



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: September 19, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm by President Jos Williams

President Williams swore in seven new delegates:

Kewana Battle-Mason (ATU 1764); Kadija Ash (AFGE 2978); Alex Gittelson (AFSCME 3976); Telisia Dodd (AFGE 2978); Kenneth Pitts (AFGE 383); Karen Hemphill (AFGE 383);
Abiola Afolayan (Unite Here 25).

Minutes (June) moved and seconded to adopt with two small edits (*CHANGE Betty Duke to Dukes; Ann Hoffman reported that if volunteers get 23,000 signatures*). Approved.

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

Report on Executive Board actions:

Correspondence

\$250 for Andrea Harrison (PG Council 5) Birthday Celebration; \$150 (three tickets) for Rodney Richmond (ATU 689) Dinner; \$500 for DC Vote Annual Champions of Democracy Dinner; \$50 for Clifton Savoy (Sheet Metal 100 member) running for Calvert County School Board, District 1; \$100 for Downtown Cluster of Congregations Help the Homeless Walk

Moved and seconded to adopt all Executive Board recommendations. Approved.

Resolutions

The board adopted the AFL-CIO's Resolution in support of locked-out BCTGM workers at American Crystal Sugar (*note: all resolutions are posted on the Council's website — dclabor.org under Official Council Docs/2012 Council Minutes*) Delegates moved and seconded to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation. Accepted.

The board adopted the NNU resolution in support of the Robin Hood Tax (*all resolutions are posted on the Council's website as above*)

Bradley Van-Waus (NNU) reported on the importance of the campaign and urged delegates to pass the resolution. Delegates moved and seconded to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation. Accepted.

The board adopted the resolution in support of OPEIU Local 2 members fighting for a good contract at SEIU (*all resolutions are posted on the Council's website as above*)

Discussion ensued on the resolution; delegates moved and seconded to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation. Accepted.

The board adopted a position opposing Ballot Question B (in solidarity with FOP Montgomery County Lodge 35). Delegates moved and seconded to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation. Accepted.

Community Services Agency: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy

McKirchy reminded the board that the 17th annual golf tournament is this Monday and more teams are still welcome. As always the event raises fund for the CSA Emergency Assistance Fund, which has run out of funds various times and could always use support.

The fall is when United Way/DC One Fund/Combined Federal Campaigns start at work sites. CSA can be a designated recipient. Fliers are available now and will continue to be printed. Individuals can help contact employers to bring CSA in to present about this to their members.

As mentioned previously, CSA has received funding for a Prince George's Hospitality Training. Recruitment is ongoing and fliers in either electronic or hard-copy form are available to publicize.

For all fliers and publicizing needs contact McKirchy at kmckirchy@dclabor.org.

Union Cities: Coordinator Chris Garlock

Garlock reported the breaking news about a tentative agreement between CWA and Verizon. Check *Union City* for more information. He added that the Chicago teachers also settled and the success is far-reaching.

Garlock introduced Rich McDermott (NABET 31), who reported on negotiations between NABET 31 and WHUT-TV at Howard University; they are holding ongoing pickets at WHUT-TV in response to the unjust firing of four workers. McDermott introduced Harold Burris, one of the fired workers who is a part of the group calling themselves "the Howard Four." Burris shared his story of being fired unjustly and asserted that this is a test case that could show signs of things to come across the campus. Burris thinks it's "a great opportunity to inform the student body and let them know the university has double standards" in the way they're treating the workers versus students. In addition to trying to get these workers reinstated they are continuing the contract negotiations, as well.

President Williams proposed that the delegates adopt a resolution of full support for these workers, demanding



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reinstatement of the four workers. "I'm appalled from a personal standpoint because I am an alumni of Howard University... I personally will be doing whatever I can" Moved and seconded to adopt motion. Accepted.

Garlock pointed out the DC Labor FilmFest poster display in the lobby of the AFL-CIO and reported on the upcoming DC Labor FilmFest, which will run October 11-18 with additional early screenings. Screening hosting opportunities are still available; tickets are on sale now. Many of this year's films highlight the struggle of public sector workers. There's still time also to sign up to bring the lunchtime Preview lineup to another location; contact Assistant Mobilizer Julia Kann at jkann@dclabor.org. This year there will also be the second annual Labor FilmFest Organizer Conference, which will be much more international this year.

Julia Kann reported on tomorrow night's screening of "Detropia" and encouraged everyone to check out the many upcoming events in the calendar at dclabor.org.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) introduced Gloria Minot, a radio host on WPFW, to report on WPFW union employees. "Pacifica is supposed to be the bastion of progressiveness" but they are not treating members well. Financial issues are being taken out on workers. "It pains me to say that our organization engages in unfair labor practices."

Benito Diaz (Working America/WPFW Board) added that management is refusing to provide information to which workers and the board are entitled.

Dixon proposed a formal resolution of support from the Council. Moved and seconded with addition that Council demand reinstatement of unjustly fired workers and pledges to work with SAG-AFTRA to ensure that employees at WPFW be made whole. Discussion ensued on the WPFW board and its relationship to the negotiations and what members can do to support the workers. Dixon encouraged members to call in during their funding drive and email the general manager to show their support. All of this information will be shared in *Union City* with President Williams talking it through first with SAG-AFTRA.

COPE Reports

MD COPE: President Williams reported on the passage of the Displaced Worker bill in Maryland - the headline story in yesterday's *Union City*. This was a big push by Jaime Contreras (32BJ SEIU) and will be an asset to members of many unions. President Williams commended 32BJ and UFCW 1994 for their great work, saying "it is a piece of legislation that will open the door to members at the bottom of the ladder."

President Williams reminded delegates about the referendums coming up in Maryland: Dream Act, Gaming, Marriage Equality, Re-Districting on Ballot:

- Question 4: Public Institutions of Higher Education – Tuition Rates: would allow Maryland students who meet certain criteria (often referred to as "Dreamers" because of the original "Dream Act" which would have granted pathways to citizenship for children of immigrants) to pay in-

state tuition at a state college or university, regardless of immigration status.

- Question 5: Congressional Redistricting Plan: establishes boundaries for Maryland's congressional districts based on the most recent census figures, as required by the US Constitution.

- Question 6: Civil Marriage Protection Act: establishes that Maryland's civil marriage laws allow for civil marriage regardless of sexual orientation, while allowing particular religious institutions to refrain from performing ceremonies if they are in violation of their religious beliefs.

- Question 7: Gaming Expansion: would expand commercial gaming in Maryland and allow for the construction of a high-end casino in Prince George's county, which would raise revenue for education and create construction and service-industry jobs.

DC COPE: Political/Legislative Assistant Alya Solomon reported on the decision of President Williams to join the DC Fiscal Policy Institute in strongly opposing a bill under consideration at the DC Council that would cut the tax rate of companies that invest in tech companies from 8.95% to 3%. The bill was expected to be voted on today. Allen and Solomon were in touch with City Council members and made the case that the vote should not happen because everyone should have to pay their fair share; the Council voted to go to study, which means it does not pass, at least for now.

Solomon reported on the recent labor fundraiser for Council Chair Mendelson, thanking all the locals who participated and helped raise about \$20,000 thus far with about \$5,000 more expected from pledges. The Metro Council will also be hosting a fundraiser for council member Michael Brown at CWA; the maximum contribution is \$1,000 and all affiliates are encouraged to max out.

Solomon added that phone banks have kicked off at the AFL-CIO for the national campaign for Obama; details are on a flier which has been passed out. Labor-to-labor walks have also begun in Virginia with NoVA AFL-CIO; they are taking place every Saturday starting at 9am through the election on November 6.

Rick Ehrmann (WBNG) would like to challenge all delegates to join him this Saturday morning in Annandale, VA to participate in the labor-to-labor walks

President's Report

Per cap increase: the Council's Constitution automatically increases per capita each year based on the CPI for the previous year as of September unless the Board takes action otherwise. The CPI increase from July 2011 to July 2012 was 1.3%, which would mean a 1 cent per member per month increase. The President recommended no increase at this time and the Board approved.



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Reports of Delegates

Nikki Daruwala (DC JwJ) reported on ongoing campaigns with DC JwJ and their excitement about the successful CWA campaign for a cotract. They are also in support of action at WHUT-TV. Daruwala reviewed DC JwJ's previous and upcoming actions. Daruwala shared info about an upcoming training they are working on with DC DSA on "U.S. Capitalism in Crisis and Social Market Alternatives." They are looking for union sponsors to help make the training free for participants. Mike Wilson (DC JwJ) added that there are exciting things happening in the Respect DC campaign working with small business owners and faith leaders. Walmart was recently forced out of Boston and in New York the Brooklyn site will now get a Shop Rite (a union shop) instead. Some Warehouse Workers United members are on strike right now and one was brought in to do an action today disrupting a Walmart meeting. Many Walmart workers will be doing a sick-out on October 10; info to follow in *Union City*. President Williams encouraged affiliates to participate in sponsoring the DC JwJ and DC DSA training.

Frank Stella (ARA) reported that DC ARA has adopted No-VA phonebanks on Wednesdays and encourages other folks to join in.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:40p. Approved.

Dave Richardson (AFGE Local 12) won \$12 in the 50/50.

Attendance:

Afolayan, Abiola (Unite Here 25); Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Ash, Kadija (AFGE 2978); Ayres, Vance (WBCTC); Battle-Mason, Kewana (ATU 1764); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14); Brasseux, John (IATSE Local 22); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local); Carson, Carl (Cement Mason Local 891); Childs, Barbara (AFSA 4); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 Pg); Conterras, Jaime (SEIU 32BJ); Daruwala, Nikki (DC JwJ); Diaz, Benito (Working America); Dixon, Vanessa (Doctors Council DC/AFSCME NUHHCE); Dodd, Telisia (AFGE 2978); Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2); Ehrmann, Rick (Newspaper Guild 35); Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26); Gittelson, Alex (AFSCME Local 3976); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Greenhill, Larry (IBEW 26); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Hershfield, David (AFGE Council 1 12); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Ingerick, Jessica (American Income Life/OPEIU 277); Jarboe, James (UFCW 400); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers local 5); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Perry, Alan (IATSE 22); Pitts, Kenneth (AFGE 383); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Reed, Sonny (SEIU 400 PG); Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Rodino, Virginia (OPEIU 2); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Stella, Frank (MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans); Traylor, Timothy (AFGE 383); Williams, Sybil (AFGE 2876); Williams, Jos (AFSCME 2477)