

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting: June 15, 2020**



<b>Agenda.....</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>Minutes (May 19).....</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>Election Committee Report .....</b>	<b>page 6</b>
<b>Community Services Agency.....</b>	<b>page 7</b>
<b>COPE/Legislative.....</b>	<b>page 10</b>
<b>Claimant Advocacy Program.....</b>	<b>page 11</b>
<b>Union Cities.....</b>	<b>page 12</b>

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting Agenda  
June 15, 2020 (via Zoom)**

- 6:45p: Call to Order**
- Minutes (May 19)**
- Financial Report**
- President's Report**
- 2020 Election**
  - **Candidate statements (3-minute max per person)**
  - **Voting via electronic ballot**
- 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 May 19, 2020 (Via Zoom)**

Roll Call of Delegates

Swearing – in of New Delegates

Meeting called to order

Motion made by Murphy and second by George Farenthold to accept April Delegates report

Treasurers Financial report Eric Bunn as follows:

Transitioning from Labor Key to Quick Books the programs are not responding to each other. Request not to accept April Financial report. Motion Mike Spiller second by Chuck Clay to accept the Report.

President's Report

Mr. Washington reported on the reopening of Washington DC and also he is a member the committee. The chair is La Ruby May, former DC City Councilwoman. Discussed the testing of only Federal and District Employees for COVID 19. Mr. Washington wants testing for the public as well. Maryland reported 900 COVID-19 cases in one day. Half of Federal District Employees live in Prince George's County Maryland.

Mayor Bowser is proposing a 4-year freeze on raises for city workers. Some Employees can telework from home public and private Workers. Every state has to assess their budgets to make cuts.

The second Stimulus package is dead on arrival to the US Senate.

Liz Davis asked to address the freeze with DC Mayor Bowser and the City Council. She further stated that three unions would be affected by the freeze. Survey Mayor City workers budget proposal. Eric Bunn called public sector unions to discuss DC Mayor budget issues. D. Hall stated that 1199 would like to be a part of the conversation. Mr. Bunn discussed the small unions and non profits that would be affected by the freeze and that there a lot of small unions that need to be organizes to join the AFL – CIO. Eric Bunn stated that the mayor's budget will be balanced on the backs of labor and increased monies in other places. O. Banks asked if the freeze breaks the current negotiated contracts and will lose jobs. Union members have applied for unemployment and have not received a check.

Larry Greenhill resigned from the Election Committee and AP Washington appointed Chuck Clay to replace him on the Election committee (approved by the Board). Motion made and seconded to accept the President's report.

Election Buddy has been contracted for up to \$2,500.00 for additional time for the Delegates Meeting and Election.

Election Committee Chair David Fernandez-Barrial reported that election will be held at the June 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting by Zoom; candidates will get 3 minutes each to speak before the election.

La Ruby May – former DC City Councilwoman -- and partner Will Lightfoot plan to introduce a fair workmen’s Comp Law that will benefits all workers, called Public Workers Equality Act. Motion by George Farenthold and seconded by George Hogan to support the legislation.

Ann Hoffman asked for more transparency by including the Delegates in Executive Board Meeting.

#### Election

Eric Bunn requested that Candidates have 5 minutes to speak before the Delegates. It was agreed to extend the time as requested.

Introduction of the Election Committee: Amy Millar, Kathleen Moor, Gina Walton and Chuck Clay.

Candidates name and positions they seeking:

Executive Board: Greg Bowen, George Hogan, Mike Spiller.

President: Eric Bunn, Dyana Forester

Mr. Washington stated that, as the request of the MWC, President Trumka approved the use of ElectionBuddy as the program to use to conduct the MWC Election, which is set for June 15, 6:30 pm. Dan Fields asked about the date and time of the swearing-in of new delegates: 1 PM June 10<sup>th</sup>

Ann Hoffman asked about weighted votes or one person, one vote. It was explained that a motion on whether to vote by weighted vote or not will be made on June 15 and must be approved by 30% of the delegates present, per the constitution.

#### Affiliate reports

Dena Briscoe, APWU president: issues ongoing with Trump trying to privatize the Postal Service.

Federal cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security proposed by the Trump Administration.

Chuck Clay, IATSE 22, organized RC Signature Theatres in Arlington VA.

Delegate Rick Ehrmann of the Washington-Baltimore News Guild moved that the Metropolitan Washington Council conclude the MWC – Guild contract covering MWC’s staff, including all TA’d items and maintaining the status quo regarding health benefits and that MWC staff member David Stephens be retroactively paid his post-probationary pay increase. Delegate Ann Hoffman seconded Ehrmann’s motion. Acting President Andrew Washington ruled the

motion out of order because negotiations with the Guild were not over. He assured the delegates that the contract matter would be settled before his term ended and that the issues regarding staffer David Stevens' post-probation increase would be resolved. Dan Fields asked about the CAP Program salary for the two employees pay increase. Motion made to table conversation about contract negotiations.

#### Affiliates report

E. Falcon, Jobs with Justice, discussed Mayor Bowser's budget for Washington DC. Having a virtual meeting to discuss the upcoming Budget Freeze.

Community Service Agency raised \$150,000 and received two grants, with monies to be used by June 30<sup>th</sup> to help members with their utilities, groceries etc.

#### Building Futures

Sylvia is recruiting members for job training. Motion made by George Hogan, seconded by George Farenthold to accept affiliates reports.

Motion to Adjourn, made by George Farenthold and seconded by Rich Murphy.

Meeting adjourned.

*Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary*

## **ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair*

*Members: Chuck Clay, Amy Millar, Kathleen Moors, Gina Walton*

**The countdown for tonight's historic election has begun.** The Zoom room will open at 5:30p tonight and will be locked down at 6:45p sharp; if you are a [current delegate](#) and have not already done so, be sure to [register here now](#).

The final delegate and voting strength lists have been posted to the MWC Election website [here](#), along with information about how the election will be conducted, including the mechanics of a Roll Call vote. Please review carefully and let us know if you have any questions (email [streetheat@dclabor.org](mailto:streetheat@dclabor.org)).

Tonight's delegate meeting and election will have its logistical challenges, just based on the number of delegates we are expecting to participate (over 200 have already registered). We will be reminding folks throughout the proceedings to be patient, especially during the sign-in process. The Election Committee has been working very hard and conscientiously over the past months to get all the pieces in place despite the many hurdles; please be conscious of the extraordinary logistical complexity of this event - as compared to past elections, which were uncontested and conducted in-person - and ask you to be patient, courteous, and respectful for all brothers and sisters during the meeting. This is an election and the best characteristics of our labor movement need to be on display, so that we can best attend to the business at hand.

As in last month's delegates meeting, all candidates will have the opportunity to address the delegates one last time prior to the actual voting tonight. Each candidate will have up to 3 minutes to address the delegates; the time limit will be strictly enforced.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Election Committee -- Chuck Clay, Amy Millar, Kathleen Moors and Gina Walton -- as well as MWC staffer Chris Garlock, for their dedication, commitment and incredibly hard work over what turned out to be a much longer period of time and much more complex process than anyone anticipated. It has truly been an honor to serve with them on this committee.

Finally, on behalf of the Election Committee, we wish all the candidates, delegates and affiliates the best of luck and solidarity as we all work together to build a stronger labor movement for all working people throughout our community.

# 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 from it has received. The following is an updated list of contributions.

AFGE District Council 14	\$3,700.00
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust	\$10,000.00
American Fed of Teachers Staff Union	\$2,000.00
Baltimore DC Building Trades Council	\$5,000.00
Greater Washington Community Foundation	\$70,000.00
Individual Donors	\$3,085.00
IUOE Local 99	\$1,000.00
Masonry, Stone, Marble, Tile & Terr	\$500.00
OPEIU Local 2	\$300.00
LIUNA Local 11	\$1,000.00
Plumbers Local 5	\$10,000.00
SEIU Local 722	\$2,000.00
Ullico	\$10,000.00
United Way National Capital Area	\$40,000.00
UniteHere Local 25	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163,585.00</b>

As of June 9, 2020, \$59,529 has been allocated for rent, utility, car loan, medical bills and food. \$24,275 has been allocated for food, comprising almost half of the requests for emergency assistance. Three hundred and seventy-eight workers (378) have been served.



The executive director is working with UNITEHERE Locals 23 and 25, SEIU Local 32 BJ, AFSCME Locals 709 and 1207 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](mailto:sducote@dclabor.org)

### **CSA helps “lift a big burden” off worker’s shoulders**

AFSCME Local 1207 member Jamie Brown (*left*) is one of 80 cleaners laid off in early May when the Washington Convention Center was reconfigured into a COVID-19 field hospital. The 32-year-old has three children, aged 2, 8 and 14. “I have been stressing in many ways trying to figure out how to come up with the money during this pandemic,” Jamie told Union City. The Metro Council’s Community Services Agency and her union helped her pay the rent, and she says “I am thankful for

the help. It lifted a big burden off of my shoulders.” Through its Emergency Assistance Fund, CSA has been able to help over 100 local workers with rent, utility, food and other basic necessities. "Broad-based support from the Metro Washington labor community, individual donors, the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way National Capital Area made the funding possible to keep Jamie and her family in their home," said CSA Executive Director Sonte DuCote. "Stories like Jamie's show the real impact of these generous contributions, keeping our communities strong throughout the COVID-19 crisis," she added.

### **Fundraising**

Unfortunately, there is a 99.9 percent chance that Labor Night at the Nats scheduled for July 24 will not happen due to COVID-19 rules regarding public gatherings.

The CSA Golf Tournament scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> is canceled. According to the Enterprise Golf Course Manager, Allen Loreg, tournaments are canceled for this golf season due to COVID-19.

The executive director will work with the pro bono group COMPASS to identify potential grant and program opportunities for CSA.

### **BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

During the past month, CSA's Client Services Coordinator, Sylvia Casaro-Dietert and her team completed virtual recruitment activities in preparation for the Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program summer cohorts. Building Futures Virtual Classroom will be launched on June 15 as a hybrid model to be complemented with in-person training later in July or when gatherings of more than 10 individuals becomes available in DC, which is where the training site is located.

Building Futures program activities and outcomes were as follows:

- Screening and enrollment of 50 DC residents to participate in the upcoming summer cohorts funded by UPO CSBG and DOES respectively. Activities: Weekly virtual recruitment events for government and community partners, daily processing of candidates' intakes and engagement activities to ensure process quality and candidate retention.
- Adaptation of AFL-CIO-approved MC3 Curriculum and BF Applications for distance learning. Activities: Content formatting, creation/ compilation of self-learning projects and daily student assignments by module.
- Google Classroom and Zoom. Activities: Research, identification and set-up of low-cost, accessible and reliable digital platforms for Building Futures Virtual Classroom.
- Ready-to-go Instructors. Activities: Coordination of BF Instructors' regarding online instruction and schedule.







- Client engagement and retention. Activities: Follow-up and support of active and newly hired graduates.
- Accountability. Activities: Preparation and submissions of monthly/ quarterly reports; regular check-ins with contracts and grant officers to stay updated and maintain open lines of communication during the pandemic.
- Marketing of Union Registered Apprenticeship. Activities: Regular check-ins with the building and construction trades union and their joint apprenticeship training committees to promote BF pre-apprenticeship, identify trade opportunities for women, veterans and minority graduates from our program, and include them as guest speakers to present their trade and registered apprenticeship programs in BF Virtual Classroom.
- Staying-in-the-know: Participation in DC City Council's Labor and Workforce Development Budget Oversight Committee.

Additional questions? Contact Sonté DuCote, Executive Director at: [sducote@dclabor.org](mailto: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.

Daily: updating legislative update page on the website with the latest information.

Zoom Town Hall with Trayon White, Anthony



Lorenzo Green,  
Janeese Lewis George and  
Jordan Grossman

Distributed information on voting by mail and in person

voting for Maryland and District of Columbia via email and on website

D.C. Winning candidates endorsed by MWC:

At-Large: Robert White (W)

Ward 2: Jordan Grossman (L), Brooke Pinto (W)

Ward 4: Janeese Lewis George (W)

Ward 7: Anthony Lorenzo Green (L), Vincent Gray (W)

Ward 8: Trayon White (W)

Meetings:

Weekly calls on COVID-19 call from AFL-CIO with Pres. Trumka

Inspector Robert glover (Bowser) regarding caravan for HEROES Act

Restaurant Worker ReOpen Town Hall

Reviewed Silverman proposal with Tonya Love

## WASHINGTON DC: MAYOR BOWSER LIFTING STAY-AT-HOME ORDER, D.C. TO ENTER PHASE ONE OF REOPENING FRIDAY

5/27/2020 0 Comments

Washington D.C. will officially enter phase one of reopening on Friday, May 29, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced during a Wednesday press conference.

Mayor Bowser says the city has sustained a 14-day decline of new COVID-19 cases, and other metrics have been met to safely begin to slowly reopen the city and lift the stay-at-home order effective Friday.



## MARYLAND: VOTE BY MAIL UPDATE

5/19/2020 0 Comments



In the upcoming Maryland Presidential Primary Election on June 2, 2020, residents will for races like President of the United States, Representative in Congress, Judge of the Circuit Court, Delegates to the National Convention, and local Board of Education.

## **CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

*Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney*

Overall objective: Advised and represented claimants before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Discussed existing issues with DOES regarding regular UI, PUA, PUEC and FPUC. Finally, the most recent and urgent objective was/is to protect and preserve the existing language of the legislation that mandates funding for Claimant Advocacy Program, (CAP), under the current terms and conditions set forth in the requisite provision of the Act.

1. Invoiced for the month of May for a total of \$50,625.00.
2. Represented and/or assisted hundreds of union and non-union members at unemployment compensation hearings, mediations sessions, initial claims, re-opening claims, and status updates. CAP further assisted claimants in accessing the unemployment system by not only initialing multiple calls, emails and texts to POCs at DOES but following up until each claimant's issue was resolved.
3. Took part in multiple conference calls with legal service providers and CM Silverman's staff regarding a proposed amendment intended to be included in the BSA and one that would have modified the existing CAP legislation. MWC, inclusive of the Program Director of CAP, Tonya Love, met with the CM's staff in order to gain a full understanding of the intent and effect of the proposed amendment. Following the meeting, all provisions that MWC perceived as having a negative impact on CAP were removed. Furthermore, over the course of subsequent conversations with Silverman's office, this amendment was further revised, still leaving intact CAP's funding and shifting focus to DOES modernization initiatives. CM Silverman and legal service providers will continue to work together to try to resolve issues that became blatantly apparent following the increased number of unemployment claims as a result of COVID19.
4. Began discussions with DOES regarding COVID19 and how the transition to fully reopening DC could impact employees (currently claiming UI) that are concerned about returning to work.
5. Monthly DOES conference call with recommendations for procedural changes and expediting decisions/payment of benefits.

## **UNION CITIES**

*Chris Garlock, Coordinator*

As I have since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency shutdown three months ago on March 13, 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.

In addition to my usual day-to-day duties, a major focus of my work over

the last month has been supporting the Election Committee's work preparing for the June 15 election of a new president and two board members. That has involved numerous meetings with the committee as well as with the staff of both ElectionBuddy and LaborKey. It's also involved extensive and detailed efforts to conduct outreach to MWC affiliates, leaders and delegates to update their information and membership. With nearly 200 affiliated locals and



over 400 delegates, this has been a massive undertaking under obviously unusual circumstances.



Another major component of my 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 COPE Town Halls.

Several mobilization efforts were undertaken over the last month, one

around the Workers First Caravan, originally scheduled for June 3 and now set for this Wednesday, June 17, the other around helping coordinate labor response/involvement with the ongoing Black Lives Matters protests. Work on both continues.

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.

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 – including [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) -- up-to-date, with the [website](#) – including the COPE, [CAP](#) and [CSA](#) pages – updated as necessary.

**MWC meetings:** Coordinated with AP Washington and the Board to hold the May Board meeting on May 18 and the delegate meeting on May 19, including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc. Both meetings were well-attended and the tech issues from previous meetings were resolved.

**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 (WPFW 89.3FM, Thursdays from 1-2p)**

May guests included:

LOLITA MARTIN, Staff Attorney, Claimant Advocacy Program: Updates on filing for Unemployment Insurance in DC; NALISHA MEHTA; meditation and relaxation during the pandemic; FRANK STRICKER; Author, "American Unemployment Past, Present, and Future"; 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; REBECCA DIXON, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project, on how big biz is using coronavirus as an excuse to get permanent protection from all worker lawsuits; LYNN BERNABEI, lawyer, Bernabei & Kabat, on MedStar employee fired for tweeting about hospital's lack of coronavirus safety precautions; DAMON SILVERS, Director of policy and special counsel for the AFL-CIO: AFL-CIO sues feds over coronavirus workplace safety; TEFERE GEBRE, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, on the June 3 Workers First Caravan; JONATHAN WILLIAMS, Communications Director, UFCW 400, on his union's calls on Giant to extend "recognition pay" until the COVID-19 crisis is over; ELIZABETH FALCON, Executive Director, DC Jobs with Justice, on tomorrow's DC Excluded Workers Social Media Blitz.

### **Union City MAY 2020 highlights.**

**LaborFest:** The weekly online screening series has continued on Tuesday nights at 7p via Zoom. **UPCOMING SCREENING:** "[13<sup>th</sup>](#)"; combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.