



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: June 16, 2014 (draft)

*President Williams called the meeting to order at 4:18p.*

**Special Order of Business:** Recommendations on filling two vacant Board positions.

At President Williams recommendation, it was moved and seconded to nominate Andrew Washington, AFSCME Council 20 and John Shields, SMART 100 to fill two vacant seats on the Board. Unanimously approved and President Williams then swore both into office.

**Presentation:** Ed Lazere, DC Fiscal Policy Institute, with Development Director Candace Dugan. Outlined mission of DCFPI; focus on wages, taxes, economic development, budget transparency. Long history of partnership with labor over last 13-14 years; paid sick leave, minimum wage, wage theft, etc. This year we pushed back against expanded tax breaks for businesses. Also noted concerns about the proposed soccer stadium and the need for a fair and transparent deal that benefits everyone in the city. FPI has a budget of nearly a million dollars and has been sustained up until now by foundation grants, but advocacy work is problematic for funding and need to broaden our financial base to continue to do our work. President Williams noted that "We have been discussing the idea of the Council sponsoring a reception/fundraiser in the fall" and he appointed a committee to organize it: Bunn, Washington, Courtien, Falwell and Boardman.

**Presentation:** Sandra Frye, DC People's Counsel.  
Have known and enjoyed working with the Council for many years but this is our first opportunity to speak to you. Utilities are essential services for all city consumers and we need a much stronger and closer link between the OPC and labor, which former CLC staffer Alya Solomon will be working on. Frye has been with OPC for nearly 30 years. We represent the interests of DC public utility consumers; rates, quality of service, both legally and for individuals. Also educate the public on the issues. What is it that we can do for you? We can help your members resolve disputes and go to the

DC City Council on broader issues. Would like Alya to be our formal liaison to the labor community. The utility world is changing very quickly and profoundly and we need to be pro-active and aware about the coming changes. We can arrange briefings on any and all of these issues and these can be done for individual unions as well. Explained CUB and PSC roles as well. President Williams stressed the importance of this organization for union members and all DC residents in terms of affecting our lives day to day. Utility costs are often the issue that folks come to CSA for help with. Frye also mentioned the annual Energy Expo and said they're also now doing energy workshops in the community to teach energy efficiency tips to consumers.

John Boardman, Unite Here 25, reported on upcoming action against Sultan of Brunei, Global Day of Action on June 27 from noon to 1p at the Embassy of Brunei. They own Dorchester Hotels and have fired workers and also passed anti-gay and anti-woman laws recently. This has become a major international issue with the European fashion world boycotting these hotels.

Kelly Marie Fay Rodríguez, AFL-CIO, Assistant to the Executive Vice President discussed upcoming June 28 AFL-CIO Citizenship and DACA Workshop; training for volunteers on Thursday, June 19th from 5:30p – 7p (AFL-CIO). This is an important issue to build community coalitions, to help our members, and those who want to join unions. We've done this in the Laborers and got tremendous response, much better than we expected.

Returning to the regular order of business:

**Minutes (May);** add Mike Reichert's last name. APPROVED.

**Financial Report (May):** RECEIVED.

**Correspondence:** DC JWJ 6/12 Awards \$600 FP ad; DC Labor Chorus 6/21 concert \$125 quarter-page; Insulators 24 7/1 Golf tourney \$300 tee; DC CLUW 7/20 Awards Luncheon \$175. \$1,200 total. Moved, seconded and approved.

### **Community Services Agency**

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported that tickets are still available for this year's Labor Night at the Nats and reviewed a change in funding at the United Way that will have an effect on CSA; she'll be presenting a plan soon outlining how CSA will deal with this.

### **Union Cities**

Coordinator Chris Garlock gave a LaborFest report/update. Boycott Staples resolution: moved and seconded. Dena Briscoe, APWU NCSML, spoke to the issue, noting that the APWU has urged the USPS to use

Board Members in Attendance: Williams, Falwell, Briscoe, Bridges, Boardman, Dyer, Frederick, Goldman, Murphy, Reed, Tarlau, Allen, Courtien, Shields, Washington  
Guests, Mike Reichert, Council 20, Boaz Young-EI, UFCW 400, Eric Starin, OPEIU 2

Staff: Garlock, Powell, McKirchy



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Postal Service workers at the in-store stations but to no avail. Her local has switched to other office supply resources. The Council will make available the resolution, a sample letter to Staples and alternative sources for office supplies. Question was asked about whether there are union sources for office supplies. Resolution was approved unanimously.

### COPE Report

Coordinator Rick Powell gave an update on the Labor to Labor Campaign in Prince George's, Montgomery County & Tri-County. This year's Labor to Labor program has two goals. The first goal is to identify as many union members as possible to vote for the union endorsed candidates in our jurisdiction. The second goal is to take advantage of Early Voting.

We are using two methods to accomplish these goals, one is a professional "live call" phone campaign to union members in 7 targeted races in combination with a GOTV campaign consisting of follow-up calls to union members and robo calls.

The targeted races are P.G. County Legislative District 25, Larry Greenhill; Legislative District 47A, Jimmy Tarlau, Montgomery County Legislative District 18, Natali Gonzales; Legislative District 19, Marice Morales; County Council District 1, Duchy Trachtenberg; County Council District 3, Ryan Spiegel; Charles County Legislative District 28, Edith Patterson.

The second method is the labor walks to drop the "new" MWC, AFL-CIO "Bread & Butter Ballot, (in the folders), on as many union household doors as possible. The Bread & Butter Ballot lists all the union endorsed candidates as they will appear on the ballot. The ballot also includes all the early voting locations in the three labor council's Maryland's jurisdiction, P.G., Mont., & Tri-County.

If we can get 30 to 40 percent of union members to vote early another 30 to 40 percent will vote on Election Day totaling 80% of union members voting for our candidates. We are still raising money to pay for this campaign.

Election Day Coverage: We have asked the seven targeted campaigns to tell us where they need coverage on the precincts on Election Day. So far the Tarlau and Trachtenberg campaigns have made requests. We will be using IBEW Local 26 as Election Day headquarters beginning at 7 AM to 7:30 PM. The address to Local 26 is 4371 Parliament Place, Lanham which is off Rt. 704. My cell number is 202-744-2885

Jimmy Tarlau thanked everyone for their support and stressed that he expects turnout to be low and that although things look positive for his campaign as an organizer he never counts on anything "until the last vote is counted."

### President's Report

- President Williams reported on the memo he sent to the Bowser campaign with a list of labor's priority items, as discussed with her at the recent meeting in May.

### Reports of Board Members

- Steve Courtien: WBCTC is restructuring into CHOICE, will include Baltimore area, Capital region and NoVA. Focusing our attention on increasing market share; DC will have 6th-

highest growth in construction over next 5 years, so billions are at stake here. Noted also that Akridge, which is involved in the soccer stadium, is a good union contractor but they're not as big as other majors in the area.

- Sandra Falwell, NNU: Howard University Hospital was threatening RIFs but pulled them after we challenged them; also we've successfully negotiated a contract at Howard.
- Sonny Reed, SEIU 400: the four unions at PG schools have finished negotiations; Local 400 got several step increases. First time we were able to sit down and get a deal in 2 hours. His secretary Rose has cancer and now has lesions on her brain so they're doing treatments and we'd appreciate you keeping her in your prayers.
- President Williams noted the recent passing of ATU 689's Jimmy Allen; we'll share details on the arrangements with you as soon as we hear. Moment of silence for Jimmy Allen.
- John Shields: Local 100 negotiations ongoing for 2.5 months now; hope to conclude by the end of the month.

Adjourned 6:07p

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dena Briscoe, Recording Secretary*