



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: October 21, 2013 (DRAFT)

Board Members in Attendance: Fred Allen, Mark Federici, Jimmy Tarlau

Staff in Attendance: Chris Garlock, Kathleen McKirchy, Rick Powell, Alya Solomon

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:49pm noting 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.

It was moved, seconded and approved to dispense with the regular order of business to allow representatives from the National Labor College to make a presentation about their current offerings and update on the changes there. Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO President, and NLC Board Member Fred Mason introduced the NLC Provost, Dan Katz, who was accompanied by Kitty Conlan and Jean Dearden. Mr. Katz discussed the local union skills classes that are offered through the Bonnie Ladin Union Skills program and encouraged locals to take advantage of these classes such as arbitration, bargaining, grievance handling etc. He also discussed the degree programs that are offered. It was requested that the NLC give more notice on these union skills classes, as local unions first have to get board approval to send someone then work out time off from work for attendees. President Williams encouraged affiliates to take advantage of this great national resource here in our area.

Resuming the regular order of business, President Williams swore in new delegates Randy Erwin and Drew Halunin, both from NFFE Local 2.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 16 meeting were moved, seconded and approved as distributed.

Financial Report: September report unavailable. It was moved, seconded and approved to table until the November meeting.

Executive Board Report

The Board approved the following expenditures:

- MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans; 10/26/2013 Convention: \$200
- Jews United for Justice; 10/27/13 Heschel Vision Awards: \$200
- DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson; 9/26/2013 Labor Backyard Barbecue

Fundraiser: \$1000

Total Expenditures Approved: \$1,400

The Board also made the following recommendations for the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Convention consideration:

US Congress: Recommend endorsement for Steny Hoyer (5th CD), Chris Van Hollen (8th CD), Donna Edwards (4th CD), Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC Representative). In the 6th CD, "No Recommendation" for Congressman John Delaney who did not complete and return the questionnaire, which is a requirement for endorsement. The Board also voted to concur in the recommendation of endorsement for John Sarbanes (3rd CD), whose district is mostly in the jurisdiction of the Baltimore CLC.

Maryland Assembly: Recommended endorsement at this time for Sue Cullen (Delegate – District 27-C in Calvert County), Veronica Turner (Senator – District 26), and Jimmy Tarlau (Delegate – District 47-A)

The Board approved the Revised MWC Endorsement Timeline:

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



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Tuesday, April 22nd – Take recommendations to the MD State and DC AFL-CIO

The Board also voted to endorse the candidacy for re-election of Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO President Fred Mason and Secretary-Treasurer Donna Edwards for another 4-year term, and encouraged the area Vice-Presidents from this labor council to vote for them at the Convention. Both officers thanked the Council and reiterated their beliefs that the MWC is one of the best labor councils in the country, being extremely active and fighting the fight for working families.

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.

Union Cities Street Heat Update: Chris Garlock Mobilization Coordinator reported:

- Bestway grocery store strike- UFCW organizing Director Tiffany Flowers reported on the Bestway organizing effort, which uncovered many abuses of workers there. "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, withholding 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, and union recognition through a card check by their anti-union law firm, which is unprecedented." Ms. Flowers gave credit to lots of unions, the MWC, NOVA Labor and CSA, but most especially "to the workers who really stepped up and were incredibly brave to take on this boss."

- Safeway and Giant Contract Fight- Karina Rosado, Community Affairs rep for UFCW Local 400, 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 situation. Giant is making money for years but they're greedy and heartless. Thanks to everyone who's sent in letters to Giant and Safeway; please continue to support our members." She handed out info flyers and support cards which the local will distribute to the stores.

- Montgomery County Trash Hauler Strike: Steve Lanning, LIUNA, introduced several of the strikers who were in attendance and they explained that some workers are making less than the County-mandated living wage and that their health care costs more than they make in a day. They also discussed safety and health violations that impact the workers and the public. Mr. Lanning reported that the Montgomery County Council has been very supportive 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.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the MWC AFL-CIO will support this strike and continue its outreach to politicians in Montgomery County to keep pressure on these two companies until the strike is resolved. Mr. Lanning will draft a support letter the President will send out to Montgomery County Executive and County Council members.

- Federal Government Shutdown: Saul Schniderman, AFSCME 2910 and president of AFSCME Council 26k, reported that "the Tea Party attempt to shut down the government has been stopped" and over 800,000 federal workers are back at work. He reported the amazing solidarity between all the federal unions -- AFL-CIO affiliates AFGE, AFSCME, NFFE and non-affiliate NTEU, as well as the creative actions they took to alert tourists to what was going on resulting in great press coverage. He thanked the MWC President, CSA and Union Cities for their support of all these efforts.

- DC Labor FilmFest: Mr. 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

Rick Powell listed the endorsements as made above by the Executive Board. He introduced Jimmy Tarlau, MWC



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Board member from CWA District 2, who is now an endorsed candidate for State delegate for District 47A. Mr. Tarlau thanked everyone and indicated labor people have to “step up to the plate and get elected or we will never turn things around for working people.”

Reports of Local Unions, Constituency Groups and Allies

Kewana Battle-Mason, ATU 1764, reported on the struggles they are having at METRO Access, the transportation for ill and poor residents for medical and similar appointments. Issues include extremely long hours with management pushing for longer hours, safety and health issues and pay. The local is contemplating a strike and looking for ways to help provide transportation for those needing it, many of whom are in wheelchairs, use walkers etc. President Williams requested that the local leadership meet ASAP with Mobilization Coordinator Chris Garlock to work out strategies and possible alternative actions that would still pressure the employer to negotiate.

Eric Starin, OPEIU Local 2, reported that they have ratified their contract at WMATA after many years of its languishing in the courts. They have won a 13.7% immediate increase retroactive to 2009, 2% increases for two years with 4-year protection of benefits, as well as solid lay-off protection language to dissuade privatization.

Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council, reported that the DC Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining Director insulted the MWC President by not inviting him to the recent city-wide Labor/Management Conference, and when questioned about this first stated that an invite had gone out that was not responded to, then when she could not produce evidence of this that it was the unions' responsibility to do this. Ms. Dixon wanted the President to know that the unions felt insulted because the president of the local labor council had been insulted.

Francis Jacobberger, BAC Local 1, introduced Barry Lenoir, president of the United Black Fund, who reported that, thanks to efforts by Mr. Jacobberger, challenging wage classifications at the Sheraton Station Hope VI project in SE, workers received \$1 million in back pay. “We and labor need to work together to make sure that development projects sign community benefits agreements and that development benefits workers and the community, not just developers.”

Frank Stella, Maryland/DC Alliance for Retired Americans, alerted delegates to the upcoming convention Saturday 9a-12p in conjunction with the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Convention and urged everyone to turn out their retirees for this event. He also reported that the organization has adopted Wednesdays to staff the phone banks at the

NOVA Labor Federation for labor-endorsed candidates and that only two weeks remain so please come out and help.

Pedro Cruz, DC JwJ, gave a public transit update including pressuring DDOT to oppose privatization and circulating a petition to DC Mayor Gray to also oppose any privatization efforts. He announced that the Keep the Public In Public Transportation Coalition will meet November 7, 6pm at the Benning Rd Library in NE DC.

Nikki Lewis, DC JwJ, reported on support actions for the UFCW and LIUNA strikers and encouraged delegates to “like” the organization on Facebook as well as “like” the Coalition for Better Transit. Their Winter Masquerade will be held Saturday, December 12 at All Souls' Unitarian Church at 16th and Harvard in NW DC from 8p-12a.

Mike Wilson, UFCW 400 and Respect DC, updated delegates on the minimum wage fights now going on in Montgomery, Prince George's County and DC, where there is a three-jurisdiction push to raise the minimum wage and index to inflation.

Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU, reported that the 2014 membership drive will be getting underway, the annual shoebox collections of personal care items for homeless shelters is starting, and the National CBTU Convention for 2014 will be May 20-26 in Atlanta.

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

The 50-50 raffle, worth \$68, was won by Randy Erwin, NFFE Local 2. Thanks to Dave Richardson, AFGE Local 12, for taking on the responsibility of selling tickets during the meeting. \$68 went to the MWC for COPE.



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Attendance

Abate, Emilio UNITE HERE 23
Allen, Fred P GCC 538-C
Ash, Kadija T AFGE, Local 2978
Ayles, Vance Washington DC Building Trades Council
(WBCTC)
Bast, Aaron T ironworkers local 5
Buckner, Todd BAC 1
Clifford, Eamon IUOE 99
Courtien, Stephen WBCTC
Courtney, Deborah AFSCME 2401
Cressotti, Lino Insulators and Allied Workers Local 24
Diaz, Benito A Working America
Dixon-Briggs, Vanessa Doctors Council DC/AFSCME
NUHHCE
Ehrmann, Rick NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Erwin, Randy NFFE-IAM Local 2
Federici, Mark UFCW 400
Ferrufino, Ruben Dario LABORERS 657
FLOWERS, TIFFANY UFCW 400
Freeland, Ronald Laborers 657
Halunen, Drew S National Federation of Federal Employees
Hershfield, David AFGE Council 1 12
Hoffman, Ann NWU/UAW 1981
Johnson, Gwend CBTU DC Chapter
Lewis, Nikki DC Jobs with Justice
Malachi, Rick SEIU 722
Malaga, Ed AFM 161-710
Martin-Gross, Yvette AFGE 631
Newman, Elaine NCAUR
Reyes, Victor LABORERS 657
Richardson, David H AFGE 12
Schniderman, Saul AFSCME 2910
Sexton, Mark IUOE 99
Shields, John R Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, Local #100
Starin, Eric OPEIU 2
Stella, Frank MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans
Tarlau, Jimmy CWA District 2-13
Thomas, Brenda ATU 689