



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: October 20, 2014 (draft)

1st Vice President Gino Renne called the meeting to order at 4:10p.

Minutes: September minutes moved, seconded and approved

Financial Report: September report moved, seconded and approved to receive

Correspondence: Moved, seconded and approved to contribute \$100 to DC Vote (Champions of Democracy Gala), \$100 to Working America (No-Show Gala) and to purchase two tickets to the December 12 ILCA Awards Luncheon.

Community Services Agency

- Holiday Baskets: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy urged support through financial contributions and/or gift cards at local union supermarkets; also, locals can send us names of members in need of help; have your local adopt a family.
- Worksite Campaigns and Help Needed: need help getting word out to your members by whatever method is best, mail, email, social media etc.
- Bowling coming up January 25 2015; notices will be out soon; looking for teams to sign up.

Union Cities

- APWU National Day of Action: Dena Briscoe reported on the November 14 action to protest the USPS decision to lower service standards. "This decision, which involves closing or consolidating 82 distribution centers, will in effect eliminate one-day delivery of first class mail, delay mail throughout the country, and put us well on the way to dismantling the postal service."
- DC Troublemakers School: Coordinator Chris Garlock reported on the November 15 training being organized by Labor Notes and local activists. ATU 689 president Jackie Jeter – whose local has already signed up 50 mem-

bers – spoke highly of the school and urged her colleagues to send staff and activists as well.

- dclabor.org website traffic report: Garlock reported that the Council's new website has dramatically increased traffic largely due to it now being optimized for accessing on mobile devices and urged locals to seriously consider upgrading their websites to new platforms such as Weebly. More information available at the monthly Local Labor Communicators meetings.
- 4th annual Global Labor Film Festival Organizer's Conference: Garlock reported on the recent successful 4th annual conference, attended by two dozen labor film festival organizers from around the world. Metro Council – and DC Labor FilmFest Co-Chair – Jos Williams and AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka opened the conference, which was held at the AFL-CIO, stressing the importance of art to the labor movement.
- Union City wins another award: Garlock reported that Union City this year won first place in the General Excellence - Electronic Newsletter category for 2014. UFCW Local 400 was a big winner as well, collecting an impressive seven awards, including five first places. Winners "represent some of the best and most inspired work in labor communications and are to be congratulated in promoting the highest standards of labor journalism," said ILCA.

Reports of Board Members (1)

- Liz Davis, WTU 6: The Board voted to recommend endorsement of candidates for the DC Board of Education recommended by WTU Local 6: Ward 1 Lillian Perdomo and Ward 3 Ruth Wattenberg.
- Discussion about elections in Prince George's County and Maryland in general. Not a lot of excitement for candidates among union members.

COPE Report

D.C. Labor to Labor Field Campaign: Coordinator Rick Powell reported that: "We are focusing on the Wards with the highest union density, Wards 5, 7 & 8. We are in the third week of canvassing on Saturday with paid union canvassers at \$75 per day and drivers at \$100 per day. We spent the first two Saturdays in Ward 5 and most of the precincts in that ward have been done and about half of the precincts in Ward 7 was completed last Saturday. Earl O'Neal, retired union member from AF-SCME Council 20 is the field director. We have covered close to 3,000 union households in those two Wards. To date the cost of the D.C. field operation is \$7,650."

Present: Boardman, Briscoe, Bunn, Courtien, Davis, Jeter, Martin, C. Reed, D. Reed, Renne, Shields, Tarlau, Williams
Excused: Allen, Bridges, Falwell, Federici, Goldman, Murphy
Absent: Dyer, Ratliff, Washington
Guests: Sam Epps (Unite Here 25); Mike Wilson (UFCW 400); Tiffany Flowers (UFCW 400); Donna Edwards (Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO)_



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We are also running a D.C. & Southern Maryland Labor to Labor Phone Campaign for our endorsed candidates. The results are very promising in D.C. with 56% to 60% of union members supporting our endorsed candidates. In Calvert County, Sue Cullen's (27C) district, the results are less than expected with 44% of union members in that district undecided. The costs of the phone campaign is just over \$5,000.

Discussion ensued.

Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reported on recent meeting with Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal on mandatory sick leave for anyone with 2 or more employees. Discussion. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved to support, with additional language addressing issues raised by trades and hotel workers.

Maryland campaigns: President Williams reported on labor's plans in Maryland, led by Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. He noted the Council's use of professional canvassers to improve effectiveness of door-to-door efforts. Extensive discussion, followed by discussion of campaigns in DC.

President's Report

- President Williams urged support for labor's campaigns; pitch/plea for fundraiser for DC AG candidate Edward "Smitty" Smith on Thursday; the Council also needs additional financial resources to complete our GOTV work, so please send contributions.
- DC Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's annual holiday party coming up, has asked labor to cover \$1,000 food costs. The following commitments were made: Unite Here 25 \$500, UFCW 1994 \$250, SMART 100 \$250.
- November Council meeting scheduling conflict with State Fed Executive Board meeting in Allegheny County. After discussion it was decided to skip the November meeting; the next meeting will be the regularly scheduled 12/15 meeting.

Reports of Board Members (2)

- John Boardman (UNITE HERE 25) thanked President Williams for his strongly-worded letter to the Washington Post responding to the Washington Post columnist who criticized Local 25 for "playing the race card" in mailings to members about the DC mayoral race.
- Mike Wilson, UFCW 400: Thanks for everyone's help with last week's Walmart action. 15 arrests at 18th & K; another 25 in NYC outside Walton's house. Please continue that support as we continue our campaign.
- Gino Renne, UFCW 1994: reported on the possible move to privatize liquor control; affects 350 union families and would cost county government \$35 million in lost revenues annually. Local 1994 will be fighting on

this and keep you posted. Renne asked the Executive Board to authorize the Council to send letters to members of state assembly stating our opposition. Moved, seconded and approved.

- Donna Edwards, Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer: We're seeing same problems as discussed earlier in terms of difficulty getting folks out to do labor GOTV. Races are tightening up, especially in Western Maryland. Also reported that the State Fed is planning to hire new legislative director soon.
- Alison Reardon, Amalgamated Bank: introduced herself and talked about latest developments at the bank, including new leadership under Keith Mestrich, who started at the AFL-CIO. No bank more supportive of labor than Amalgamated; open for business and welcome your questions and input. She plans to attend Council meetings regularly.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20p

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Briscoe (APWU 140)
Secretary