



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: June 18, 2012

**Meeting called to order** at 6:31pm by President Jos Williams.

**Minutes** (May) moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

**Financial Report** (May) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

### Correspondence

Report on Executive Board actions: \$500 to Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker for his forthcoming fundraiser and \$40 for 2 tickets to the upcoming Women's National Democratic Club luncheon honoring Elaine Newman (NCAUR); a resolution in support of the upcoming "Save Our Postal Service" Hunger Strike, a resolution in support of restoring the DOL's Labor Hall of Fame, and a suspension of meetings for July and August, resuming meetings in September, as done in previous years.

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) presented on the cuts threatening postal workers and the upcoming hunger strike and rally. The hope is to "counter the disinformation campaign being waged by the federal government and Wall Street." Discussion ensued.

Dave Richardson (AFGE 12) spoke about the Labor Hall of Fame at the Department of Labor, an exhibit full of historical artifacts from famous figures from labor history. The exhibits and displays have been replaced with a list of names on a wall. "This is the worst kind of outrage," said Richardson. "It's really wiping out labor's history" added President Williams.

Steve Hopkins (AFGE 3331) asked about communication through July and August when there are no meetings. President Williams assured the delegates that there will be much work happening and information being shared through *Union City*. "Let me assure you that the work we have to do in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia will continue from now on through September," when Council meetings resume, added Williams.

President Williams congratulated Elaine Newman on her recognition by the Women's National

Democratic Club.

Moved and seconded to adopt all Executive Board recommendations. Approved. President Williams reminded delegates that passing these items means taking action to participate in and implement these actions.

### Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy announced that CSA joined with a nonprofit in PG county (The Training Source) and PG Community College to do hospitality training. They have received a grant to help place folks in union jobs after the program. Thanks to John Boardman (Unite Here 25) for writing a letter of support. The project begins right away and will last two years.

McKirchy reminded delegates about Labor Night at the Nationals on 8/3. Tickets are \$10; about 2,500 tickets sold so far; buy 50 or more to get your name on the big screen and the folks who buy the most tickets get to pick who throws out the first pitch (the most thus far are 700 purchased by AFGE 3615). Also the Golf Tournament is coming up on 9/24; registration information just went out; goal is 144 golfers (which is the maximum and about 40 more than previous years).

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) reported that the local has been forced to file a record number of grievances in recent years but the good news is that since they have an agreement with USPS management to donate penalties for management not meeting grievance deadlines to the charity of their choice, CSA has been the beneficiary of recent wins. Accepting a check for \$625.08, McKirchy thanked Lerch, adding "this is one of the most creative ways for raising money for CSA."

### Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock gave a mobilization report on the recent AFGE VA and CWA FCC rallies. Ads are still coming in for the DC Labor FilmFest and the film line-up will be available soon. Garlock added that the recent *Union City* Reader Survey showed that folks are generally happy with what is being produced



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He will be working on a more detailed report on the results.

Assistant Mobilizer Julia Kann reported on the following upcoming actions and events, which are in the labor calendar: NNU "Robin Hood Tax" Rally (6/19); Nikki Daruwala (DC JwJ) announced the 10th Annual "I'll Be There" Awards (6/21), Lilly Walker-Shelton (DC JwJ) announced the dual CWA Capitol Grille actions (6/22), Kann presented on The Great Labor Arts Exchange (6/22-25), TRASH DANCE screening at Silverdocs (6/23-24), "T-Mobile Bring Our Jobs Back Home" action (6/28), and the retirement Party for Dave Richardson (7/6).

President Williams added that AFSCME 2910's Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910) will be given the Joe Hill lifetime achievement award on June 24 at the Great Labor Arts Exchange concert at the Maritime Institute and encouraged delegates to attend.

### COPE Reports

**DC COPE:** Political/Legislative Assistant Alya Solomon reported on three recent victories at the DC City Council: repayment of unnecessary furlough days, reversal of legislation that changed workers' annual leave carry-over hours, and stopping the city's decision to increase the amount employees pay into their healthcare (rather than the city).

Solomon added that these fights are all about issues that should be bargained and that these wins set a precedent that the city cannot legislate against items that were previously agreed upon in collective bargaining negotiations.

Solomon announced that Councilmember Phil Mendelson will fill in as Interim Chairman of the City Council with At-Large Councilmember Kwame Brown's recent resignation and Michael Brown will be the Chairman Pro-Tempore. The election for the Chairman's seat will be held with the general election in November. Mendelson and At-Large Councilmember Vincent Orange have both expressed interest in running for this position.

Solomon announced that some DC City Council committees have changed membership and information on new committee assignments is in the packets. There is a new committee on Jobs and Workforce Development, which newly-elected Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie will chair.

**MD COPE Report:** Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell reported for Prince George's/

Montgomery County COPE on the subcommittee in formation that Tony Perez (UFCW 400) is chairing to create a report card for all elected officials. The hope is that this will lead to better, easier decision-making when discussing endorsements and support. They are on track to develop it in time for September. President Williams hopes that this will be a tool that can become a model for the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO.

Powell reported on discussion on the Prince George's County School Board. There may be a fight between some school unions (not the teachers union or SEIU 400, but AFSCME 2250 and ASASP) and the Board of Education. The School Board offered a .5% one-time bonus after years without raises and the teachers and SEIU 400 accepted, but others did not. Two locals continue in negotiations. "This is a way of dividing and conquering among unions," said Powell, who is hopeful that it can be dealt with over the summer. Powell added that the Council is supporting mostly new folks for the Prince George's School board, as well as Eric Hensal for Takoma Park City Council.

Powell updated the delegates on gaming at National Harbor. He anticipates a special session on July 9 and a favorable committee report should come out Wednesday.

Powell reported for Tri-County COPE on a referendum to stop a Walmart in La Plata that was deemed illegal and struck down. Tri-County COPE is working with community members in La Plata to file an appeal.

Eric Starin (OPEIU 2) asked why only union households are targeted for political activity when the Supreme Court Citizens United decision allowed unions to reach out to anyone. Powell explained that to do this someone would have to run an independent expenditure campaign (as opposed to a union-to-union campaign, which allows unlimited donations, which is what is being done in this case).

### Reports of Delegates

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) introduced Nannette Corley (APWU MCAL 3630) (check with Ken for name/local) which is thinking about affiliating with the Council. Corley will be a hunger striker at the USPS actions.

Frank Stella (MD/DC ARA) reported on a recent healthcare forum they sponsored in Cumberland, MD. It was well attended and covered in local press. Stella discussed their political involvement and upcoming



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endorsements, as well as some new affiliates.

Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) reported on international CBTU's new leadership. President Lucy retired and Reverend Terrence Melvin was elected. Chapter elections were also held and there is a whole new board in the chapter except for Johnson who remained president and the Vice-President remained. Normally they do not meet during the summer, but this summer they will meet because they have a lot of work, which will be covered in *Union City*.

Katrina Dizon (APALA DC) reported on their upcoming Organizing Institute with the AFL-CIO, as well as their door-knocking and voter registration efforts in NoVa.

Yvette Martin Gross (AFGE 631) reported on the recent CLUW luncheon and awardee Larry Greenhill Sr. (in attendance).

Larry Greenhill Sr. (IBEW 26) reported on the APRI recent elections and the upcoming national APRI conference to be held in DC. Information will be communicated through *Union City*.

Elaine Newman (NCAUR) reminded the delegates that tomorrow is the 1-year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in favor of Walmart against Betty Duke and the thousands of women who tried to file a class action discrimination lawsuit. Duke will be receiving an award tomorrow at AFT and people will rally at the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Ann Hoffman (NWU) reported that if they get 23,000 signatures in the next three weeks there will be an initiative on the ballot in DC to prohibit corporate contributions to DC politics and encouraged any registered DC voters in the room to sign the petition.

Mike Wilson (DC JwJ/Respect DC) reported on the fight against Walmart in DC. He thanked everyone for coming to their parade and thanked President Williams for speaking. Wilson will send information on NOW's rally at the Supreme Court to the Council to share on the website. On June 29 there will be a panel discussion on what Walmart has done over the past 50 years. More actions are planned and will be on the Council website. Wilson also encouraged people to attend "Labor Night at RFK." Williams added that he will be there.

Avis Buchanan (AFGE Council 1) asked who won the DC YTU scholarship. Solomon replied that a young woman had received the scholarship and thanked everyone for spreading the word. The awardee will report on her experience at the school to the DC YTU.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:43p. Approved.

50/50 for \$36 was won by Coleson Breen (DC-DSA).

### ACTION ITEMS

- Final report on findings of *Union City* survey will be compiled
- CBTU stories in *Union City*
- The upcoming national APRI conference to be held in DC. Information will be communicated through *Union City*
- Mike Wilson will send information on NOW's rally at the Supreme Court to the Council to share on the website

**Attendance:** Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Buchanan, Avis (AFGE Council 1); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 Pg); Dixon, Vanessa (DCDC/AFSCME NUHHCE); Dizon, Katrina (APALA-DC); Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2); Ferrufino, Ruben Dario (LABORERS 657); Freeland, Ronald (Laborers 657); Greenhill Sr., Larry (IBEW 26); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Hershfield, David (AFGE Council 1 12); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Hopkins, Steve (AFGE 3331); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC Chapter); Martin-Gross, Yvette (AFGE 631); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Reyes, Victor (LABORERS 657); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Silberstein, Franklin (AFGE 2782); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Stella, Frank (MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans); Warrick, Gerald (Laborers 657); Williams, Jos (MWC); Williams, Sybil (AFGE 2876)

**Guests:** Breen, Coleson (DC-DSA); Daruwala, Nikki (DCJwJ); Kreider, Ben (Mid-Atlantic Laborers)

**Staff:** Garlock, Chris; Kann, Julia; McKirchy, Kathleen; Powell, Rick; Solomon, Alya