



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

---

**DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: October 15, 2012**

**DRAFT**

**Meeting called to order** at 6:38pm by President Williams

**President Williams swore in three new delegates:** Emilio Abate (Unite Here 23), Allison Burket (Unite Here 23), Burt Bayou (Unite Here 23)

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

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

## **Executive Board Actions**

The Council's Executive Board took three actions: approving a draft Political Scorecard, a resolution regarding public financing of campaigns in DC, and a resolution in support of the DC Teacher Retirement with Dignity Act.

**Tony Perez (UFCW 400)** reviewed the proposed Political Scorecard, explaining that it's intended to provide a tool for Council affiliates to consistently score candidates and politicians. Dave Richardson (AFGE 12) asked for clarification that what's been approved is not actually the scorecard itself, but a system by which to score politicians moving forward.

**Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2)** reviewed the resolution regarding public financing of campaigns, explaining that campaign finance reform is critical in the District because of the Citizens United ruling and its effect on money in politics.

**President Williams** reviewed the resolution in support of the DC Teacher Retirement with Dignity Act, noting that it's intended to help teachers forced into early retirement and thus not receiving full benefits.

It was moved, seconded and approved to adopt the Executive Board's recommendations.

## **Union Cities**

**Coordinator Chris Garlock** updated delegates on the ongoing DC Labor FilmFest (though October 18) and thanked affiliates for their support. Garlock introduced his father, Jon Garlock (AFT/NYSUT), who runs the 23-year-old Rochester Labor Film Series, and told delegates about the second annual International Labor FilmFest Organizer Conference, which was a big success.

Garlock announced that IBEW 1900 got their contract at Pepco, but those at NABET/CWA 31 working at WHUT-TV at Howard University are still fighting to get back to work.

He introduced **Barbra Kavanaugh (DC Employment Justice Center)** who gave an overview on their current campaigns: the Injured Workers Act, Wage Theft Legislation, and Paid Sick Leave for All.

Garlock added that the AFL-CIO announced today a boycott of American Crystal Sugar and that the Council will be sharing more as the boycott and lock-out continue.

**President Williams introduced Dan Duncan, President of NoVA Labor Federation**, who discussed the Labor-to-Labor campaign in Northern Virginia. Duncan thanked those present who had helped out already and stressed the importance of the upcoming 21 days until the election. There are labor walks every Saturday, and phone banks every day. He called on those with members in VA to encourage them to help out, adding that US Senate candidate Tim Kaine will be there this week. There will be a festive BBQ at the final walk, the first Saturday in November. Duncan thanked those affiliates who turned out particularly impressive groups for labor walks and phone banking.

**Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910)** asked the difference between phone banking in

NoVA and at the AFL-CIO; Duncan said there's little difference except that those in NoVA will be calling Virginia more often. President Williams strongly seconded the importance of this work in Virginia.

### **Community Services Agency**

**Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy** told delegates "It's time for the annual United Way, CFC and DC One Fund campaigns." McKirchy stressed how much more could be done for local union members with more money and asked all those present to help spread the word to bring more funds into the agency. Affiliates are welcome to invite McKirchy to meetings of members, retirees, boards, etc. to talk about giving. McKirchy added that the recent CSA Golf Tournament was a great success and thanked everyone for their support. McKirchy thanked CSA Board Members Dan Duncan, Ann Hoffman, and Saul Schniderman, all in attendance, for their great work.

**Elaine Newman (NCAUR)** asked if checks should be made to United Way. McKirchy explained individual donations can be made directly to United Way, but employee giving campaign donations can be dedicated specifically to CSA using the numbers on the bottom of the flier. For United Way and DC One Fund: 8253; for CFC: 19579.

### **COPE Reports**

#### **DC COPE Report**

**Assistant Legislative/Political Assistant Alya Solomon** reported on election plans in the District, which include robo-calls and the live GOTV calls the weekend before the election. Bodies are also needed for election-day action in the District, not to take away from the ongoing need in Northern Virginia.

Solomon introduced **Jessica Ingerick (OPEIU 277 / DC YTU)** who told delegates about the upcoming meeting DC Young Trade Unionists (Wednesday 10/17 at UFCW 400) where President Williams will speak and young members will phone bank. For more information, folks can email [dcyoungtradeunionists@gmail.com](mailto:dcyoungtradeunionists@gmail.com).

President Williams seconded the importance of young members getting involved in DC YTU.

### **MD COPE Report**

**Legislative/Political Coordinator Rick Powell** reported on Montgomery County Question B, which deals with collective bargaining rights of the police in Montgomery County, and which the Council is joining the Fraternal Order of Police in opposing. There are also four referenda which local labor is calling on folks to support (they're all listed on the Council's website). Powell stressed the importance of the gaming referendum (Question 7). If the bill passes, additional revenues will go into education, despite what the bill's opponents say. This job will create 2,000 union construction jobs, and 5,000 permanent entry-level union jobs inside the casino itself. Powell said that if this bill fails, people will lose services or taxes will go up. A phone campaign in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties is coming up, asking people to vote for Question 7, and to help spread the word in their communities.

Powell reminded delegates about endorsed candidates for the Prince George's County School Board, many of whom are very young and being attacked for their age.

Powell introduced **Jim Lowery (IUEC Local 10/Co-Chair of Tri-County COPE)** who announced an event on October 27 from 10a-12p at his home in support of labor-endorsed candidates. More information is available on the Council website.

**Chuck Clay (IATSE 22)** asked for a written version of Powell's argument in favor of Question 7, which Powell said he would share via the Council website.

**Dan Blumenthal (AFSCME 2870)** asked where phone banking will happen for Question 7. Powell explained that there will be a professional phone campaign, rather than a member phone bank.

**Sandra Falwell (DCDC/NUU)** asked if there is a way to draw attention to the money being spent by those opposed to Question 7. Mark Coles (DC Building Trades Council) explained that they are pushing this message, particularly

## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: September 19, 2012

**DRAFT**

with Governor O'Malley and local teachers calling on residents to vote yes on Question 7.

Discussion ensued on the tactics of the opponents to Question 7 and where the money generated by the proposed casino will go.

### Reports of Delegates

**Chuck Clay (IATSE 22)** announced the completion of three contract negotiations at Strathmore (11% in wages and more), Verizon Center (13% over 4 years and more), and memorandum of agreement with Kennedy Center (12% over 4 years and more)

**Emilio Abate (Unite Here 23)** announced his contract campaign for 500 food service workers at 5 local universities. The campaign is called "Real Food/Real Jobs."

Allison Burket (Unite Here 23) discussed the ongoing campaign, which will bring together the fight for good food with the fight for good jobs. There will be an event coming up on Wednesday, October 24 at 5p.

**Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU)** announced that they are starting their 2013 membership drive. They also have a strategic organizing drive. Johnson will be counting on local allies to help with the campaign. They will be phone banking at the AFL-CIO on Wednesday, October 24, from 4 to 6pm. In December they will have the annual shoebox event - remember to save toiletries to donate; stay tuned for the date.

**Nikki Daruwala (DC JwJ)** thanked those in the room for their participation in DC JwJ's ongoing campaigns, and introduced Ari Schwarz, the AVODAH corps member working at DC JwJ, and Mike Wilson, who gave an update on the Respect DC campaign. He explained that last week was a big one for the campaign nationally, with workers

walking off the job in 23 stores, including many in MD. These actions are leading toward big action for Black Friday that needs a lot of support. The local fight continues, as well. More details to follow in Union City moving.

*Moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:51p. Approved.*

Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) won the \$28 50/50.

**Attendance:** Ayres, Vance (WBCTC); Battle-Mason, Kewana (ATU 1764); Bayou, Bert (Unite Here 23); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD); Burket, Allison (Unite Here 23); Childs, Barbara (AFSA 4); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 Pg); Contreras, Jaime (SEIU 32BJ); Daruwala, Nikki (DC JwJ); Dodd, Telisia (AFGE 2978); Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NUU); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Ingerick, Jessica (AIL/OPEIU 277); Jefferson, Aona (AFSA/CSO 4); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Johnson, Geo (AFSCME COUNCIL 20); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC); Lowery, Ruth (IAMAW 193); Lowery, Jim (IUOE 10); Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers 5); Mayfield, Robert (AFGE 2978); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Tarlau, Jimmy (CWA District 2); Williams, Sybil (AFGE 2876); Williams, Jos (Metro Council)