes, Inc.); Members of the DC Labor Chorus

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