



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: November 18, 2013

**Board Members in Attendance:** J Williams, F Allen, G Renne, J Jeter

**Staff in Attendance:** C Garlock, K McKirchy, R Powell, A Solomon

Meeting called to order at 6:45 by President Joslyn N. Williams

**New Delegates Sworn in:** Josh Van Dyke (IUOE 77), Theresa Haas, (IFPTE 70), LaKisha Little (DCNA), Faye Lawson (ATU 689), Amy Millar (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)

**Minutes** of October 21, 2013 moved, seconded and approved.

**Financial Report** of October 31, 2013 received.

**Executive Board Report.** The Board approved the following actions:

- received the auditor's report
- approved the President's appointment of an Emergency Finance Committee to look into the Council's financial situation. Committee to include First Vice-President Gino Renne (UFCW 1994 MCGEO), Treasurer Linda Bridges (OPEIU 2), Trustees Fred Allen (GCC/IBT 285) and Elizabeth Davis (WTU 6), Jackie Jeter (ATU 689), Kendall Martin (Iron Workers 5). Committee to report back at the January 27, 2014 meeting
- approved the President's appointment of the Evening with Labor JC Turner Award Committee to include Mick Murphy, Chairman (IUOE 99), and members Doris Reed (ASASP), Jackie Jeter (ATU 689), John Boardman (UNITE/HERE 25), Kendall Martin (Iron Workers 5), Fred Allen (GCC/IBT 285)
- Voted to support the minimum wage proposals for Montgomery County, Prince George's County and DC that would result in a rate of \$12.50 by 2016 with indexing thereafter and a tipped worker rate of 70% or the minimum wage. Voted to support the initiative proposed in DC by UNITE HERE 25 and allies.
- Voted to support the resolution calling upon the Washington professional football team owner to change the name of the team to something that is not offensive. Voted to support the Fast for Families occurring on the Mall in support of immigration reform.

The Executive Board Report was moved, seconded and approved by the Delegates.

**Community Services Agency-** Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded Delegates of the Holiday Basket project now ongoing and that donations of funds, food, and gift cards are needed. Also locals can "adopt needy families" and provide for their holiday needs. She also reminded Delegates of the annual "Bowling for Gold" Bowling Tournament to be held January 26, 2014.

**Union Cities Report-** Chris Garlock, Mobilization Coordinator reported:

UFCW 400/Giant-Safeway negotiations underway but rocky. Members have authorized a strike. Contract has been extended through December 20. On 11/21 workers will rally for a fair contract at Grand Opening of O St Market Giant.

Walmart Black Friday Protest, there will be two big events in the DC area, 11/26 in support of striking workers, protesting the retaliation they have faced; 11/29 activists will be meeting at Local 400 at 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- workers and Potomac Disposal reached a contract agreement and Unity workers returned to work.

MontCo taxi drivers and BWI Super Shuttle drivers 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 in the morning 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.

"Supporting struggles like these are why we're in

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the labor movement,” declared an emotional Renne. He explained that his own family, which emigrated from Italy in the 1950’s, experienced the same kind of exploitation as that now faced by Super Shuttle drivers who have emigrated to the United States, almost all from Africa. Super Shuttle drivers Patrick Benhene and Claire Evans described in painstaking detail the myriad ways that Veolia – the multinational that owns Super Shuttle – collects billions in profits while their drivers desperately try to make ends meet.

Montgomery County taxi drivers also reported about their organizing efforts, and both AFL-CIO organizer Mateos Chekol and ATU 689 president Jackie Jeter noted that dealing with Veolia is a common link in many of these struggles. Said Montgomery County taxi driver Peter Ibik, “Any way you turn, their hands are in our pockets.”

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.

### Reports of Delegates

Rick Ehrmann, Newspaper Guild 35/CWA), reported that they had settled a contract at the Washington Post which is a basic one-year extension with some pay increases. They fought back concessions for now but will keep the Delegates posted as there is a new owner and the future could be a struggle.

Eamon Clifford, IUOE 99, reported on a possible impasse with EMCOR Government Services which is playing hardball on staying in the pension plan and other possible concessionary bargaining. The local will be doing informational picketing and taking a strike vote soon. The local may be coming back for Labor Council assistance with this contract.

Jackie Jeter, ATU 689, updated the Delegates on the “stop privatization” public transit committee’s continuing actions. It’s clear there are a lot of transportation related disputes going on now and the need for coordination and solidarity is critical.

Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU, reported that the chapter is doing a strategic plan, that elections will be held next year and that the annual Shoe Box project involving stuffing shoe boxes with personal care items for the homeless will take place at the December 14 meeting at CWA headquarters.

Frank Stella, Maryland Alliance for Retired Americans, reminded Delegates about the continuing issues around Social Security and use of the chain CPI which results in

smaller payments. For more information, individuals can go to [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org).

President Fred Mason and Secretary-Treasurer Donna Edwards, Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO, thanked the Delegates and the Council for all their support and for the great “unionism” expressed at these meetings. Secretary-Treasurer Edwards related that Veolia Transportation is being penalized by the state for not paying unemployment compensation and workers’ compensation as state law requires. President Mason updated the Delegates on the strategic planning going on which included integrating the work of the central labor councils and strengthening their structures and finances. President Williams congratulated them both on their recent re-elections.

Saul Schniderman, AFSCME 2910, requested a moment of silence in memory of James Ivey, president of AFSCME 2091, who passed in early November, indicating he was a real leader and lived defiantly on behalf of his members. President Williams called for a moment of silence.

Nikki Lewis, DC Jobs With Justice, reported on their upcoming Winter Masquerade and indicated they’d have their candidates for Scrooge of the Year available for folks to vote for on the website soon. Event is December 14, 8p-midnight at All Soul’s Church in DC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

*50-50 raffle won by Frank Stella, Maryland Alliance for Retired Americans.*

### Attendance

Abate, Emilio UNITE HERE 23  
Ash, Kadja AFGE, Local 2978  
Bast, Aaron Ironworkers Local 5  
Clifford, Eamon IUOE 99  
Collins, Cynthia SEIU Local 400 Pg  
Edwards, Donna MD & DC AFL-CIO (AFSCME 112)  
Ehrmann, Rick NEWSPAPER GUILD 35  
FLOWERS, TIFFANY UFCW 400  
Greenhill, Larry IBEW 26  
Havard, Donald IUOE 99  
Hershfield, David AFGE Council 1 12  
Jeter, Jackie ATU 689  
Lawson, Faye ATU 689  
Lewis, Nikki DC Jobs with Justice  
Little, LaKisha DCNA  
Malachi, Rick SEIU 722  
Martin, Kendall Iron Workers  
Martin, Linda UNITE HERE 25  
Millar, Amy UFCW 1994 MCGEO  
Moran, Patrick AFSCME Council 3  
Puvapiromquan, Tarn DC Young Trade Unionists  
Ransome, Nelvin UFCW 1994 MCGEO  
Renne, Gino UFCW 1994 MCGEO  
Richardson, David AFGE 12  
Rodino, Virginia OPEIU 2  
Sawatzki, Richard OPEIU 2  
Stella, Frank MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans