



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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## DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: October 20, 2014 (DRAFT)

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:35pm at the AFL-CIO.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jackie Jeter (ATU 689), Gino Renne (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)

**New delegates sworn in:** Douglas Rosenthal, DCFM Local 161-710.

**Minutes:** The minutes of September 15, 2014 were moved, seconded and approved.

**Financial Report:** The financial report of September 2014 was moved, seconded and received.

### Executive Board Report:

- The Board approved the following expenditures:
- DC VOTE annual Campaign for Democracy Dinner, \$100 contribution
- Working America Non- Gala event, \$100 contribution
- International Labor Communications Association Awards event- two tickets, price to be determined
- Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's annual holiday event for kids- \$1000 (locals MCGEO 1994, UNITE HERE 25 and SMART 100 pledged contributions to MWC to cover this expense)

The Board also voted to endorse candidates for the DC Board of Education recommended by WTU Local 6, Ward 1 Lillian Perdomo and Ward 3 Ruth Wattenberg.

The Board voted to support the bill to be introduced at the Montgomery County Council by Councilmember Leventhal to require paid sick days for any employer with 2 or more employees, with the proviso that the concerns of the building trades and UNITE HERE unique to their industries would be promoted as part of the bill.

The Board voted to support efforts to fight privatization of the County-run liquor stores in Montgomery County. Privatization would result in the loss of 350 union jobs.

Due to a conflict with a Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Board meeting, the Board voted to cancel the November Board and Delegates' meetings and meet again Monday December 15 at the regular times.

The Executive Board report was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates.

### Community Services Agency

Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded delegates that

- It is worksite giving campaign season. Please take flyers, download the electronic version, and get them out to your members so they know they have a union choice for worksite charitable giving.
- She alerted the delegates to the upcoming Holiday Basket project and the various ways affiliates can help from financial donations to gift cards to adopting a family and providing for them for the holidays. She asked that locals forward names of EXTREMELY NEEDY members who need help at holiday time to CSA ASAP.
- She also reminded the delegates of the 23rd Annual "Bowling for Gold" Bowling Tournament coming up on January 25, 2015 with registration forms at the back of the room.

### Union Cities Report

- Chris Garlock, Organizing/Mobilization Coordinator, asked Anna Woodbury, APWU, to report on the November 14 National Day of Action. She asked delegates to help turn out members to pack the hall at the USPS headquarters at L'Enfant Plaza during the Board of Governors meeting on that day to help fight post office closures and increasing mail delays promoted by management.
- Julia Kann, Labor Notes, reported on the upcoming DC Troublemakers' School to be held November 15. It is critical to turn out members for this training program which will provide the local labor movement with more seasoned and energetic activists as we fight anti-labor efforts on all fronts. She thanked Jackie Jeter, ATU 689, for committing to sending 50 members to this workshop.
- Mike Wilson, UFCW 400, thanked all for helping with the Walmart activity last week which resulted in the closure of 18th Street in front of the Walmart Foundation headquarters and the arrest of several individuals. A similar action to promote \$15 an hour wages and justice for workers at Walmart took place in New York.
- Garlock informed the delegates that he has 25 Ralph Fasanella "The Butcher" posters for sale at \$25 each. This is an effort to raise funds to purchase the original



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painting for donation to the Smithsonian so that it can be publicly displayed to all rather than privately held.

- Garlock also reported that “Union City” was awarded first place for best electronic union publication by the International Labor Communications Association, which was applauded by the delegates, and reported that UFCW Local 400 also took home several awards for their publications.
- He introduced Rick Ehrmann, Newspaper Guild/CWA Local 35, who updated on the situation at the Washington Post, where efforts are underway to eliminate the defined benefit pension plan along with other takebacks. It was moved, seconded and approved to conduct a “Street Heat” operation on Tuesday, October 28 from 12:30- 1:30 in front of the POST at 1150 15th Street NW, joining his members on the picket line.

### COPE Report

Legislative/Political Coordinator Rick Powell updated the delegates on the races in DC and suburban Maryland and indicated that only those endorsed candidates who have real races are receiving labor help. This includes Sue Kullen and John Bohannon, State Assembly candidates from Southern Maryland, and the Mayor, Attorney General and At-Large races in DC where Muriel Bowser, Edward “Smitty” Smith and Elissa Silverman respectively are the endorsed candidates.

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Donna Edwards reiterated the message that our candidates are really being attacked this year and we need to sit down on November 5 and take a good look at ourselves and our operations to see how we can be more effective with members and winning political and legislative battles for workers and unions.

### Reports of Locals, Constituency Groups and Allies

- Alison Reardon, Amalgamated Bank, gave the delegates their brief history as a labor bank and some of the services they offer to local unions and members, including free checking accounts, mortgages, and underwriting of loans for building projects. She comes out of the labor movement as does their CEO Keith Mes-trich, so they understand workers and unions.
- R. “Tarn” Goelling, DC Young Trade Unionists, reported on their upcoming meeting October 23 to be held on

the roof terrace of the IBEW headquarters which will be a “Trick or Vote” event. Locals were encouraged to identify young potential activists and leaders and get them active with Young Trade Unionists.

- Chuck Clay, IATSE 22, reported on the open house held to inaugurate their remodeled building which has been named after the late Brian Benson, a previous recent president of the local. Event was well-attended and moving, and was union from the front end- a loan from labor’s Amalgamated Bank- to the work being done by the building trades. He also updated the delegates about contract negotiations with Ford’s Theatre, National Theatre, Warner Theatre and the Washington Ballet which so far has resulted in some gains and some struggles. He will let the MWC know if the local needs help as the National Theatre is seeking serious takebacks.
- Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU, indicated she has 2015 membership applications for everyone to join, that their next meeting is Saturday November 18 and all are welcome, and that they are getting ready for their annual Shoe Box event in December and requested donations of personal care item amenities we all collect from our stays in hotels for boxing up and donating to nursing homes and homeless shelters.
- Kewana Battle-Mason, ATU 1764, indicated that their members are now enrolling in the new union-sponsored health insurance plan which is a big boost for them.
- Nikki Lewis, DC Jobs with Justice, reported on their initiatives to push enforcement of living wages, paid sick days and other laws won recently. Their annual masquerade ball is slated for December 4, and their offices will be moving to 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW soon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

\$64 in the 50-50 raffle was won by Patrick Moran, AFSCME Maryland, Council 3.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Briscoe (APWU 140)  
Secretary



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### Delegate attendance:

Aaron Bast	Ironworkers Local 5
Kewana Battle-Mason	ATU 1764
Barbara Churchill	IATSE Local 868
Chuck Clay	IATSE 22
Cynthia Collins	SEIU Local 400 PG
Benito Diaz	Working America
Vanessa Dixon-Briggs	CIR/SEIU 1957
Rick Ehrmann	NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Tiffany Flowers	UFCW 400
Tarn Goelling	DC Young Trade Unionists, AFL-CIO
Ann Hoffman	NWU/UAW 1981
Jackie Jeter	ATU 689
Roland Jeter	ATU 689
Gwend Johnson	CBTU DC Chapter
Faye Lawson	ATU Local 689
Ed Malaga	AFM 161-710
Cory Medina	Working America
Patrick Moran	AFSCME Council 3
Elaine Newman	AFSCME
Dave Richardson	AFGE
Doug Rosenthal	AFM 161-710
Saul Schniderman	AFSCME 2910
Eric Starin	OPEIU Local 2
Francis Stella	MD/DC ARA
Ian Stublarec	OPEIU Local 2
Bruce Wolf	OPEIU 2