



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: October 21, 2013 (DRAFT)

President Williams called the meeting to order at 4:15p and noted that "we are grateful to AFSCME for hosting us this month" as the Council is on the move while the AFL-CIO undergoes green renovations and asked AFSCME Council 26's Carl Goldman to convey this to President Saunders.

Minutes: September 16 minutes approved as distributed.

Financial Report: September report; 2012 audit report will be postponed to November so we can focus on political reports today. Moved, seconded and approved to receive report.

Correspondence

- MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans; 10/26 Convention: \$200
- Jews United for Justice; 10/27 Heschel Vision Awards: \$200
- DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson; 9/26 Labor Backyard Barbecue Fundraiser: \$1000

Total: \$1,400

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Holiday Baskets: info will be mailed out later this week to affiliates and delegates for this annual appeal for contributions for needy families. Most needed are gift cards, cash, non-perishable food. We usually help about 75 families each year, directly or indirectly.
- Bowling for Gold, 22nd Annual Tournament, January 26, 2014 at the Crofton Bowling Centre.
- United Way/CFC Campaigns: it's that time of year again. We have a special relationship with United Way but they want to renegotiate our funding formula and that combined with the fallout from the economy and the recent shutdown is likely to hurt our fundraising this year. CSA really needs your help getting the word out to

your members with encouragement to designate their contributions to CSA during their worksite campaigns. We are available 24/7 to speak to your members wherever they are- at union meetings or at worksite campaign events.

President Williams recommended that UFCW 400 President Mark Federici be appointed to MWC Executive Board to replace Tony Perez. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved. President Williams then swore in Federici, who said that "It is an absolute honor and pleasure to return to the Board; I grew up on this board in a lot of ways and am happy to be part of it again. I believe in the AFL-CIO and in labor councils; they embody the best of our movement."

Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock introduced the following Street Heat updates:

- Bestway strike: Mark Federici (UFCW 400) reported on the Bestway organizing effort, which uncovered many abuses of workers there. Local 400 Organizing Director Tiffany Flowers reported that "On September 25 brave workers -- who have come here from all over Latin America marched on the boss and asked for recognition of the union and put the union cards in the boss's hands. Then the intimidation began, with-holding pay, things became unbearable. On October 8 the workers voted for a 1-hour work stoppage and when the workers returned to work every single one was fired, which we really had not expected. They all tried to return to work the next day, but the boss called the police on them. Workers held a press conference in front of the NLRB during the shutdown because they were unable to file a complaint. Last Thursday Bestway's lawyers called and said 'you have to make this stop, because business is down 50%' and we won all 33 jobs back, with full back pay, union recognition through a card check by Jackson Lewis

Attendance

Present

Fred Allen, Vance Ayres, Dena Briscoe, Sandra Falwell, Mark Federici, Carl Goldman, Mike Murphy, Tommy Ratliff, Doris Reed, Sonny Reed, Jimmy Tarlau, Jos Williams

Excused: John Boardman, Linda Bridges, Anthony Frederick, Riley Gaines, Jackie Jeter, Kendall Martin, Gino Renne

Absent: Dan Dyer, Geo Johnson,

Staff

Chris Garlock
Kathleen McKirchy
Rick Powell
Alya Solomon

Guests

Steve Courtien, WBCTC;
Tiffany Flowers, UFCW 400;
Fred Mason, MD/DC State AFL-CIO; Donna Edwards, MD/DC State AFL-CIO; Pat Moran, Frank Horton & Teresa Healey Conway, AFSCME 3, Ronald Freeland, Laborers 657 (for Anthony Frederick), Aaron Bass, Iron 5 (for Kendall Martin)



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: October 21, 2013

(their anti-union law firm), which is pretty unprecedented." Federici gave "credit to Tiffany but most especially to the workers who really stepped up and were incredibly brave to take on this boss. Our organizing continues!" Federici also reported that Local 400 is now in negotiations with Safeway and Giant, with the existing contract expiring on 10/31. "We return to the table tomorrow and we are miles apart, especially on the impact of the new health care law on our members. The one thing we know is that we will not allow our members to be pushed back on this issue; it's a serious, serious situation. Giant is making money for years but they're greedy and heartless. Thanks to everyone who has sent in letters to Giant and Safeway; please continue to support our members." Tommy Ratliff (Teamsters 639) said that "we sent a letter explaining we don't cross picket lines." Federici also reported that Local 400 has held membership meetings "around the Beltway to share the issues and hear from our members; had a bargaining committee meeting today. It's about what people do in these stores." Vance Ayres (WBCTC) asked "how can we help in terms of passing out materials in the stores." Federici pledged that "we'll get that out to you; our members really appreciate the support and it helps give them courage."

Federal Government Shutdown: AFSCME Council 26 Executive Director Carl Goldman thanked the Council, especially Union Cities and CSA "for all their support; it really reminded me of the value of this organization. The 'Guide to Shutdown DC' for example was a huge media hit, very effective."

Trash Hauler Strike: Montgomery County Council has been very supportive of the striking Laborers and has launched an investigation into "allegations that Potomac Disposal has not been complying with the County Living Wage Law." The County Department of General Services is also in the process of auditing the contract to determine if Potomac Disposal has complied with this County law. "The Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee expects to schedule a public work session to discuss the Potomac Disposal contract audit in the near future," says Nancy Navarro, Council President

Local Labor Communicators meeting: monthly meeting of local labor communicators; just met last Friday with Andy Richards at the AFL-CIO and staff who briefed us on the latest social media tools. Doris Reed (ASASP) reported that while the array of social media tools now available was overwhelming, it was an exciting meeting and she recommended that all locals with communications staff send them to the monthly meetings.

Steamfitters 602 strike update: Vance Ayers reported that the Steamfitters strike that began with five jobs three weeks ago has been settled, the workers are back on the job and are expected to ratify a new contract this week.

DC Labor FilmFest: Garlock thanked locals for their support for the just-concluded 13th annual DC Labor FilmFest, which had a very strong line-up and good turnout again this year.

COPE Report

DC: Assistant Political/Legislative Coordinator Alya Solomon reported:

- Minimum Wage/Paid Sick Days Bill: though the LRAA was vetoed by Mayor Gray, we forced Councilmembers to talk about raising the minimum wage and three councilmembers have introduced bills to raise it. We're supporting the bill introduced by Vincent Orange, which would raise the minimum wage to \$12.50/hr, including tipped workers and indexed to inflation. The Prince George's County Council Chair has also introduced a bill to increase the minimum wage there and Councilmember Marc Elrich has also introduced a bill in Montgomery County to raise the minimum wage. A hearing has been scheduled in DC and in Montgomery County as well. Discussion ensued.
- Driver's License Bill: vote postponed to 11/6
- DC Council Committee Reassignments: Barry's committee was removed from him and the agencies under its purview distributed to other committees.

MD COPE:

MD: Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell's report:

- MD State & DC AFL-CIO President Fred Mason reviewed the upcoming convention agenda and reported on the fed's interview process. Discussion ensued.
 - MD State & DC AFL-CIO recommendations for endorsements:
 - o US Congress: Steny Hoyer (5th CD), Chris Van Hollen (8), Donna Edwards (4). "No Recommendation" for Congressman John Delaney (did not complete a questionnaire). Moved, seconded and approved to recommend endorsement of Hoyer, Van Hollen and Edwards, and that the MWC concur with the Baltimore CLC recommendation on Sarbanes (3). Approved. Moved, seconded that the Council make no recommendation in the Delaney race (6th CD). Approved.
 - o Maryland Assembly: Sue Cullen (Delegate – District 27-C in Calvert County): moved, seconded and approved. PG County COPE recommends Veronica Turner (Senator – District 26); moved, seconded and approved. Jimmy Tarlau (Delegate – District 47-A); extensive discussion ensued. Moved, seconded and approved.
 - DC: Eleanor Holmes Norton: moved, seconded and approved.
- The following reports were held and will be reported to the Board via email:
- Update on the Taxi Drivers Organizing Project in P. G. & Montgomery counties (held; will be sent to Board)
 - Update on the Minimum Wage Bills in P.G. & Montgomery counties (held; will be sent to Board)



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: October 21, 2013

- Update on Earned Income Tax Credit in Montgomery County (held; will be sent to Board)

Revised Proposed MWC Endorsement Timeline, Legislative & County races: (moved and seconded to accept; approved).

County Council & County Executive Races

- Tuesday, Feb. 25th - Filing deadline
- Wednesday, Feb. 26th – Send out questionnaires
- Friday, March 7th - Return questionnaire
- Monday, March 10th begin candidate interviews, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Wednesday, March 12th - Last day candidate interviews, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Thursday, March 13th – COPE votes recommendations (One union one vote)
- Monday, March 17th – Submit P.G/Mont & Tri-County COPE recommendations to E-Board for endorsements

State Legislative Races

- Midnight, Monday April 7th - Sine die
- Monday, April 14th – Begin candidate interviews, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Thursday, April 17th – Last day of interviews, 10 AM to 5 PM
- Friday, April 18th - COPE meeting to vote recommendations
- Monday, April 21st – Submit P.G/Mont & Tri-County COPE recommendations to Executive Board for approval
- Tuesday, April 22nd – Take recommendations to the MD & DC State Federation meeting

President's Report

President Williams said that "we have been disappointed by the lack of a presence of the State Fed in DC, which has left the Council shouldering more than its share of the burden so we're looking for more of a commitment to the District." Mason said that "President Williams has been pushing for this and it's been taken up by the trustees who acknowledge the validity of these concerns and we're looking at probably hiring someone to fulfill these responsibilities, as part of our 5-year strategic planning." Williams then recommended that the Council support the re-election of Mason and Edwards as the leaders of the MD State & DC AFL-CIO. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Reports of Board Members

- APWU NCSML: Dena Briscoe reported that her union had just elected new national leadership, including a new national president, executive vice president and other leadership; a real changing of the guard, with six new folks coming in. "Our new President would like to come attend the Council meeting once he gets settled," and President Williams extended a standing invitation to attend the Council's meeting.
- NNU: Sandra Falwell reported nurses confronted DC Councilmember Yvette Alexander at her recent fundraiser at Georgia Brown's and now have a Nov 8 hearing 11a at

the Wilson Building before her committee on the Patient Protection Act.

- Donna Edwards (MD State & DC AFL-CIO): great cross-fertilization politically between DC and Maryland, Alya Solomon has been a great help.

Meeting adjourned 6:36p