



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: March 18, 2013

DC Labor Chorus sang labor songs to welcome delegates and promote their Spring concert.

Meeting called to order by President Jos Williams at 6:41pm.

President William swore in Edward Hill (AFGE 2782) as a delegate.

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

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

Report on Executive Board Actions:

Actions: Eric Bunn (new National Vice President of AFGE District 14) to fill the remaining unexpired term of Dwight Bowman on the Executive Board

Moved and seconded to accept the recommendation. Approved.

President William swore in Eric Bunn (AFGE District 14) as an executive board member. "I look forward to working with each and every one of you" said Bunn.

Correspondence: \$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.

Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations. Approved.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy (Executive Director, CSA) reminded delegates about the upcoming Labor Night at the Nats event (July 19th against the Dodgers). Fliers to be printed soon.

McKirchy added that CSA continues to do

presentations on the effects of the sequestration. Anyone interested in having such a presentation can contact McKirchy.

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).

Ken Lerch (NALC 3825) reported on cuts and threats of privatization of the post office. A local rally will be held this Sunday (March 25) called "Delivering for America." The rally is against cuts to six-day delivery and other cuts hurting postal workers. There will be about 150 rallies across the country, with the closest one in Gaithersburg, MD; details are on in the labor calendar. Lerch told delegates how lies about the post office being broke are perpetuated by those who want to privatize it.

Discussion ensued on the situation facing postal workers and letter carriers.

Robin Raynor (UAW) reported on an upcoming event with Danny Glover at Howard University for a campaign targeting Nissan. "We're trying to get the word out domestically and internationally." Students are very excited to turn out and get involved in the campaign; all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Garlock added that there will be another local communicators meeting this Thursday, and board members are urged to send their communications person to the discussion.

Delegates were directed to the labor calendar to look for many more upcoming events.

COPE Report

DC COPE Report:

Alya Solomon (Asst. Political Coordinator) reported that the Executive Board voted to recommend the endorsement of the DC Drivers License Amendment Act of 2013, which would allow residents of DC to get drivers licenses regardless of immigration sta-



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tus.

Discussion ensued on the merits of the bill. "This is a safety issue" said President Williams.

Moved and seconded to accept the recommendation. Approved.

Mike Wilson (UFCW 400) reported on 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, and make employers follow the first-source hiring laws. Wilson encouraged delegates to turn out for the hearing early to pack the room. "This is an opportunity to send a message to these big-box stores that if they're going to come into the District we expect them to set a higher standard."

Discussion ensued on the prospects for the bill's passage. "This is not just a bill that's going to affect Local 400" said President Williams, calling on delegates to "say this is our bill."

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 meeting included Shirley Adams (ACE/AFSCME 2250) reporting that they are holding open interviews tomorrow for potential school board candidates; any and all are encouraged to attend. Also at that meeting Vince Canalis (PG FOP) reported on a meeting with County Executive Rushern Baker where they learned that all county employees would be looking at potentially five days of furloughs and that they are trying to get 250 county employees to take an early out to offset these furloughs. Finally, also at that meeting Bob Stewart (UFCW 1994) reported on MCGEO's activities in Howard County. They are winning a fight for collective bargaining for library employees.

Powell gave a legislative report from Annapolis, highlighting the bills they are tracking.

President's Report

President Williams reported on the great success of this year's Evening with Labor and thanked Co-Chair Fred Allen and Kathleen McKirchy for their hard work to make the night such a success. Dele-

gates applauded award winners who were present at the delegates meeting: Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400 PG) and Ann Hoffman (NWU/UAW).

Reports of Delegates

Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) reported on a contract they have with the National Theater Corporation until 2014. They are facing tough negotiations with theater management cutting corners. "We may be reaching out" said Clay "to do a show of force." Clay also announced that they successfully organized workers at the Atlas Theatre a few years ago, but now the theater is breaking the union. Clay called on affiliates to refrain from holding events at the theatres. Clay also expressed interest in pursuing some tax abatements for arts programs such as those they have in Maryland.

Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400 PG) reported that County Executive Rushern Baker is trying to make school board positions executive-appointee positions. They are actively tracking this legislation and working with the Prince George's and Montgomery County COPE.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) reported that there is a budget surplus and the mayor has made good on promises to increase union wages. "Things aren't where we want to be, but we're closer to where we want to be" said Dixon.

Eric Starin (OPEIU 2) reported on a "peculiar law" in Maryland on school boards and budgets and how this may give an advantage to having the superintendent under the County Executive in Maryland. Starin also added that the salaried employees at WMATA, have been without a new contract since July 2008. Their last raise was in 2007. They got a good deal about a year ago in arbitration, but within less than two weeks the transit authority took them to federal court, where they remain to this day. "There have been no hearings and no decision issued... I hope I'll have some good news someday"

Timothy Traylor (AFGE 383) thanked the council for supporting the local's "no confidence" vote for DYRS Director nominee Neil Stanley, although they were not successful and Stanley was appointed by Mayor Gray. DYRS workers continue to face terrible treatment and the chief shop steward has been served with a document for removal. The director "has shown us that he's on a rampage for revenge." The local is



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asking for the support of the Metro Council in upcoming actions to bring public attention to what's happening at DYRS. "You have our pledge of support" said President Williams, who said he will work with Eric Bunn on this issue. Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) added that they also represent people there and face similar issues.

Ann Hoffman (NWU/DC Vote) reported on the referendum on the ballot on April 23 for DC budget autonomy, calling on delegates to help get out the vote in favor of the referendum.

Carl Carson (Cement Masons/APRI DC Chapter) urged delegates to attend their upcoming event on April 13 at ATU 689.

Gwend Johnson (CBTU DC) reminded delegates that their international convention is coming up; April 22 is the last day to get a discount when ordering tickets online. There is a tentative agenda on the website now, www.cbtu.org.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) & Benito Diaz thanked delegates for their ongoing support of WPFW workers. Some of the problems with the union staff have been resolved, but there are some ongoing problems and a new one. Staff wages have been cut but management wages have not. Staff are now at 75% wages and not expecting retroactive back-pay. There is new leadership on the station board. A group is working to increase and improve the staffing and get rid of the station manager. The current issue is that the station needs to move, and they are entering into a lease agreement with Clear Channel. Demonstrations have been happening in front of the Clear Channel building. Diaz thanked the Metro Council for publicizing these pickets in *Union City*. *"WPFW doesn't really make this decision" said Diaz. "Pacifica makes these decisions" regarding agreements made with Clear Channel. Diaz asked that the Metro Council support the group with campaign strategy and turn-out.*

President Williams told Dixon she needs to serve as a liaison in bringing in the union members at WPFW and bringing in SAG-AFTRA if they want to make the Metro Council's participation official.

Jess Goode (Federation of Administrative Law Judges) reported on their ongoing struggle to get a vote on their union at DC's Office of Administrative Hearings.

President Williams was able to get them a meeting with City Administrator Allen Lew. At the end of the meeting Lew promised that the next day they would have an answer to the many union cards they submitted. They never heard from Lew. The department head appears to be hiring Venable to engage in an anti-union campaign with tax dollars. President Williams said he would discuss with them how to proceed from here.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:25pm. Approved.

Attendance:

Delegates: Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Briscoe, Dena (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD); Buchanan, Avis (AFGE 2782); Bunn, Eric (AFGE District 14); Carson, Carl (OPCM 891); Clay, Chuck (IATSE 22); Collins, Cynthia (SEIU Local 400 PG); Courtien, Stephen (WBCTC); Dixon, Vanessa (Doctors Council DC/AFSCME NUHHCE); Ehrmann, Rick (NEWSPAPER GUILD 35); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Goode, Jesse (Federation of Admin Law Judges - DC); Hill, Edward (AFGE 2782); Hoffman, Ann (NWU/UAW 1981); Johnson, Gwend (CBTU DC Chapter); Little, LaKisha (DCNA); Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers 5); Martin-Gross, Yvette (AFGE 631); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Newman, Elaine (NCAUR); Perry, Alan (IATSE 22); Pitts, Kenneth (AFGE 383); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400 PG); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Richardson, David (AFGE 12); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6); Schniderman, Saul (AFSCME 2910); Sexton, Mark (IUOE 99); Starin, Eric (OPEIU 2); Stewart, Bob (UFCW 1994 MCGEO); Tarlau, Jimmy (CWA District 2-13); Traylor, Timothy (AFGE 383); Williams, Jos (Metro Council)

Guests: Diaz, Benito (Working America); Lewis, Nikki (DCJwJ); Wilson, Michael (Respect DC / UFCW 400)

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