

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: May 21, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm by President Jos Williams.

Steve Hopkins (AFGE Local 3331) was sworn in as a delegate.

Minutes (April) moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

Financial Report (April) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

President Williams introduced Mike Cavanaugh, Director of the AFL-CIO Campaigns Department, who introduced the AFL-CIO's "Meet Mr. 1%" video about GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Although technical difficulties prevented projection of the video, Cavanaugh discussed the importance of the upcoming presidential election and "Meet Mr. 1%" fliers were passed out. Cavanaugh urged everyone to sign up for Labor 2012 and distributed sign-up sheets. A link to the video will be emailed out through *Union City* since it could not be projected.

Correspondence

President Williams reported on the following contributions, recommended by the Executive Board: \$1,000 from Evening with Labor proceeds for the Rolark Award to the United Black Fund; \$150 to DC Coalition of Labor Union Women for their annual Gloria Johnson Award Luncheon; \$500 to DC Jobs with Justice "I'll Be There" Awards; \$300 to the Peggy Browning Fund; \$500 to AFL-CIO Wisconsin recall effort; \$2000 to Our Nation's Capital for a regional infrastructure bank conference. **Moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.**

Discussion ensued on the Wisconsin recall effort.

Community Services Agency: President Williams reported on behalf of Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy. He reminded everyone that Labor Night at the Nats is coming up on August 3; 900 tickets have already been sold; it is a fundraiser for the Emergency Assistance Fund. A new Building Futures class started on 5/14 with 18 students.

CSA also successfully provided lay-off help for 72 members of IAM CE-1 at the DC Jail. A reminder: items are still being collected for the Shoebox Project (through June 2) with the United Way.

Union Cities: Coordinator Chris Garlock reported that there are now rate sheets for the 2012 DC Labor FilmFest program guide ad space. He added that there was a successful Labor FilmFest organizers' conference last year that brought people together from across the country and from Ireland and the UK; there will be another one this year and supporting the FilmFest is a way to support this international labor solidarity work.

Assistant Mobilizer Julia Kann gave a brief report on the 2012 Labor Notes conference in Chicago.

Guest Joe Alviar (IAM 776) reported on the 5-week strike against Lockheed Martin by a Texas IAM local, which also has members in Southern Maryland, and asked people to join the upcoming action on Thursday in front of the Lockheed Martin headquarters in Bethesda, MD.

Tiffany Flowers (UFCW 400), Mike Wilson (DC JwJ), and Dyana Forester (DC JwJ) reported on the Walmart Respect DC campaign and invited everyone to participate in the 'Walmart at 50' parade on 5/31.

Kann urged everyone to check out the Great Labor Arts Exchange (6/22-25) and handed out fliers.

Guest Kevin Byrne of the AFL-CIO reported that some union members are collaborating with DC United to put together a "Labor Night at RFK" and encouraged everyone to get tickets.

COPE Reports

DC COPE: Political/Legislative Assistant Alya Solomon reported that the DC City Council will vote on June 5th to repay District employees for the unnecessary furlough days taken in 2011. Solomon reviewed who voted with labor and who voted against and why **[need details from Alya]**. Affiliates are urged to turn out members to the City Council on June 5 to support the repayment.

Solomon reported that changes were made to the law regarding the number of annual leave hours that all



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DC City employees are able to carry over into a calendar year from 240 hours to 160 hours. Effective immediately, any leave over 160 hours is forfeited. Labor leaders turned out against the change. The Council introduced legislation via the Budget Support Act to repeal the legislation. The Council first reading was May 15th and they will have the second reading on June 5th. Again, everyone is urged to turn out members for this big day at the City Council.

Solomon updated on the City Council's confirmation of both PERB nominees: Ann Hoffman and Don Wasserman on May 15th. Hoffman's term expires after 1 year; she will be completing the remainder of former member Johnine Barnes' term. Hoffman and Wasserman are expected to be sworn in soon.

Solomon reported that labor-endorsed candidate Kenyan McDuffie won "by a landslide" in Ward 5. She thanked everyone for the hard work in the Ward 5 Special Election.

Solomon described a DC Ballot Initiative that would prohibit corporate contributions to political campaigns. The campaign is called the DC Public Trust and they need 23,000 signatures by July 11 to get the initiative on the ballot. Only registered DC voters may sign. Information on signing the ballot initiative will be emailed to COPE and will come out in *Union City* so people can help collect signatures. **Moved and seconded to endorse this initiative. Approved.**

Discussion ensued on the repayment of furloughs and the signature collection for the Ballot Initiative.

MD COPE Report: Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell reported that in Congress last Thursday, Roscoe Bartlett (MD Congressional District 6) co-sponsored a bill that would bar Project Labor Agreements on government-funded projects under the Defense Authorization Act. It has passed the House but it is unlikely it will pass the Senate.

Powell reported on the formation of the subcommittee for Prince George's and Montgomery County COPE to evaluate elected officials in the counties. They are establishing a "Scorecard" for elected officials in the General Assembly, County Councils and School Boards. They plan to have a report out in September.

Powell reported that the Executive Board (based on endorsement by Prince George's / Montgomery County COPE) recommends the following endorsements: Prince George's Board of Education Election: Raaheela Ahmed, Micah Watson; Takoma Park City Council Election: Eric

Hensal, who was present.

Hensal reported that the election is coming up on July 17 for Takoma Park Ward 5, which has about 12,000 voters. He's a member of the Painters union and was grateful to receive a labor endorsement in the past.

Moved and seconded to approve the Executive Board's recommendations. Approved.

Powell reported that the Executive Board (based on endorsement by Tri-County COPE) recommends the endorsement of Clifford Savoy of Sheet Metal Workers Local 100 for the Calvert County Board of Education.

Moved and seconded to approve the Executive Board's recommendation. Approved.

Powell added that there is a possibility that there may be another Special Session in Annapolis in July on gaming. The proposed gaming center would mean union construction jobs building a resort/casino and many permanent union jobs at the casino and surrounding hotels, too. It is unclear whether this will pass if the Governor brings it back. When information is available it will be in *Union City*.

President's Report

President Williams reminded delegates that both the Maryland DREAM Act and the Marriage Equality bill will be on the ballot in Maryland and that Maryland State/DC AFL-CIO leadership is in support of both. He urged everyone to take time to make sure members are also on board to support these important issues.

Reports of Board Members

Bill Preston (AFGE 17) announced a rally on June 13 at 11:30am at Lafayette Park being put on by AFGE Department of Veterans Affairs. People will be there from across the country and are expected to join the AFGE National VA Council in the streets to protest pay cuts for VA employees; more details will be forthcoming and will be published in *Union City*.

Jim Lowery (Elevator Constructors Local 10) reported on the local's successful "Christmas in April" celebration last month and thanked the Painters for putting a lot of time and energy into supporting the event. "Christmas in April" is an annual event where volunteers help make repairs on the homes of community members in need, particularly low-income veterans, elderly, and disabled people.

Tiffany Flowers (UFCW 400) reported that their local



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helped workers at a non-union grocery store fight for 27 days of unpaid wages by occupying the management's office. They won back-pay for all of the workers.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC/SEIU Committee of Interns and Residents) reported that the Committee of Interns and Residents had a convention this weekend to come together and build leadership. At the conference a professor from Yale discussed the impact on worker productivity and patient care when workers are treated well versus badly in the workplace.

Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) reported that he received an email that the City Council plans to cut funding for arts and humanities in the District. He will share a form letter locals can sign to show their solidarity with IATSE 22 in demanding the city keep funding the arts.

Jessica Ingerick (OPEIU 277/DC-YTU) announced that the DC Young Trade Unionists have won a scholarship from Berger-Marks Foundation to send a young woman to the Northeast Summer School for Union Women. The application deadline has been extended to this Friday.

Donna Brockington (DC-CLUW) invited everyone to their award luncheon on June 10. They are accepting ads past the date marked and tickets are always available. Men and women are welcome. She would also like to support locals' work and asks that locals contact her to set up a time for her to visit and talk about how they can collaborate.

President Williams introduced Nikki Daruwala, the new Executive Director for DC Jobs with Justice. Daruwala reported that in addition to the Respect DC campaign, they recently worked with the Metro Police Department, which has agreed to get involved in wage theft cases without risking workers' citizenship status — a big win. She added that there will be action around the Verizon contract fight on June 3 and 5, and that they have been working with the DC Employment Justice Center on a petition for injured DC government workers. Daruwala invited delegates to support the "I'll Be There" Awards by getting ads in the program book for the upcoming event. They will honor Carrie Biggs-Adams, Rev. Bell, the Kalmanowitz Initiative at Georgetown University, and the united group of Occupy DC.

Ben Daniels (Occupy DC / DC Mic Check) shared that they

are looking to build allies for their newspaper. They are looking for help with distribution, content, and funding. Anyone interested can contact him at ben@dcmiccheck.com.

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved.

The	50/50	was	won	by	
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ATTENDANCE:

Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Boardman, John (UNITE HERE 25); Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14); Bridges, Linda (OPEIU 2); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local); Brockington, Donna (CLUW, Metro DC Chapter); Buchanan, Avis (AFGE Council 1); Clark, Katrina (DCNA); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 PG); Daruwala, Nikki (DC Jobs with Justice); Diaz, Benito (Working America); Dixon, Vanessa (Doctors Council DC/AFSCME NUHHCE); Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2); Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU); Flowers, Tiffany (UFCW 400); Freeland, Ronald (Laborers 657); Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Ingerick, Jessica (American Income Life/American Income Life/OPEIU 277); Jacob, Doug (Unite Here 23); Lowery, Ruth (IAMAW 193); Lowery, Jim (IUEC Local 10); Lucas, Calvin (SEIU 1199); Mayfield, Robert (AFGE 2978); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400 PG); Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); Reyes, Victor (LABORERS 657); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Tarlau, Jimmy (CWA District 2); Taylor, Katherine (1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East); Wallace, Lisa (1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East); Warrick, Gerald (Laborers 657); Washington, James (TEAMSTERS 639); Williams, Jos (Metro DC Council, AFL-CIO); Williams, Sybil (AFGE)

STAFF

Garlock, Chris (MWC); Kann, Julia (MWC); Powell, Rick (MWC); Solomon, Alya (MWC)