



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: May 16, 2016

President Jeter called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

Agenda: Moved, seconded, and approved

Minutes: (April 2016) Moved, Seconded, and approved.

Financial Report: (April 2016 & 2016 YTD) Treasurer Eric Bunn, AFGE District 14, reported on ongoing work to update the budget and working with accountants to get a clearer picture of finances and real vs receivable income. Pursuing movement to cash-basis reporting for profit & loss: monthly and YTD, keeping accrual-basis for financial statements. Will work with accountant to have training with the board on our budget and the reports. Discussion ensued. It was moved and seconded to accept the report for audit; unanimously approved.

Correspondence: The Board moved, seconded, and approved the following correspondence recommendations:
MD State & DC AFL-CIO 6/17/2016 Salute to Leadership awards
\$550; 2 tickets; full page ad (1/2 price in exchange for State Fed's 1/2-price ad in the 2016 DC LaborFest guide)
Ironworkers 5 6/18/2016 DAD's Day Poker Run \$250.00
CWA Verizon Strike Fund \$1,000
Total approved: \$1,800
Year-to-date: \$5,700

Community Services Agency:

Chris Garlock, Union Cities Coordinator, reported on behalf of Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy:
Nats tickets still available
CWA/IBEW Strike – Support striking workers through collection of cash and food; moved and seconded that the Council contribute \$1,000 to the strike fund. Unanimously approved.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock reported (and/or submitted the following reports):
Verizon strike: A major Verizon strike "Day

of Action" has been scheduled for this Thursday, May 19. After picketing from 4p to 5p at the 13 & F Verizon Wireless, strikers and their supporters will march to Lafayette Park and rally up around 6p. The action is being organized by CWA Locals 2108, 2336, and 2222. NOTE: Verizon and the unions return to the bargaining table tomorrow (Tuesday) at the request of Labor Secretary Tom Perez; we'll keep you posted on developments. Meanwhile, we continue to urge affiliates to adopt a store in support of our brothers and sisters who are on strike at Verizon. Go to dclabor.org and click on calendar for the latest list of locations and times.

We are working diligently to have updated and correct information on our calendar. Executive Director Carlos Jimenez urged all affiliates to participate in Thursday's action to show strong support for the strike. The following locals and allies have adopted picket lines: ATU 689; DC Democratic Socialists of America; Georgetown Kalmanovitz Center; Jews United for Justice; DC Jobs with Justice; LiUNA MAROC; Many Languages One Voice; NNU; SEIU 32BJ; UFCW Local 400; Unite Here 25. We know many unions are sending members and staff to picket lines, please let us know when you are out there so that we keep good records on participation. Email cgarlock@dclabor.org if your local wants to adopt a picket line. Contributions still being accepted: contribute securely online on CSA's page on the Council's website.

Giant store update: UFCW 400 reports that their campaign continues to save the 9 area Giant stores that may be sold as a result of the merger of the parent companies of Giant and Food Lion. Thanks to everyone who turned out for last Thursday's march and rally in Landover; this struggle is definitely not over.

Kroger contract: Less than an hour before UFCW Local 400's contract extension expired at midnight on May 7, Kroger "attempted to force us to accept an awful agreement that would abandon retirees and provide only slight wage increases over the next four years," UFCW Local 400 reports. Calling it "a slap in the face from a company that makes billions each year off of our hard work," Local 400's bargaining committee voted unanimously to "reject this insulting offer" and strongly recommended a "No" vote (the vote is set for Weds 5/18).

Unite Here 23: Cafeteria workers at 15 federal government cafeterias throughout the D.C. area have voted to approve a new union contract with their employer I.L. Creations. The agreement ends a labor dispute that had led to a series of pickets outside I.L. Creations' cafeterias at federal agencies and strikes planned for May.

Attendance:

Present: Bast, Briscoe, Bunn, Collins, Courtien, Davis, Dyer, Fields, Flood, Greenhill, Havard, Jeter, Reed, Richardson, Shields
Excused: Clay, Falwell, Federici, Goldman, Griffin, Renne, Smith
Absent: Contreras, Washington
Also attending: Carl Carson
Staff: Jimenez, Garlock, Dzienyo



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DC LABORFEST UPDATE: Nearly 70 events this year!

Complete line-up here: <http://www.dclabor.org/dc-laborfest.html>

Of special note is the expanded collaboration with Busboys & Poets (7 events at all 6 locations) and WPFW (simulcasting a number of Live@5 labor shows from Busboys), and a number of brand-new events like the Haymarket handbills at the Library of Congress and There Is Power In A Union: A Labor Songs Vespers at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, just to name two.

Turnout has been excellent – at least 1,500 so far -- and response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Nearly 300 Street Heat cards have been collected thus far, with 76% new sign-ups (as opposed to turnout by folks already in our database). WTU's Liz Davis reported that the soccer night last Friday attracted a whole group of her members who had not turned out for other events.

Upcoming New Delegate Orientation: Set for June 2nd

COPE Report

Political Coordinator David Dzidzienyo reported:

The COPE Committees met in the month of May, where we discussed the launching of our new "Labor to Labor" program for the upcoming 2016 Primary election in the District of Columbia. The intent of this program is to establish a stronger COPE volunteer activism program where affiliates and our members play a more active role in mobilizing labor households to vote for our endorsed candidate. As we've discussed, we need each affiliate to commit to at least one weekend by providing us with volunteers on Saturdays from 10am- 2pm for canvassing efforts.

Our upcoming canvasses and volunteer dates are:

May 21st, 10am-2pm; June 4th, 10am-2pm; June 11th, 10am-2pm; June 14th, 10am-2pm

The MD/DC State AFL-CIO has endorsed the following candidates for the upcoming elections: MD – District 4 Anthony Brown; MD – District 8 – Jamie Raskin; MD – Senate – Chris Van Hollen

Unemployment Benefits Modernization Amendment Act of 2016

DC's unemployment benefit levels have not been updated in more than a decade. Currently, DC's maximum weekly benefit amount of \$359 per week is one of the lowest in the nation — 38 other states offer higher benefits.

The Metropolitan Washington Council, along with a coal-

ition of community, legal, and labor organizations have made significant headway in advancing a much needed fix to the District of Columbia's Unemployment Insurance System.

- A maximum weekly benefit increases to \$425 on January 1, 2017 – we will continue to push for a higher amount but have made significant headway on this.
- The bill eliminates an arbitrary penalty placed on workers with gaps in employment or seasonal job histories that reduces the amount of benefits they can receive.
- It effectively ensures that claimants who work part-time can keep more of their earnings while receiving UI
- Creates language that allows for indexing of the weekly benefit to inflation, but with an adjustment provision that gives the Department of Employment Services a chance to prevent that yearly increase. We are working to get the strongest language possible as the bill moves forward to clarify this ambiguity.

Executive Director's Report

Carlos Jimenez reported:

Evening with Labor Committee – Recommendation and motion to have 2017 EWL on March 25, 2017 at Washington Hilton. Recommendation by committee that event largely stay the same, with some changes to the bidding and procurement of vendors. Also a recommendation that a working group start planning it earlier for next year's EWL.

DC Statehood – Met with Mayor's office regarding new push for Statehood. MWC was asked to join a working group and engage in the effort. There are upcoming ward meetings to discuss the proposal, constitution, and other questions with the initiative in June. Request for a committee to study the documents and engage with the Mayor's office on this effort, report back to Executive Committee. Michael Flood from AFSCME 2921 and WTU 6 delegate that will be subsequently identified will work with Carlos. D.C. Legislative Update – Bills on Paid Family Leave and Hours and Scheduling in Retail are advancing, and there is an upcoming hearing about Mayor's legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020 and \$7.50 for tipped workers by 2022. Resolution to support Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016. Discussion on need to push for more on tipped wage, and on mobilizing and testifying at the hearing on May 26th.

President's Report

Metro Council is a part of National AFL-CIO 10-city initiative called "raising cities" through which we are receiving



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EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: May 16, 2016

strategic support and assistance. 1st Vice President Gino Renne and Executive Director Carlos Jimenez will be going on an exchange with other State Feds and CLCs in the 10 cities to Southern California in June.

MD/DC State and DC AFL-CIO – President Jeter was appointed as 2nd Vice President of the State Fed, joining the executive committee of the E-Board. Nomination and confirmation of Carlos Jimenez and Jos Williams as area vice-presidents. We're having Mr. Williams play a role in boards where he has historical or strategic knowledge, the State Fed being one of those boards. Overall, it was a successful board meeting. Good discussion on political landscape and changing electoral map in D.C. and Maryland. Challenges with the State Fed budget have led to a decision to stop financial contributions to the Metro Council for legislative responsibilities to the District of Columbia, with a vote to remove it from the budget. There was a call from the body that the leadership of the MD/DC State Fed and Metro Washington Council sit down to figure out an arrangement to ensure the matter is resolved respectfully between the parties. We need to move as a delegation and engage other central labor councils in Maryland more intentionally moving forward.

Reports of Board Members

Liz Davis, WTU 6, reported on charter schools. Structure issue is impacting families due to them having different school closing schedules from the public school system. The Metro Council will call and staff a meeting of four public school unions, and will identify ways it can assist the coalition in working together and presenting a unified voice in this fight. The MWC will assist with development of a strategic plan on the issues. David Dzidzienyo will help carry this out.

D.C. Democratic Convention Delegates: Jos Williams CD 1 and Dyana Forester CD 2; MWC staff will ask who other labor candidates are and publish in Union City ahead of 5/21 election.

Resolution in support of the Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016

WHEREAS, the current minimum wage for non-tipped workers in the District of Columbia is \$10.50 per hour; and WHEREAS, the current minimum wage for tipped employees in the District of Columbia is frozen at \$2.77 per hour; and WHEREAS, raising the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour

will raise the floor for all workers; and WHEREAS, esteemed economists favor an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour because doing so will be an effective means of improving living standards for low-wage workers and their families and will help stabilize the economy; and WHEREAS, a recent study by economists at the Universities of California, Massachusetts, and North Carolina found no negative affect on job growth or competitiveness when comparing neighboring jurisdictions with different minimum wages; and WHEREAS, the "Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016," would increase the minimum wage in the District of Columbia to \$15.00 an hour by July 1, 2020; and WHEREAS, beginning on July 1, 2021, and during each successive year, the minimum wage would increase in proportion to the increase in the Consumer Price Index; and WHEREAS, the bill would also increase the minimum wage for any employee who receives gratuities to \$7.50 an hour by July 1, 2022 and to 50% of the minimum wage in each year thereafter, NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO does hereby support the "Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016"; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is made public in the form of a press release in support of the proposed bill.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2016.