

# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

# **EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES:** April 23, 2012

Meeting called to order at 4:21pm by President Williams

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

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

#### Correspondence

The following contributions 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 to Ward 8 Workforce Development Council website (\$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); they have kicked off the shoebox project to collect personal care items between now and June 2<sup>nd</sup>; Machinists, AFL-CIO, CWA, and others have committed to collecting items; CSA is collecting items (and can even come pick them up) from unions through June 2<sup>nd</sup>; 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 the 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 the Golf Committee should contact Kathleen; the event is a fundraiser for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

#### **Union Cities**

Chris Garlock introduced Tony Perez (UFCW 400) who reported that UFCW Local 400 had ratified a new 18-month

agreement with Giant and Safeway on April 3. The local is very grateful to everyone in local labor who assisted in the process. The new contract includes some successes for the first time in the country such as significant wage increases and pension contribution increases. It's an 18month 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.

President Williams congratulated Tony and Local 400 and says he hopes this victory becomes "all of our victory" as it sets the stage for future negotiations.

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Executive Board: Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C) Ayres, Vance (WBCTC) Briscoe, Dena (APWU) Frederick, Anthony (LiUNA 657) Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26) Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689) Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers Local 5) Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99) Perez, Tony (UFCW 400) Reed, Doris (ASASP) Reed, Sonny (SEIU 400 PG) Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6) Williams, Jos (MWC)

#### Guests:

Courtien, Stephen (WBCTC) Hatton, Michelle (AFGE District 14) Daley, Janis (AFGE 17)

#### Staff:

Garlock, Chris; Metro Council Kann, Julia; Metro Council McKirchy, Kathleen; Community Services Agency Powell, Rick; Metro Council Solomon, Alya; Metro Council

Mike Murphy (IUOE 99) added that Teamsters, Bakery Workers, and Local 99 also have members at Giant and Safeway who have different negotiations at different times.

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 DC-area non-union competitors. He noted that the fight will continue to Shoppers, where contracts are up in June or July, and will bring active members from Giant and Safeway into other stores in the area. "It doesn't just stop here" says Perez.

Garlock reported on last month's successful events at the Supreme Court on healthcare and the upcoming action on Wednesday at the Supreme Court on immigration reform. He also acknowledged recent press about corruption at Walmart in Mexico that is reaching to the very top here in the U.S. and urged Board members to stay tuned as this issue comes to the fore. Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) added that this is "an opportunity to leverage ourselves" and make it clear to members what is wrong with Walmart.

Garlock reported that CWA and IBEW still don't have a contract at Verizon and continue frustrating negotiations. Murphy (IUOE 99) encouraged everyone to check out CWA's web-

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site, which lays out just how bad management has been thus far in negotiations.

In other news, Garlock also 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 local labor 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

Garlock introduced Dena Briscoe (APWU) who reported on their fight to save the Postal Service. A vote could take place as soon as 4/24 in the Senate "that would essentially dismantle the Postal Service." While labor supporters in the Senate are proposing amendments which would keep six-day service, add more work to the USPS, stop closing post offices, and more, Briscoe asked everyone to contact Senators to encourage them to pass the bill with the amendments. Check apwu.org for more information.

Perez asked if the Council knows anything about an upcoming "Working Family Summit" coming to DC. The Council had not heard of it.

Stephen Courtien (Building Trades Council) asked if the Council had any information on Machinists on strike at Lockheed -Martin. Rick Powell reported that the strike is just one location in Texas; it is a pension issue.

Saunders (WTU 6) thanked the Council for support at their recent rally at the John A Wilson building and asked if they knew where the inflatable rat is. Garlock replied that he is working on locating it, that perhaps there is more than one (Unite Here 25 had two at their picket line last week), and he hopes to have the giant rat(s) located in time for the next rally WTU – or any local in need – holds.

### **MD COPE Report**

Rick Powell introduced Prince George's/Montgomery County COPE Chair Doris Reed (ASASP), who reported that they had a productive meeting where representatives gave updates on how they did in Annapolis. Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) was at that meeting and expressed worries about where Verizon negotiations are going; AFSCME did very well in Annapolis, expanding collective bargaining and slowing cuts to pensions; new COPE member from AFSCME 3389 attended for the first time (from Prince George's Health Department). There has been some trouble getting Montgomery County people to attend meetings.

Reed reported that the Board of Education did well: five of the nine seats were up, three endorsed candidates made it in, and the others who made it through are now asking for support and will probably get it since nobody wants the current board to stay on. Of note, the winners in the primary are all young people (ages 18, 19, 20) who would make it the youngest Board of Education in the country, which is garnering national attention.

Reed thanked UFCW 400 and Tony Perez for being critical in getting work done in Annapolis, and Powell and President Williams for lending Larry Stafford to help.

Reed reported that at the last meeting there was discussion about endorsements and what kind of COPE they want to have. Everyone agreed on a desire to communicate better amongst themselves and be less reactionary. Looking at elections, there is desire that people be honest about what they're going to do with an endorsement. "If we just endorse and don't *do* then the labor endorsement is worthless" said Reed.

Perez added that a COPE subcommittee is looking at making a record of what happened in the past for elected officials beyond simply how they vote so that when it comes to endorsements/elections there is already a record of every step of each bill of interest in Annapolis. He is looking into who could create a record like this, perhaps Sean Dobson.

President Williams asked for a time frame for the plan and Reed reported that they plan to bring it to the May COPE meeting and then will report back to the Executive Board on recommendations at the following meeting. "We have to bring our strength back" added Reed.

Perez reported that there were many good fights in Annapolis and thanked President Williams for support. He added that Verizon crossed the line accusing workers of domestic terrorism during the recent weeklong strike.

Powell reporting 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. Perez added that they have struggled with this in the past in negotiations with Smithfield where management subpoenaed the workers for notes taken on phone calls.

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 Hoyer campaign.

Powell continued reporting that Rob Garagiola lost by a significant margin in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District primaries; John Delaney won and will face Roscoe Bartlett; the state fed will consider Delaney for endorsement April 24.

President Williams reminded the Executive Board that they have already voted to endorse Delaney and that this recommendation will be brought to the State Fed tomorrow. He added that he believes Delaney will be good to labor.

Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26) reported that when he asked Delaney about where he was on the "Grand Compro-



mise" approach to the federal budget and deficit reduction. He said 'everybody's going to have to compromise' which Goldman finds worrisome as could adversely affect federal employees and programs like social security. He added that he does think Delaney is approachable and will listen.

President Williams added that Congresswoman Donna Edwards said she thought Delaney would be as good of an ally to labor as she has been and he believes this is a significant promise.

Powell continued reporting 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 get it out right away. It will begin in late June or early July.

# **DC COPE Report**

Alya Solomon, Political/Legislative 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 should contact Alya.

Solomon continued reporting 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; 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 council members and ask them to support the supplemental budget.

President Williams added that the furlough was "a robbery of holiday pay;" the Mayor put the furlough on holidays and so they were not paid for those days and the city never lost a work day.

Solomon continued reporting on PERB nominations. The Mayor re-appointed Don Wasserman to PERB and appointed Ann Hoffman (National Writers Union). Committee Chair 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 through to prevent a lack of quorum.

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) asked what effort the Council is mounting on the furlough issue

Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) said that during interviews, members from AFGE and AFSCME were present and asked candidates if they would support repayment and all said yes. Since then At-Large Councilmember Vincent Orange developed legislation and there were discussions from others going on with the Mayor; when this was put in the budget, Orange supported the Mayor's budget saying it was a good way to get workers' money back. Allen spoke to councilmembers in support of repaying the furloughs on behalf of this Council.

President Williams added that the vote is coming up next Tuesday and the only issue raised last time was the question of District employees who lost money who were on the federal pay and whether they would be repaid. Since nobody knew the answer they postponed the vote. This legislation has caused tension with community allies since social services were cut, too; the question was raised of where the money comes from. The Council's position has always been that we do not want to be pitted against community allies, that there is enough money for everyone to get a share.

Solomon reported that she has been in touch with locals about this issue and has been in touch with WTU 6 staff. Michele Hatton (AFGE District 14) added that they will be doing an action alert that can be shared.

# **President's Report**

President Williams reported that he sent a letter to the MD State/DC AFL-CIO requesting reimbursement for the Council's work on state-level elections and legislation, which the Council has been handling in the District (which is considered both a city and a state). The ask is for reimbursement retroactively to January 1, 2012 for a total annual amount of \$55,000 and President Williams asked board members to support this when the issue is raised at the State Fed. He added that this had been discussed with MD/DC State Fed President Fred Mason prior to sending the letter and the issue would not be a surprise to him.

Discussion ensued.

# **Reports of Board Members**

Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) reported that the 2012 Evening with Labor is expected to net about \$25,000, much better than last year because of slightly higher ticket prices (\$25 more than last year). He thanked all who participated.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:23pm. Approved.