



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: April 15, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by President Williams, who asked for a moment of silence in honor of those who were killed or injured in the April 15 bombings in Boston.

The regular order of business was suspended to allow the DC Labor Chorus to lead the attendees in a rousing version of “Solidarity Forever”. They then reminded delegates of their upcoming concert Saturday, May 4 with proceeds benefiting M.O.M.I.E.’s TLC (Mentors of Minorities in Education’s Total Learning Cis-tem). Sharon Bollers, representing the organization, explained some of their services.

Returning to the Regular Order of Business, the President swore in **two new delegates**: Patricia Connor (ATU 689) and Aaron Bast (Iron Workers Local 5).

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.

Executive Board Report: The Executive Board report was **moved, seconded and adopted** and includes support for the Resolution in Support of IAFF Local 36 and the Resolution to support the Poor Peoples’ Campaign organized by Baltimore SCLC, and the following expenditures: \$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.

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 tickets get their names on the scoreboard as well as entered into a drawing for baseball signed either by Drew Storen or Bryce Harper.

She updated the delegates on recent Building Futures activities including attendance at 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) and Pedro Cruz (DC JWW) 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 pays less wages and fewer benefits. Discussion included information about public subsidies of mass transit and the role of the Circulator. Kewana Battle-Mason (ATU 1764) offered clarification on their situation and their support of the Public Transit Campaign.

Ms. Kann introduced Andy Bowen of the DC Trans Coalition who discussed the unique health needs experienced by transgender workers, the lack of health insurance coverage for some of these things ranging from psychotherapy to surgical procedures,



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and the need for unions to press on these issues. An information session will be held soon and this will be publicized in *Union City*.

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. He also indicated that there is a new affiliate social media page on www.dclabor.org which publicizes our affiliates' social media sites – websites, Facebook pages and Twitter links -- and activities.

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) reported on the continuing support for 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 and community groups have been mobilized to be in the forefront. He 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 delegates to let her know ASAP if they have members who will help cover the polls.

Maryland COPE: Rick Powell (Legislative/Political Coordinator) updated the delegates on the mapping

for the 2014 elections. 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. The Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO will set up meetings with the state's two Senators.

President Williams introduced "the hardest working state federation secretary-treasurer, Donna Edwards, of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO, who updated the delegates on the results of the recently-ended Maryland General Assembly session. Some wins some losses but labor had an impact and needs to continue to coordinate with locals and ensure that state senators and delegates understand that the state federation is an umbrella organization of unions and "not just another union". She indicated she has a database for tracking bills, this year there were 160, and that this will be shared with the labor council staff for tracking DC legislation.

Reports:

Fred Allen (GCC 538C/IBT), Evening with Labor Dinner Chairman, reported an estimated profit of \$21,000 from the event. He thanked all who worked on and supported the event.

Theresa Haas (IFPTE 70) discussed a situation at the non-profit Many Languages One Voice, which has been thwarting employee organizing activities and firing union activists. Two fired workers and one remaining union supporter were in attendance. President Williams directed staff to meet with the union to work out a mobilization strategy for getting these workers' jobs back and for ensuring a good first contract and assured the workers and the local of the labor council's support.

Vanessa Dixon (DCDC) gave an update on the situation at radio station WPFW. SAG/AFTRA, which represents the workers there, is engaged. Discussion included differing opinions about the effect of a move of the station from its current location to space offered by Clear Channel. It was decided that the welfare of the workers is paramount and the chief concern of the labor council. President Williams directed Chris Gar-



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lock to set up a meeting with the workers.

Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) reminded the delegates of the upcoming CBTU conference in May and that membership must be current if you plan to attend. The deadline to register for the discount in registration fees for the conference is April 22. The local chapter will meet Saturday, April 20, 11am at CWA and all are invited to attend.

Frank Stella (MD ARA) indicated that in conjunction with the national Alliance for Retired Americans and many other groups, two million signatures on petitions were turned over to the White House to demand no cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. They are meeting with area politicians and invite anyone with retirees to send them to the meeting with Senator Mikulski on April 24 at 2pm in her office.

Patricia Connor (ATU 689) requested support for a May Day march. She will send info to MWC staff for publicizing on *Union City*.

Nikki Lewis (DC JWJ) announced that this year's "I'll Be There" awards event will be June 27, 6:30-8:30 at the AFL-CIO and two awardees are longtime activist and board member Roger Newell and former executive director Mackenzie Baris. She introduced a worker from Trabajadores Unidos who thanked the council for its support of the DC Driver's License Amendment Act allowing undocumented citizens to obtain licenses and ID's. A hearing on implantation will be held May 15.

Jesse Goode (Federation of Administrative Law Judges) updated the delegates on the continuing struggle for unionization by the administrative law judges at the DC Office of Administrative Hearings. President Williams indicated that staff will set up a meeting ASAP to strategize about next steps.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

50-50 raffle: \$45 was won by one of the IFPTE 70 workers at the union-busting non-profit discussed above

Attendance:

Delegates: Kewana Battle-Mason (ATU 1764), Avis Buchanan (AFGE 2782), Carl Carson (OPCM 891),

Patricia Conner (ATU 689), Vanessa Dixon (Doctors Council DC/AFSCME NUHCE), Rick Ehrmann (WBNG), Donald Havard (IUOE 99), David Hershfield (AFGE 12), Ann Hoffman (NWU/UAW 1981), Jackie Jeter (ATU 689), Roland Jeter (ATU 689), Gwend Johnson (CBTU DC), Rick Malachi (SEIU 722), Kendall Martin (Ironworkers 5), Elaine Newman (NCAUR), David Richardson (AFGE 12), Eric Starin (OPEIU 2), Frank Stella (MD/DC ARA)

Guests: Benito Diaz (Working America)

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