

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting: May 19, 2020**



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**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting Agenda
May 19, 2010 (via Zoom)**

- 1p: Call to Order**
- Minutes (April 21)**
- Financial Reports**
- President's Report**
- Election Committee Report**
 - **Candidate statements (3-minute max per person)**
- Affiliate Reports**
- Committee Reports**
- Organizational Reports:**
 - Community Services Agency*
 - COPE/Political and Legislative Campaigns*
 - Claimant Advocacy Program*
 - Union Cities*

Adjourn

Metropolitan Washington Council Delegate Meeting

April 21, 2020

- Motion made by Michael Spiller to accept minutes from the previous delegate meeting. Seconded by George Hogan. Motion approved.
- Motion made by President Andrew Washington to accept President's Report. Moved by Richard Murphy. Seconded by Michael Spiller. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Michael Spiller to accept Secretary Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Daniel Fields. Motion approved.
- Motion made by Liz Davis to accept Election Committee's Report. Seconded by George Hogan. Motion approved.
- Motion made by Richard Murphy to accept Evening With Labor Report. Seconded by Robin Burns. Motion approved.
- Motion made by Saul to accept Community Service Report. Seconded by George Hogan. Motion approved.
- Motion made by Ann Hoffman to adopt recommendation of the COPE Committee to endorse the following DC City Council Candidates for the 2020 election: Robert White (Council At-Large), Jordan Grossman (Ward Two), Janiece Lewis (Ward Four), Anthony Lorenzo Green (Ward Seven), Trayon White (Ward Eight). Seconded by Chuck Clay. Motion carried with 55 in favor, two opposed, and three abstains.
- Motion made by Chuck Clay to accept COPE Report. Seconded by Djawa Hall. Motion approved.
- Motion made by George Hogan to accept Union Cities Report. Seconded by Richard Murphy. Motion approved.
- Meeting adjourned.

Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair

Members: Amy Millar, Kathleen Moors, Gina Walton

The MWC's Election Committee on April 28 submitted a report analyzing options for holding the election under the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic; that report recommended that the election be held via Zoom. Subsequently, AFL-CIO staff urged the Election Committee to more thoroughly consider third-party electronic voting, noting that ElectionBuddy, a third-party contractor specializing in conducting remote elections is either being used or considered by other central labor councils and/or state federations.

After conducting a demonstration of ElectionBuddy's system, the Election Committee strongly recommended the use of ElectionBuddy, an online voting tool and election system that's been used in nearly 50,000 elections to improve voter turnout, assure voting integrity, and provide fast, accurate results. It integrates with our current LaborKey system and its simply automated system will enable the Election Committee to complete the election setup in easy steps with extensive online help and email support.

After extensive discussion last week, the MWC board unanimously approved the Election Committee's recommendation and Acting President Andrew Wshington has requested AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka's approval to hold the elections using this system and on the following schedule proposed by the Election Committee pursuant to the MWC's constitutional notification requirements.

Our constitution specifies that "A postponed election shall be held at the first succeeding regular meeting with due notice being given all affiliated organizations, or as may be directed by the AFL-CIO"; due to the online voting set-up and testing necessary, we will not be prepared to hold the election on May 18, as we had originally hoped. The schedule below would enable us to hold it on June 15, our regularly-scheduled meeting date.

2020 METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL ELECTION IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

May 15: Finalize contract with ElectionBuddy, begin work to implement online voting

May 18: Share updated election schedule with MWC Executive Board

May 19: Share updated election schedule with delegates at the May Metro Washington Council meeting. Each candidate to have up to 3 minutes for a statement.

May 20: Email to affiliates/delegates with updated election schedule, reminder to update delegates and pay up if in arrears.

May 27: Email to affiliates/delegates with reminder to update delegates and pay up if in arrears.

May 28: Review/test sample ballot with ElectionBuddy

June 1, 5p: Deadline for candidates to submit copy for Candidate Email Update #1

June 1, 5P: Deadline for candidates to submit copy for mailing (if they wish to do one at their own expense)

June 1: Testing with ElectionBuddy

June 2: Candidate mailing(s) (if any) to printer/mailer

June 2: Email to affiliates/delegates with reminder to update delegates and pay up if in arrears.

June 3, 12 noon: Candidate Update #1 emailed to delegates

June 4: ElectionBuddy: duplicate the test ballot, add the dates and voter list (initial list will be available; final list won't be available until after 6/10), and place the election into a "ready" state. Countdown to the election begins.

June 5: Candidate mailing(s) (if any) out

June 8: 1-week Election notification of all delegates

June 1, 5p: Deadline for candidates to submit copy for Candidate Email Update #2

June 10, 12 noon: Candidate Update #2 emailed to delegates

June 10, 1p: New delegate swearing-in (Special-Called meeting for sole purpose of swearing-in new delegates); last chance to update delegates.

June 10: ElectionBuddy voter list review: ElectionBuddy formats/validate our voter list (emails, phone numbers); we fix errors and duplicates.

June 15: Election (via Zoom and ElectionBuddy)

Monitoring during voting period: ElectionBuddy oversees the election on our behalf, ensuring all voters receive notice and answer any questions. With Voter Inquiry Management, ElectionBuddy staff will receive voter questions and review any issues with our staff/Election Committee and observers (up to 2 per candidate) while ensuring voter anonymity.

June 15: Results and Certification: After voting closes, view the winners and results on electionbuddy.com or with their scrutineering service, they can email an election certification report to us. We can access reports and audit details as needed.

Post Election Challenges: up to 30 days after results are issued. Individual voter questions and the election overall is scrutinized and monitored. Any voter concerns are addressed with the voter and the Election Committee, to ensure an impartial opinion.

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 individual donor and foundation support it has received. The following is a list of contributions.

AFGE District Council 14	\$3,700
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust	\$10,000
AFSCME Council 20	\$7,300
American Fed of Teachers Staff Union	\$2,000
Baltimore DC Building Trades Council	\$5,000
Greater Washington Community Foundation	\$70,000
Individual Donors	\$3,085
IUOE Local 99	\$1,000
Masonry, Stone, Marble, Tile & Terr	\$500
LIUNA Local 11	\$1,000
Plumbers Local 5	\$10,000
SEIU Local 722	\$2,000
Ullico	\$10,000
United Way National Capital Area	\$20,000
<u>UNITE HERE Local 25</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$150,585

To date, \$13,809 has been allocated for rent, utility, car loan and medical bills. \$5,950 has been allocated for Giant Food Gift Cards. To date 48 \$25 gift cards have been distributed (\$1,200).



The executive director is working with UNITEHERE Locals 23 and 25, SEIU Local 32 BJ and has reached out to other locals impacted by COVID-19 layoffs to get referrals for members laid off. Affiliates with members impacted by COVID-19 layoffs should email: sducote@dclabor.org

CSA keeps the lights on for single mom

Renita Harrison, UNITE HERE Local 23 member and a single mom with three teens, is a cook for government contractor Sodexo who's been laid off due to the Covid-19 economic crisis. The Community Services Agency's Emergency Assistance Fund "benefitted me and my family by keeping my electricity on and helping me to juggle my other bills despite my not having a job; it helped me to breathe," said Ms. Harrison.

“This means a lot to my family”

“CSA and 32BJ made the sun shine bright once again.” So says SEIU 32BJ member Joseph Buruca. Laid off in March from his job as a concierge with Total Quality, providing services for the National Football League Players Association, Buruca (photo) is still waiting for his unemployment to come through. “Being the only one who supports my household and being laid off from my job I was feeling super stressed and did not know what to do until 32BJ contacted me about emergency assistance,” said Buruca. The Metro Washington Council’s Community Services Agency covered one of his bills this month; “This means a lot to my family,” said Buruca.



BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Building Futures Client Services Coordinator, Sylvia Casaro-Dietert is gearing up for the next cohort of the Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program. The following are her activities.



- Conducted research and development of a digitized version of the AFL-CIO approved MC3 for distance learning implementation.
- Conducted virtual recruitment events for new candidates, processed intakes and engagement activities to prepare them for the upcoming pre-apprenticeship training cohorts.
- Followed up individually with graduates and shared opportunities re: unsubsidized employment and union registered apprenticeship to meet this quarter's contracts and grants measurable outcomes.
- Maintained regular check-ins with contracts and grant officers to understand expectations and to explore innovative methods of implementation under current and upcoming circumstances in our region.
- Maintained regular check-ins with the building

and construction trades union halls and joint apprenticeship training committees

In addition, the Client Services Coordinator supported the Claimant Advocacy Program with bilingual services as needed.

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

Daily: tracking legislation on the federal level, as well as for Washington DC, Maryland, and local jurisdictions and Virginia (when applicable) and updating webpage with all updates.

Weekly:

Participating in health committee conference call on COVID-19 issues and strategy

Participating in weekly call with Pres. Trumka and AFL-CIO

The screenshot shows a news page with three articles. The first article is titled "WASHINGTON DC: COUNCIL MEETS TO PASS ADDITIONAL COVID-19 MEASURES" dated 4/8/2020. It reports that the Council met via video stream and passed emergency legislation, including requiring landlords to provide payment plans, extending a 60-day prohibition on evictions, and limiting a 15% commission on food delivery. The second article is "MARYLAND & WASHINGTON D.C.: VOTE BY MAIL FOR D.C. AND MARYLAND INFORMATION" dated 4/9/2020, encouraging D.C. voters to request mail-in ballots. The third article is "SAVE THE DATE: DC COUNCIL CANDIDATE TOWN HALL" dated 4/9/2020, with a green banner below it that says "SAVE THE DATE". Each article has a "Like" button, a "Follow" button, and a "Comments" count.

Washington D.C.

- Distributed information on DC Council endorsements to email list, candidates and drafted press release and quotes for Union City.
- Spoke to each campaign team to notify them of endorsement and discuss road forward.
- Planned and conducted Zoom town Halls with endorsed candidates scheduled for 5/13, 5/14, 5/20, 5/21
- Created 10-point plan for ReOpening DC out for review with the mayor's committee members
- Drafted a letter and press release to the Mayor expressing concern over the lack of adequate labor union representation on the ReOpen DC committee



Prince George's/Montgomery County

Planned legislative briefing for 5/8 with COPE Co-Chair Dyana Forester

Meetings:

Participated in call with Congressman Don Beyer coordinated by Virginia AFL-CIO on Zoom and making a proposal to do our own call.

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney

Overall objective: Took part in consulting, counseling, advising and representing claimants in unemployment compensation matters in the District of Columbia. Conferred with claimants, DOES and legal service providers regarding UI, PUA, PUEC and FPUC updates.

In addition to this the CAP attorneys:

1. Invoiced for the month of March and April for a total of \$74,625.50.
2. Assisted hundreds of union and non-union members in accessing the UI system in DC, with multiple emails, calls and texts to POCs at DOES.
3. Took part in conference calls with DOES and OAH leadership and a host of legal service providers throughout the end of April and May. Continuation of discussion with the group of legal service providers on recent changes and issues affecting claimants, UI benefits and the process.
4. Assisted and reviewed the policy recommendations for amending the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Law and Regulations regarding COVID19 and expand assistance beyond UI, particularly regarding safe/healthy working conditions.
5. Monitored and made recommendations for procedural changes with DOES as it relates to claimants, language access issues and access to information for those without computers.
6. CAP attorney appeared as a guest on WPFW's weekly radio show, "Your Rights at Work" to address questions and concerns in relation to unemployment compensation.

UNION CITIES

*Chris Garlock,
Coordinator*

As the COVID-19 emergency orders have been extended, I have continued to work closely with Acting President Washington and the MWC staff to coordinate the remote operation of the Metro Washington



Council and 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 continues to be maintenance and support for the MWC professional Zoom account, facilitating remote meetings for MWC staff, the Board, Election Committee, the LaborFest virtual screenings and, in recent weeks, COPE Town Halls.

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. Union City has continued to appear every weekday since March 16; Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) continues to run 7 days a week (formerly was on weekdays only); Your Rights At Work has broadcast every Thursday as usual, with a special



2-hour program on May Day.

I have continued working 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 – updated as necessary.

Here are the sites:

<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>

photo: May Day labor show on WPFW; co-host Elise Bryant (left), NewsGuild/Washington Post reporter Freddy Kunkle and WPFW Program Director Katea Stitt



MWC meetings: Coordinated with AP Washington and the Board to hold the April Board meeting on April 20 and the delegate meeting on April 21, including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc. Both meetings were well-attended (over 100 at the delegate meeting) and tech issues were relatively minor.

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

MWC check log-in: Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks.

Database updates: Updated MWC and LaborKey databases as necessary.

Your Rights At Work

Recent guests have included:

FRANK STRICKER; Author, “American Unemployment Past, Present, and Future; Lies your economists told you—and the truths that can change the nation”

SETH COOK; Principal tubist for the Washington National Opera and Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, member of the DC Musicians Union and a co-owner of the Takoma Beverage Company

LOLITA MARTIN, Staff Attorney, Claimant Advocacy Program: Updates on filing for Unemployment Insurance in DC

NALISHA MEHTA; meditation and relaxation during the pandemic

ANTHONY RANDOLPH from UNITE HERE LOCAL 23

JOE UEHLEIN with the Labor Network for Sustainability

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>

May: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/05-2020>

LaborFest: The weekly online screening series has been well-attended and participants have expressed much appreciation for the films and the opportunity to connect virtually with their colleagues in the labor movement. Screenings included **Sorry to Bother You** (4/14, introduced by Ann Hornaday, Washington Post); **Union Maids** (4/21, introduced by director Julia Reichert); **Space Jam** (4/28, introduced by journalist Steven Perlberg); **Pride** (5/5 (introduced by Flight Attendants president Sara Nelson, left); **The Moment Was Now** (5/12, introduced by Gene Bruskin).



UPCOMING SCREENINGS:

May 19: Waging Change: with filmmaker Abby Ginzberg, Saru Jayaraman, President of One Fair Wage and Nikki Cole, National Policy Campaign Director

May 26: Eight Men Out, with director John Sayles

June 2: Pride, with Jerame Davis, *Executive Director, Pride At Work*