



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: January 28, 2013

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

President Williams led the Board in a moment of silence in memory of Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14) and Stan Gordon (NCAUR/AFGE 65).

Minutes (December)

Point of clarity from Katherine Taylor (1199SEIU) on page 3 of minutes: quote should have read: "If the members don't believe that they have decision-making power in the organization, why would they pay dues? We have to put it back in their hands."

Moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Financial Report (December) moved and seconded to receive. Approved.

Correspondence: it was moved, seconded and approved to make the following expenditures: Elevator Constructors Local 10 ad in graduation program (\$250)

Katherine Taylor (1199SEIU) requested the Council purchase a block of 10 tickets (at \$15/each -- totaling \$150) to the 1199SEIU membership fundraiser, "United We Party" (February 15, 2013 at UFCW 400). "1199 knows how to have a party" says Taylor. Moved and seconded; approved.

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on the success of the January 27 bowling tournament. 70 teams (a bit down from last year) had a great time. McKirchy is still calculating winners and how much money came in. Fred Allen (GCC 538C) was a great volunteer, helping make the event come together as always. The next CSA event is Labor Night at the Nats on July 19 against the Dodgers; details to follow. McKirchy reminded board members that a contribution of at least \$300 is needed for members to receive benefits from the Emergency Assistance Fund. McKirchy added that the agency is actively supporting members of UFCW 400 who have been laid off in light of the closing of Magruder's grocery store.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock (Union Cities Coordinator) reported that the 2013 Directory will go to print shortly and circulated the final draft for last edits. There is an online directory, as well, at www.dclaboraffiliates.org, and the new directory will include Facebook and Twitter contact info for locals where availa-

ble.

Julia Kann (Asst. Mobilizer) reported on ongoing monthly local communicators meetings and encouraged board members to send the folks doing communications at their local to the meetings, or host it themselves.

Garlock gave a DC Labor FilmFest update, reporting on the 2013 Global Labor Film & Video Festival (May 2013). Seven locations are set and more are expected.

President Williams updated the board on the ongoing issues at WPFW. Financial mismanagement has led union dues to be deducted and not forwarded to SAG-AFTRA. Dues were repaid after charges were filed, but health and benefits remain unpaid. Pat O'Donnell (SAG-AFTRA Washington Mid Atlantic Local) is in discussions with the management and there are a lot of differing opinions in the membership-driven station. "AFTRA is fighting hard to try to save the station" says Williams.

Kann reported on upcoming local labor events: 2/4 and 2/5 labor leader from El Salvador speaking about public-private partnerships (CISPES); 2/12 Capitol Hill AFSCME & AFGE "Rally to Tell Congress: Protect Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security And Other Vital Services"

Attendance

Present: Allen, Falwell, Goldman, Renne, Tarlau, Taylor, Williams

Excused: Ayres, Boardman, Bridges, Briscoe, Gaines, Martin, Murphy, Perez

Absent: Dyer, Frederick, Jeter, Johnson, Rattliff, S. Reed, D. Reed, Saunders

Guests: Bob Stewart (MCGEO 1994); Rajini Ray (NNU), Stephen Frum (NNU), Deidre Beckford (NNU), Rich McDermott (NABET 31)

Staff: J. Kann; K. McKirchy; R. Powell, A. Solomon

COPE Reports DC COPE

Alya Solomon (Asst. Legislative/Political Director) gave an update on the DC Public Financing Bill, introduced by previous DC City Councilmember Brown. The Council is in discussion with local community groups to re-introduce legislation, possibly working with DC City Councilmember Grosso. Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) asked for two months to do research and report back to the Board on the campaign.

Solomon shared new DC Council committee assignments with board members and talked through the timeline for endorsements for the vacant At-Large seat on the DC City Council.

Solomon reminded board members of the dates and locations for early voting.

President Williams added that the February



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meeting will include a discussion of the type of campaign that will be run (internal, independent, or both).

Sandra Falwell (NNU/DCNA) proposed a resolution on nurse staffing ratios legislation going before the DC City Council. This sort of bill has been attempted before. The resolution is “for protecting all of the patients in the District of Columbia at all of the hospitals,” says Falwell. The lack of nursing staff at hospitals in DC has led to low rankings for DC hospitals. “We want to put a face to what we’re saying,” said Falwell, introducing three local nurses who presented on the resolution.

Rajini Raj (Washington Hospital Center, NNU), Deidre Beckford (Washington Hospital Center, NNU), and Steven Frum (Washington Hospital Center, NNU) presented the resolution. The Patient Protection Bill will be introduced on February 5 by DC City Council Chair Mendelson and Councilmember Alexander. “We feel that District residents deserve so much better” than to be ranked last, as the hospitals currently are, said Raj. The legislation restricts cutting of ancillary staff while demanding an increased number of nurses (there are currently 4,000 union nurses in DC out of 20,000 nurses overall in the District).

There is a lot of turnover in DC nurses and short-staffing is frequent, as are long waits, says Beckford. “This would really increase the number of nurses in the union.” “The heart of the bill will say there’s a limited number of patients for nurses,” says Frum, citing evidence of dangerous results when nurses have more than four patients. “This bill goes a long way toward making sure District residents get the care they deserve.”

Steve Courtien (WBTC) added that the Washington Building & Construction Trades Council has already endorsed the campaign.

Katherine Taylor (1199SEIU) said 1199SEIU also represents nurses and said they’d be happy to help. Taylor asked if the local is in touch with SEIU 722, which also represent members at the Washington Hospital Center. Frum said he will make sure folks are contacted to work in solidarity with one another.

Fred Allen (GCC 538C) asked about issues between the Washington Hospital Center and University of the District of Columbia. Frum explained [DETAILS].

Falwell added that they are talking to UDC about this issue, as well. There is not a lack of people who want to become nurses, but educators for those who want to become nurses.

Moved and seconded to accept resolution and support the Patient Protection bill. Approved.

President Williams added that the presentation opens the board’s eyes to the “horrors” that can happen and promised he would be working very hard to make sure the legislation passes.

Fred Allen added that he will bring the resolution to the DC Democratic State Committee, Bloomingdale Civic Association, and Edgewood Civil Association.

President Williams presented a resolution in sup-

port of the Paid Sick Days for All campaign. Solomon made a slight amendment to add “without a collective bargaining agreement.”

Steve Courtien (WBTC) explained that this would cause problems within the construction industry and therefore they have requested an exemption for their members. Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) said it would be best to have all people included, whether they have collective bargaining or not.

Rick Powell (Political/Legislative Director) explained the history of the bill; there was originally a clause that allowed unions to choose whether or not to opt in, but it was removed.

Courtien said the trades are worried about legislation like this that overrides collective bargaining agreements.

Discussion ensued on the ways this law could help and/or harm local collective bargaining agreements.

Katherine Taylor (1199SEIU) and Sam Epps (Unite Here 25) said they would not be able to vote on this without speaking to their locals’ leadership.

President Williams said that the resolution will be re-written (with a change to allow unions to opt in or opt out) and the board will be asked to vote on it online.

MD COPE

Prince George’s/Montgomery County COPE (Doris Reed, COPE Chair) reported that COPE will be meeting by phone during the current Maryland Legislative Session and will be joining the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO’s Monday night legislative meetings. Bob Stewart (UFCW 1994) is working on finding locations to meet in Montgomery County to encourage more participation. The Montgomery County FOP has also been included in the COPE meetings.

- Rick Powell (Political/Legislative Director) reported on the labor reception being organized for PG County Council Chair Andrea Harrison (Feb. 20th, at Painters). “Andrea has been a solid rock for us and a model of what we’re looking for in our political friends,” said President Williams. Legislative Update: monitoring legislation in Annapolis, let us know if you need help on issues; District 24 Delegate Vacancy: Darren Swain sworn in today; President Williams noted that the Metro Council played a significant role in this appointment.
- Scorecard Update (In discussions with Donna Edwards at the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO; looking at implementing in 2014; refining/developing this year). Renne (MCGEO 1994) noted that primaries will be earlier in 2014 so we may want to think about developing our roadmap earlier than usual, pointing out that “what used to be a political stronghold for organized labor is no longer.”); Powell agreed and said that a plan is already being developed along these lines.
- Tri-County COPE Report (Organizing to Expand) Politi-



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cal power in MD has shifted to the south, which is to say, to our jurisdiction. Encouraged all board members to participate in the COPE meetings to make sure your locals and viewpoints are represented; also there have been changes in meeting structure to make them more effective. Tea Party caught us by surprise last time around and we want to try to reclaim those seats next year but it'll take changes.

President's Report

President Williams introduced Rich McDermott (CWA-NABET 31) who reported on the ongoing struggles with WHUT-TV at Howard University where five members have been fired. McDermott asked the Council for support in turning out to the picket line (dates TBA) as well as putting political pressure on Howard University's leadership. McDermott will share information on upcoming events with the Council.

Kann reported on the ATU 689 transit campaign, which the Council has endorsed. The campaign kicked off with leafleting at Metro stations over Inauguration weekend.

President Williams reminded the board that Evening with Labor is on March 16. McKirchy added that ticket and ad information has been sent out and a few tables and ads have already come in. Williams reviewed the awards for Evening with Labor and proposed the following awards:

- MD COPE Award: Scorecard Committee: Michele Lewis (AFSCME); Mark Coles (Washington Building and Construction Trades Council); Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400 PG); Tony Perez, UFCW 400
- DC COPE Award: None (since activists were staff, but staff to be recognized at event)
- Organizing Award: Laborers 657 organizing unemployed DC residents in DC Jobs Or Else
- Golden Picket Award: UFCW 1994
- Community Services Award: Ann Hoffman (NWU)
- Outstanding Citizen Award: No recommendation
- JC Turner Award: Kendall Martin (Ironworkers 5)

Moved and seconded to accept all recommendations. Approved.

Reports of Board Members

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported that they are on the verge of a two-year deal with the first raises in years; details to follow.

President Williams congratulated Sam Epps (Unite Here 25) on his new position (**as Political Director?**) with the local.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:22pm. Approved.