



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: February 24, 2014

Meeting called to order 4:22p

Minutes: December minutes; no minutes from January; Executive Board was DC mayoral interviews, as was the delegate meeting. Moved and seconded to receive as distributed. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Moved and seconded to receive; approved.

Correspondence: None.

Community Services Agency

Labor Night at the Nats 7/18, Milwaukee (info coming soon)

Evening with Labor: Sat March 15; Last call for ads; will accept through this Weds. Tickets still available up to a few days before the event: at 400, want to be up to 800 to 1,000, political allies, etc.

Union Cities

2014 Directory published; will be sent to affiliates, media & politicians this week; online version continually updated

DC Labor FilmFest update: set for May-June; program guide ad deadline extended to March 15; film host slots still available: IAFF 36 has confirmed for "Burn"; IFPTE is likely to host "Office Space", SAG-AFTRA is likely for "Kinky Boots" and AFL 161-710 is likely for "Note by Note"; still up for grabs are Trash Dance, Salt of the Earth and Dirty Pretty Things. This year we're expanding to the first-ever LaborFest in May, a month-long labor cultural, film and arts festival, anchored by FilmFest screenings at AFI, the AFL-CIO and Busboys and Poets, and including an art exhibition on painter Ralph Fassanella at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum, a screening of the Mexican film masterpiece *Redes* (1936), accompanied by a live performance of the film's score by the PostClassical Ensemble (AFM members), labor history walks in Washington DC, the Labor Heritage Foundation's "Solidarity Forever" awards and more to come. **Labor-Media Breakfast report:** excellent turnout last Thursday by media – AP, Washington

Post, Huffington Post, NBC4, BNA and In These Times – and local labor leaders (including Boardman and Goldman) and communicators. Good discussion and very positive feedback from both reporters and labor folks. The Local Labor Communicators group will be discussing next steps at our March 21 meeting (at UFCW 400, 9:30a).

COPE Report

MD COPE: Preparing to start endorsement process for County Offices in Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties, recommendations at March meeting. Tri-County voted to recommend Frank Lancaster, retired IBEW member for Judge Orphans' Court Charles County (Article in folder); moved and seconded to accept recommendation; approved. We endorsed Frank and recommended appointment to fill court vacancy to Gov. O'Malley, two years ago. Discussion ensued on endorsement of labor candidates and on proposed schedule. UFCW 1994 proposed delaying voting 1 month (interview schedule is fine as is) to April 17 with recommendations coming to MWC Exec Board on 4/21. **Update & Status Report on key bills in Annapolis:** There are bills being considered that will weaken Workers Comp, the usual Right to Work bills, State Minimum Wage \$10.10 per hour, Black Liquor, Fracking, Cove Point expansion. (report from state fed's Donna Edwards to follow) Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported on developments in MD Senate District 17 in Montgomery County, requesting permission for UFCW 1994 to make an early endorsement of Delegate Luiz Simmons in this race because of candidacy of pro-privatization Cheryl Kagan. President Williams thanked Local 1994 for its consideration and consultation with the Council and noted that while the endorsement must go through the State Fed process we understand that Local 1994 needs to do what it needs to do.

President Williams thanked AFGE District 14, Eric Bunn and Michelle Hatton for hosting today's meeting.

DC COPE:

Minimum Wage Bill Funding: will be testifying in support.

Paid Sick Days Bill Funding: also testifying in support.

Wage Theft Bill: in Orange's committee; hearing coming up first week in March (3/3).

Discussion/vote on endorsements in the DC mayoral, city council and Shadow Senator races

2014 Primary DC COPE Recommendations For Endorsement

The DC Cope met on February 11 at the Teamsters Hall at 6PM and voted to make the following recommendations:

Ward 1 - Jim Graham: approved

Present: J Williams, G Renne, D Reed, S Falwell, D Briscoe, J Boardman, C Reed, M Federici, C Goldman, D Dyer, J Jeter, S Courtien, M Murphy, K Martin, E Bunn, T Tarlau, F Allen
Excused: L Bridges
Absent: G Johnson, E Davis, R Gaines
Guests: M Hatton, AFGE, Andrew Lee, AFSCME Council 20, Mike Wilson, UFCW
Staff: K McKirchy, C Garlock, R Powell, A Solomon



EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: February 24, 2014

Ward 3 – No Position – CM Mary Cheh satisfactorily completed the Metro Council’s questionnaire. However, she was invited to attend the interview, but did not show up. Discussion ensued.

The COPE voted for a no position; approved

Ward 5 – Kenyan McDuffie; approved

Ward 6 – Darrell Thompson: approved

At-Large – No Position. A motion was made to endorse Anita Bonds for endorsement, but failed. Bonds was criticized for not voting to overturn the Mayor’s veto of the LRAA when she had given verbal support to the Respect DC Campaign: approved
Chairman – Phil Mendelson: seconded unanimously and approved.

President Williams reported that the WBCTC has recommended Steve Courtien to replace Vance Ayres (who has resigned his position at the WBCTC) on the MWC Executive Board. Unanimously moved, seconded and approved and President Williams swore him in.

Also, Fred Allen added that he recommends endorsement of Paul Straus for Shadow Senator, though this was not discussed at the DC COPE due an oversight.

AFGE National Seccy-Treasurer Eugene Hudson welcomed the Board and stressed his support for full affiliation with State Feds and central labor bodies. In fact, he has affiliated the AFGE Secretary-Treasurer’s office with the Council, an unprecedented move.

Moved and seconded to endorse Fred Allen and his DC State Committee slate. Discussion. Friendly amendment from Boardman that the Council endorse the slate except in those cases where a labor candidate is running and in such case reserves the right to make an endorsement decision in such a case. Doris Reed stated her opposition to endorsing slates in general. President Williams suggested endorsing Fred Allen and investigate whether other labor candidates should be considered. Jeter withdrew her second of the motion. Boardman moved that the Council endorse solely labor candidates for the DC State Committee. Approved.

DC Mayoral endorsement: President Williams urged board members to remember that while each local is free to act as they see necessary in this race, in this vote we should think about what’s best for the entire local labor movement so that we can speak with one voice and not split the movement. Spirited discussion and debate ensued. Moved and seconded to take no position in the DC mayoral race, meaning that each local can endorse and act as they see fit. Unanimously approved. President Williams will release a statement that this is neither for nor against any particular candidate and we encourage affiliates to look at all candidates and come together after the election and the Council stands ready to assist any locals.

Adjourned 6:36p