



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: November 19, 2012

**Meeting called to order** by President Williams at 4:15p

### Minutes (October)

Jos Williams' local in both the Executive Board and Delegate minutes should be AFSCME 2477 (not 2910); in the Delegate minutes, Dan Blumenthal is a member of AFSCME 3870 (not 2870); Sandra Falwell is with DCNA/NUU (not DCDC/NUU). The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Financial Report** (October) received

**Correspondence:** It was moved, seconded and approved to make the following expenditures: Jews United for Justice 18-Nov Heschel Vision Awards \$200; Washington Peace Center 6-Dec Grassroots Gala \$155; MD Delegate Veronica Turner 13-Dec Yuletide Breakfast \$100; MD Senator Joanne Benson 13-Dec Evening of Elegance \$250; JWJ-DC 15-Dec Winter Cabaret \$100.

### Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

Employee giving campaign reminder: urged support for ongoing campaigns—United Way, DC One Fund, and Combined Federal Campaign.

Holiday Basket project: distributed some food today; giving out gift cards; can make contributions, gift cards, adopt a family or do a food drive. 12/14 deadline.

Bowling for Gold: set for January 22; new this year is a 4p timeslot.

The Best Way to Help Hurricane Sandy's Victims: need is still great for assistance; details on CSA's page on the Council website about how to contribute through United Way. IUOE has set up a fund for emergency assistance for its members, Mike Murphy noted.

Ken Lerch, NALC 3825, will present a check for \$11,000 at the Delegate's meeting, collected from penalties on management for not responding to grievances on time. Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) noted that WMATA is also using some of the same delaying tactics.

### COPE Reports

**Montgomery/Prince George's County COPE:** Doris Reed (ASASP) reported that Torrie Cook of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) updated the COPE on the recent election results, saying that the Question B wording hurt them but that the FOP appreciated and thanked labor for its support. Reed reminded the Board that this issue of attacks on col-

lective bargaining rights is "something that's coming for everybody."

On the Prince George's County Board of Education races, two of the five candidates labor endorsed won; Fellows came to the recent COPE meeting and thanked labor for its support. In another race, the candidate labor opposed "squeaked by, but it took a ton of money and support for the machine to win."

Reed also gave an update on the Labor Scorecard: working on organizing a reception to explain the scorecard; President Williams noted that the scorecard still

needs to be brought before the MD State and DC AFL-CIO at the next meeting.

As if on cue, MD State and DC AFL-CIO President Fred Mason stopped by to thank 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 referenda in Maryland, including "some difficult ones like marriage equality, gambling and the Dream Act." President Williams agreed and noted that Maryland is one of the only states to ok marriage equality at the ballot box, rather than legislatively. President Williams reviewed the scorecard plan with President Mason; the scorecard needs to go to State Fed Executive Board and President Williams said it would be sent in time for the 12/4 meeting.

### MD COPE Report

Rick Powell (Political/Legislative Director) gave a detailed report on recent developments in Maryland Districts 22 and 24, where the results following resignations are still unclear. After extensive discussion, the Board adopted the position that it urges the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee to wait until the Maryland Attorney General issues an opinion on whether the MD 24 seat is vacant.

Powell reported that in other Maryland results, labor did well, with wins on statewide referenda, Congressional District 4, some Prince George's County School Board posi-

### Attendance

**Present:** F Allen, S Falwell, C Goldman, J Jeter, K Martin, M Murphy, D Reed, J Tarlau, J Williams

**Excused:** S Reed, Bowman, Renne, Briscoe, Contreras, Ayres

**Absent:** Bridges, Dyer, Johnson, Perez, Ratliff, Saunders, Taylor

**Also Attending:** F Mason (MD/DC AFL-CIO); G Warwick (Laborers 657); Abiola Afolayan (Unite Here 25)

**Staff:** McKirchy, Garlock, Powell, Solomon, Kann



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tions, Montgomery County Congressional District 6 and 8, Congressional District 5, losing on Question B in Montgomery County, and Cliff Savoy's (Sheetmetal Workers 100) loss in Calvert County. Powell noted that "MD Congressman Steny Hoyer is very grateful for Metro Washington Council help on his election."

### DC COPE Report

Alya Solomon (Asst. Legislative/Political Director) gave an overview of DC City Council election results: all labor-endorsed candidates won except one, Michael Brown; Solomon recapped the *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 sometime in January (*note: late April as of 11/28*). Will send out candidate questionnaires once this is all finalized.

DC Public Financing Bill Committee update: Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) asked for an extension to January, which was granted.

### Union Cities

Chris Garlock (Union Cities Coordinator) reported on:

- Reminder that updates are due for the forthcoming 2013 Directory
- Daycon Teamsters 639 Strikers Win Long Battle for Justice: local won back pay and reinstatement for all Daycon strikers after more than two years.
- Area Bakers Union Urges Support for Hostess Strikers: situation very fluid with Hostess threat to shut down entirely.
- Upcoming events: DC Labor Chorus Concert, Discount Tix available for "Woody Sez"

Julia Kann (Asst. Mobilizer) reported on Monday afternoon's walkout at the Laurel Walmart; actions coming up Thursday 7-midnight and Friday morning.

### President's Report

President Williams noted the need to change the January meeting to 1/28 and the February meeting moves to 2/25 due to holidays in those months; the December meeting stays on 12/17.

Dave Richardson (ret. AFGE 12) is getting an "Activist Award" from the Washington Peace Center and President Williams urged support of Richardson and this event.

### Reports of Board Members

**Doris Reed, ASASP:** reported on filing a \$100-million lawsuit against the Prince George's BOE and Superintendent after 6 years of discrimination and racism and no satisfactory resolution. Her board is meeting next week to decide next steps. "People just said Enough," Reed said.

**Jackie Jeter, ATU 689:** reported on plan to mobilize members and riding public as well as other transit unions in area. Initiatives to keep public transit public; looking to hire a full-time person to work on this campaign and to work with DC JWW. Asking the Council to make this a project of its own to help everyone who uses public transit in the metro area. President Williams stressed that "this is about keeping the 'public' in public transit" and that "There are still those who believe that transit should be privatized." He also reminded the Board about O. Roy Chalk, "who plundered local transit and we had to buy it back at great expense. It's not just jobs at ATU 689, but at other unions, like Unite Here 25 where we fought to get Metro open earlier and later, so it touches us all, and all our members, in so many ways. This is a community campaign, not just labor's fight. And it's a battle that's happening across the country." Williams urged the Council to take a position that public transit remain public and support this campaign. Moved, seconded and approved. Meeting set for 11/29 2P.

**Fred Mason, Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO:** reported on discussions about possibility of putting someone on the State Fed payroll to focus on DC-area issues; President Williams noted that the Metro Council recommendation was that the State Fed contribute to the cost of the existing DC COPE staffer. Discussion ensued. Mason also reported on plans regarding 11/28 lame duck Congress actions against extending tax cuts for the rich and cuts to benefits (this is for State Fed presidents and CLC presidents, there's a training here on 11/27), and plans for demos on 12/10; Mason asked the Council to take on Congress Persons Edwards, Hoyer, Van Hollen and EH Norton.

**Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:23p. Approved.**