

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Executive Board: April 20, 2020**



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Financial reports

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Executive Board Meeting Agenda
April 20, 2010 (via Zoom)**

- 3P: Call to Order**
 - Roll Call of Officers**
 - Minutes**
 - Correspondence**
 - Financial Reports**
 - President's Report**
 - Election Committee Report**
 - Evening with Labor Report**
 - Board Member Reports**
 - Committee Reports**
 - Organizational Reports:**
 - Community Services Agency*
 - COPE/Political and Legislative Campaigns*
 - Claimant Advocacy Program*
 - Union Cities*
- 6:00P: Adjourn**

Executive Board Minutes February 18, 2020

3:22p Executive Board meeting called to order.

Minutes (January): D Briscoe. Liz Davis, Gina Walton all present at January meeting; moved (Richardson), seconded (Farenthold); approved to accept the minutes.

Evening With Labor: Chair George Farenthold reviewed the report and asked Board members to step up with ads and tickets. Turner Award recommendation for both Bunn and Contreras. Discussion ensued. Question about the criteria for the organizing award (Liz Davis). Request for criteria for all awards be re-circulated. Moved (Farenthold), seconded (Briscoe) to accept recommendation of the committee. Unanimously accepted.

Financial reports (Jan 2020): Financial Secretary Bunn reviewed. Motion to adopt (Farenthold), seconded (Havard); approved.

Bunn circulated the proposed 2020 budget. Staff was then asked to leave the room (3:45p) Discussion ensued on staff raises; George Farenthold made motion to accept proposed salary budget for 2020; seconded by Dave Richardson. Eric Bunn stated that he did not approve Chris Garlock sending a letter about which unions were delinquent in their per cap payments

4:33 Staff invited back in.

Union City

Coordinator Chris Garlock asked for reports:

Dyanna Forester (UFCW 400): Safeway/Giant; pensions are a huge sticking point in negotiations. If things don't get better, we'll be on strike next week.

Don Havard (IUOE 99): Dyncorp and Safeway/Collington report. Dyncorp "came running back 2 days after our strike vote" and Local 99 hopes to approve a new contract very soon.

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Sonte DuCote reported on this year's bowling tourney, thanked everyone for their support.

Labor Night at the Nats coming up 7/24 against the Atlanta Braves.

Graduated class that's part of DOL training program that includes a younger cohort than we normally work with.

Annual appeal for Emergency Assistance Fund has gone out, please respond with your 2020 contribution.

Previewed what's coming down the pike for 2020; working on some branding for CSA, including a new logo.

COPE

Legislative Director David Stephen reviewed his report, highlighting the Norman anti-union amendment and Bill 23-531 in DC City Council; warned that the Mayor has been fighting this Act vigorously. Also, the Feb 3 Candidate Education Forum was a big success. Finally, reviewed the draft 2020 DC City Council candidate questionnaire. Board members expressed their enthusiasm for the Forum and the streamlined questionnaire; discussion ensued. Moved (Farenthold), seconded (Clay) to approved the questionnaire; unanimously approved.

Re Congressional endorsements: no formal process due to short process; discussion Friday re the four districts, 3, 4, 5 and 8 (Trone did not submit a questionnaire) and DC. Recc is Norton in DC, and all incumbents in the other districts. Moved (Bunn), seconded (Davis) to recc to State AFL-CIO. Discussion: Bunn noted that Raskin is now in one of his AFGE locals. Approved unanimously.

Board reports: None

Moved, seconded and approved to adjourn at 5:10pm

Submitted by Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary

**Executive Board Minutes
Emergency Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2020
Via Zoom conference call, commencing at 10 a.m.**

*Attendance: Dena Briscoe; Donna Brockington; Eric Bunn; Robin Burns; Chuck Clay; Cynthia Collins; Elizabeth Davis; George Farenthold; Daniel Fields; Stephen Frum; Djawa Hall; Donald Havard; Robert Hollingsworth; Roxana Mejia; Doris Reed; David Richardson; Wanda Shelton-Martin; Gina Walton; Andrew Washington
Also attending: Louis Davis; Dyana Forester; David Fernandez-Barrial*

Andrew Washington, Acting Council President, opened the meeting with encouraging words and gratitude for first responders in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; informed council members of AFL-CIO providing Zoom licenses to CLCs nationwide in order to conduct virtual meetings. AFL-CIO President, Richard Trumka, expressed to all council leaders his desire for delegate and executive board meetings to continue.

President Trumka asked for the executive board's decision on when to hold elections after he was made aware of the election committee's recommendation of May 18th. David Richardson said he supports all COPE recommendations and Chuck Clay said he agrees with holding the election on May 18th but is concerned about how the election will happen. Liz Davis also expressed concern about how the election will happen, specifically using Zoom. Stated she would prefer an alternative to virtual [Zoom] voting, in particular, using mail voting.

Liz Davis countered the AFL-CIO's reluctance to use mail ballots due to affiliate and local offices being closed with a recommendation stating all mail ballots go to the homes of the delegates and members (address database management covered by a 3rd party, ie. TrueBallot). She also recommended each delegate providing main addresses for their affiliates.

Eric Bunn also expressed concern about using mail ballots and Zoom for the election due to all the reasons expressed by AP Washington and Davis. Suggested further research be done on voting alternatives. Washington responded in regard to the potential for people to fraudulently pose as delegates and affiliates by stating security protocols can be put in place to protect against this. Gina Walton, a member of the election committee, stated that it's to her understanding, per the meetings at which she was present, alternative voting methods were discussed and said information was to be taken to the AFL-CIO for further recommendations.

Eric Bunn expressed his concern about not being fully included in the decision-making process, which has made it difficult to fulfill his responsibilities as treasurer regarding the election.

Wanda Shelton-Martin asked if the executive board has the authority to vote on what is presented to the election committee once recommendations have been made. AP Washington stated the executive board has the final say regarding recommendations to Trumka. Doris Reed followed up and asked if the tentative May 18th election date was recommended by the election committee and sanctioned by the AFL-CIO. AP Washington responded by saying the date was recommended by the election committee but is not sanctioned by the AFL-CIO. He also answered her question about the AFL-CIO's role in the election by saying it acts as a governing body.

AP Washington cleared up a miscommunication with Robert Hollingsworth regarding the election committee document being driven by staff and not the election committee, informing Hollingsworth that the document came directly from David Fernandez-Barrial, the election

committee chairperson, and addressed ways to move forward with the election. AP Washington told Fernandez-Barrial he wanted to not only have a conversation with the executive board about the recommendations, but also have a delegate meeting, per Pres. Trumka's direction.

Robert Hollingsworth recommended implementing two-step verification which would include holding the election via Zoom as Step 1, and the election committee following up with each voter submission as Step 2. Chris Garlock stated that the two-step verification process, per David Fernandez-Barrial, will be the delegate's email address and cell phone number.

Liz Davis asked again about why mail ballots aren't being considered. Chris Garlock said the delegates' home addresses are a moving target, in that they have changed or delegates haven't provided home addresses. Robin Burns recommended making an appeal to all delegates to provide home addresses, at the very least. Burns, along with Wanda Shelton-Martin also expressed concern about Zoom's recent security hack.

Chris Garlock went over the four levels of security used on Zoom, which include: 1) Approved registration 2) Meeting-specific passwords 3) Vetting people using the Zoom waiting room 4) Turning on video; Garlock also described the online polling feature via Zoom and using the tally of votes in conjunction with LaborKey.

Gina Walton asked if regular executive board meetings were supposed to be held before delegate meetings. AP Washington responded yes and added that Pres. Trumka also wants to see regular executive board meetings.

Robert Hollingsworth asked if an election test run could be held to be sure of Zoom's functionality. Wanda Shelton-Martin asked for clarification on whether or not official board members will be the only ones allowed to vote (in board meetings). AP Washington confirmed that only elected board members will be allowed to vote on board business.

AP Washington and Don Havard explained the screen and file sharing features on Zoom.

Eric Bunn made a motion to postpone the delegate meeting until an executive board meeting is held. Dan Fields seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Fernandez-Barrial, election committee chairman, and AP Washington elaborated further on the credentialing system via Zoom which will be used in the election. Eric Bunn asked specifically about which system will be tallying votes, which David Fernandez confirmed will be LaborKey.

Eric Bunn asked about the per capita date change and election ground rules. Pres. Washington said he will send whatever decision the board makes to Pres. Trumka and that the constitution allows for a 30-day waiver.

Djawa Hall made a motion to hold an executive board meeting next week to discuss the logistics for holding a May 18th election via Zoom. George Farenthold seconded the motion. Further discussion was held to provide clarification on meeting dates and election logistics. Hall's original motion was withdrawn, then made as a motion to hold a May 18th election via Zoom. George Farenthold seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Gina Walton made a motion to hold the election on June 15th. Dan Fields seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

AP Washington stated that a regular Executive Board meeting via Zoom will happen on Monday, April 20th at 3pm, along with Chris Garlock obtaining delegate contact information and a delegate meeting will be scheduled later that same week. AP Washington also acknowledged receipt of Cynthia's correspondence email and reminded Chris Garlock to send copies to her going forward.

AP Washington will have Chris Garlock email MWC affiliates to ask them to track down members in order to get current contact information.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair

Highlights of activities since our last report in February:

- Cynthia Collins withdrew her candidacy for President of the MWC (3/11/20)
- The March 16 election was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Election Committee, after consulting with the AFL-CIO, recommended that we begin to spread the word about the necessity of conducting business via video and web conferencing, so that the election committee can begin to obtain additional information from delegates, including updated email addresses and Zoom handles and IDs to verify delegates and ensure the widest possible participation.
- The Committee also recommended that the election be conducted via Zoom, which allow us to record the proceedings and allow for the election of MWC officers without the inordinate delays that the ever-changing circumstances could throw at us. The Committee felt that the use of this technology (given that many of our delegates who are in vulnerable population might not participate otherwise) makes sense and allows for a transparency in the process that wasn't possible before.
- Following last week's Board vote to request permission from AFL-CIO president Trumka to hold the election in June, the Committee is now in the process of preparing for the vote by requesting additional contact info from delegates, requesting delegate updates from affiliates, as well as evaluating the various options (i.e. Zoom, mail, in-person) for the vote in June. We expect to present that evaluation and a recommendation soon.

EVENING WITH LABOR REPORT

George Farenthold, Chair

Highlights of activities since our last report in February:

- The 2020 Evening with Labor was rescheduled to Friday, October 16
- Latest status report: 648 tickets sold (118% of 550 minimum guarantee); 55 tables; 59 pages of ads.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY (CSA)
of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO**

Sonte DuCote, Executive Director

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Executive Director has been working to raise funds to support workers who are impacted by the COVID 19 economic crisis. CSA is deeply grateful for the union, ally and foundation support it has received. The following is a list of contributors.

AFGE District Council 14	\$3,700	
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust	\$10,000	
Baltimore DC Building Trades Council	\$5,000	
Greater Washington Community Foundation	\$70,000	Pending Receipt -- For union and community members
Individual Donors	\$2,085	Pending Receipt of \$1,485
IUOE Local 99	\$1,000	
LIUNA Local 11	\$1,000	
Ullico	\$10,000	
United Way National Capital Area	\$20,000	
Unite Here Local 25	\$5,000	
Total	\$127,785	

Affiliates may make a tax deductible contribution payable to Community Services Agency, 815 16th Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006 or by visiting www.communityservicesagency.org.

The Executive Director also reached out to locals largely impacted by COVID-19 layoffs: UNITEHERE, Locals 23 and 25, SEIU 32BJ, IBT 639, IATSE 22, Musicians 161-710. COVID-19 Emergency Assistance requests are trickling. It's anticipated that there will be a drastic uptake in applications as locals/members figure out their needs and as the Executive Director follows up with impacted affiliates.



Emergency assistance for COVID-19 will follow the same guidelines stipulated for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

CSA produced a list of COVID-19 resources posted on dclabor.org and on communityservicesagency.org. New resources are posted as they become available. Resource information is also posted in Spanish thanks to Sylvia Casaro-Dietert, CSA's Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Client Services Coordinator.

The Executive Director with the approval of the Community Services Agency Executive Board has applied for the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program which provides a forgivable loan to cover two months of salary and a portion of rent.

BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program recently graduated two cohorts:

1. Thirteen (13) District of Columbia youth and veterans
2. Twenty-three (23) District of Columbia residents



Grants Awarded

CSA was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Joshua Community Foundation to add a reading literacy component to Building Futures participants who live in Census Tract 47 as well as a \$15,000 grant from the

SHARE Foundation to provide general operating support and supplies for Building Futures.

Labor Night at the Nats

Please Continue to Hold Friday, July 24, 2020, 7:05 PM

Washington Nats vs. Atlanta Braves. Ticket price same as last year -- \$16 each.

Additional questions? Contact Sonté DuCote, Executive Director at: sducote@dclabor.org / Mobile: 202-679-2991 / Office: 202-974-8226

COPE/Legislative Monthly Summary for April 2020

David Stephen, Political Director

DC Council Endorsements



Endorsement Recommendations from DC COPE committee:

At Large: Robert White (incumbent)

Ward 2: Jordan Grossman

Ward 4: Janeese Lewis George

Ward 7: Anthony Lorenzo Green

Ward 8: Trayon White (incumbent)

State/Congressional Updates

The Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) met today on Monday, March 9 to act on recommendations for US Congress in our area.

The COPE voted unanimously to endorse the following candidates for US Congress in the Metropolitan Washington Council's jurisdiction:

- District 3 – John Sarbanes / Website: <https://www.johnsarbanes.com/>
- District 4 – Anthony Brown / Website: <https://anthonybrown.com/>
- District 5 – Steny Hoyer / Website: <https://www.hoyerforcongress.com/>
- District 8 – Jamie Raskin / <https://jamieraskin.com/>
- DC At-Large – Eleanor Holmes Norton

Hearings

DC Committee on Health Hearing, March 5, 2020 at 10 am. Dozens of labor and community allies showed up **to demand that the city ensure world-class healthcare East of the River.**

MEETINGS

- Following March meeting with Mike Battle, Legislative Director to Chairman Phil Mendelsen, coordinated and participated in a conference call directly with DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelsen with IFPTE rep Chris Langford, Judge Bill England, President of IFPTE Judicial Council, Judge Elizabeth Figueroa and Judge Bennett Rushkoff around residency requirement issue for administrative law judges
- Participated in a conference call with health committee on strategy for healthcare furloughs with Medstar and assisted in drafting letter Mayor Bowser
- Weekly participating on COVID-19 efforts from AFL-CIO with Pres. Trumka

- Participated in 2 strategy calls with Jobs with Justice on measures to address “excluded” and undocumented workers with cash assistance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND REPORT FOR GREATER WASHINGTON DC REGION

All updates (including Virginia) can be found on the [legislative update page](#) at DCLabor.org

Federal: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Free testing for coronavirus for all, including the uninsured.
- Emergency paid leave for employees taking unpaid leave due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- Paid leave for those who take leave to quarantine or who are sick.
- Unemployment benefits for laid-off and furloughed workers, and those who have exhausted paid leave.

District of Columbia

- Rents are frozen across the District, meaning the cost of rent cannot increase during the crisis, this applies across the board and not only in rent-controlled homes;
- No evictions or disconnection of electricity, gas, water, cable and telecommunications service
- Unemployment definition expanded to include those who are temporarily unemployed due to this public health emergency
- Expansion of paid medical leave to anyone under quarantine
- Mortgage companies are required to offer payment deferrals of up to 90 days;
- Debt-collection lawsuits and the seizures of cars and other property are prohibited;
- The definition of employment has expanded to include self-employment, gig workers, and those seeking part-time work
- A \$25 million grant program has been established for D.C. hospitals to buy equipment, hire staff and build temporary hospitals (Council Chairman Phil Mendelson said the District expects to get that money back from federal relief efforts);
- Every voter in the June 2 primary and the Ward 2 special election on June 16 will get an application for an absentee ballot in the mail, with return postage paid.

Maryland

- Unemployment benefits extended to workers quarantined, who leave their jobs due to the risk of exposure, whose employers temporarily close, or to care for an infected family member.
- No disconnections or late fees for electric, gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and Internet service provider companies.
- All housing evictions prohibited.
- Maryland schools can now provide up to three free meals a day for students across the state during the school closure.

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney

Took part in consulting, counseling, advising and representing claimants in unemployment compensation matters.

In addition to this the CAP attorneys:

1. Invoiced for the month of February and March for a total of \$69,062.50.
2. Assisted hundreds of union and non-union members in accessing the UI system in DC, with multiple emails, calls and texts to POC at DOES.
3. Took part in conference calls with agency leadership and a host of legal service providers throughout the end of March into April. Established an on-going caucus with legal service providers on recent and upcoming changes.
4. Assisted and reviewed the D.C. Counsel Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on policy recommendations for amending the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Law and Regulations regarding COVID19 and expand assistance beyond UI.
5. Monitored hearings with the DC City Council on the bill affecting UI. Monitored and made recommendations for procedural changes with Office of Administrative Hearings and DOES as it relates to claimants and access to information.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

In the weeks leading up to the declaration of COVID-19 emergency orders, I worked closely with Acting President Washington, MWC staff and the AFL-CIO to coordinate our response, including the shut-down of the Metro Washington Council's offices and the establishment of remote work for all staff, effective March 16.

Since then, I have continued to coordinate closely with everyone involved to ensure continuity of the Metro Council's ability to carry out our responsibilities to our affiliates and the local labor movement.

A major component of that work has involved establishing and maintaining the MWC professional Zoom account via the AFL-CIO, to facilitate remote meetings for MWC staff, the Board, Election Committee and even a LaborFest virtual screening.



Here are highlights of my other work:

Union City, Union City Radio, MWC social media

Produced, published and distributed latest local labor news on the MWC's Union City daily, Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) and Facebook/Twitter feeds, including extensive coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts of DC-area unions and workers.

NOTE: Union City has appeared every weekday since March 16; Union City Radio is now on 7 days a week (formerly was on weekdays only); Your Rights At Work has broadcast every Thursday as usual, with an additional hour of coverage on April 2.

METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO
Bringing DC Labor Together since 1896

LABOR CALENDAR
4/16/2020

Union City Radio: 7:15am daily
WPFW-FM 89.3 FM; [click here to hear today's report](#)

Union City Radio: Your Rights at Work: Thursday, April 16-1:00 – 2:00pm
WPFW 89.3 FM or [listen online](#)

This week's guests: JOHN BOARDMAN, UNITE HERE LOCAL 25: Update on hotel workers; KATIE BARROWS, NPEU: Why we're still organizing; TONI GILPIN, "The Long Deep Grudge: A

REAL SUPERHEROES

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COVID RESOURCES
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CALENDAR
[UNION CITY RADIO](#)

I have worked with all MWC staff to keep the labor community informed about news and resources on the local response to the pandemic, including keeping our website and social media up-to-date, with the website – including the COPE, CAP and CSA pages – often updated multiple times each day as updates come in. I set up links on the

front page to our COVID RESOURCES (left): Community Services; En Espanol; Unemployment Help; Legislative Updates, MWC Staff.

Here are the sites:

dclabor website:

<https://www.dclabor.org/>

<https://www.dclabor.org/community-services.html>

<https://www.dclabor.org/espanol>

<https://www.dclabor.org/unemployment-help.html>

<https://www.dclabor.org/legislative-updates>

<https://www.dclabor.org/leaders--staff.html>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DCLabor>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dclabor>

Evening With Labor: Rescheduled for October 16.

MWC meetings: Coordinated with AP Washington and the Board to hold emergency meetings via conference call and Zoom; also to set up ability to hold the Delegate Meetings via Zoom; including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc.

MWC Election Committee: Provided staff support to the 2020 MWC Election Committee.

MWC check log-in: Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks; worked with staff to implement LaborKey system.

Your Rights At Work

Focus on shows since March 3 has been the COVID-19 pandemic. Guests have included: **LIZ SHULER** (AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer); Labor takes on Coronavirus; DC Councilmember **ELISSA SILVERMAN**: What DC is doing to help workers; **HEIDI BURAKIEWICZ**, partner at the lawfirm of KCNF DC; Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch: American Federation of Government Employees Sues Government on Behalf of Federal Employees Exposed to Coronavirus. Click here for details: <http://www.dclabor.org/union-city-radio/category/your-rights-at-work>

Union City highlights:

April: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/04-2020>

March: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/03-2020>

February: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/02-2020>

LaborFest/Bread and Roses Series: The Bread and Roses series was on hiatus in February; the plans for a March women's history event were canceled due to the lock-down, and future events are on indefinite hold. In collaboration with AFI Silver, we successfully hosted an online screening of Ken Loach's new film "Sorry We Missed You" on April 14 (introduced by Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday), and will be hosting more such online screenings in the weeks ahead. Academy Award winners Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar will introduce Reichert's classic film "Union Maids" on April 21.

