



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: May 21, 2012

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

President Williams noted that Katherine Taylor (SEIU 1199) is joining via conference call because she's recovering from recent surgery and that other than such circumstances he expects in-person attendance by Board members.

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

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

Correspondence

President Williams explained that, per a previous discussion, political contributions have been suspended so there are no political contribution recommendations.

The following contributions were approved: \$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

Discussion ensued on the Wisconsin recall effort. SEIU 1199 and UFCW 1994 are doing phone banks in addition to the main one at the AFL-CIO. NNU and UFCW 1994 sent people to Wisconsin.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) asked for a contribution on behalf of the Prince George's county NAACP dinner on June 15. They are asking the Council for a 1/2-page ad, as well as contributions from affiliates. Perez said the Prince George's NAACP is under new leadership and is doing good, important work. President Williams recommended making this \$300 contribution. Moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Community Services Agency: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded everyone that CSA is dependent on United Way and grants and donations, not the Council's finances. McKirchy thanked John Boardman (Unite Here

25) for helping them become finalists for a grant with "The Training Source" and Prince George's Community College for a hospitality training program. She reminded everyone that Labor Night at the Nats is coming up on 8/3; 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 and is going strong. 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. Tony Perez (UFCW 400) brought some donations today.

Union Cities: Coordinator Chris Garlock reported that there are now rate sheets for reserving space in the 2012 DC Labor FilmFest program guide. He added that there was a successful Labor FilmFest organizer's conference last year that brought people together from across the country; 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, then reviewed some upcoming local labor events: Wisconsin recall phone-banking at the AFL-CIO; Picket at Lockheed Martin headquarters (5/24); Book release: "The Main Street Moment: Fighting Back to Save the American Dream" (5/31); "Divide" film screening (6/7); Great Labor Arts Exchange (6/22-25); Labor Night at RFK (6/30)

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) shared fliers and information about the May 31 'Walmart at 50' retail worker

ATTENDANCE

Executive Board:

Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C)
Boardman, John (UNITE HERE 25)
Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14)
Bridges, Linda (OPEIU 2)
Briscoe, Dena (APWU)
Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2)
Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU)
Perez, Tony (UFCW 400)
Reed, Doris (ASASP)
Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400 PG)
Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)
Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6)
Tarlau, Jimmy (CWA District 2)
Taylor, Katherine (1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East)
Warrick, Gerald (Laborers 657)
Williams, Jos (MWC)

Staff:

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



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parade and encouraged everyone to attend.

Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) reported on their ongoing negotiations with Verizon, “a company making millions of dollars and still demanding extreme concessions,” adding that “Things are not looking very good. Either side could give seven days notice for a strike/lockout any day.” June 22 will be the 1-year anniversary of Verizon negotiations and there will be lots of actions; details to follow. There is also a deal going on now between Verizon and the cable companies. In places where they don’t have high speed Internet, Verizon is partnering with Comcast to market Verizon wireless (suggesting a possible end to a lot of land-line jobs). “This is collusion between cable and telephone that would effectively form a monopoly,” the Justice Department is stepping in to review. CWA filed charges against Verizon for firing or suspending forty workers during the strike in “clear cases of retaliation” against the union, according to Tarlau. The NLRB found for the union in the vast majority of the cases (all but four people), saying if it weren’t for the strike they would have been warned instead.

John Boardman (Unite Here 25) reported on their successful new contract after 19 months of negotiations with area hotels. They have a 5.5-year agreement; “the best contract that the union has ever gotten.” “It was a long process, but I think well-worth it.” National contracts outside of New York expire next year. From now on, the DC contracts will align with the New York contracts as both expire, providing extra leverage. Additionally, any new hotel that Hilton, Marriot, Hyatt, Starwood open, or any independent hotel that opens in DC, will now automatically fall under a labor peace agreement.

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported that his local has been under “what I consider a 3-year strike.” The local has managed to negotiate a multi-year agreement for the first time in years. In all three bargaining units there will be a \$2,000 bonus and then back to the bargaining table, because “our folks on the bottom have been struggling pretty bad.” They held onto healthcare and had other wins in Montgomery County. They will return to the table on wages for all of them. “Their [management’s] plan was to cripple us economically; they got real close... but we’ll rebuild.”

Katherine Taylor (SEIU 1199) reported that they have a new contract with United Medical Center. It includes a 3% wage increase for the next 3 years and more for all 1199 members; more details to follow. Local 1199 is doing actions in Ward 8 and 7, mailings, phone banks, door

-knocks to try to maintain United Medical center as a full-service hospital in the District. There is a petition for folks living in those wards with 1000 signatures. They recently succeeded in getting a meeting with DC Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander.

Sandra Fallwell (DCNA) reported that they have been leafleting by United Medical Center to build support. They’ve been going to board meetings and nursing board meetings, with the mantra “how could you dare close that hospital!” She also reported on NNU’s big Robin Hood tax rally in Chicago in conjunction with NATO protests. When their permit was denied they went to court and used social media to fight back and were able to hold a big, successful rally. “Americans are writing in that they want this tax.” “We’re not holding our breath but we’re making them look bad.”

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) reported on a deal they struck with the DC government opening up a retirement program called “Option 2” that extends a special pool of money for retirement for teachers who have 20 years experience and are excessed.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) added that there will be a hearing for the Walmart referendum in La Plata, MD Town Hall Tuesday night (5/22). Local 400 also just entered negotiations with Shoppers Food & Pharmacy. There is a deficit in the pensions so it will be a tough battle, but Giant and Safeway members are stepping up. Perez also reported that they got a settlement with Evergreen Market (a new market from New York) where workers weren’t being paid, to get back-pay for all these workers.

Chris Garlock reported that there will be a meeting of local labor communicators on Wednesday (5/23), hosted by UFCW 400. Everyone is urged to send their communications people. Talk to Chris or Julia for more information.

President Williams called for a motion to endorse the Great Labor Arts Exchange coming up (6/22-25).

Moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

COPE Reports

DC COPE: Political/Legislative Assistant Alya Solomon reported that the Council will vote on June 5th to repay DC city employees for the four 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



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law regarding the number of annual leave hours that all 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 City Council introduced legislation via the Budget Support Act to repeal the legislation. The City 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 confirming both PERB nominees: Ann Hoffman and Don Wasserman on May 15th. Ann's term expires after 1 year. Ann will be completing the remainder of former-member, Johnine Barnes' term. They are expected to be sworn in soon.

Solomon finally 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.

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) thanked Solomon and President Williams for their hard work on the annual leave issue. He thought it was powerful seeing labor leaders participating and said this is a way for the public to see what labor does and for labor to have a big effect on union workers and the entire district government. "This is an example of a good labor story."

President Williams agreed, saying this is why we need a repeat on June 5, particularly getting rank and file members in the room. "The promises are there, but I'll believe it when the final votes are taken."

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) added that the Council ought to work with Kenyan McDuffie to develop him as a real labor ally. Saunders wants to see McDuffie back with labor folks right away.

President Williams said McDuffie is going to be coming back to meet with labor no later than the June meeting. "This was not just a labor victory; this was a victory of progressives." Williams commended the affiliates, staff, and particularly COPE chair Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) for the hard work that went into this campaign.

President Williams acknowledged the arrival of Mike Cavanaugh of the AFL-CIO who stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

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.

Doris Reed (ASASP) 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.

Reed reported that Prince George's / Montgomery County COPE recommend the following endorsements: Prince George's Board of Education Election: Raaheela Ahmed, Micah Watson; Takoma Park City Council Election: Eric Hensal. **Moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.**

Powell reported that 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 adopt. 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, too. It is unclear whether this will pass if the Governor brings it back. When information is available it will be in *Union City*.

Discussion ensued.

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported on recent 3-year battle for a contract by three unions and related loss of political leverage in Montgomery County. The locals are determined to fight back and feel the best bet is to support term limits for County Council members. He asks that the Council "let that fight be our fight" by supporting or taking "no position." **Motion for Council to take no position if it comes to ballot – moved and seconded. Approved**

President Williams encouraged affiliates to participate in petition gathering for the term-limits in Montgomery County and said that at the June meeting the board will discuss whether they will take "no position" or stand explicitly with UFCW 1994 on the issue.

Discussion ensued.

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved.