



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: March 18, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Jos Williams at 4:14pm.

President Williams recommended Eric Bunn, the new National Vice-President of AFGE's 14th District, to fill the remaining unexpired term of Dwight Bowman.

Moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Minutes (February) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

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

Correspondence: it was moved, seconded and approved to make the following expenditures: \$250 to scholarship fund of Teamsters 639 Golf Tournament; \$150 for full-page ad for Iron Workers Local 5 Pin and Diploma party; \$200 for Trayon White (School Board member - Ward 8) via WTU fundraiser; \$350 for ½-page program ad for Baltimore CLC COPE Dinner.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy (Executive Director, CSA) reminded board members about the upcoming Labor Night at the Nats event (July 19th against the Dodgers). Fliers to be printed soon. The Nats gave the Council two signed baseballs, which will be used as incentives. People who buy over 50 tickets will be entered in a drawing for the baseballs.

McKirchy added that CSA continues to do presentations on the effects of the sequestration. Anyone interested in having such a presentation can contact McKirchy.

For years CSA has been funded by the Marpat Foundation, which is now going out of business. But the Foundation put in a good word for CSA with the Anonymous Donor fund, where CSA is asking for \$25,000, which could lead to an ongoing funding relationship. Details to follow if this works out.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock (StreetHeat Coordinator) reported on upcoming Street Heat in the busy weeks to come. Nationally, AFGE and AFSCME will be doing "Repeal the Sequestration!" actions across the country, there are two in DC (both on the labor calendar, at noon this Wednesday, March 20).

Steve Courtien (WBCTC) reported that Rodmen 201 continue to protest JBG for not paying the Davis-Bacon-mandated rates. They will be picketing throughout the week, with details in the labor calendar and upcoming in *Union City*.

Garlock added that the great film from the 2012 DC Labor FilmFest -- *We Are Wisconsin* -- will be screened this Thursday (March 21) at the AFL-CIO, noting that the film has been updated to reflect more recent political events.

Dena Briscoe (APWU Nation's Capital & Southern MD) told board members about the NALC rally coming up in Gaithersburg this Sunday (March 25), "Delivering for America." The rally is against cuts to six-day delivery and other cuts affecting postal workers. If these cuts continue, actions are expected to come to DC.

Fred Allen (GCC 538-C) said there was news from the Congress about this today, which Garlock said would be looked into and reported on in *Union City*.

Garlock added that there will be another local labor communicators meeting this Thursday, and board members are urged to send their communications person to participate in the discussion.

Board members were directed to the labor

Attendance

Present: Present: F. Allen (GCC 538-C); D. Briscoe (APWU, Nation's Capital & Southern MD); E. Bunn (AFGE District 14); C. Goldman (AFSCME Council 26); K. Martin (Ironworkers 5); M. Murphy (IUOE 99); C. Reed (SEIU 400 PG); D. Reed (ASASP); N. Saunders (WTU 6); J. Tarlau (CWA District 2-13); J. Williams (Metro Council)

Excused: V. Ayres (WBCTC); L. Bridges (OPEIU 2); T. Perez (UFCW 400); G. Renne (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)

Guests: S. Courtien (WBCTC); B. Stewart (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); S. Uribe (NDLON)

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



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calendar to look for many more upcoming events.

President Williams announced that President Obama officially announced the appointment of Tom Perez as Secretary of Labor. A story will follow in *Union City* about the local experience working with Perez; President Williams will send a letter on behalf of the local labor movement congratulating him and saying they are looking forward to working with him. "We're proud; we're really proud of Tom" said President Williams.

COPE Report DC COPE Report:

Alya Solomon (Asst. Political Coordinator) introduced Sarahi Uribe from the Immigrant Rights Coalition. Uribe presented an act that would allow DC residents to get drivers licenses regardless of immigration status. Uribe told board members this is about safety, workers rights, and about DC showing its support for immigration reform. Mayor Gray, City Council Chair Mendelson, numerous City Councilmembers, SEIU 32BJ and LiUNA District Council have all already said they support the bill.

Kendall Martin (Iron Workers 5) said he is "reluctantly in support of this bill." "My trade... is under attack by undocumented workers. We've seen our trade... diminish. We're lucky if we do 5% of that work in this area today because of undocumented workers and the jobs that they will do at a much lower cost... but I also know that this issue is bigger than this bill...I do have some heartache with this, although I am willing to support it"

Uribe said that this speaks to why comprehensive immigration reform is necessary and thanked Martin for his support.

President Williams said that the concerns raised by Iron Workers 5 are shared by other unions and that this healthy debate is happening throughout the labor movement, noting that it took a long time to get the AFL-CIO to demand comprehensive immigration reform. "Undocumented workers are being exploited and if we don't have comprehensive immigration reform, it will continue." Discussion ensued on the exact implications of the bill and who is affected by it. Allen added that the DC COPE committee recommended the endorsement of the bill.

Moved and seconded to approve the endorsement recommendation. Approved.

Discussion ensued on the upcoming April 10 rally for immigration reform, which the AFL-CIO is not

taking a stance on, but many international and local unions are participating in it.

Solomon gave a legislative update: "Public Financing of Political Campaigns Amendment Act of 2013" would provide for public financing of political donations at a matching rate of 4-1 for small donations from many individuals. A small coalition supporting the bill is seeking assistance from labor. CWA is in support of the bill. The Council's committee to review the legislation and make recommendations is chaired by Jimmy Tarlau, CWA District 2. The committee is still working on a formal recommendation, which will come to the April or May meeting.

Discussion ensued on the meaning of the bill and how it could or could not support candidates. Martin (Iron Workers 5) asked that a building trades person be added to the committee; President Williams appointed Martin to join the committee. Nathan Saunders (WTU) offered to join the committee, as well. President Williams agreed and appointed him.

Solomon also spoke about the upcoming hearing on Wednesday (March 23) on the Large Retailer Accountability Act of 2013, which is endorsed by the Metro Council and UFCW 400. The bill would make "big-box" retailers pay the DC living wage instead of the DC minimum wage. Many are expected to turn out for the hearing. President Williams added that "this piece of legislation is a very critical piece of legislation... because Walmart has made this bill a declaration of war, and they are putting everything that they have to defeat it... I expect every affiliate to view this as their piece of legislation. We cannot afford to lose this... Wednesday's hearing is just the start"

MD COPE Report:

Rick Powell (Political Coordinator) reported that the Prince George's and Montgomery County COPE continue to have phone conferences rather than in-person meetings, since many are lobbying in Annapolis. The last COPE meeting included a report from Shirley Adams (ACE/AFSCME 2250) that they are holding open interviews tomorrow for potential school board candidates; any and all are encouraged to attend. Powell will send out information on this event tomorrow morning. Doris Reed (COPE Chair/ASASP) said that the three finalists are not great. "If we have to support one, the current interim one is who we would support" but with County Executive Rushern Baker looking for another candidate there is a chance that none of them will be chosen and "that may not be a bad thing."



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The COPE meeting also included a report from Vince Canalis (PG FOP) on a meeting with County Executive Rushern Baker where they learned that all county employees would be looking at potentially five days of furloughs. They are trying to get 250 county employees to take an early out to offset these furloughs

Bob Stewart (UFCW 1994) reported on MCGEO's activities in Howard County. They are continuing to push a bill that extends collective bargaining to library employees in Howard County (rather than the state-wide bill they pushed previously). This bill has been introduced and passed the Howard County delegation with unanimous Democratic support in Senate and House; it has a hearing on March 27; "we're pretty encouraged that it's going to pass."

Powell gave a legislative report from Annapolis, highlighting the bills they are tracking. Powell will send the status report to the Executive Board. Powell added that a committee is working on mapping the 2014 election. A "speculative" map of the 2014 elections was distributed to the board; next the committee will make recommendations on which races to be involved in, and how much this is projected to cost. The hope is to have this all done by the September meeting, giving nine months before the election in Maryland, and seven before the election in DC. Powell asked board members not to share this document. President Williams asked board members to look at the packets and come to the next meeting with reactions and any questions or feedback.

President Williams told board members that an announcement has gone out inviting them to a meeting with County Executive Rushern Baker on March 26 at 4pm. Williams encouraged board members to RSVP to Rick Powell with the topics they would like discussed.

Discussion ensued on the effects of the sequester on previously-negotiated contracts and how County Executive Rushern Baker has backpedaled on negotiation promises.

President's Report

President Williams thanked Evening with Labor Co-Chair Fred Allen and Kathleen McKirchy for their hard work to make the night such a success. The board congratulated Kendall Martin (Iron Workers 5) again for his being named Trade Unionist of the Year. Williams asked the board for feedback on the event.

Discussion ensued on the success of the event; board members spoke in favor of decisions

that have shortened the program (such as not calling all the politicians and cutting the raffle). Board members cited issues with parking.

Reports of Board Members

Dena Briscoe (APWU Nation's Capital & Southern MD) reported that the post office is trying to move DC mail processing to the suburbs, further delaying the delivery and inconveniencing and stressing workers. Briscoe passed out information about their actions in response. Briscoe also asked board members to join her local in supporting legislation to preserve 6-day delivery, re-establish standard mail delivery. "The public has a lot of say-so in this."

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:04pm. Approved.