



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: September 19, 2012

Meeting called to order at 4:15pm by President Jos Williams

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

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

Correspondence

The following contributions were approved: \$250 for Andrea Harrison (PG Council 5) Birthday Celebration; \$150 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

Community Services Agency: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy

McKirchy reminded the board that the 17th annual golf tournament is Monday, September 24 and more teams are still welcome. As always the event raises funds for the CSA Emergency Assistance Fund, which has run out of money various times and can always use support.

Autumn 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 — hard-copy and electronic — 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.

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) added that the issues faced in Chicago are familiar to teachers in DC. CTU got an impressive 16% raise across the board and more. It also "rejuvenated faith in a tool that public sector unions haven't used in a while, and that is the strike." Saunders praised the CTU use of social media to build support, including WTU teachers sending pizzas and money to striking CTU teachers. Discussion ensued on the CTU strike.

Garlock reported on two ongoing campaigns: NABET 31 is holding ongoing pickets at WHUT-TV at Howard University, in response to the unjust firing of four workers. IBEW 1900 workers at Pepco have extended negotiations twice and Pepco has made a final offer; votes are expected later this week.

Garlock presented 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*). Moved and seconded to adopt. Accepted.

Michael Murphy (IUOE 99) added that the Bakery Workers are owed over a billion dollars from Hostess and have ongoing struggles nationally. There is a worry that other companies will follow suit if Hostess wins.

Garlock 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.

Garlock introduced the trailer for "We Are Wisconsin," which will be shown in a free screening on October 12 at the AFL-CIO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP0jM4P5bmg>

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

Executive Board Attendance

Present:

Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C)
Ayres, Vance (WBCTC)
Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14)
Briscoe, Dena (APWU)
Contreras, Jaime (SEIU 32BJ)
Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2)
Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU)
Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26)
Jeter, Jackie (AT U 689)
Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99)
Perez, Tony (UFCW 400)
Reed, Doris (ASASP)
Reed, Sonny (SEIU 400)
Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)
Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6)
Williams, Jos (Metro Council)

Excused: Boardman, Bridges, Gaines, Johnson, Martin, Tarlau, Taylor.
Absent: Anthony Frederick, Thomas Ratliff.

Staff:

Garlock, Chris
Kann, Julia
McKirchy, Kathleen
Powell, Rick
Solomon, Alya

Guests:

Steward, Bob (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)
Ransome, Nelvin (UFCW 1994)



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COPE Reports

DC COPE: Political/Legislative Asst. Alya Solomon Solomon turned the report over to Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) who 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 DC City Council members and made the case that the vote should not happen because everyone should have to pay their fair share; 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. Discussion ensued on Michael Brown's campaign and labor support in light of recent news reports. Some unions are doing independent expenditures and some are simply donating money. President Williams added that he will follow up with locals about which locals want to do labor-to-labor campaigns and which prefer to do independent expenditures.

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.

MD COPE Report: Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell

Powell reviewed the primary items including the "scorecard" project, which will allow labor to fairly assess legislators' votes and actions to make smart choices for endorsements. a committee was set up, which has been working through the summer and developed a model draft.

Powell turned the report over to Doris Reed (ASASP) who reported on the "tremendous amount of work" done by a special committee on the scorecard. The committee is now thinking about how to apply it to other political offices besides the state legislature. What's happening in Prince George's County is emblematic of why this scorecard is needed; Maryland Senators who labor supported are now openly opposing Price George's School Board candidates endorsed by labor. The model is a product of research on best practices and will be brought to the board in October. A flier with endorsed labor candidates for the Prince George's School Board is included in the packet

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."

Jaime Contreras (32BJ SEIU) reported on the struggle to pass the Displaced Worker Bill, thanking President Williams and Powell and 1994 SEIU and Unite Here and many other locals who supported the campaign. It's been a year in the making and the bill protects workers in a large range of industries. This was surprisingly difficult to get passed in a council with nine Democrats. "This was not 32BJ's victory; we could not have gotten this done alone. This was all of us working together." Discussion ensued on changing priorities of Council members in Maryland, particularly Council member Leventhal.

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported on his concern about the coming local elections and the need for strong solidarity. He explained his seemingly ambiguous response to the bill, which in content the local was completely supporting. They wished to send a message to the County Council to ask "what about us?" Many workers in Prince George's County are without a contract and without benefits because they're "part-time." This both weakens the union and "is blatant exploitation of workers." UFCW 1994 wished to call the Montgomery County Council for its double standards and hypocrisy in advancing rights for only some of the workers instead of all.

Renne turned to Erin Yeagley (UFCW 1994) who explained how workers are being marginalized in order to keep people listed as "temporary workers" so the county can avoid giving benefits and keep them as "at-will" employees. Yeagley introduced a video she made by UFCW 1994 explaining how "temporary" workers in Montgomery County are exploited: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBOq5jjJWHM>

Renne asked that labor leaders join together in the upcoming election to make a collective labor agenda throughout the jurisdiction. He distributed a binder put together by UFCW 1994 about County Council member Valerie Ervin, who came out of UFCW and who, Renne reported, "is very good at manipulation." Renne wants to demonstrate how bad it is to betray the promises made to labor, which she did to UFCW 1994, the police, and the firefighters. "The fight became very personal to me," said Renne, "and it should be very personal to all of us." ... Renne committed to make no decision on political endorsements prior to collective local labor decisions, and called on board members to make the same commitment.

Bob Stewart (UFCW 1994) walked board members through the binder material on Council member Ervin.

President Williams reiterated the importance of locals not jumping the gun and making promises to politicians prior to working with others in the council. The board was encouraged to review the binder and be prepared for a discussion in future meetings.

Renne distributed a letter from FOP Montgomery



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County Lodge #35 asking the Council for support in opposing Montgomery County Ballot Question B. UFCW 1994 is "100% in on this.. [because] the FOP are astonishing partners of ours..." The question - if passed - would strip effects bargaining from the FOP. Renne asked for the support of the Council, asserting that any act to undo the power of collective bargaining should be fought by the entire local labor movement.

Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26) explained how this articulation of "effects bargaining" parallels the situation for AFSCME members, saying this bargaining is incredibly important to members and encouraged support. Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14) seconded Goldman, saying this goes on all year long and reinforces the importance of a union since it goes on between contracts, almost every day.

Moved and seconded to oppose Ballot Question B (in solidarity with FOP MontCo Lodge 35). Approved.

Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) reiterated the importance of working in solidarity, adding that ATU 689 is working in solidarity with other metro workers. Fred Allen (GCIU 538-C) echoed Jeter, adding that it's "hurtful" that a Democratic council seems to be currying favor with Republicans. Jaime Contreras (32BJ SEIU) added that they can also point to people they don't want in office. He agreed that having dialogues start sooner rather than later about whose side politicians are on is a good one. They want to have a dialogue with locals about local politicians and endorsements and figure out how to move forward.

Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14) added that this is not the first time this has been discussed and that "it's about personal values and union principles." Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26) reminded the board of the importance of looping people at individuals unions into these issues, not just leadership in the room. Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) said an explicit process needs to be created and a funding plan for this process.

President's Report

President Williams reported that 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. The CPI increase from July 2011 to July 2012 was 1.3%, which would mean a 1 cent per member per month increase. President Williams recommended the board forego the increase for the 2013 fiscal year and revisit it for the 2014 fiscal year. Moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Reports of Board Members

President Williams introduced a resolution from NNU on the Robin Hood Tax, which will be introduced soon in Congress. Sandra Falwell (DCNA/NUU) asked for the Council's continued support, acknowledging that the Council is on record as supporting the tax, but noting that this is a more formal resolution (*note: all resolutions are posted on the*

Council's website — dclabor.org under Official Council Docs/2012 Council Minutes). Moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Dan Dyer (OPEIU Local 2) reported on a tough campaign for a contract at SEIU international, where OPEIU 2 members took a strike vote recently. Dyer called on the Board to pass a resolution of support (*note: all resolutions are posted on the Council's website — dclabor.org under Official Council Docs/2012 Council Minutes*). Lengthy discussion ensued on the resolution, which, as edited by the board, was moved, seconded and approved with one vote against. Dyer thanked the Council for the discussion.

Contreras reminded the board of the importance of the Maryland Dream Act referendum.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:01p. Approved.