



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: November 18, 2013

President Williams asked that the regular order of business be waived so that the Council's auditors could present the 2012 audit. So moved.

### 2012 Audit Report

President Williams welcomed Bond Beebe auditors Jacqueline Thompson and Alex Helfand to review the Council's 2012 audit. The audit received an "Unqualified opinion," the highest possible, which means the statements are correct. Highlights: biggest changes were decreases in cash and cash equivalents (due to paying off liabilities) and Due from CSA. Reviewed income and expense details; bottom line is that the Council spent more than it brought in 2011-2012 and these net losses have now been going on for the last 3-4 years which is obviously of concern and was discussed with trustees. President Williams said that the bottom line is that "we're spending far more money than we have coming in" and suggested that he appoint a committee -- which would include the Treasurer and trustees -- to explore this situation further and come back with recommendations. Carl Goldman (AFSCME 26) noted that part of this process should focus on making the monthly financial reports clearer "to assist us going forward." President Williams said that the final request could be accomplished immediately and said that he'd have the Council's accountant attend next month's meeting to explain the report and answer any questions.

President Williams called the meeting to order at 4:24p and turned things over to Treasurer Linda Bridges (OPEIU 2), who started by noting that the National Labor College is closing and "it's too late to save it." The Council audit raises the question of how much the Council is worth to its affiliates and the local labor movement. Must look to both revenue and expenses, including making good on commitments from the state fed to financially support the work the Council does in Maryland and DC, and

bringing back some of the affiliates "who have stepped away from the table." Looking for folks to help solve these problems and it can't all be based on raising per capita. Fred Allen (GCIU/IBT) said there's two things we can do immediately: appoint the budget committee and everyone make sure they're paying on 100% of membership. Kendall Martin (Iron 5) noted that there's some confusion among building trades on who you pay to and on whom, in terms of where members live or where they work. President Williams: our jurisdiction is the District, Montgomery County, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and St Mary's counties; noted that DC locals pay to the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO, which is supposed to do same work in DC that it does in Annapolis, although in reality the Metro Washington Council carries out those functions. Been having that conversation with the State Fed but it also needs to be coming from affiliates with a stake in this issue. Motion moved and seconded that the President appoint a committee including Trustees, Treasurer and three other Board members. Approved. President Williams appointed Jeter (ATU 689), Martin (Iron 5) and Renne (UFCW 1994), along with Treasurer Linda Bridges (OPEIU 2), Trustees Fred Allen (GCIU/IBT) and Elizabeth Davis (WTU 6) and asked for a report back with recommendations at January 2014 members. Discussion ensued; President Williams responded by noting that one of the things we need to look at is the Council's core programs and whether we're on track. Also noted that the AFL-CIO has certain program "mandates" we have to contend with. Gino Renne and Carl Goldman both said they'd be willing to do outreach to recruit locals; other Board members agreed. Motion made to receive and approve the audit passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** October minutes moved, seconded and approved.

### Attendance

#### Present

Fred Allen, John Boardman, Linda Bridges, Dan Dyer, Sandra Falwell, Carl Goldman, Jackie Jeter, Kendall Martin, Mike Murphy, Tommy Ratliff, Doris Reed, Sonny Reed, Gino Renne, Jimmy Tarlau, Jos Williams

**Excused:** Vance Ayres, , Dena Briscoe, Anthony Frederick, Riley Gaines, Jimmy Tarlau

**Absent:** Eric Bunn, Mark Federici, Geo Johnson

#### Staff

Chris Garlock  
Kathleen McKirchy  
Rick Powell  
Alya Solomon

#### Guests

Steve Courtien, WBCTC;  
Fred Mason, MD State/DC AFL-CIO; Donna Edwards, MD State/DC AFL-CIO.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: November 18, 2013

**Financial Report:** received with President Williams adding a proviso that at the December meeting the Council's accountant will be on hand to explain and answer questions.

President Williams recommended that Elizabeth Davis, WTU 6 President be appointed to serve as a Trustee; unanimously approved. Davis is a Local 6 member who's taught for over 35 years, served on the WTU board and has been an active member and active in the community.

**Correspondence:** no action required.

### Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

Holiday baskets: please send in your contributions! If you've got families in need, please send them to us and we'll see what we can do.

Bowling: January 26, 2014; first two teams have registered (from Iron 5).

Maryland EARN proposal - new Maryland funding for new and incumbent worker training and development of strategic partnerships to oversee. CSA applied on behalf of Painters, Carpenters and Building Trades; expect to hear by end of December.

President Williams announced the appointment of the 2014 Evening With Labor JC Turner Committee: made up of past recipients: Murphy; D Reed; Jeter; Boardman; K Martin; Fred Allen (Kathleen McKirchy will staff both this and the finance committee and she noted that the Turner committee usually meets by conference call, so that should make scheduling easier).

### Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported on the status of UFCW 400/Giant-Safeway negotiations. Fired up about management intransigence at the bargaining table, Local 400 voted overwhelmingly to authorize strikes against Giant and Safeway after earlier agreeing to extend their agreement with Giant and Safeway through December 20th. The contract originally expired on October 31st. It was extended through November 15th and now will continue for another five and a half weeks, while both parties continue discussions in the hope of reaching an acceptable agreement. Giant and Safeway Workers plan to rally for a fair contract at the Grand Opening of the O St Market Giant 11/21

Walmart Black Friday Protest: There will be two big events in the DC area: On Tuesday, November 26 from 8am-12pm in support of striking workers, protesting the retaliation they have faced. It will be a

roving picket line, stopping at various stores to support workers confronting management. A bus will be leaving from the Fort Totten Metro at 8am. On Friday, November 29th, activists will be meeting at Local 400 at 7:30am to travel to a store and do civil disobedience while standing with workers calling for higher wages and respect. Organizers are recruiting people to take part in the civil disobedience.

MontCo Trash Haulers strike update: Potomac Disposal's sanitation workers voted 10/28 to accept a three-year agreement, while Unity Disposal and Recycling Workers also returned to work.

DC Administrative Law Judge Organizing Gets Boost from Ruling: City administrative law judges (ALJs) seeking to organize (D.C. Administrative Law Judges Organize 4/4/2013 UC) got a boost last week when a hearing examiner ruled in their favor, saying that "there is no conflict of interest, appearance of a conflict of interest or impropriety created by exclusive representation by IFPTE."

DC taxi drivers (Teamsters 922): Hundreds of taxi drivers rallied outside the monthly meeting of the D.C. Taxicab Commission Wednesday 11/13 to protest the unfair towing and ticketing of cabs and to demand a voice in the regulatory process.

MontCo taxi drivers and BWI Super Shuttle drivers organize

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994/MCGEO) reported that they're still waiting for a determination on whether the taxi drivers are eligible to organize (successful case by CWA in Denver). Meanwhile local efforts continue: Fed-up Montgomery County taxi drivers and BWI Super Shuttle drivers took to the streets on 11/7. In unrelated actions, the drivers staged protests in Rockville and at BWI airport in the afternoon. Dozens of taxi drivers circled through rainy Rockville town center streets and in front of the Executive Office Building while a delegation delivered petitions signed by more than 400 drivers to County Executive Ike Leggett's office demanding action on "exorbitant" credit card handling fees being charged by Montgomery County cab companies. Later in the afternoon, nearly 100 BWI Super Shuttle drivers drove slowly through BWI in their signature blue vans, snarling airport traffic for the second day.

Guild Members OK Post Deal

The Washington Post Guild contract was overwhelmingly ratified by Guild members on 11/7.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: November 18, 2013

Fast for Families: Moved, seconded and approved that the Council endorse the Fast.

2013 DC Labor FilmFest post-fest report: Successful event again this year; 3rd annual Conference of Labor Film Festival Organizers also a success, with attendees from as far away as Israel and South Africa; agreed to form global network of LFF organizers and to organize another Global Labor FilmFest in May 2014.

Preliminary Union City Reader Survey results: 74% "always" read UC; 63% say info is "very useful"; Favorite sections: Local labor news (69%); Labor history (64%); National labor news (39%); Hiring Hall (35%). Social media: Facebook: 63%; Do not use any social media 27%; LinkedIn: 24%; Twitter: 19%.

Tri-County COPE: The Tri-County COPE met with Sue Cullen and her campaign staff to go over the campaign strategy, finances and labor's involvement in her race to win back the state delegate seat in Calvert County.

### President's Report

Resolution on changing Washington football team name. Moved, seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:32p

### COPE Reports

DC: Alya Solomon, Assistant Legislative/Political Coordinator reported:

Update on Minimum Wage bill & Minimum Wage Ballot Initiative: Alya briefed Board on the various proposals in DC, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and distributed a chart. John Boardman (Unite Here 25) reviewed the issue of tipped workers, which is being debated by those in favor of increasing the minimum wage. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the Vincent Orange proposal to support 9.75 in 2014 and 70% (\$6.82) for tipped employees and indexed after that; \$12.50 minimum wage in 2017, consistent with Working Families referendum (ballot initiative) & Respect DC position. Moved, seconded and approved, and that this be forwarded to State Fed and AFL-CIO.

Update on Paid Sick Days bill: looking to expand coverage

Candidate Questionnaire: deadline for questions from affiliates was 11/15 but that's being extended, so please get your questions in so we can include them.

Candidates in DC Elections: lot of candidates filing petitions; circulated article by Dorothy Brizill on the latest on this campaign.

MD COPE: Rick Powell reported:

Update on Minimum Wage Bills in Montgomery & Prince George's Counties: current status of campaigns.

Fundraiser for Veronica Turner, Candidate D-26 Senate, Monday, 12/16 before Council meeting.