



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES: February 23, 2015

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), Elizabeth Davis (WTU 6), Andrew Washington (AFSCME Council 20)

New delegates sworn in: Robin Burns, DCNA; Frank Barile, IUOE 99; David J. McKenzie Jr., AFGE 2876; Chelsea Bland, OPEIU 2

Minutes: The minutes of December 15, 2014 were moved, seconded and approved with the correction of the addition of Ian Stublarec, OPEIU 2, to the list of attending delegates

Financial Report: The financial report of January 2015 was moved, seconded and received.

Executive Board Report:

The Board approved the following expenditures:

Jews United for Justice, 22-Mar Labor Seder, \$250 for 4 tickets at a 1/4-page ad
IBEW 26, 2-May Poker Run/Children w/Cancer, \$250 Bronze sponsorship.

Resolution: see end of Minutes

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

Community Services Agency - Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded delegates that Labor Night at the Nats is coming up Friday, July 17 against the Dodgers and flyers will go out after Evening with Labor. She also alerted the delegates to a new grant CSA has won to recruit and train ex-offenders through the Building Futures program. A discussion ensued about doing other "Labor Night At..." events, like at DC United for example. Adding fundraisers adds staff work and also hits up affiliates for more funds the more events we add on, but will look at this again.

Evening With Labor - Kathleen McKirchy reminded the delegates of this premier labor event to be held Saturday, March 14 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Ads for the program book due by noon Wednesday of this week and tickets available until the day before. Invites and ad and ticket contracts were available at the back of the room.

Union Cities Report - Chris Garlock reported on the successful second annual Labor-Media Breakfast, held on February 20 with Tom Sherwood (NBC4) and Lydia DePillis of The Washington Post. He also reported that the 2015 Metro Council Directory is in the final stages of production. The new DC Labor411 consumer union directory is nearing completion, with an expected publication date of mid-March; discussion ensued. Garlock also reported that the DC Labor FilmFest component of the DC LaborFest is

nearly complete; both will be held in May 2015 and details will be forthcoming.

- Upcoming Streetheat:

- Unite 23's "Nickel a Ticket" Action: thu, February 26, 3:00pm – 4:30pm, Freedom Plaza, 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

- National Lobby Day to Defeat Fast Track: Wed, March 4, 8:30am – 5:00pm, AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street NW

- National Immigration Implementation Training - March 31-April 2

COPE Report: Legislative/Political Coordinator Rick Powell updated the delegates on the races in DC in Wards 4 and 8, and indicated that he is setting up meetings with Congresspersons Van Hollen and Edwards for to make sure they are clear on labor's opposition to fast tracking the trade bill coming up for a vote this week. He also updated delegates on the support we are giving the United Farm Workers in their efforts to force a peach grower to bargain a first contract with them.

Reports of Locals, Constituency Groups and Allies

Rick Ehrmann, Newsguild CWA 32035, updated delegates on the contract fight at the Washington POST. Issues remain maintaining a quality pension and health care for part-timers. No picket lines planned for now.

Eric Starin, OPEIU 2, reported that after 5 years, they won an arbitration at WMATA that provides for a back pay award of \$1 million to 160 members who left WMATA but should have had negotiated pay raises from contract signing to when they left employment at WMATA.

Bill Preston, AFGE 17, reported that they prevailed in an FLRA decision that their local took on themselves.

Jackie Jeter, ATU 689, reported that they are setting up a transit safety hearing to draw public attention to the lack of a safety culture at METRO. They are working with WIN and will announce the location of the March 25 event. They also recently ratified a contract at MV Properties for newly organized workers.

Rick Malachi, SEIU 722, reported an organizing win- the largest outpatient clinic which is part of Children's Hospital National Medical Center located in Montgomery County. They will be able to fold these workers into their existing contract with special provisions for that group. They are also going after the remaining clinics.

Chuck Clay, IATSE 22, reported that they finally got a good contract with the National Theatre. After employer attempts to drastically cut pay they ended up with 8.25% increases, 1.25% to training fund and an additional staffer. He thanked President Williams and IATSE locals 772 and 868, and AFM 161-710 for their support. Local 22 got a 3 year contract with Live Nation at the Warner



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Theatre with wage increases of 4%, 3%, & 3%. Local 22 is also in negotiations with the Washington Ballet, where they've had a contract but there no wage increases for 5 years; they're now close to getting an agreement.

Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council, reported that management is challenging elections results of a winning election to represent resident physicians at Howard university Hospital. She also discussed recent meetings held with DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson to try to add more input by workers and other stakeholders before any contracting out is done. She thanked everyone for their support last week when there was some confusion about whether she had been involved in a fatal car accident which was another woman with the same name.

George Farenthold, OPEIU 277, indicated that there is a lot happening on the national level regarding reining in the financial services sector. He also asked about ATU 689's recent testimony before a Congressional committee, and Ms. Jeter reported that it went well and was focused on the recent accident at the L'Enfant Plaza station.

Chelsea Bland, OPEIU 2, reported on DC Young Trade Unionists and an upcoming event at Buffalo Billiards near DuPont Circle. They have planned events through June and will get the Chris Garlock for inclusion in the Union City calendar.

Barbara Childs, CSO 4, reported that after a letter from President Williams, their members finally got their retroactive pay raises and she thanked the council for its support.

Saul Schniderman, AFSCME 2910, reported that all the locals at the Library of Congress are sponsoring a showing of "At the River I Stand" this Friday which is open to all. He also indicated that he is the author of Friday's Labor Folklore which comes out electronically weekly.

Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU, indicated she had application forms for membership and that the annual CBTU national convention will be held May 20-25 in Chicago.

Roland Jeter, ATU 689, reported that they will be travelling to Selma for the Pettus Bridge anniversary events and their buses are full.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

\$46 in the 50-50 raffle was won by new delegate Robin Burns, DCNA. Other items won by Emilio Abate, UNITE HERE 23, Andrew Washington, AFSCME Council 20 and Yvette Martin Gross, AFGE 631.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Briscoe (APWU 140)
Secretary

Attendance

Emilio Abate UNITE HERE 23 (DC Chapter)
Kadija Ash AFGE, Local 2978
Frank Barile IUOE Local 99
Robin Burns DCNA
Carl Carson OPCM 891
Barbara Childs AFSA 4
Chuck Clay IATSE 22
Cynthia Collins SEIU Local 400 PG
Sabrathia Draine-Ishakwue DCNA
Rick Ehrmann NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
George Farenthold American Income Life / OPEIU 277
Drew Halunen National Federation of Federal Employees
Donald Havard IUOE 99
Roland Jeter ATU 689
Gwend Johnson CBTU DC Chapter
Roosevelt Littlejohn National Federation of Federal Employees (IAM-AW) FD 1
Yvette Martin-Gross AFGE 631
William Preston AFGE 17
David Richardson AFGE Council 1
Saul Schniderman AFSCME 2910
Eric Starin OPEIU 2
Ian Stublarec OPEIU 2
Andrew Washington AFSCME 1959 Council 20
Bruce Wolf OPEIU 2
Michelle Wyvill OPEIU 2
GUEST(s): Vanessa Dixon-Briggs CIR/SEIU 1957



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Resolution by the Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO Against “Fast Track” (Bill Number TBD)

Whereas, “Fast Track” trade promotion authority is a type of trade policy that gives the executive branch the opportunity to negotiate—out of public view—as many trade agreements as it can during a given time period and send them to Congress, which must then vote yes-or-no with no amendments within 90 days;

Whereas, under “Fast Track,” Congress cedes to the Executive Branch its power under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, to “regulate Commerce with foreign Nations”;

Whereas, “Fast Track” is an undemocratic process that limits debate and does not allow trade agreements or their implementing bills to be amended or improved in any way;

Whereas, “Fast Track” is an unaccountable process that limits citizen participation in or knowledge of the details of trade negotiations;

Whereas, “Fast Track” does not require Congress or any independent body to evaluate a trade deal before finalization of the deal to ensure that it will have a positive impact on the U.S. trade balance, create good, family-wage jobs or ensure that state and local governments can continue to legislate and regulate in the public interest;

Whereas, no trade deal, no matter how bad, has ever been defeated under “Fast Track” procedures;

Whereas, ever since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was enacted under “Fast Track” procedures, workers across North America—including in Mexico and Canada—have experienced downward pressure on wages and greater threats to our ability to organize and collectively bargain;

Whereas, bad U.S. trade deals like NAFTA and the newer Korea FTA have resulted in an unbalanced system in which corporate profits soar even as workers take home a diminishing share of our national income;

Whereas, “Fast Track” would apply to trade agreements such as the Trans Pacific Partnership, which are already being negotiated even though Congress has not yet weighed in on whether all the participants are appropriate trading partners;

Whereas, “Fast Track” has been used to advance trade agreements that do not ensure that all workers can freely exercise their fundamental labor rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, thereby encouraging a race to the bottom;

Whereas, trade policies adopted under “Fast Track” have cost us more than one millions jobs, have contributed to more than 60,000 factories shutting down and have exacerbated income inequality here in the United States and around the globe;

Whereas, trade policies adopted under “Fast Track” put America’s families at risk from unsafe imports, including food, pet food, and children’s toys;

Whereas, “Fast Track” does not require trade deals to include enforceable rules against the use of currency manipulation, which has cost America’s workers millions of jobs;

Whereas, the most recent trade deals to become law under “Fast Track” include a deal with Colombia—a country that fails to pro-

tect labor rights and in which nearly 3,000 labor leaders and activists have been assassinated since 1986, and Korea—a country with which we have an increasingly lopsided trade deficit that cost 60,000 jobs in just the first year of the agreement;

Whereas, “Fast Track” provides corporate rights without corporate responsibilities, even failing to ensure that corporations are responsible for labor, environmental and health and safety violations in their supply chain;

Whereas, there is a better way to negotiate trade deals so that they promote the creation of decent, family-wage jobs, encourage shared prosperity rather than skewed benefits for economic elites, protect our environment, ensure the safety of imported food and other products, revitalize our manufacturing sector, and eliminate the separate system of justice for foreign companies that want to sue America (known as “ISDS”) and other provisions that provide corporations with undue influence over the global economy;

Whereas, Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO represents more than 150,000 workers in the greater Washington metro area.

Be it resolved that:

- 1) Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO opposes any “Fast Track” legislation that fails to provide greater openness, robust opportunities for citizen and Congressional participation in trade negotiations, and clear accountability mechanisms to ensure the Executive Branch brings back trade deals that will have a positive impact on the U.S. trade balance, create good, family-wage jobs and ensure that state and local governments can continue to legislate and regulate in the public interest;
- 2) Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO calls upon all federal elected officials representing the greater Washington metro area to oppose any “Fast Track” legislation that gives the executive branch the power to negotiate behind closed doors and a blank check to negotiate bad trade deals that can’t be fix before Congress is required to vote; and
- 3) Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO will work to promote better trade rules and a new form of trade negotiating authority that promotes good, family-wage jobs, protects labor rights for all workers, and supports a clean environment, a safe food supply, sustainable growth, and robust public interest policies while ensuring that the negotiating process is democratic, accountable, transparent and open to the public.

Unanimously approved by the Executive Board and delegates on February 23, 2015