

## **Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO**

Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2018

Called to Order at 4:38pm

Roll Call of Officers:

Present: Jackie Jeter, Gino Renne, Andrew Washington, Carl Carson, Elizabeth Davis, Larry Greenhill Sr., Jim Griffin, Herbert Harris, Doris Reed, Dave Richardson, Cynthia Collins

Excused: Eric Bunn, Dennis Desmond, Jaime Contreras,

Absent: Dena Briscoe, Aaron Bast, Chuck Clay, Stephen Courtien, Dan Dyer, Michael Flood, Don Havard, Mark Federici, Dan Fields, Tommy Ratliff

Also attending: Victoria Leonard (LIUNA); Amir Malek

Staff: Garlock, Dzidzienyo, DuCote

Poor People's Campaign Update: David Dzidzienyo reported; launched last Monday with event on Capitol Hill; good turnout in general and also by MWC affiliates, who helped swell the ranks, much appreciated by the organizers. Richardson noted that UFCW really turned out, and that the civil disobedience was mostly clergy. June 4 issue is focused on health care, and healthcare locals have committed to turning out. Janus decision/impact is also a major issue of concern. Discussion ensued. Conclusion is that the Metro Washington Council needs to work with affected locals to assemble and disseminate some best practices -- and a letter to the DC mayor -- on how local unions can deal with the effects of the Janus decision. Ctte: Washington, Richardson, Carson, Davis; staff: Dzidzienyo. Doris has draft and Liz/Jackie will circulate draft letter for input.

Reading of the Minutes (April)

Moved, seconded and approved.

Correspondence

MD/DC AFL-CIO, 6/15/2018, Salute to Leadership: moved, seconded and approved to take a full-page ad (\$500) and a table (\$1,500).

IBEW 1900 6/22/2018 Golf Tournament: moved, seconded and approved to sponsor a tee (\$100).

Total approved: \$2,100

Financial Report: Budget Report

Amir Malek reviewed reports. Bottom line is that the Council's financial position is \$200K stronger than this time last year. Discussion about systemic improvements that have been made in billing/collecting per capita in last two years. President Jeter directed that a letter and follow-up calls be made to those locals with outstanding debts and that a decision be made about how long -- 3 years? -- to carry that on the books. She's also asked Jo Combs to draft a job description -- temporary to start but intended to be full-time (need to check with NewsGuild on what the CBA says about such a position) -- for a position to cover some of the office work that needs to be done for the Metro Council to function effectively. Moved and seconded to receive; approved.

Evening with Labor: Discussion about whether and how -- what format -- to continue this annual event, with concerns about purpose, noise, etc.

#### President's Report: Candidate Endorsements

President Jeter thanked the COPE committees for all their hard work on the interview and endorsement process and asked Political Director David Dzidzienyo to share the recommendations (see below).

#### District of Columbia

##### 2018 Primary Election Candidates

District of Columbia - Mayoral Candidate: No Recommendation

District of Columbia City Council - Chairman Candidate: Phil Mendelson

District of Columbia - Attorney General Candidate: Karl Racine

District of Columbia City Council - At-Large Candidate: Anita Bonds

District of Columbia City Council - Ward 1 Candidate: Brianne Nadeau

District of Columbia City Council - Ward 5 Candidate: Kenyon McDuffie

District of Columbia City Council - Ward 6 Candidate: Charles Allen

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendations above, except for the Mayor's race; approved with one dissenting vote. Discussion ensued on the Mayoral endorsement, including the question of how to streamline the Metro Council's interview and endorsement process. Moved (Renne) and seconded (Harris) to endorse Muriel Bowser for Mayor of DC. Unanimously approved.

#### Prince George's/Montgomery County Committee on Political Education (COPE) Endorsement Recommendations

##### Montgomery County Council At-Large

##### 2018 Primary Election Candidates

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Charles Barkley

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Brandy Brooks

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Danielle Metiv

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Chris Wilhelm

Discussion ensued: Moved (Harris) and seconded (Washington) to change Barkley endorsement to "No Recommendation"; approved. Moved (Renne) and seconded (Washington) to accept the other recommendations; approved.

##### Montgomery County Council

##### 2018 Primary Election Candidates

Montgomery County District 001: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 003: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 004: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 005: Tom Hucker

Discussion: Moved (Renne) and seconded (Greenhill) to endorse Nancy Navarro in District 4; approved. Moved (Renne) and seconded (Jeter) to endorse James McGee in District 1; approved. Ben Snyder, District 3 was recommended (above "No Recc" is an error); approved. District 5 Hucker approved.

Prince George's County Council At-Large

2018 Primary Election Candidates

Prince George's County Council At-Large: Gerron Levi

Prince George's County Council At-Large: Karen Toles

Discussion: moved/seconded to accept recommendations; approved.

Prince George's County Council

2018 Primary Election Candidates

Prince George's County District 001: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 002: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 005: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 008: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 009: No Recommendation

Discussion: Dist 1: Tom Dernoga moved/seconded; Dist 2: Deni Tavaras moved/seconded; approved. Dist 5: Moved and seconded to accept "No Recc". Dist 8: Moved and seconded to accept "No Recc". Dist 9: Sidney Harris moved, seconded and approved. Dist 6 and 7: No Recc; moved, seconded and approved.

Prince George's County Board of Education

2018 Primary Election Candidates

Prince George's County District 002: Joshua M. Thomas

Prince George's County District 003: Juwan Blocker

Prince George's County District 006: Pat Fletcher

Prince George's County District 009: Arun Puracken

Moved and seconded to accept recc; approved.

Moved, seconded and approved to endorse Cynthia Collins for the PG Democratic Central Cttee At-Large.

Initiative 77 (DC); DC COPE recommends support for this initiative. Moved and seconded to accept recommendation; approved.

Adjourned 7pm

## **UNION CITIES May 2018 Report**

### **Chris Garlock**

Union City subscribers are now at **33,504**, up **867** from last month, almost entirely thanks to outreach at the ongoing DC LaborFest/Labor Film Festival.

Our **Facebook** page reach over the last month was 5,268, a **66% increase** – again largely driven by LaborFest/Labor FilmFest events -- while our Twitter following held steady at **4,116** followers. Our website traffic also held steady in April at **3.4K users**, including 3.1K new users.

These communications platforms, plus the [www.dclabor.org](http://www.dclabor.org) website, **Union City Radio (WPFW)** and **Your Rights At Work (WPFW)** continue to enable the Council to effectively disseminate local labor news and promote events organized by Council affiliates, as well as other local and national labor events.

*right: screenshot of @dclabor retweet of SEIU 32BJ tweet*



On May 1 I hosted the first-ever “**Workers of the World, Unite!**” **Union City Radio May Day Special**” on WPFW 89.3FM, a 4-hour show with guests including AFL-CIO director of policy and special counsel **Damon Silvers**, **Christian Sweeney**, AFL-CIO Deputy Director of Economic Power & Growth, **Michael Zuyus** (JetBlue crew member), **Justin Bloesch** (Harvard Economics grad student), longtime organizer **Heather Booth**, “Dictionary of Marx” organizer **John Feffer** and Labor411 president **Cherri Senders**, host of the Labor 411 Union Beer and Whiskey Tasting.

Other highlights of the **ongoing DC LaborFest** included well-attended opening week screenings of “The Young Karl Marx” and “Strike” and packed screening/discussions at “Heather Booth: Changing the World” and “Zero Weeks,” as well as overflow crowds for our co-sponsored events with the Goethe Institute.

**Your Rights At Work (WPFW 89.3FM, Thursdays 2-3p) guests in April included:** **David Stephen**, ATU 689; **Ray Lee**, UFCW 1994/MCGEO Organizing Coordinator; **Will Attig**, Union Veterans Council Executive Director; **Bob Moses**, voting rights organizer, and founder of The Algebra Project; **Alan Hanson**, UFCW 400 mobilization director; **Ralph Nader**; **Bernice Yeung**, author: “In a Day’s Work: The Fight to End Sexual Violence Against America’s Most Vulnerable Workers”; American Prospect editor **Harold Meyerson**.

**Database update:** Total members: 33,484; “Bad” emails: 7,844; Duplicates: 4,251 groups. Many of the “bad” emails may actually be working emails that have “bounced” too many times; many of the “duplicates” are records with similar names (e.g. A Adams) that are actually different people; we need to manually review these records to determine the correct status so that the database can be cleaned up.

## Union City coverage, April 2018

<http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/04-2018>

Highlights include:

MACY'S WORKERS PREP FOR  
NEGOTIATIONS

"LANDMARK" AGREEMENT ALLOWS  
GEORGETOWN GRAD STUDENTS TO VOTE  
ON  
UNION



BALTIMORE-DC BUILDING TRADES AND CSA  
RECOGNIZED FOR DIVERSITY WORK

DC RESIDENTS URGED TO SPEAK OUT AT DC  
WATER TOWN HALLS

AFT HONORS WOMEN LABOR LEADERS

KING'S AGENDA FOR WORKING PEOPLE

RESONATES 50 YEARS LATER

DC TEACHERS WALK OUT IN ANACOSTIA

UNION BLAMES HOGAN FOR WEEKEND RIOT,  
STAFF INJURIES

SUPPORT GROWS FOR RN ORGANIZING AT JOHNS  
HOPKINS

SAFEWAY AND GIANT WORKERS READY TO FIGHT FOR BETTER CONTRACT NEXT  
YEAR

DC WORKERS VOW TO FIGHT WAGE THEFT

BANK OF LABOR PREPS MCKINLEY TECH STUDENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

STATE WORKERS STEP UP TO ENFORCE  
NEW CONTRACT

LABORERS LEND A HELPING HAND

METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL

ENDORSES POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

TAKOMA PARK CITY WORKERS SETTLE  
CONTRACT

AFGE REMEMBERS VICTIMS OF  
OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING 23 YEARS

AFTER, REFLECTS ON DANGERS OF  
ANTI-GOVERNMENT RHETORIC

TRI-COUNTY COPE CHAIR BILL GROOMS  
DIES

STAGE UNION STEPS UP ORGANIZING  
EFFORT

EPA STAFFERS, SUPPORTIVE



LAWMAKERS DEMAND PRUITT OUSTER  
LOCAL ORGANIZING HELPS LIFT LABOR TO HISTORIC WEEK  
DC CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHERS TAKE TO THE STREETS  
IBEW 26 MEMBERS AND CONTRACTORS WIN WBC CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS  
GW GRAD STUDENT UNION STAGES "GRADE-INS"

**Date:** May 21, 2018  
**To:** Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO Executive Board  
**From:** David Dzidzienyo, Director of Political/Legislative Affairs  
**Subject:** COPE Report

The Committee on Political Education Department (COPE) has continued to make progress while addressing affiliate concerns, strengthening our infrastructure and building the Council's political strength and influence. Listed below are some important dates for your review, along with a few important updates.

### **2018 Political Calendar Important Dates:**

- Tuesday, June 26, 2018 - State of Maryland Primary Election
- Tuesday, June 19, 2018 – District of Columbia Primary Election

### **District of Columbia Committee on Political Education (COPE):**

On Friday, May 11, the District of Columbia Committee on Political Education concluded its 2018 Primary Electoral candidate interview process. To date, the COPE committee has convened candidate interviews for the following electoral races:

- *U.S. Congressional Representative*
- *District of Columbia Mayor*
- *District of Columbia City Council Chairman*
- *District of Columbia - Attorney General*
- *District of Columbia City Council - At-Large*
- *District of Columbia City Council - Ward 1*
- *District of Columbia City Council - Ward 5*
- *District of Columbia City Council - Ward 6*

### **Affiliate Meetings**

On May 2, 2018, I attended several meetings with Councilmember Gray and Nadeau's office. I was accompanied by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineering and Trainmen/State Legislative District of Columbia Representative, Herbert Harris. The purpose of the meetings was to advocate for an increase in the FY19 budget for the State Rail Safety office.



### **Jobs with Justice/Just Pay Coalition**

On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, I met with Elizabeth Falcon who is the Executive Director for Jobs with Justice. The purpose of this meeting was to get a better sense of the each organization's priorities moving forward; and to see how we can support each organization's political and legislative efforts. The conversation was very fruitful. We plan on having bi-monthly meetings to gage our progress.

### **Poor People's Campaign**

On Monday, May 14, 2018, I attended the Poor People's Campaign rally where Dr. William Barber and others spoke about the daily injustices that our society is dealing with. He also discussed how working together, commitment and a strategic approach are key to bringing a resolution to these injustices and criminal actions. The common theme he stressed was accountability. On Friday, May 18, 2018, I attended the Poor People's Campaign committee meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to take an assessment of how successful the May 14<sup>th</sup> Poor People's rally was. Also, the meeting was an opportunity to decide what needs to be done moving forward and what responsibilities everyone would be tasked with.

### **Legislative Update:**

#### **Paid Leave**

At this time, the Paid Leave Coalition is working on developing responses to the Department of Employment Services (DOES) Paid Leave program regulations proposal. The coalition wants to ensure that the regulations that are being proposed do not discourage individuals from utilizing the program.

### **Prince George's/Montgomery County Committee on Political Education (COPE):**

On May 7, 2018, the Prince George's/Montgomery County Committee on Political Education (COPE) concluded its 2018 Primary Electoral candidate interview process. To date, the COPE committee has convened candidate interviews for the following electoral races:

- Prince George's House of Delegates
- Prince George's State Senate
- Prince George's County Council At-Large
- Prince George's County Council
- Prince George's County Board of Education
- Montgomery County House of Delegates
- Montgomery County State Senate
- Montgomery County Council At-Large
- Montgomery County Council
- Congressional Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8

### **TriCounty Committee on Political Education (COPE):**

On Tuesday, March 27, the TriCounty Committee on Political Education concluded its interviews. To date, the TriCounty COPE committee convened candidate interviews for the following electoral races:

- *Charles County Legislative District 27C*
- *Charles County Legislative District 28*
- *Charles County Legislative District 28*
- *Charles County Legislative District 28*
- *St. Mary's County Legislative District 29B*
- *St. Mary's County, County Commissioner President*
- *Charles County, County Commissioner President*
- *Charles County, Commissioner District 001*
- *Charles County, Commissioner District 002*
- *Charles County, Commissioner District 003*
- *Charles County, Commissioner District 004*
- *Calvert County, County Commissioner At-Large*
- *Calvert County, County Commissioner District 001*
- *Calvert County, County Commissioner District 003*
- *Charles County, Democratic Central Committee*
- *Calvert County, Judge of the Orphans Court*

On Wednesday April 25, 2018 I attended the funeral of former TriCounty Committee on Political Education (COPE) Chair, the Honorable Bill Grooms. Mr. Grooms was the COPE Chair for over forty years and just recently stepped down from his position. He was instrumental in building our political influence in the TriCounty County area and well respected by all. Mr. Grooms had a profound impact on so many lives he came in contact with. He will be sorely missed by the TriCounty family and all of labor. The TriCounty COPE is currently discussing how we would like to pay tribute to Brother Grooms for the many years of service to the labor movement.



## **Endorsements**

Attached for your review is the list of final endorsements recommendations from the District of Columbia, Prince George's/Montgomery County area.

*Prince George's/Montgomery County  
Committee on Political Education (COPE)  
**Endorsement Recommendations***

### **Montgomery County Council At-Large**

#### **2018 Primary Election Candidates**

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Charles Barkley

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Brandy Brooks

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Danielle Metiv

Montgomery County Council At-Large: Chris Wilhelm

### **Montgomery County Council**

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Montgomery County District 001: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 003: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 004: No Recommendation

Montgomery County District 005: Tom Hucker

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#### **2018 Primary Election Candidates**

Prince George's County Council At-Large: Gerron Levi

Prince George's County Council At-Large: Karen Toles

### **Prince George's County Council**

#### **2018 Primary Election Candidates**

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Prince George's County District 002: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 005: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 008: No Recommendation

Prince George's County District 009: No Recommendation

## ***Prince George's County Board of Education***

### ***2018 Primary Election Candidates***

*Prince George's County District 002: Joshua M. Thomas*

*Prince George's County District 003: Juwan Blocker*

*Prince George's County District 006: Pat Fletcher*

*Prince George's County District 009: Arun Puracken*

*District of Columbia*  
*Committee on Political Education (COPE)*  
***Endorsement Recommendations***

***District of Columbia***

***2018 Primary Election Candidates***

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*District of Columbia - Attorney General Candidate: Karl Racine*

*District of Columbia City Council - At-Large Candidate: Anita Bonds*

*District of Columbia City Council - Ward 1 Candidate: Brianne Nadeau*

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*District of Columbia City Council - Ward 6 Candidate: Charles Allen*

## **Strategic Campaign Organizer May Report/Exit Report**

*Megan Fitzgerald*

I want to start out by thanking the board for giving me the opportunity to be part of the labor council. I have had great experiences and enjoyed working on issues I am passionate about. Please keep in touch! Below I am outlining work that should continue in my absence and suggestions of who should do that work.

### **Committees and Working Groups**

Part of my work responsibilities is to organize several smaller meetings of delegates and affiliates according to their industry/sector. My time commitment for each committee greatly varies. Every committee is different and is moving at different paces.

#### **Transportation Committee**

Next meeting will be June 12, 2018

Chris/David should attend and assist where needed.

#### **Healthcare Committee**

The committee should meet again in June/July to discuss new potential legislation to work on. David/Chris will need to circle back with the group to establish a next meeting time and work with the committee.

#### **K-12 Education Committee**

The committee met and discussed crafting language that could show solidarity among unions but also act as an organizing tool. Chris/David should continue to follow up with this committee and determine meeting dates, and program the group would like to push.

#### **Code of Conduct Training**

The labor council will need to identify a new point person to go through the code of conduct training and act as a designee.

**Water Bill Issue:**

The water coalition continues to meet but is disappointed on what they have gotten from the mayor. Herbert Harris and David should at the very least stay in touch with the campaign and help out where it is necessary.

**Poor People's Campaign:**

The first poor people's Moral Monday was a great success. Over 300 people, many which were labor showed up for the event. Shout out to UFCW 400, UFCW MCGEO, Liuna, 32Bj, ATU 689, AFGE and anyone I missed that attended. Here are the upcoming Moral Mondays. We hope to have a large showing June 11. David and Chris should continue to engage in the Poor People's Campaign.

Each week the events will focus on a particular theme:

Week Two (May 20-26) – Linking Systemic Racism and Poverty: Voting Rights and Immigration

Week Three (May 27-June 2) - The War Economy: Militarism and the Proliferation of Gun Violence

Week Four (June 3-9) - Ecological Devastation and Health

Week Five (June 10-16) – Everybody's Got the Right to Live: Education, Jobs, Income and Housing

Week Six (June 17-22) – A New and Unsettling Force

June 23rd – Mass rally in Washington, D.C. and Global Day of Solidarity

**Other Tasks, Projects, that someone will need to cover:**

- Manage Cope Page: Chris will probably take over
- Prep for Board Meetings/Delegate Meetings: Chris will probably take over
- Sorting mail, logging checks, making copies: TBD
- Attend Jobs with Justice steering committee: TBD
- Data entry work: Chris will take over
- Pulling on LAN date: David/National will assist