

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
DELEGATE MEETING
January 31, 2019

6:45: delegate meeting called to order

New delegates sworn in: Dave Schlein, Pathenia Proctor, Keith Hooks

Minutes: change Roxie Mejia to Painters DC 51; Myra Hines (DCNA); Larry Kasecamp, SMART, UTU no longer exists. Moved, seconded and approved.

Correspondence: no action items to report

Evening with Labor: Chris Garlock reported that the Feb 1 ad deadline will be extended a week, so if you want to take out an ad, please let us know asap. Ticket sales are going well but still well short of the 800 goal, so please get your orders in asap. Reminded everyone that parking at Martin's is free. Pres. Jeter reminded delegates that "this evening is all about us, it's about organized labor, let's celebrate our solidarity."

Financial report: Eric Bunn reported on the Council's financial status as of December 31, 2018. The Board has been working on the 2019 budget and has moved a budget, with a focus on expanding our political activities in all our jurisdictions. Last year was a good year, all things considered, especially with the Janus decision. Moved (Farenthold) and seconded (Clay) to approve the financial report. Questions/discussion.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock reported on the recent government shutdown/lockout by President Trump. He thanked everyone for their help in whatever capacity, and noted that Union Cities used every available communication tool, including Union City, Union City Radio, and our social media – including Facebook and Twitter -- to keep the local labor movement engaged, involved and informed. Garlock asked Eric Bunn to report on the impact/effect on AFGE's members, who bore the brunt of those effects. Eric spoke eloquently about the hardships endured by government workers, many of whom were forced to work 35 days without pay. Garlock and Bunn both asked delegates to spread the word about the AFGE lawsuit against the government, which workers must opt in to in order to be included. Garlock also reported on the January Bread and Roses event with BLET; Herb Harris reported that it was a very successful event, with a good turnout and discussion. Garlock previewed upcoming events on 2/6 and 2/19. Also special thanks to those who contributed food, including AIL (thanks George Farenthold) and

ATU 689's Roland Jeter, who helped deliver all the food to a local foodbank. Discussion ensued about what to do in case there's another shutdown. Approved unanimously.

BOARD ELECTION

Pres. Jeter noted that the election committee was not appointed in December, as mandated by the Council's constitution, so permission was requested – and received – by the AFL-CIO to move the election to March (rather than February, as per the constitution); nominations will be at the February meeting and the election at the March meeting. President Jeter reported that she had recommended to the Board that the following election committee be appointed: Ann Hoffman (Chair), Benjamin Pryor, Michael Spiller, David Fernandez-Barrial, Faye Lawson. The Board approved the recommendation and it was moved (Harris), and seconded (Farenthold) to approve the election committee as appointed; approved unanimously. Pres. Jeter said that the committee will be notifying all affiliates about the election, as well as about their delegates – how many they're entitled to, how many (and who) they have designated.

Shutdown next steps: President Jeter reiterated that while it's to be hoped that there will not be another shutdown, the Metro Council is prepared to support its affiliates and the local and national labor movement in the event that it does happen. Extensive discussion on the shutdown/lockout ensued. Among the concerns is that contract workers won't get any back pay, although there is movement on Capitol Hill on legislation on this issue.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

Sonte DuCote reviewed CSA's mission for new delegates. She reported that CSA had been very busy supporting locals affected most by the recent shutdown, and unfortunately many area workers continue to be impacted, so those efforts continue. Over \$10,000 in contributions came in, as well as pledge of \$10,000 from United Way. Resources are available online on CSA's website.

Last Sunday's bowling tournament had great participation, almost 200 bowlers in the morning, over 125 in the afternoon. Lots of locals participated again this year, thanks to everyone who came out!

Building Futures Program: new cohort underway. Eric Bunn thanked Sonte and AFGE for all the help during the shutdown; noted that the community really came together during this crisis, everyone from the DC government to WMATA, even MD Governor Hogan. David Richardson reminded everyone that the 50/50 raffle benefits CSA.

COPE

David Dzidzienyo noted that the DC City Council had stepped up to help out during the shutdown.

There were 400,000 unregistered union members as of last year; we're about to ramp up our outreach efforts to register union members, including adding voter registration

forms to the COPE page.

At the Feb. 12 COPE meeting we're hoping to have Elissa Silverman; will have confirmation of that by COB 2/1.

Reported on IATSE legislation -- Special Event Safety Certification Act of 2019 -- under consideration by DC City Council.

Right to Work & Fight for \$15 fights; will be coming up in Annapolis; stay tuned for details as soon as we know more. Key is that it really helps when groups show up, especially coalitions.

Update on the hospital struggles, including Providence and East End. Working with the Council's healthcare committee to change the dynamics on how hospitals can be shut down with a piece of legislation. Extensive discussion ensued, including the issue of which politicians are really deserving of labor support.

David noted that the hospital and healthcare issue will be the subject of discussion at the February 19 LaborFest screening at the Takoma Busboys and Poets, starting at 6pm.

Eric Bunn: Annual legislative conference coming up in mid-February, including march on Feb 12; will get details to Chris for Union City ASAP; please join us!

REPORTS

Yahnae Barner, 1199 SEIU: UMC/UHS campaign continuing; legislation at DC City Council. Need to urge DC mayor not to move forward with UHS. Day of Action planned for Feb 8; will get details out ASAP. UHS is bad for DC, bad for workers, bad for patients.

Chuck Clay, IATSE 22: Reported on victory organizing PSAV riggers; will be an election but we already have 95% cards signed. Then the hard part of getting a contract. On 2/20 will be testifying at DC Council on a partnership with DC Cable, film and entertainment; training and education program for DC residents on 22's referral list. Good example of how labor and the city can work together.

AIL/George Fahrenthold: Reported that AIL waived premiums for all fed government workers during (and after) the shutdown. It's a grant, not a loan; "just part of the deal" at AIL.

Adjourned 8:50pm

50/50 won by Ben Pryor