



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: January 28, 2013

**Meeting called to order by President Williams at 6:36pm.** *President Williams led the Board in a moment of silence in memory of Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14) and Stan Gordon (NCAUR & AFGE 65). Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910) led delegates in a song in their honor.*

**Minutes (December) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.**

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

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

**Correspondence:** Elevator Constructors Local 10 ad in graduation program (\$250); block of 10 tickets (at \$15/each -- totaling \$150) to the 1199SEIU membership fundraiser, "United We Party" (February 15, 2013 at UFCW 400).

**Resolution:** Endorsement of the Patient Protection Act legislation in DC City Council (via NNU/DCNA).

Rajini Raj (Washington Hospital Center, NNU), Deidre Beckford (Washington Hospital Center, NNU), Stephen Frum (Washington Hospital Center, NNU) explained the importance of the Patient Protection Act. "Our residents deserve the best care, deserve the safest care, and that's what this bill will do" says Raj. Frum added that the bill mandates that hospitals will not cut ancillary staff but increase the number of nurses, and particularly union nurses.

Steve Courtien (WBCTC) added that they have already endorsed this bill, particularly because of the danger of their work and the need for good care.

Vanessa Dixon (DC Doctors Council) asked that the nurses let them know if there is anything they can do to support them.

**Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations of the Executive Board; approved.**

President Williams added that he received a letter from DC City Council Chairman Mendelson about the recent bill legislating "big box" retailers. Mendelson urged Williams to put organized labor's support behind the bill, saying this would be necessary to the bill's success. Williams reminded delegates that endorsements of bills like the Patient Protection Act mean a promise to take action. "When you take a vote on it, you are making a commitment that when called upon you'll be there," said Williams. "This is our bill... we're making it labor's bill."

President Williams also noted that a resolution in favor of the Paid Sick Days for All campaign came before the Executive Board. Some language will be added to allow local unions to opt in or out and the Executive Board will vote once the language has been changed and allied groups are on board as well. "This is another critical bill," said Williams.

### **Community Services Agency**

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on the success of the 2012 bowling tournament; 350 bowlers participated and 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. McKirchy reminded delegates that a contribution of at least \$300 is needed from a local for its members to receive Emergency Assistance Fund help from CSA. 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](http://www.dclaboraffiliates.org), and the new directory will include Facebook and Twitter contact info for locals.

Julia Kann (Asst. Mobilizer) reported on ongoing local communicators meetings and encouraged delegates to send the folks doing communications at their local to the meetings, or host a meeting 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 on the way.

Kann introduced Pedro Cruz (DC JwJ) who reported on the ATU 689 public transit campaign. Cruz thanked local members for turning out for fliering during Inauguration weekend and asked delegates to stay tuned for more ways to get involved.

Garlock urged delegates to check the calendar and read Union City for upcoming events and updates on campaigns. Garlock highlighted a big Capitol Hill action on February 12 — Rally to Tell Congress: Protect Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security And Other Vital Services — which AFSCME and AFGE will participate in; details to follow.

### **COPE Reports DC COPE**



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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 the legislation, possibly working with DC City Councilmember Grosso.

Solomon shared new DC City Council committee assignments with delegates and talked through the timeline for endorsements for the vacant At-Large seat on the DC City Council. Solomon reminded delegates of the dates and locations for early voting.

President Williams added that the February meeting will include a discussion of the type of campaign that will be run; internal, independent, or both.

Ann Hoffman (NWU) added that on the ballot there will be a referendum on budget autonomy for District residents. President Williams asked legislative staff to look into this initiative.

### MD COPE

Rick Powell (Political/Legislative Director) reported that Prince George's/Montgomery County COPE will be meeting by phone during the Maryland Legislative Session and will be joining the Maryland State & District of Columbia AFL-CIO Monday nights for legislative meetings. Powell also announced an upcoming fundraiser for PG County Council Chair Andrea Harrison (Feb. 20th, at Painters); details to follow.

Legislative Update: monitoring legislation in Annapolis, let us know if you need help on issues; New District 24 Delegate Darren Swain sworn in today; President Williams noted that the Metro Council played a significant role in this appointment.

Powell reported on the Council's Legislative Scorecard Committee, which is in discussions with Donna Edwards at the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO to implement for the 2014 legislative session in Annapolis.

Jim Lowrey (Elevator Constructors 10) reported on the Tri-County COPE. They met last Tuesday and discussed how to get more people involved in the committee and in elections. Next meeting will be with a new member from La Plata City Council about the fight to keep Walmart out of the city.

### President's Report

President Williams informed delegates that Evening with Labor is on March 16. The following awardee decisions were made by the board:

- 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/MCGEO 1994
- Community Services Award: Ann Hoffman (NWU)
- Outstanding Citizen Award: No recommendation
- JC Turner Award: Kendall Martin (Ironworkers 5)

### Reports of Delegates/Allies/Constituency Groups

Frank Stella (MD/DC ARA) reported that they will be participating in the AFGE/AFSCME action on February 12 and will be targeting Congressmen Delaney and Hoyer around public sector issues; details to follow.

Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) reminded delegates that the international convention is coming up in May in Orlando, FL. Details are all available online at [www.cbtu.org](http://www.cbtu.org). The local drawing fundraiser is continuing for free registration (or equal amount in cash).

Allison Reardon (Union Plus) told delegates that they are switching from Chase Bank to Wells Fargo and urged delegates to look at the opportunities offered by the Union Plus mortgage program. All materials are available free of cost at [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org). Union Plus is available to come meet with stewards and worksite reps about their discounts and how to make sure members know about them. Discussion ensued on benefits available to union members through Union Plus.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) reported on WPFW, saying the station is in crisis because they are unable to pay workers past this Thursday. There is worry that the station will fail. Sweeping changes by the manager have led listeners to express concerns over the programming grid and issues with the staff. January 30 at 7:30pm there will be an open board meeting. Dixon called on delegates to speak out to the General Manager at this meeting.

Rich McDermott (CWA-NABET 31) 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) and putting political pressure on Howard University's leadership. They are asking audience members to "watch but don't pledge." McDermott will share information on upcoming events with the Council.

President Williams announced that Mike Wilson (present) has left DC JwJ and moved to UFCW but will continue to run the Respect DC campaign and continue to attend Council meetings.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:55pm. Approved.

### ATTENDANCE



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**Delegates:** Buchanan, Avis (AFGE 2782); Childs, Barbara (AFSA 4); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU 400 PG); Courtien, Stephen (WBCTC); Dixon, Vanessa (Doctors Council DC/AFSCME NUHHCE); Ehrmann, Rick (WBNG); Havard, Donald (IUOE 99); Hershfield, David (AFGE Council 1); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC Chapter); Lowery, Jim (IUEC 10); Lowery, Ruth (IAMAW 193); Martin-Gross, Yvette (AFGE 631); Mayfield, Robert (AFGE 2978); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Stella, Frank (MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans); Taylor, Katherine (1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East); Williams, Jos (AFSCME 2910); Williams, Sybil (AFGE 2876)

**Guests:** Goode, Jesse (Federation of Admin Law Judges - DC); Papp, Evan (United Front Against Austerity); Rardon, Alison (Union Plus); Wilson, Michael (UFCW 400/Respect DC)

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