



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: April 15, 2013

Meeting called to order at 4:18pm by President Jos Williams.

Minutes: The minutes of February 25 were moved, seconded and adopted as presented.

Financial Report: It was moved, seconded and adopted to waive this month's report due to accountant's abundance of tax day work for other clients. A report through April will be reviewed at the May 20 meeting.

Correspondence: The following expenditures were **moved, seconded and adopted:** \$500 for the WTU 6 45th Anniversary Gala, \$250 for the IBEW 26 Poker Run for Kids with Cancer, \$1000 for three tickets for the UFCW Mid-Atlantic PAC annual dinner, \$200 for a tee sign for the Boilermakers 193 Scholarship Golf Tournament. Total expenditures \$1950.

Special agenda item: IAFF 36 Overtime DC budget problem. Ed Smith (IAFF 36) briefed board members about an item appearing in the Mayor's 2014 budget documents, which is attempting to address a firefighter overtime dispute that goes back to the days of the DC Control Board. In the 2001 Appropriations Act, Congress overturned overtime as configured for DC firefighters and limited it to what was in the Fair Labor Standards Act. This was a one year situation and Local 36 grieved at the time. The local has since challenged DC's refusal to pay overtime per the contract and won at every level of grievance, arbitration, PERB and court. The city owes \$36 million in back pay to firefighters but they continue to challenge this and the budget does not include \$36 million to pay the money due to workers. Instead, the Mayor is proposing to "recognize this as a liability and include language in the Budget Request Act, to be approved by Congress that would remove the liability". In other words, at the same time as the Mayor is supporting the referendum on the ballot April 23 for DC budget autonomy to get the Congress out of the DC budget process, he is proposing to have Congress wipe out contractually obligated overtime payments to hundreds of firefighters. Smith indicated that "it's me today and someone else tomorrow" if this is not stopped, and urged support for a resolution of support. **The resolution of Support for IAFF Local 36 was moved and seconded.**

Discussion ensued. President Williams indicated that this proposed action by the Mayor clearly violates Home Rule. Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) indicated that the proposed resolution be strengthened by explicitly reaffirm-

ing our commitment to the collective bargaining process. He also indicated his union is in the same spot relative to 75 teachers who were terminated wrongfully and the union has won at every stage to date but the City refuses to pay. President Williams indicated that AFGE 383 at DYRS is similarly situated. Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) indicated a related situation at WMATA where the City did pay but this was due to the funds being owed to non-DC government workers. Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26) asked for clarification on the budget process and indicated that language should be added to the resolution requiring the MWC to notify the Council and the Mayor of our support, to lobby the Mayor and Council to delete this language in the budget documents and to find the \$36 million to pay this award.

Smith indicated that they had offered to sit down with the City and negotiate over this payment, as they recognize the economic impacts to the City, but that the City has refused.

After all discussion, the resolution was approved with the additions, to be added by staff, of support for the collective bargaining process, mention of the other unions similarly situated, and the MWC actions to lobby the Mayor and City Council to resolve these challenges.

President Williams indicated that a meeting of the DC public sector unions would be held Thursday, April 18, 10am at the Fire Fighters union hall, 2120 Bladensburg Rd NE.

Community Services Agency: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded Board members about Labor Night at the Nats, Friday, July 19. Tickets are now available for \$10 each as is the flyer which can be downloaded from the CSA page on the Council's website and sent electronically to your members. Those purchasing 50 or more

Attendance

Present: F Allen (GCC 538-C), J Boardman (Unite Here 25), D Briscoe (APWU Nation's Capital & Southern MD), C Goldman (AFSCME Council 26), J Jeter (ATU 689), K Martin (Iron Workers 5), M Murphy (IUOE 99), T Perez (UFCW 400), C Reed (SEIU 400 PG), D Reed (ASASP), N Saunders (WTU), J Williams (MWC)

Excused: V Ayres (WBTC), L Bridges (OPEIU 2), E Bunn (AFGE District 14), D Dyers (OPEIU (2)), S Falwell (DCNA/ NNU), A Frederick (LiUNA 657), R Gaines (IBEW 26), G Johnson (AFSCME Council 20), T Ratliff (Teamsters 639), G Renne (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)

Guests: B Stewart (MCGEO 1994), J Ardison (MCGEO 1994), S Courtien (WBCTC), E Smith (IAFF 36)

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



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tickets get their names on the scoreboard as well as are entered into a drawing for a baseball signed either by Drew Storen or Bryce Harper. Kendall Martin (Iron Workers Local 5) indicated his local would purchase 500 tickets. Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) indicated her local would purchase 250.

McKirchy updated the Board on recent Building Futures activities including a trip to Seattle with representatives from our Department of Labor Green Jobs Innovation Fund fiscal agent, the Community Foundation, to view top flight pre-apprenticeship training, and innovative collaboration between workforce development, community colleges, unions and community-based organizations. Staff also attended the required grantee peer learning conference in Philadelphia last week for all of the Green Jobs Innovation Fund grantees. Sylvia Casaro-Dietert, CSA Client Services Coordinator, was a panel member on a panel discussing how to recruit and successfully train more women in construction pre-apprenticeship. The Director will also be on a panel this week at the Good Jobs Green Jobs National Conference on the same topic. A new class of Building Futures will be starting May 6 and we are actively recruiting for this class.

Union Cities/Street Heat: Assistant Mobilization Coordinator Julia Kann asked Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) to report on the Public Transit campaign, whose goal is “to keep the ‘public’ in public transit”. They have a three-tiered approach- get their own members, other local unions, and the community involved and mobilized in the campaign. They are printing up “solidarity cards” for people to sign, and will be asking locals to have presentations at their meetings to hear about the campaign and get these cards signed, which will then be presented to DC politicians. Focus is on DC due to efforts to privatize routes and expand the Circulator, which is also union but which is taking over Metrobus routes and which pays less wages and fewer benefits. Discussion included information about Councilmember Mary Cheh’s (Ward 3) comments that WMATA workers have too lavish of a pension plan, to indications that Councilmember Bowser (Ward 4) also supports privatization. Several locals indicated they would invite in speakers and would help get cards signed.

Sequester Update: At Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock’s request, Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26) reported that since concerns have been expressed about the impact of Defense Department cuts, miraculously agencies and departments have been finding monies to move around and therefore the impact on workers may not be as bad as originally expected. However, there are still unintended consequences of the sequester impacting communities and we should still support repeal of the Sequestration Act. In addition, lots of bad things for federal workers are included in the 2014 budget including benefit cuts and increases in worker retirement plan payments.

Garlock reported on the 2013 DC FilmFest slated for October, that planning was underway, that the advisory

committee met last week to debrief the 2012 FilmFest and review recommendations for 2013, that film selection is underway, and that movies about teachers, painters and iron workers would be in the mix. He also reported on the Global Labor Film Fest, which has grown out of the locally-organized conference with other labor film fest directors around the world and which will include 16 locations globally. He indicated that he has some DVD copies of the film “We Are Wisconsin,” which can be purchased for \$20.

Julia Kann directed Board members to the list of other upcoming events and to the Labor Calendar on www.dclabor.org. Upcoming events reported include: Global Labor FilmFest: “The War on Whistleblowers” (5/6 at Busboys & Poets, 5th & K); DC Emancipation Day Celebration (4/16); AFL-CIO Book Club: “Debtors’ Prison” (4/16); NNU Rally for Patient Protection (4/19); Robin Hood Rides Again (4/20); Workers Memorial Day: “From Mourning to Mass Movements” (4/26); Annual Tribute to NoVA Labor Dinner (4/26); DC Justice for Janitors Celebration (4/29); IBEW 26 Motorcycle Club Poker Run (5/4); DC Labor Chorus Spring Concert (5/4); Film: The War on Whistleblowers (5/6)

COPE: DC COPE Chairman Fred Allen (GCC 538C/IBT) asked Tony Perez (UFCW 400) to report on the activities surrounding the Large Retailer Accountability Act, which requires big box stores over a certain size and annual sales amount to pay \$11.75 per hour with some benefits. The City Council hearing was very successful, community groups have been mobilized to be in the forefront, and during this first-ever public debate on the issue of big box stores and their impacts on workers and the community WalMart was a no-show. He thanked the Council, its staff, and the COPE Committee for its support and urged Board members to contact members of the Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (Councilmembers Orange, Cheh, Grosso, Graham and Alexander) and encourage their support to affirmatively move the bill out of committee to the full City Council.

Allen also reported on the upcoming Emancipation Day events and urged everyone to attend, as well as to support Question 8, the DC Budget Autonomy referendum at the special election April 23. Assistant Legislative/Political Coordinator Alya Solomon requested Board members to let her know ASAP if they have members who will help cover the polls.

A discussion ensued about whether to revisit the decision of the Board to take a “no position” in the race for the At-Large position. The original decision was reaffirmed.

Prince George’s County/Montgomery County COPE- Chairwoman Doris Reed (ASASP) reported on the bill, which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly, to give the Prince George’s County Executive authority to appoint the School Superintendent and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the School Board, and to add four additional seats.



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She thanked Tony Perez (UFCW 400), Mark Coles (WBCTC), Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400) and Rick Powell (MWC) for their hard work on this successful effort.

Sonny Reed (SEIU 400) thanked President Williams for his support of this bill. They have been struggling with no pay raises in five years and have lost 250 members in the last three years and it was time for a change in the way business is conducted at the School Board.

President Williams thanked Ms. Reed for her leadership and Rick Powell (MWC Legislative/Political Coordinator) for his hard work on this bill.

Kendall Martin (Iron Workers Local 5) reported that one of their bills on enforcement of prevailing wage was sent to Summer Study.

Rick Powell (Legislative/Political Coordinator) updated the Board on the mapping for the 2014 elections. The committee will come back to the Board with recommendations. The Maryland COPE's next meeting will be in Silver Spring to encourage more participation. He also reported that at the upcoming Tri-County COPE meeting Senate President Mike Miller and Delegate Proctor will be in attendance so please turn out your members. The meeting is Tuesday, April 23 at 7pm at the American Legion in La Plata. The AFL-CIO has requested central labor councils to meet with our Congresspersons over the effects of sequestration and the efforts to cut Social Security and Medicare. Meetings are arranged with Congresspersons Hoyer, Van Hollen, and Edwards.

Bob Stewart (MCGEO 1994) reported that the primary in Maryland will be in June, and the filing deadline for candidates is in January. This will impact our timelines for interviewing and endorsing candidates. President Williams indicated that the timeline would be dictated by the state federation for statewide and General Assembly offices and that it is hoped that an endorsement for Governor can be made at the state federation convention in November. By June, we should have a plan and timetable for local races under our jurisdiction. He also reported that the Legislative Scorecard is before the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. We will apply it now, though, to local races within our jurisdiction.

President's Report: The President asked Evening With Labor Dinner Chairman Fred Allen (GCC 538C/IBT) for a report and he handed out the listing of revenues and expenses and reported that the "profit" from the event is about \$21,000. President Williams again thanked Brother Allen and staff for a well-planned and executed event.

President Williams asked Board Member Dena Briscoe (APWU NCSML) to introduce Reverend Witherspoon from the Baltimore Chapter of the SCLC, who asked for support for the anniversary Poor Peoples' Campaign which will include events in Baltimore on May 11 with a march to DC over three days arriving on May 13. They are looking for marchers as well as greeters for the arrival in DC. It was moved, seconded and adopted to support

this event. The President will identify staff to work with SCLC.

Reports of Board Members:

Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) reported that they are now in contract negotiations with WMATA and will know soon how it will be going

Sonny Reed (SEIU 400) indicated they too are in negotiations with the School Board but not sure what direction things will take. He will keep the Board updated.

Dena Briscoe (APWU NCSML) updated the Board on the recent win to keep Saturday delivery as the Congress overrode the Postmaster General's directive. The Postal Regulatory Commission meetings are now open and the local is attending. Congressman Issa (R- CA 49th) is pursuing privatization of the USPS and has a hearing planned for Wednesday. She announced a DC At-Large candidate's forum to be held at her union hall this Saturday sponsored by the Carpenters.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) indicated that they are in negotiations with Kroger in the Roanoke area and that the company wants health care benefit reductions. He thanked President Williams and Rick Powell for the testimony on the self-scan alcohol prohibition bill which did pass the Maryland General Assembly and will be implemented in Prince George's County. He also mentioned two recent contract wins which have been publicized in *Union City*.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.