



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: December 17, 2012

Meeting called to order at 4:27pm by President Jos Williams.

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

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

Correspondence

President Williams suggested that the board hold off on all correspondence until there is a full financial update in January.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy (CSA) reported that the holiday basket project is wrapping up with 12 families adopted by national unions, local groups, and others, and donations being dispensed this week. Gift cards can still be donated. McKirchy added that the Bowling for Gold tournament is coming up on Jan 27. Fliers have been mailed twice to all locals and some have already signed up. This year there's another time slot (4pm) to allow more teams to play. The event, as always, raises money for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Union Cities

Julia Kann (Assistant Mobilizer) reported on the great success of Walmart Black Friday actions and thanked Executive Board members for supporting the campaign. Kann urged Board members to check out new labor apps for smart phones (Unite Here Hotel Guide & ROC United Diners' Guide) and reminded them to make updates online for the forthcoming 2013 Affiliate Directory. Upcoming events were highlighted: Fight Back Against Cuts Rally on Capitol Hill (Dec 18); "Confronting Myths About Organized Labor" with Bill Fletcher (Dec 19);

Council closed (Dec 24 – Jan 2)

Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) reported on the ongoing struggle between WHUT-TV on Howard University campus and CWA-NABET Local 31. Five out of the six employees have now been fired in negotiations. Tarlau asked that the Council put WHUT-TV on the boycott list, telling people to "watch, don't pledge"

President Williams added that the Metro Washington Council staff and the Baltimore Council President Ernie Greco have been work-

ing to support this unit throughout. Employees are looking for support. Williams said this is "a reasonable request" and reminded the board to call the station, show up for the pickets, and stay involved in "letting them know that we don't like how the workers are being treated."

Tarlau added that if this passes the Council he will ensure that Council staff is notified about future action so they may spread the word to local leaders.

Nathan Saunders (WTU) discussed the WHUT-TV campaign and the importance of getting out good information, as some unions and some alumni could be mobilized.

Attendance

Present: F. Allen (GCC 538-C); D. Briscoe (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD); S. Courtien (WBCTC); C. Goldman (AFSCME Council 26); J. Jeter (ATU 689); T. Ratliff (IBT 639); C. Reed (SEIU 400); N. Saunders (WTU); J. Tarlau (CWA District 2); K. Taylor (1199SEIU); J. Williams (AFSCME 2910)

Excused: L. Bridges (OPEIU 2); S. Falwell (DCNA); M. Murphy (IUOE 99); T. Perez (UFCW 400); D. Reed (ASASP)

Absent: J. Boardman (UNITE HERE 25); D. Bowman (AFGE District 14); J. Contreras (SEIU 32BJ); D. Dyer (OPEIU 2); A. Frederick (Laborers 657); R. Gaines (IBEW 26); G. Johnson (AFSCME Council 20); K. Martin (Ironworkers 5); G. Renne (UFCW 1994)

Guests: Doug Webber (IBT 639)

Staff: J. Kann; K. McKirchy; R. Powell



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Moved and seconded to add WHUT-TV to the “watch, don’t pledge” boycott list. Approved.

COPE Reports

MD COPE Report: Rick Powell (Political Coordinator) congratulated and thanked everyone for their work on the election in November. AFL-CIO President Trumka pushed labor to continue in the fight after the election by diving into the fiscal cliff fight.

Powell reported on the fiscal cliff campaign demanding an end to Bush-era tax cuts for the top 2% and no cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. President Williams went to Capitol Hill for a day of action where he learned that Congressman Chris Van Hollen was going to follow Congressman Steny Hoyer, and Hoyer was not securely on our side of the issue. The Council organized three actions in Maryland, at their offices (two Hoyer offices), which had over 100 participating across the three. “Our message was carried very clearly to both Congressman Van Hollen and Congressman Hoyer that labor is watching and that we will not support anything short of increasing the tax on the top 2% and no cuts to these vital programs” said Powell.

Powell reported on the “Scorecard Committee,” which is developing a method for tracking how labor-endorsed politicians act in office beyond how they vote. The committee has been meeting and presented a model scorecard, which was accepted by the Executive Board earlier this year. Since then the committee has walked through the scorecard with MD/DC Secretary-Treasurer Donna Edwards and “she was very pleased with it.” Powell is working with her to face the challenges in bringing this system to the DC and Maryland State Federation.

DC COPE Report: Powell announced that David Grosso – the newly elected At-Large member of the DC City Council – met with President Williams last week. Anita Bonds has been appointed to the seat vacated by At-Large Councilmember Phil Mendelson until the special election for this seat in April,

and Bonds plans to run at that time, along with several other candidates who have picked up petitions. President Williams also met with City Council Chair Mendelson to discuss the direction of the DC City Council with him as Chair.

President Williams urged Board members to build connections with Bonds now that she is in office and will run for the At-Large seat in April. Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) spoke about his experience working with Anita Bonds on the Democratic State Committee, where she serves as Chair. Bonds currently works for Ft. Myer Construction, a union construction company in the District. Bonds has worked for Councilmember Barry, Orange, and every Mayor since Barry except Fenty. “She is pro-labor, and she makes no bones about that... I’m looking forward to bringing her before the COPE committee” said Allen. This will happen sometime in January; dates will be set and notifications sent soon.

President Williams asked Allen to set up an opportunity for Bonds to meet with local labor leadership.

Nathan Saunders (WTU) added that their local has “had some run-ins” with Bonds, but sees her as “workable.” Saunders is worried about Grosso and asked Williams to expand on his meeting with Grosso. Saunders also asked if Bonds could be put on City Council committees between now and April.

Allen responded that Bonds is not on any committee for now, but that she will be given committees when Mendelson announces assignments on January 19. She is expected to be given committees “as a placeholder” for whoever wins in April.

President Williams added that Grosso will also be given committees, but has not received his assignments yet. Based on his meeting with Grosso, President Williams said Grosso “has a record of being an advocate on progressive causes” and understands the rules of the game and holds no



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grudges. Grosso expressed interest in meeting with local labor leaders, which will be arranged in early 2013.

Discussion ensued on former City Councilmember Michael Brown's future plans and how labor will relate to him in the future, as well as how the local labor movement will move forward as local labor leaders and politicians get older.

President's Report

President Williams reported on the recent "Right to Work" legislation passage in Michigan, saying this "is a product of labor not paying attention to local elections" across the country and allowing groups like ALEC to swoop in and "redraw the national map." "Right to Work" laws are expected to show up in Pennsylvania and Missouri soon, forcing labor to spend time and resources fighting them. Williams urged Board members, when they attend meetings at their national unions, to speak up about the need for resources and directions for these fights. Williams presented a resolution in support of the workers of Michigan, saying that it is about more than Michigan; it is about "standing with workers against this legislation moving forward."

Tommy Ratliff (IBT 639) suggested working to pass legislation that prevents workers who do not pay dues from being represented

Discussion ensued on how to combat "Right to Work" laws and the importance of building real relationships with members, regardless of local legislation.

Katherine Taylor (1199SEIU) told her story of starting as a member and moving through the ranks and really valuing unions that are "really run by membership." "If the members don't believe that they are in power of the organization - why would they pay dues? We have to put it back in their hands."

Moved and seconded to adopt Resolution in Support of the Workers of Michigan. Approved.

President Williams presented a resolution, brought to the Council by the Community In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution Declaring Solidarity with the Salvadoran Labor Movement's Fight against the US-backed Public-Private Partnership Law

Reports of Board Members

Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) reported on the public transit campaign to mobilize 689 members, other union members, and other metro riders around the importance of public transit. They have hired DC JwJ to help lead the campaign, and ATU international is offering a lot of support, too. The Council has committed to putting some of Kann's time into mobilizing other local union members. They are also working on keeping Good Jobs First on research. A survey is being done by Vic Fingerhut to get a sense of public perception of public transit. In January the campaign will kick-off with rider leafletting on the days surrounding Inauguration, thanking them for riding public transit.

Doug Webber (Teamsters 639) announced their exciting win, after 2.5 years, at Daycon. They go back to bargaining in January and will receive 2.5 years of back wages. Webber thanked the Council for the contributions and support, saying this was "a real ingredient to making this work." "We did win everything," said Webber. "It was a battle that was worth fighting."

President Williams thanked DC CBTU for the food and encouraged Executive Board members to stay for the short Delegate meeting and enjoy some fellowship afterward.

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved.