



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

---

## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: November 19, 2012

**Meeting called to order** at 6:35pm by 3rd Vice President Sandra Fallwell (DCNA/NUU)

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

Fallwell deferred to Fred Mason (MD State and DC AFL-CIO) who reported on the successful campaigns mounted in the recent election. Mason thanked affiliates and delegates for all their hard work on the recent elections, calling it “a great day with major victories that said so much about this country.” Special note about the wins on MD questions, including some difficult ones like marriage equality, gambling and the dream act.

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) spoke about his frustration at the passage of Question B in Montgomery County and the use of tax dollars against the FOP.

Mason commended President Jos Williams’ work to defend these workers’ rights saying “there’s no questions that we’re at war” citing legislation in Wisconsin and Ohio.

Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910) reported on an incident at the Library of Congress where an Obama poster in their union office was defaced, adding that another member reported someone defacing an Obama/Biden sticker on her car.

**Financial Report** (October) moved and seconded to receive. Approved.

### **Report on Executive Board Actions:**

Correspondence: Jews United for Justice 18-Nov Heschel Vision Awards: \$200; Washington Peace Center 6-Dec Grassroots Gala \$155; Veronica Turner 13-Dec Yuletide Breakfast \$100; Joanne

Benson 13-Dec Evening of Elegance \$250; JWJ-DC 15-Dec Winter Cabaret \$100.

Resolutions: Support for ATU 689’s campaign to “keep PUBLIC in public transit”

Moved and seconded to accept Executive Board Actions. Approved.

### **Community Services Agency**

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded delegates of the ongoing employee giving campaigns at their shops—United Way, Combined Federal Campaign, DC One Fund. McKirchy announced the kick-off of the CSA holiday basket project, they have begun collecting food and gift cards, or folks are encouraged to adopt a family or do a food drive. The deadline is 12/14.

McKirchy thanked AFGE Council 1 (via Avis Buchanan), who donated \$800 tonight to the CSA holiday basket project.

McKirchy announced the upcoming “Bowling for Gold” event on 1/22, now with an added 4pm timeslot. McKirchy also added that a flier with information on the best way to help Hurricane Sandy’s victims is available and online on the CSA website.

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) presented a check for \$11,000 to the Community Services Agency; the money was raised via penalties on management for not responding to grievances on time. Lerch lauded CSA and the Council “for your strong support and advocacy for your affiliates and for the local labor movement.” CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy thanked Lerch and Branch 3825 “for your generosity, which will make a huge difference for the workers and their families who turn to us each week for help.”

Yvette Martin-Gross (AFGE 631) brought up an issue with donating to CSA for employees at DC Water; McKirchy will follow up on this issue.



## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: October 15, 2012

### Union City

Chris Garlock (Union City Coordinator) reminded delegates to make updates to online affiliate listings for the forthcoming 2013 Directory and reported on the recent success of Daycon strikers, with Teamsters 639 winning back pay and reinstatement for the strikers after more than two years; also reported on the ongoing struggle of the Bakers Union with Hostess threatening bankruptcy and the elimination of 18,000 jobs.

Mike Wilson (DC JwJ) reported on national Walmart strikes against intimidation and retaliation. An exciting action happened this afternoon in Landover, MD, which is building to country-wide action on Black Friday. Yvette Martin Gross (AFGE 631) asked about Walmart employee participation; Wilson explained that they don't know what percent of workers, but they are expecting thousands, which is a huge success and will promote future action.

Ari Schwarz (DC JwJ) reported on their ongoing Wage Theft campaign. He urged delegates to plug in as actions build in the coming year. Folks who are interested in getting involved should contact Executive Director Nikki Daruwala. Arturo Griffith (DC JwJ) encouraged folks to turn out for their Winter Cabaret on 12/15 and asked delegates to consider taking out ads to support DC JwJ. Interested delegates should contact Executive Director Nikki Daruwala.

Elaine Newman (NCAUR) invited delegates to attend a 50th Birthday Bash for Jamie Raskin (Del - MD) on Dec. 1 at 7:30pm.

Julia Kann (Asst. Mobilizer) congratulated Dave Richardson (AFGE 12) on his Activist Award from the Washington Peace Center and introduced Sonia Silbert, Executive Director of the Washington Peace Center, who spoke about the upcoming awards and encouraged delegates to get tickets and take out ads in their program book. Kann reminded delegates to check the calendar for upcoming events, such as the DC Labor Chorus Concert and "Woody Sez" at Theater J.

Elaine Newman (NCAUR) thanked Union City for reporting on items discussed at the previous Council meeting in the days following the Council

meeting, saying this coverage was very helpful.

### COPE Reports

#### DC COPE Report

Alya Solomon (Asst. Political/Legislative Coordinator) gave an overview of DC City Council election results: all labor-endorsed candidates won except one, Michael Brown; Solomon recapped *Post* coverage of Brown's financial issues.

Upcoming Special Election to fill Chairman-Elect Mendelson's At-Large Seat/At-Large Special Election Endorsement Timeline: this is the fourth or fifth special election in recent years. Solomon reviewed plans for the election, which will probably be January (*note: as of 11/28 this is now expected to be sometime in late April*). The Council will send out a questionnaire once this is all finalized.

Elaine Newman (NCAUR) asked how decisions are made on who gets an interview. Solomon explained that this is the decision of the committee, and that an incumbent who the committee continues to support (as in the case of Michael Brown) is sometimes supported without interviewing other candidates.

#### Maryland COPE Report

Rick Powell (Political/Legislative Coordinator) reported that it is thanks to local labor that there were impressive political victories in both Maryland and Virginia this election. Powell reported that Torrie Cook of the FOP updated the COPE on the election results, saying that the Question B wording hurt them but FOP appreciated and thanked labor for support.

Powell reported that labor did well in Maryland, with wins on statewide referenda, Congressional District 4, some Prince George's County School Board positions, Montgomery County Congressional District 6 and 8. Labor lost on Question B in Montgomery County, Congressional District 5, and Cliff Savoy's (Sheetmetal Workers 100) in Calvert County. MD Congressman Steny Hoyer is very grateful for Metro Washington Council help on his election, where he won his home district for the first time.



## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: October 15, 2012

### President's Report

On behalf of President Williams, Sandra Falwell noted that the December meeting will be held on 12/17, but the January and February meetings move to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, rather than the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> because of holidays.

### Reports of Board Members

**Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU)** reported that they are continuing in their organizing campaign. She reported on a recent regional meeting in Harrisburg, which was very successful as they are continuing a strategic plan for visibility and growth. The next meeting will be on 12/15 at CWA where they will do their annual shoebox project. Donations are welcome.

**Avis Buchanan (DC CBTU/AFGE 2782)** announced an upcoming DC CBTU fundraiser. Folks can buy raffle tickets for \$1 (or 6 for \$5) to win free registration to their upcoming convention.

**Frank Stella (MD/DC ARA)** reported that they produced 125-150 volunteers (second only to the Painters) in Virginia for an impressive labor-to-labor turn out.

**Rich McDermott (NABET 31)** reported on their ongoing struggle with WHUT-TV at Howard University and thanked the delegates and ally groups for their support.

**Moved and seconded to adjourn** at 7:54pm.  
Approved.

***Avis Buchanan (AFGE 2782) won \$27 in the 50/50***

### Attendance

**Delegates:** Afolayan, Abiola (Unite Here 25); Branson, Elton (NALC 142); Buchanan, Avis (AFGE 2782); Ehrmann, Rick (WBNG); Ferrufino, Dario (LIUNA 657); Frederick, Anthony (Laborers 657); Hershfield, David (AFGE 12); Johnson, Gwend (DC CBTU); Jones, Anthony (AFGE 12); Lerch, Kenneth (NALC 3825); Martin-Gross,

Yvette (AFGE 631); McDermott, Rich (NABET-CWA 31); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Reyes, Victor (Laborers 657); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Stella, Frank (MD/DC ARA); Warrick, Gerald (Laborers 657)

**Guests:** Diaz, Benito (Working America); Griffiths, Arturo (DCJwJ); Migliaccio, Robert (DCYTU); Schwartz, Ari (DCJwJ); Wilson, Michael (DCJwJ/Respect DC)

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