



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: November 16, 2015

Called to order 3:20pm

### Minutes (October)

Moved and seconded to accept, corrected to note that Tarlau & Wilson were not in attendance.

### Financial Report (Sept & October)

Moved, seconded and approved to receive; President Williams reported that we're better off financially now than we have been in a long time, but next year the CAP will not be included in our report. Also the high per cap receivables are of note; we expect a decline in December, as a lot of payments have come in this month. Also need to resolve the due to/from CSA, which is being worked on.

### Correspondence

\$200 to UPO Inspire Foundation in conjunction with DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's annual holiday party for children; President Williams urges all Board members and affiliates to join the Council in supporting (last year we raised a total of \$800). LaRuby May Thanksgiving turkey giveaway request will also be forwarded to all affiliates.

Moved, seconded and approved.

### President's Report

#### **Executive Director Search Committee**

**report:** John Boardman (Unite Here 25) reported that a second-round interview is scheduled for 11/20 for our second finalist; we expect to have a recommendation of a candidate by the December meeting.

President Williams reported that IUOE 99's **Mike Murphy will be retiring** at the end of the year, though he'll continue on the CSA board, and his leadership and humor will be much missed.

Moved, seconded and approved to **move the December Council meeting to 12/14** so as not to be so close to the holidays.

**2016 Evening with Labor** set for Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the Washington Hilton Hotel; 6:30 Cocktails, 7:30 Dinner. Self and Valet Parking available

Overall EWL Committee: Fred Allen-Dinner Chairman; Doris Reed, Dena Briscoe, John Boardman, Carl Goldman, Linda Bridges, Jackie Jeter, Ed Smith, Gino Renne.

JC Turner Award Committee: Mike Murphy, Chair; Doris Reed, Fred Allen, Thomas Ratliff, Jimmy Tarlau.

Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships available this year as well as the same prices for tables and full and half page ads.

Save the Date cards mailed in August; Invites with ad and ticket contract mailed to all lists Friday, November 6. VIP invites to go out asap. Mention has been made a few times in Union City to Save the Date.

Possible awards to be given: JC Turner Award for Outstanding Trades Unionist; Thomas M. Bradley Community Services Award; Organizing Award; Golden Picket Sign Award; Outstanding Citizen Award. MD and DC COPE Awards- 2015 was not an election year. A recommendation has been made to institute a Retiree Volunteer Award. Discussion ensued and it was decided to delay consideration of adding a Retiree Volunteer Award; recommendations for the other awards will be made at the next Council meeting.

#### **AFL-CIO MLK Civil Rights Conference update**

The following recommendations were made, seconded and approved to submit for awards at the upcoming event in January: Labor: Arlene Holt Baker; Community: Jews United for Justice; Government: Eleanor Holmes Norton; Faith: Rev. Lionel Edmonds, WIN.

Board members are urged to turn their members out so there will be a large local delegation; at the December meeting we'll go around and ask for commitments from each local.

**Montgomery County DLC Hearing on Privatization:** President Williams urged turn out for 11/30 hearing (where he will be testifying against privatization) to support the UFCW 1994 jobs at the Department of Liquor Control.

#### **DC COPE**

Chair Fred Allen (GCC/IBT 538C) made the following report: The DC COPE committee met on November 10, 2015, where we discussed proposed legislative initiatives before the City Council; **Procure-**

**Attending:** Fred Allen, John Boardman, Dena Briscoe, Liz Davis, Sandra Falwell, Carl Goldman, Michael Murphy, John Shields, Jimmy Tarlau, Jos Williams

**Excused:** Linda Bridges, Eric Bunn, Dan Dyer, Mark Federici, Jackie Jeter, Doris Reed, Gino Renne, Ed Smith

**Absent:** Steve Courtien, Tommy Ratliff, Andrew Washington

**Also attending:** Mike Wilson (UFCW 400); Aaron Bast (Iron 5); Sam Epps (Unite Here 25), Vicky Leonard, MA LIUNA

**Staff:** Kathleen McKirchy, Chris Garlock, David Dzi-dzienyo



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**ment Integrity, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015**, which Chairman Mendelson provided us with an overview of this legislation. The bill would help to strengthen the Council's oversight of the District of Columbia's procurement process.

We also discussed the **Universal Paid Family Leave Act of 2015**: Joanna Blotner from Jews United for Justice and Legislative Director, and Ari Weisbard from the Office of Councilmember Silverman, provided us with an overview of this legislation. This bill would help provide paid family and medical leave for all workers who work in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Weisbard also gave a presentation on the **Unemployment Benefits Modernization Amendment Act of 2015**. This bill would increase the District's unemployment compensation weekly maximum benefits from \$359.00 to \$430.00. Currently, we have one of the lowest unemployment compensation rates in the nation.

Lastly, the committee discussed the **DC for \$15 campaign**. Delvone Michael, Executive Director of Working Families provided an overview of the campaign. This initiative would increase the District's minimum wage from \$10.50 an hour to \$15 an hour for all workers in the District of Columbia.

As a result from these discussions, there was a recommendation from the DC COPE committee, to the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO executive board, to fully support these legislative initiatives.

In addition, we also discussed with the Chairman of the City Council, to **reinstate to the 10% savings requirement for contracting out**, which he said he would consider. The Chairman also informed us, because of our tireless lobbying efforts he has decided to reinstate in the D.C. Code the requirement of the Auditor's review of city contracts.

DC COPE recommendation is that the Metro Council support these initiatives.

Discussion ensued. Moved, seconded and approved to endorse.

**Exelon/PEPCO merger**; president Williams noted that the Metro Council is being pressed by supporters and opponents to take a position. This proposed merger will be a long process. (noted that the Mayor has agreed to nominate the People's Counsel for another term; and president Williams and the Council had lobbied strongly in her favor). Asked Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900) for his input: Griffin said Local 1900 is taking a neutral position though he noted that actually Exelon would be buying PepCo. His recommen-

dation for the Metro Council would also be to remain neutral. President Williams noted that public sentiment -- very likely including many of our members -- seems to be against the merger, or at the very least highly skeptical. Extensive discussion ensued.

President Williams reminded the Board that delegates will be voting on the **Constitutional amendment establishing an Executive Committee** approved last month.

**TPP resolution**: President Williams asked the board to adopt this resolution opposing the TPP and submit it to the DC City Council for its approval. Moved, seconded and approved.

### Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

**Holiday Basket Project**: thanks to all who have already contributed; further contributions welcome!

**Bowling Tournament**: 24th annual coming up in January; IBT 639 has already registered 4 teams.

**Thanked IBEW 1900** for sending out a letter of support to its members; SMART Local 100 will do a \$1/per member per month contribution in 2016 as a pilot project to help provide some stable funding for CSA.

### Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock made the following reports:

**Safeway warehouse closing delayed**. The December 6 date for closing the Safeway Distribution Center in Upper Marlboro has been delayed until February 14, 2016.

Teamsters Local 730 president Ritchie Brooks -- who has the most member jobs at stake (Teamsters 639 and IUOE 99 also have members affected) -- credits the work by local political leaders and thanked other locals for their support. The unions will continue to meet with Safeway and Collington as well as government and community leaders to discuss alternatives. The delay came after Maryland State Senator Anthony Muse convened a meeting with Safeway, Collington and Teamsters locals 730 and 639.

The DC Labor FilmFest is co-sponsoring the **DC premiere of "The Enemy Within"** on Tuesday, November 17, 5pm -- 7pm at the AFL-CIO. The award-winning documentary is about about one of the most dramatic events in British history: the 1984-85 Miners' Strike. No experts. No politicians. Thirty years on, this is the raw first-hand experience of those who lived through Britain's longest strike. Introduced by AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, who led the United Mineworkers of America from 1982 to 1995.



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The next Local Labor Communicators Meeting will focus on how to **“improve your website now; tips for labor communicators”** this Friday, 11/20, 9:15a at CWA. Learn the latest and best options for easily building an inexpensive website for a local union or organizing campaign. FREE but need to RSVP.

**2016 Directory update:** Still working on updates for 2016 Directory; a hard-copy mailing will be going out later this week with our current info for all locals – including current list of delegates for each local – PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY, and fax up-to-date info back to us. Plan is to release 2016 Directory in January 2016.

**2016 Labor 411 update:** Working with Labor 411 folks to update info for the 2016 edition; expect mailings/calls from them in next couple weeks.

**“Food Chains” Thanksgiving screenings:** 83-minute film available for screening in local union offices and/or membership meetings; let me know if you’re interested. “This moving examination of the food industry illustrates the hardships that farm workers endure—appallingly low wages, long hours in often brutal conditions, wage theft, physical and sexual abuse, and virtual slavery—to bring food to Americans’ tables.”

### Reports of Board Members

• **John Boardman, Unite Here 25:** Marriott just bought Starwood Hotels; continuing consolidation in the industry. Reported on Airbnb, which is really a shadow hotel industry with 3,600 properties in the DC area. Not only threatens area union hotel jobs but takes rental units off the market. Massive impact on affordable housing and neighborhoods. We have piece of legislation on this issue now before the DC City Council and will keep you posted.

• **Carl Goldman, AFSCME Council 26:** There is still a chance of a government shutdown in December. GOP has threatened to attach “poison pill” amendments to budget bills; we’ll keep you posted.

• **Mike Wilson, UFCW 400:** Working with DC Councilmember Orange on bill modeled after San Francisco Retail Workers Bill of rights; schedules posted 3 weeks in advance, offer additional hours to part-time workers, etc.

• **Liz Davis, WTU 6:** Resumed contract talks with DCPS, after stalling on some issues around charter schools. Just distributed 40,000 books to DC students, parents etc on Saturday, through First Book. Attracted number of DC City Council members as well. Will be doing it again in January; very successful. Purpose of project is to get books into hands of young children. She also said the WTU is hosting “An Evening to Celebrate DC Community Schools”, Tues-

day, November 17, 2015 at the Latin American Youth Center.

• **Vicky Leonard, MA-LIUNA:** Bill introduced in Montgomery County that will tighten up enforcement of the Living Wage bill, and carve out the collective bargaining agreement. Currently their inclusion is having a negative affect on sanitation workers represented by the Laborers.

• **Mike Murphy, IUOE 99:** still no contract at AECOMM.

• **John Shields, SMART 100:** arbitration continues at Whiting-Turner at the National Harbor casino; now over 10 months. Despite having a Project Labor Agreement, their signatory contractors, who represent workers living in the county, don’t have any of the work.

• **Sandra Falwell, NNU:** UMC has been taken over by DC govt; may be proposal for Palladian to buy UMC. We don’t have a stand on this yet but we may be coming back to the Metro Council with an ask once this settles down.

There’s an absolute health care bed shortage in the area and anyone going to the hospital is experiencing horrible wait times. Not sure what’s going on; not the flu, but colds that are lasting for weeks. So don’t get sick.

• **Dena Briscoe, APWU:** just had local election and Dena and her slate all won.

• President Williams provided an update on **Doris Reed’s health status**; she’s still on dialysis and had a donor but that fell through. She has her good and bad days; David Dzidzienyo passed out donor information questionnaire for anyone interested in possibly donating a kidney. Carl Goldman asked that contact info for Doris be re-sent to Board for anyone wishing to send her a note.

Meeting adjourned 5:50pm

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dena Briscoe, Secretary*