

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



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**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Executive Board Meeting Agenda  
July 20, 2020 (via Zoom)**

- **3:00pm**                    **Call to order & Welcome:** Dyana Forester
- **3:05pm**                    **Roll Call:** Cynthia Collins
- **3:10pm**                    **Minutes:** Cynthia Collins
- **3:15pm**                    **President's Report:** Dyana Forester
- **3:25pm**                    **Financial Report:** Eric Bunn & Teya Bruce
- **3:45pm**                    **Election Committee Report:** David Fernandez-Barrial
- **3:55pm**                    **Evening with Labor Report:** George Farenthold
- **4:00pm**                    **Organizational Reports**
  - **COPE:** David Stephens (10mins)
  - **CAP:** Tonya (10mins)
  - **Union City:** Chris Garlock (10mins)
- **4:30pm**                    **Affiliate Updates**
- **5:00pm**                    **Adjourn**

## **Metropolitan Washington Council Executive Board Meeting May 18, 2020 (Via Zoom)**

- Roll call of Officers and Executive Members
- Call to order
- Juanita Sanchez (AFL–CIO) reviewed the Code of Conduct mandated by the AFL – CIO concerning participants' behavior during meetings. Chris Garlock will be the contact for the Council and Gina Walton will be the contact for the election committee .
- Motion made by Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900) to accept April Executive Board minutes seconded by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277).
- Financial report was given by Treasurer Eric Bunn (AFGE), who stated that Labor Key (the new per capita billing system) is not coordinating with Quick Books. Example the invoices are not correct. Mr. Bunn recommended not to approve the Financial report for May until it can be corrected. Motion was made by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277) and seconded by Dan Fields (SEIU 722) to table. It was also reported that Jo Combs and Eric Bunn will be taking training on Labor Key as well as the MWC's auditor.
- Election Committee member Larry Greenhill resigned from the Committee and Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) was appointed. Chuck Clay accepted the position.
- Acting President Andrew Washington discussed the fact that unemployment payments are behind. CSA can help members in need during the pandemic. He also reported no major issues for the Metro Council. Former DC Councilwoman La Ruby May was invited to discuss issues at a future meeting. Reopening DC committee recommendations. Chuck Clay was selected to the labor focus group. Motion made by Chuck Clay (IATSE 22) to accept the President's report, seconded by George Farenthold (OPEIU 277). Robin Burns (DCNA) abstained.
- Jaime Contreras (SEIU 32BJ) discussed Metro Council staff contract negotiations with the Guild about health care. Andrew Washington discussed the health care exchange providers using accurate quotes. Eric Bunn discussed the health care extension for staff. Contract negotiations date back to expiration of the previous contract at the end of 2018. The Guild has also raised the issues of David Stephen' 90-day pay increase after his probationary period.
- Discussion about the cost of Election Buddy going the allotted time for the election. Candidates will have 3 minutes to speak to the Delegates. Eric Bunn requested a print-out of the locals in arrears.
- June 10th Swearing-in of new Delegates to Metro Council. No one's voting strength will be reduced. Per capita payments will reflect April 2019 to April 2020, per the constitution. Wanda Shelton-Martin discussed that the wrong name was used for NUHHCE 1199 and the per capita was incorrect. Jim Griffin said that IBEW 1900's per capita payments were incorrect as well and asked if it would affect their voting strength. The original cost of Election Buddy was \$1,398.00 but to cover additional prep work the board increased the

cost allowance to \$2,500.00. Motion made by Andrew Washington to approve the increase, seconded and approved by the committee as a whole.

- Community Service Agency raised \$15, 000 to assist members during the COVID 19 pandemic. Please send your requests to CSA.
- Affiliate Reports
- Chuck Clay IATSE 22
- Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900): There are three power plants in Maryland; one has closed and the workers are upper middle- aged worker with specialized jobs skills in the coal industry.
- DCNA added nurses to the unit. DC Mayor to build new hospital with no urgent care units in the the facility.
- 1199 SEIU asked that we call Congress to ask for Hazardous pay for Healthcare workers.
- Labor Nite with the Nationals is canceled; the Golf Tournament is also canceled.
- Building Futures program is a multi task program.
- Moved, seconded and approved to accept committee reports.
- David Stephens COPE report: DC City Council primary race endorsements: Robert White, Trayvon White, Jordan Grossman, Janeese Lewis George and Anthony Lorenzo were endorsed by Metro Council. Prince George's County endorse Congressman Anthony Brown. Motion made by George Farenthold, seconded by Chuck Clay to accept the COPE report.
- Union Cities: Chris Garlock said unless there were questions, he would stand on his report as submitted.
- Motion made to adjourn; George Farenthold, seconded by Chuck Clay
- Meeting adjourned.

*Cynthia Collins, Recording Secretary*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dyana Forester

From June 15th to July 6th, Acting-President/ Vice-President Andrew Washington maintained his role as acting president allowing me the opportunity to close out work with UFCW Local 400 and orient myself with the Metro Washington Council.

Over the past month, my work has focused in the following areas:

**Administration-** Reviewing organizational policies and procedures, in addition to meeting with the national AFL-CIO to assure we are operating in accordance with our governance's regulations.

**Management-** Meeting one-on-one with staff and developing procedures to maintain oversight and collaboration during COVID-19.

**Financial Management-** Meeting with all parties responsible for our financial management- our Finance Manager, outsourced Accounting Manager, Trustees and Treasurer to get updated on our financial health and identify the challenges and solutions to preparing an accurate and timely financial statement

### **Affiliate Support**

- Protecting public sector union's right to negotiate and secure pay increase
- Supporting labor neutrality in East End Hospital deal
- Supporting actions around DC Budget and COVID-19 protection for workers

### **Looking ahead.....Priorities for July to September**

- Putting in place a COVID-19 work schedule for staffing in order to maintain health and productivity throughout the pandemic.
- Meeting one-on-one with board members/affiliates/stakeholders to strengthen our relationships and mutual engagement.
- Working with Financial Committee to ensure our financial health throughout/beyond pandemic.
- Recruiting for vacant appointments, E-Board positions and COPE Committee
- Applying for a Solidarity Grant to help our local labor movement build its virtual capacity to organize during these pandemic/beyond
- Working with COPE to develop 2020 Election Plan
- Hosting Labor Workgroup around key issues: ReOpening and BLM/Defund Campaigns

## **ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair

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

The 2020 MWC election was held on Monday, June 15 via Zoom. Registration was conducted by the Election Committee and the election was conducted by ElectionBuddy. See below for the results.

### **Election Results for Executive Board**

181 ballots submitted of 208 eligible voters — 87%\*

Candidate Votes Percentage

**Mike Spiller (OPEIU 2) 53230 43.80%**

**Greg Bowen (ATU 689) 41028 33.70%**

George Hogan (IBEW 26) 27399 22.50%

Votes tallied: 121657.0

Abstentions: 3

### **Election Results for President Election**

185 ballots submitted of 208 eligible voters — 89%\*

Candidate Votes Percentage:

**Dyana Forester (UFCW 400) 38343 51.30%**

Eric Bunn (AFGE) 36463 48.70%

Votes tallied: 74806.0

Abstentions: 0

*\*Non-submitted ballots occur if voters fail to click on the “Submit” button, do not receive their ballot because of internet issues, or opt not to vote. According to ElectionBuddy, the ballot completion rates in this election were substantially higher than usual for this type of election.*

### **Election Ballot Examination**

On June 24th, the Election Committee emailed interested parties and candidates the procedures for ballot inspection which were also posted on the MWC Election website. These procedures were in compliance with social-distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

Per ARTICLE VIII, Section 6 of the MWC Constitution, the Election Committee has preserved the ballots from the June 15 election and is making them available for examination by any delegate or officer of an affiliated organization until December 15, 2020.

Five requests to inspect ballots were received by the Election Committee; 2 delegates subsequently set up appointments and inspected ballots on July 1st and July 8th at the IATSE Local 22 Hall.

### **Election Challenge**

On July 6th, candidate Bunn submitted an information request to the Election Committee to which the Committee replied on July 13th. On July 13th, candidate Bunn filed an election challenge which is being reviewed by the Election Committee.

## **Evening with Labor**

George Farenthold, Chair

As previously reported, we rescheduled this year's EWL to October 16 due to the COVID-19 shutdowns. We've maintained contact with Martin's, which as of last Friday reported that they're still trying to work out plans that will be in accordance to Prince George's County Guidelines for reopening. Currently, they are limited to no more than 100 people per room.

While things may change by October, given the health risks to our attendees – there will certainly not be a vaccine by then -- we have to seriously consider rescheduling to March 2021 at this point. If we do decide to reschedule to next year, Martin's will forward our entire deposit to the new date with 2021 pricing.

Here's where ad and ticket sales stand (same as when we suspended outreach earlier this year):

58.75 ad pages (87% of goal)

\$5,250 in Big Screen ads (114% of goal)

Tickets: 648 (118% of 550 guarantee; 65% of 1,000 goal)

55 tables (87% of goal)

## Community Services Agency (CSA) of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO

Sonte DuCote, Executive Director

### **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The bulk of the funding provided by the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way National Capital Area grants ended on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 88% of the total funding is spent. As of July 16, 588 workers

received food, rent/mortgage and utility assistance. A total of 720 unique services were provided as some workers received food cards in addition to help with late bills. Seventy-seven percent (77%) addressed food insecurity, 11% utilities (electric, gas, water), 8% went to rent and mortgage and the remaining 4% provided assistance for medical and auto payments.

Members in the following locals were served: AFSCME 709, 1959 & 1207, IBT 639 & 922, Pile Drivers Local 441, SEIU 32BJ, UNITE HERE 23 & 25.

The following is an updated list of contributions.

#### **COVID-19 Fundraising**

Amalgamated Foundation	\$10,000.00
A. Thompson & Associates Inc.	\$1,000.00
AFGE District Council 14	\$8,696.23
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

### **CSA DOUBLES DOWN ON HELPING WORKERS**

7/6/2020

Frank Gaskins' life has now been touched twice by the Community Services Agency. The first time was when he participated in CSA's signature Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship program. He graduated and went on to become an apprentice with Pile Drivers Local 441 (part of the Carpenters), working as a pile driver. The second time was when CSA's Emergency Assistance Fund helped him during a brief layoff due to COVID-19 earlier this year. "The Emergency Assistance that helped to pay my Pepco bill really helped alleviate that temporary financial stress," said Gaskins. "Frank's story is a great example of how the local labor movement enables CSA to advance its mission to help workers, support labor and strengthen communities," said CSA Executive Director Sonte DuCote. "We are grateful to every local that's made contributions in recent months, as well as the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way National Capital Area, for helping to make critical COVID-19 assistance available to area workers." Find out more about CSA [here](#).





IBEW Local 1900	\$500.00
IBT Local 922	\$300.00
Individual Donors	\$3,235.00
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
Regan Associates Chartered	\$10,000.00
SEIU Local 722	\$2,000.00
Steamfitters Local 602	\$2,500.00
Ullico	\$10,000.00
United Way National Capital Area	\$40,000.00
UNITE HERE Local 25	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,031.23</b>

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

*July update: The agency's Building Futures Pre-apprenticeship Program launched its virtual classroom successfully on June 15. The hands-on portion of the program will take place at the DC OPCM Local 891 following CDC and District of Columbia COVID-19 guidelines, and is tabled for July.*

*(June report)* 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

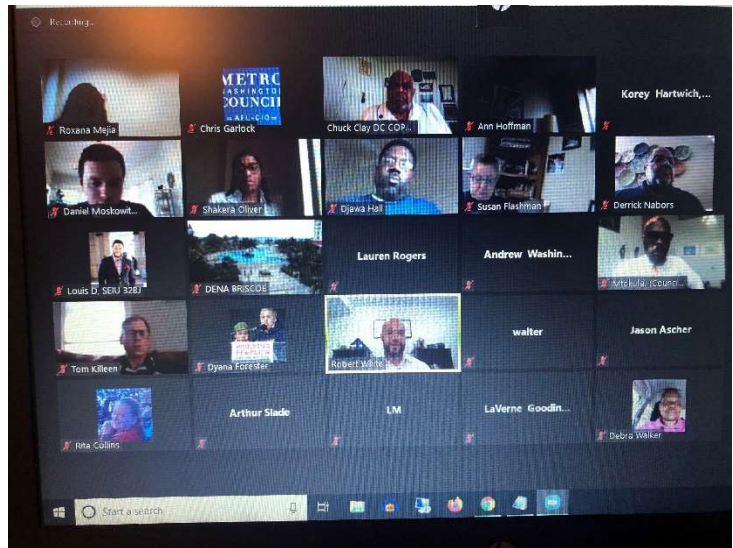
David Stephen, Political Director

### July update:

Last month, DC COPE hosted a town hall with Councilmember Robert White (right). Political and Legislative director also coordinated with affiliates on participating in Juneteenth observance on the Black Lives Matters Plaza. DC COPE met on July 16 to finalize the calendar for DC Council endorsements and election calendars for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and Tri-County are being reviewed. Town Hall with Montgomery Councilmember Tom Hucker is set for July 26.

(June report) 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.



### 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.



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



## **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 objective was/is to protect and preserve the existing language that provides CAP funding under current the terms and conditions set forth in the requisite provision of the Act.

1. Invoiced for the month of May in the amount of \$50,625.00. Invoiced for the month of June in the amount of \$72,187.50.
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 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 Dir. of CAP 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 and will continue 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

***July update: The June 15 MWC election and follow-up was a main focus of work last month, as was the Heroes Caravan and support for unions supporting the BLM actions. Also, the weekly LaborFest screenings, which began in April and were planned to move to monthly, returned to a weekly schedule last week due to the new availability of a number of free labor films.***

(June report) 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 DC LaborFest screenings**

## Monday, July 20: SHIFT CHANGE & WEconomics: Italy

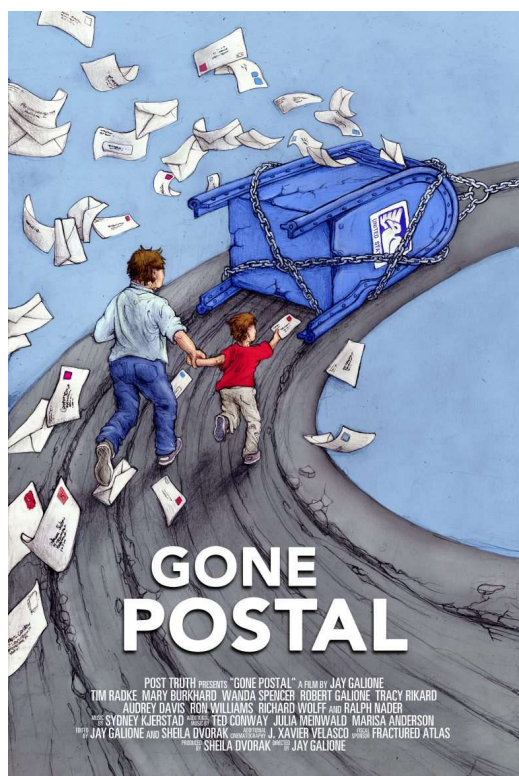
7p EDT; FREE via Zoom; RSVP here

*Great new series of "films that show living examples of people who are building the kind of world we want to see," from Moving Images, in collaboration with distributor Bullfrog Films!*

**This week: Democratic workplaces benefit worker owners and local communities**

**SHIFT CHANGE [2012] – 70 min.** Employee ownership offers a real solution for workers and communities to have secure dignified work in democratic workplaces. Shift Change highlights worker-owned enterprises in North America and the remarkable Mondragon cooperatives in the Basque region of northern Spain. PBS, WORLD Channel broadcasts 2014-17. [Preview](#)

**WEconomics: Italy [2016] – 19 min.** The Emilia-Romagna region in northern Italy has one of the highest concentrations of cooperative businesses in the developed world, and this film highlights what a cooperative economy and society have to offer.



## Tuesday, July 21: Gone Postal

7p EDT, Free via Zoom; RSVP here

Introduced by director Jay Galione

Jay Galione, son of a postal worker, investigates the dark corners of the U.S. Postal Service. Across the country, brave employees stand up to injustice on the job and fight to Save the People's Post Office. A moving indictment of the toxic culture and push to downsize, this eye-opening documentary allows viewers to hear from experts and advocates including Ralph Nader and Richard Wolff, and directly from the selfless and courageous people hidden behind the scenes, long suffering and ignored.

91 min; 2019, U.S., documentary

## Tues, July 28: Don't Give Up Your Voice & Good Food

7p EDT; Free via Zoom; RSVP here

**This week: Resistance to Trump-like politics, and building a more sustainable food system**

**Don't Give Up Your Voice [2018] – 40 min.** This film looks at the widespread and creative resistance to a repressive government in Argentina - in organized labor, at worker coops, street protests, theater and music - and offers timely lessons for us in the North.

**GOOD FOOD [2008] – 57 min.** Pacific Northwest family farmers, plus the businesses and markets that feature their products, show that it is possible to increase the supply of healthy, local, sustainably grown food. Seattle International Film Festival, broadcast PBS.