



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: February 23, 2015

Meeting called to order at 4:15p

Minutes (January Executive Board meeting) Approved as distributed.

Financial Report (January 2015) Received.

Special Reports

- Maya Goines of the AFL-CIO briefed the Board on the upcoming Fast Track vote in Congress. A close vote is expected and several events are coming up, including one with MD Congressman Van Hollen and a Lobby Day on March 4. Area labor leaders are urged to attend meetings being planned with DC-area Congress members. The Board unanimously approved an resolution opposing Fast Track (see attached). Goines also reported on the AFL-CIO National Immigration Implementation Training coming up March 31 through April 2 in DC.

- Gino Renne (UFCW 1994) reviewed the Strategic Planning Steering Committee's meeting and recommendations, noting the impending retirements of both President Williams and Political Coordinator Rick Powell. "This is an opportunity to look at what the Metro Council is all about," Renne noted. Meeting notes and a strategic planning retreat proposal were passed out and discussion ensued, resulting in a decision to hold a 1.5-day retreat in mid-April, re-view/discussion/recommendation at the June Council meeting, and, if necessary, submission to the AFL-CIO for approval of any constitutional changes required.

Correspondence

The following expenditures were approved: Jews United for Justice, 22-Mar Labor Seder, \$250 for 4 tickets and a 1/4-page ad IBEW 26, 2-May Poker Run/Children with Cancer, \$250 Bronze sponsorship. Letter of thanks from the UPO Inspire Foundation (DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's annual Capitol Hill Children's Christmas Party) for the Council's provision of \$958 worth of pizzas for the 12/17/2014 event. Several Board members

- UFCW 1994, Unite Here 25 and SMART 100 -- made pledges of \$250 each for a total of \$750, to contribute to defray the Council's expense.

Community Services Agency Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on a new Building Futures grant, \$25,000 from the Joshua Fund to focus on recruiting and training ex-offenders in Census Tract 47.

McKirchy also reminded the Board that the 2015 Labor Night at the Nats will be held July 17 against the Dodgers.

Union Cities

Coordinator 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 Here 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

Maryland Report: Coordinator Rick Powell reported that the PG/Mont COPE will not meet during the current legislative session. The next Tri-County COPE meeting is Tuesday, Feb 24, LaPlata, 7 PM. Setting up meetings with Congress Members Van Hollen and Edwards, labor opposition to Fast Track

DC: Powell gave an update on the upcoming DC Special Election in Wards 4 and 8. The Candidate Questionnaire was reviewed and will go out Tuesday, Feb. 24th. Executive Board interviews March 6th, 10:00 AM until done. The budget for the Labor to Labor Campaign was reviewed. Powell also reported on the DC Council resolution supporting the UFW's battle for justice for Prima workers in California; the resolution will be introduced after a rally and March on April 7.

President's Report

- Evening with Labor Update: Weds deadline for ads; tickets still available.

Attendance

Present: John Boardman, Dena Briscoe, Steve Courtien, Elizabeth Davis, Sandra Falwell, Carl Goldman, Jackie Jeter, Michael Murphy, Tommy Ratliff, Doris Reed, Gino Renne, John Shields, Jimmy Tarlau, Jos Williams

Excused: Fred Allen,

Staff: McKirchy, Garlock, Powell
Guests: Maya Goines, AFL-CIO; Mike Wilson, UFCW 400



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Reports of Board Members

- Unite Here 25: John Boardman reported on a card check agreement at the new soccer stadium.
- Firefighters 36: Ed Smith thanked the Council for its support in the local's battle to win overtime pay, resulting in a \$47 million dollar award. "This is a win for all of us," Smith said.
- ATU 689: Jackie Jeter reported that Local 689 has organized the DC Streetcar workers; a vote is scheduled for March 10.
- Teamsters 639: Tommy Ratliff reported on an organizing win at Nash Finch, where workers just ratified a first contract at this growing company.
- NNU: Sandra Falwell reported the the nurses are heavily involved in the Chicago mayoral election primary thanks to incumbent mayor Rahm Emanuel's attacks on the public sector, "just like Walker in Wisconsin." She also reported that NNU "will be on the Hill lobbying against Fast Track" on February 25. Falwell also reported that the United Medical Center facility has wound up "back in the hands of the District," adding that conditions "are abysmal there." There's also still no contract at the Washington Hospital Center and no negotiations either, so the union is conducting a campaign targeting hospital board members.
- AFSCME Council 26: Carl Goldman reported that Council 26 has office space available for rent, 600-800 feet at 15th & New York Avenue.
- UFCW 400: Mike Wilson reported that Local 400 has been involved in efforts against Right to Work legislation in West Virginia, as well as other anti-worker bills.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm



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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 protect 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 re-

sponsible 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