



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

---

## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: December 17, 2012

**Meeting called to order** at 6:28pm by President Jos Williams.

President Williams led delegates in a moment of silence in honor of those who have recently lost their lives, and their families, in Connecticut, Kentucky, and across the country due to gun violence.

**Three new delegates were sworn in:** Scott Clark (Teamsters 639), Wayne Settles (Teamsters 639), and Benoit Brookens (AFGE 12)

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

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

### Correspondence

President Williams reported that the board decided to defer action on correspondence until the January meeting.

### Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy (CSA) reported 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) introduced Mike Wilson (DC JwJ/Respect DC), who reported on the great success of Walmart Black Friday actions and thanked delegates 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) Kann reported on resolutions and decisions recommended by the Executive Board, as follows:

***Moved and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation to add WHUT-TV to the "watch, don't pledge" boycott list. Approved.***

***Moved and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation to adopt the Resolution in Support of the Workers of Michigan. Approved.***

Kann presented a resolution from CISPES and introduced Alexis Stoumbelis (Executive Director, CISPES), who spoke about the "Public-Private Partnership" (3P) in El Salvador that "essentially privatizes public services and has no worker safety or union recognition guarantees." Dan Blumenthal (AFSCME Council 26/CISPES) added that the fight against privatization in El Salvador is a fight that is also happening here in the DC metro area, saying "this is a common global struggle against such privatization."

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) added words of support for a resolution in solidarity with the workers of El Salvador, saying "with the economy how it is, it's more important than ever to have international solidarity"

President Williams added that "some of us grew up with CISPES and this struggle in the 70s" and urged Delegates to bring this resolution back to their locals.

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

### COPE Reports

**MD COPE Report:** Rick Powell (Political Coordinator) announced that there will be a legislative conference



## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: December 17, 2012

tomorrow (December 17) at the DC and Maryland State Federation. 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. President Williams also met with City Council Chair Mendelson to discuss the direction of the DC City Council with him as Chair.

Saul Schneidman (AFSCME 2910) commended the Council for organizing these actions.

### President's Report

President Williams updated delegates on disputes at WPFW, saying that information was still unclear, but that it would be reported in *Union City* as soon as it was clear.

### Reports of the Delegates

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) reported that Congressmen Issa and Leiberman are working on "legislation to

eliminate 80,000 postal jobs by eliminating Saturday delivery" and introduced Jamie Partridge, a retired letter carrier from Portland, OR who is participating in a new hunger strike on the National Mall to save six-day delivery. Partridge told delegates he is "freezing and starving out on the mall... trying to stop another dirty move by a lame duck congress." The hunger strikers have set up a tent at 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW on the National Mall and plan to hold a press conference tomorrow (12/18) to tell Congress: "don't let the lame duck cripple the postal eagle!" Lerch moved that the Council endorse the hunger strike action and help spread the word about it. **Seconded to endorse. Approved.**

President Williams reported on ATU 689's campaign to keep public transit public. He called on delegates to participate in actions before and after the Inauguration, saying "thank you" to people for riding public transit. "Jackie and 689 will be calling on us and we'll be there - right?" said Williams. Delegates responded with a resounding "right!"

President Williams thanked DC CBTU for food and holiday cheer they brought to the meeting.

Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) reported that their year-end reception and gift box event didn't have enough boxes to house all their donations, so they gave handfuls of items to DASH, a non-profit in NE DC. They also collected \$300 from members in gift cards, which the chapter will match, so a total of \$600 in gift cards will be donated to CSA from DC CBTU.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) added to President William's report on WPFW, asking delegates to do "terminal pledges," saying they will only donate when the general manager is fired and programs are returned. The Wednesday night WPFW Board meeting will vote on whether to keep the general manager on, so Dixon urged delegates to act quickly. Dixon said she would follow up with information to Kann so that updates on the WPFW situation can run in *Union City*.

Saul Schneidman (AFSCME 2910) led delegates in a few labor-themed holiday carols.



## **DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: December 17, 2012**

***Moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved.***

50/50 was not held; delegates and guests enjoyed food and socialized.

**Delegates:** Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Blumenthal, Dan (AFSCME 3870); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD); Brookens, Benoit (AFGE 12); Carson, Carl (Cement Mason 891); Clark, Scott (IBT 639); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU 400); Fields, Daniel (SEIU 722); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Jeter, Roland (ATU 689); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR ); Pitts, Kenneth (AFGE 383); Ratliff, Thomas (IBT 639); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Settles, Wayne (IBT 639); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Tarlau, Jimmy (CWA District 2); Taylor, Katherine (1199SEIU); Traylor, Timothy (AFGE 383); Williams, Jos (AFSCME 2910)

**Guests:** Wilson, Mike (DC JwJ); Wyville, Michelle (OPEIU/IAM/YWAC)

**Staff:** Kann, Julia; McKirchy, Kathleen; Powell, Rick