

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Executive Board: September 21, 2020**



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**Attachments:**

- 6.MWC Financials Modified Cash-6.2020*
- 7.MWC Financials Modified Cash-7.2020*
- 8.MWC Financials Modified Cash-8.2020*
- COPE-Med MJ public sector legislation-draft and revision*
- COPE-DC MD AFL CIO Resolution #9 Worker’s Bill of Rights*
- COPE-Public Sector Injured workers act*
- COPE-WTU 6 election sabotage resolution*
- CAP-LOVE Letter of Commendation*
- Eric Bunn Appeal*

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Executive Board Meeting Agenda  
September 21, 2020 (via Zoom)**

- 2:00pm Call to order & Welcome: President Dyana Forester  
2:05pm Roll Call: 1st VP Andrew Washington  
2:10pm Code of Conduct: Gina Walton  
2:15pm Approval of Minutes  
2:20pm President's Report: Dyana Forester  
2:30pm Financial Report: Treasurer Eric Bunn & Teya Bruce  
2:45pm Organizational Reports  
    COPE: David Stephen (15mins)  
    *Vote on DC COPE Endorsement and Supporting  
    Legislation/Ballot Initiatives*  
3:00pm Union City: Chris Garlock (5mins)  
    Community Service Agency: Sonte DuCote (5mins)  
    CAP: Tonya Love (5mins)  
3:15pm Election Committee Report:  
    Overview of Election Process: Juanita Sanchez  
    Committee Report: David Fernandez-Barrial  
3:30pm Old/New Business  
3:45pm Affiliate Updates (30mins)

# Metropolitan Washington Council Executive Board Meeting MINUTES

## July 20, 2020 (Via Zoom), 3-5pm

**Call to Order & Welcome:** MWC president Dyana Forester called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence for Rep. John Lewis.

### Roll Call

*Present:* Bowen; Bunn; Burns; Brockington; Clay; Collins; Davis; Farenthold; Fields; Forester; Frum; Hall; Harris; Havard; Hollingsworth; Mejia; Reed; Richardson; Shelton-Martin; Spiller; Walton; Washington

*Absent:* Briscoe

*Excused:* Contreras; Federici (resigned); Griffin

*Staff:* Garlock, Stephen, DuCote, Love, Combs

**Minutes:** May 18 minutes unanimously approved.

**President's Report:** Dyana Forester reviewed her written report, submitted in the July 20 Board packet. Highlights include: Administration, Management, Financial Management, Affiliate Support and Looking ahead...Priorities for July to September.

**Financial Report:** The May reports were approved as reported after review/discussion.

**Evening with Labor Report:** Following a discussion of Committee chair George Farenthold's report, the Board voted to approve a move of EWL to 2021, March 6, 13 or 20, otherwise early April. The possibility of a virtual awards event was also discussed; it was agreed that further investigation was warranted and that safety of attendees must be the paramount concern.

**Election Committee Report:** Committee chair David Fernandez-Barrial reviewed the committee's written report and received kudos from a number of Board members on accomplishing the election "under challenging circumstances."

### Organizational Reports

MWC staff – David Stephen (COPE), Tonya Love (CAP) and Chris Garlock (Unlon Cities) -- reviewed their written reports (see last month's Board packet), including an extended discussion on the upcoming Fall political season and COPE activities.

### Affiliate Updates

Andrew Washington (AFSCME Council 20) reported on his recent meeting with DC City Council Chair Mendelson regarding the Budget Support Act; discussion ensued.

Stephen Frum (NNU) reported on the New Hospital at Saint Elizabeth Act of 2020, and efforts to generate support for amendments for a labor peace agreement or neutrality "or anything that just holds UHS accountable to what they've said publicly." He also noted NNU's plan for a demonstration at the U.S. Capitol for the HEROES Act.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

*NOTE: Minutes based on contemporaneous notes by Chris Garlock, augmented by a review of the Zoom recording of the meeting.*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dyana Forester

Throughout the summer months my work has been focused on: stabilizing our internal practices and procedures to ensure we can remain productive throughout the pandemic, evaluating our financial management systems and our financial health, advancing our political program, and reinvigorating our committees.

### **So far, in collaboration with staff and board members, we have:**

Developed internal procedures to address organizational practices in order to adapt to working remotely and operate in compliance with our governance

- Established regular staff check-ins, meetings, and work-plans
- Planned and hosted training for financial officers and developed plan for trustee's audit
- Evaluated and began updating our financial systems and practices
- Applied for Solidarity Grant from the AFL-CIO
- Develop plan to address unions in arrears
- Recruited PGNEA to join our CLC
- Supported mobilization efforts for affiliates- WTU Townhalls, Postal Workers Action, NAN March on Washington and IASTE Red Alert
- Assessed existing committees and appointments

### **Next Steps**

- Provide board members with their roles/responsibilities and assure all officers are trained
- Form together a Constitution and By-laws committee to plan for a Constitutional Convention for 2021
- Work with program area committee chairs to develop strategic plans- Education, Health, Transit, Public Sector, COPE, BLM and Hospitality/Transit
- Work with Political Director and COPE Committee to move GOTV program
- Continue to support rallies, legislative efforts, and programs of affiliates
- Work with our team to streamline our organization communication

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Appointment & Committee Discussion Friday 9/25 10am
- Committee Chair Meeting- Thursday 9/24 10am
- Union Dues & Relief Committee- Thursday 9/24 1pm

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

*Sonte DuCote, Executive Director*

### **HOLIDAY BASKET 2020**

CSA is gearing up for our Annual Holiday Basket program which is expected to receive at least triple the number of requests received in previous years from needy Metro Washington area families who are laid-off and still bearing the brunt of COVID-19.

Last year, CSA provided union grocery store gift cards to 52 needy families for the 2020 holiday season and adopted five (5) families by providing food, clothing, and toys during Christmastime. Thanks to Metro Washington Council affiliates and allies we made a difference in people's lives!

There are three ways to help:

1. Make financial contributions to CSA earmarked for "Holiday Basket."
2. Contribute grocery store gift cards from area union grocers or discount store cards (except for Walmart).
3. Adopt a Family – provide gift cards, toys, clothes, etc to area needy families.

Contributions and gift cards can be mailed to: Community Services Agency, 815 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006

### **Contribution Deadlines:**

- **Thursday, November 12 for Thanksgiving**
- **Friday, December 11 for Christmas**

*Look out for an email containing further details and the Holiday Basket referral form.*

### **COVID-19 / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

CSA continues to pass along resources to locals impacted by COVID-19 and help members with limited financial and food assistance. Funds are dwindling due to the increased COVID 19 need and the cancellation of the Labor Night at the Nats and Golf Tournament fundraiser. Please consider making a contribution earmarked for Emergency Assistance to the CSA address above or on the CSA website: [www.communityservicesagency.org](http://www.communityservicesagency.org).



## **COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC)**

The Combined Federal Campaign starts September 21 through January 15<sup>th</sup>. Funding from the CFC provides much needed unrestricted funds to help CSA keep its virtual lights on so that it can continue to provide union members with assistance and services.

We are asking affiliates representing federal employees to urge their members to visit

<https://givecfc.org> to make a contribution to CSA using CFC number 19579.



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

BUILDING FUTURES Pre-apprenticeship Program graduated 22 DC residents from its UPO-funded virtual program. More than 50% are already placed in good paying jobs and apprenticeships. Apprenticeship sponsors this month included Heat and Frost Insulators Local 24, Piledrivers, Heavy Equipment Operators Local 77, Sheet Metal Workers Local 100, and Plumbers Local 5.

A new DOES-funded cohort started last week with a total of 14 DC residents participating in BUILDING FUTURES virtual classroom. Students in this class are veterans and older youth 19-24 years-of-age with an interest in the building and construction trades.

As part of the program, students receive OSHA 10, Flagger Safety Training, CPR, First Aid and AED, and Scaffold

User Training. In addition, they receive job counseling and individualized case management and referrals to other programs in the city to address any challenges to employment.

## **COPE/Legislative Monthly Summary for August 2020**

*David Stephen, Political Director*

### **Washington D.C.**

COPE Recommendations for endorsement:

- At-Large: Ed Lazerre, Robert White (already endorsed)
- Ward 2: Brooke Pinto
- Ward 4: Janeese Lewis George (already endorsed)
- Ward 7: Vincent Gray (unopposed)
- Ward 8: Trayon White (already endorsed)

Collaborated with Lara Fuchs on planning to participate in State Board of Education candidate screening

- At Large: Mysiki Valentine
- Ward 2: James Harnett
- Ward 4: Frazier O'Leary
- Ward 7: Eboni Rose Thompson
- Ward 8: Carlene Reid

Plan for endorsement support:

- Peer-to-Peer texting
- Mailer from Council & affiliates
- Phone banking in DC and with state federation
- Working America letter writing campaign

### **Washington DC Legislation:**

- Public sector injured workers (see attached)
- Medical marijuana (see attached)
- Voter information is live on [dclabor.org](http://dclabor.org)

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**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT!**

**All active voters will receive a Mail In ballot at their registered address.**



**VOTE BY  
MAIL**

## Montgomery/Prince George's County:

- Worked and prepped leadership at IATSE Local 22 on testifying in Montgomery County on funding assistance for \$3,250,000 for Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund
- Planned Meet and Greet for Prince George's County Board of Education (date rescheduled for October)
- Information meeting on Taxes Ballot Questions Coalition - No on B
- Worked with Chris Garlock on disseminating census info for Prince George's County

## Tri-County/Statewide

Request to adopt Workers bill of rights into future COPE questionnaires (see attached)

### Resolution:

- Post office position statement

### Daily tasks:

- 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.
- Updating legislative update page on the website with the latest information.

### Other tasks:

- Labor support committee for March on Washington



**Take back the White House!**  
**Make Calls to Pennsylvania!**



Pennsylvania is the most important state this election. Do your part by making calls on behalf of Joe Biden, the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate for president! We will train you on how to talk with your fellow union members in Pennsylvania about this important election.

**Trainings are held Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.**



**Sign up for a training by scanning or going to <http://www.paaficio.org/volunteer>**



## **CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

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

The Claimant Advocacy Program's overall objective is to advise and represent claimants with DC unemployment benefits who have a scheduled hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Additional tasks:

- Discussed existing issues with DOES regarding regular UI, PUA, PUEC and FPUC.
- Check-ins with other stakeholders on issues on a broader level that affect unemployment benefits.
- Suggest and connect UI claimants with other resources, when/if needed.

Summary:

1. Invoiced for the month of June in the amount of \$72,187.50. Invoiced for the July in the amount of \$67,375.00. Invoiced for August in the amount of \$49,500.00. CAP has more than tripled the number of cases over the period of the pandemic.
2. CAP continues to assist hundreds of union and non-union members in accessing the UI system in DC, with multiple emails, calls and texts to POCs at DOES. We have assisted, escalated and resolved at least 20-30 union members' claims during the months of July and August, which are unbilled hours. As for billed hours in July: (3) 32BJ; (2) SEIU 722; (1) WTU 6, (1) UNITE HERE 25 members represented. In August: (2) SEIU 722; (1) 32BJ members were represented. Overall, less than 10% of our billable cases have involved affiliated union members.
3. 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.
4. Continued discussions with DOES to reduce the misinformation regarding Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) applications as well as the PUA process and backlog.
5. Monthly DOES conference call with recommendations for procedural changes and expediting decisions/payment of benefits.
6. Bi-weekly conference calls with the Commission Task Force of the DC Office of Administrative Hearings.

***Attachment: Letter of commendation***

## **UNION CITIES**

*Chris Garlock, Coordinator*

### **2020-21 MWC Directory:**

Includes updates to the [online directory](#) as well as to LaborKey. A draft of the hard-copy Directory should be available for final review soon, after which it will go to press and be distributed via mail.



### **Union City, Union City Radio, MWC social media**

Of special note was producing and hosting the annual **WPFW Labor Day “Workers Rising” show**, which ran this year from 8a to 5p and included segments on:

[COVID’s effects on DC-area workers: Education/Healthcare](#) with Pia Morrison, SEIU 500 and Wala Blegay, staff attorney, DCNA

[COVID’s effects on DC-area workers: Essential workers](#) with Mark Federici, UFCW 400; Jim Griffin, IBEW 1900; Dabney Hudson, IAFF 36 and Andrew Washington, AFSCME Council 20

[COVID’s effects on DC-area workers: Hospitality/Entertainment](#) with Dyana Forester, MWC; John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25; Jaime Contreras, SEIU 32BJ; Ryan Chavka, IATSE 22 and Ed Malaga, DC Musician’s Union



Getting out the vote: Labor 2020 with Donna Edwards, Maryland/DC AFL-CIO; Stephen Courtien, Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council; Julie Hunter, Virginia AFL-CIO; David Stephen, Metro Washington Council and Harold Meyerson, The American Prospect

[Labor & solidarity with Black Lives Matter](#) with Louis Davis, SEIU 32BJ; Djawa Hall, 1199SEIU; Tanya Wallace-Gobern, National Black Worker Center Project; Clayola Brown, A. Philip

Randolph Institute; Davon Lomax, Painters and Chuck Modiano, Sports Writer

[Labor Day with the Labor Radio/Podcast Network](#) with Judy Ancel, Heartland Labor Forum radio show; Bama Athreya, The Gig podcast; Liz Medina, En Masse podcast; Jacob Morrison, The Valley Labor Report radio show; Harold Phillips, Working to Live in Southwest Washington podcast; Jeremy Waugh, The Break Time Breakdown podcast.



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 ongoing coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts of DC-area unions and workers.

Union City returned to daily weekday publication as of September 8; Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) continues to run 7 days a week (formerly was on weekdays only); Your Rights At Work broadcasts every Thursday from 1-2p.



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 President Forester to hold the special July Board meeting on July 20 and the delegate meeting on July 21, including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc.

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

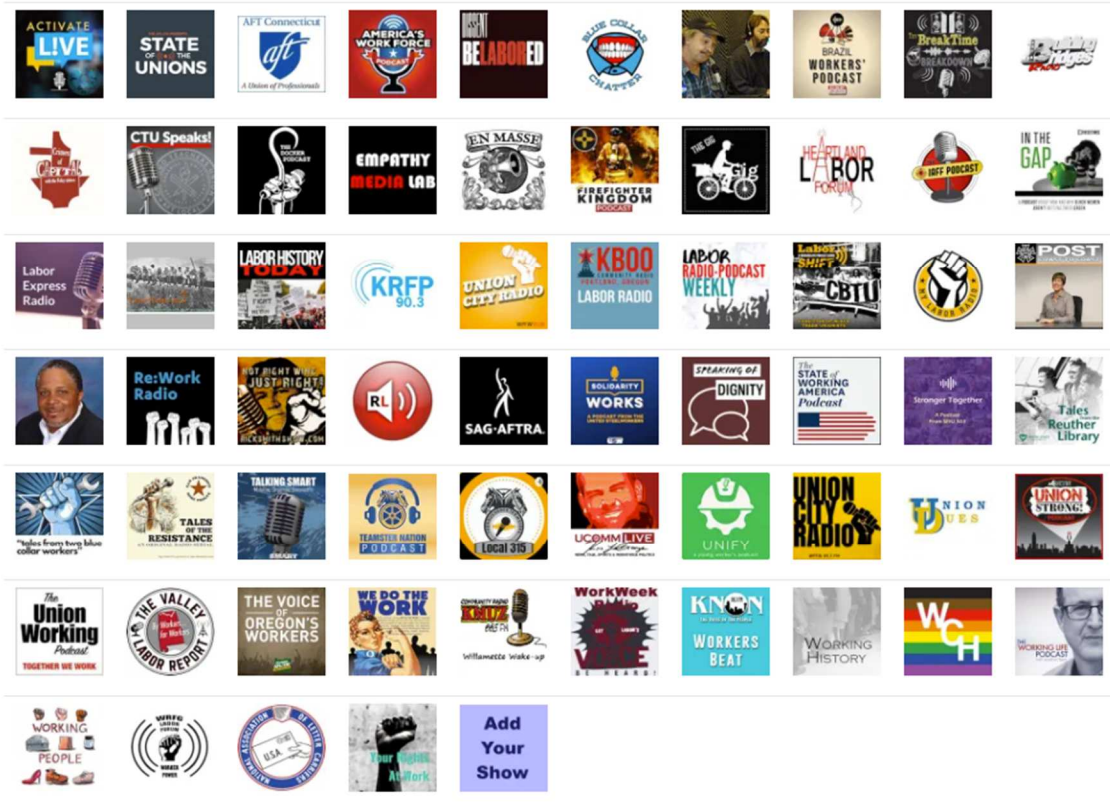
**Database updates:** Updated MWC and LaborKey databases as necessary.

**Election Committee:** Assisted the committee in responding to questions/concerns and coordinated ballot inspections.

**Your Rights At Work (WPFW 89.3FM, Thursdays from 1-2p)**

August guests included: 8/27: local union leaders participating in the Commitment March and Rally; "Union Busting, Vegan Style"; 8/20: Danny Alpert, Co-director of the upcoming film The Last Strike; 8/13: Liz Davis, Washington Teacher's Union; Christopher Martin, Professor of Digital Journalism, University of Northern Iowa: author of "No Longer Newsworthy: How the Mainstream Media Abandoned the Working Class"; 8/6: Jews United For Justice DC

Community Organizer Zach Weinstein; AFL-CIO Deputy Director, Corporations and Capital Markets Brandon Rees.



**Union City AUGUST 2020 highlights.**

**Labor Radio Podcast Network**

Continued to expand this network of labor radio shows and podcasts, which now includes 70 shows and was reported on recently in the AFL-CIO Now blog: [Labor Radio Podcast Network Expands To More Than 60](#)

[Members In Four Countries.](#) Coordinated/led weekly meetings and hosted a roundtable discussion as part of the WPFW Labor Day show: [Labor Day with the Labor Radio/Podcast Network.](#)

**LaborFest:** The weekly online screening series has resumed on Tuesday nights at 7p via Zoom. **Upcoming screenings:**

## PATSY MINK: AHEAD OF THE MAJORITY



Tuesday, September 22

7p, FREE via Zoom; [RSVP here](#)

2008; 56m; documentary; Women Make Movies' OWOV (One Woman One Vote) Festival

In 1965, Patsy Takemoto Mink became the first woman of color in the United States Congress. Seven years later, she ran for the US presidency and was the driving force behind Title IX, the landmark legislation that transformed women's opportunities in higher education and athletics.

Co-sponsored by [Suffrage.Race.Power.Black Women Unerased](#)



## RESISTERHOOD

Thursday, September 24

7p, FREE via Zoom; [RSVP here](#)

2020; 97m; documentary

Introduced by AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer **Liz Shuler** (Invited); Q&A with director **Cheryl Jacobs Crim**; Hosted by **Elise Bryant**, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women

Resisterhood is a feature-length documentary about the power of women, hope and resistance in the age of Trump. It follows fledgling and veteran activists as they fight for our rights on the streets and in the halls of power. Produced, directed, filmed and edited by women, Resisterhood is a testament to the strength of ordinary Americans in this extraordinary time.

Co-sponsored by the DC LaborFest, Labor Heritage Foundation, Coalition of Labor Union Women

## **ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair

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

On July 15, Eric Bunn Sr. submitted a protest of the 2020 election for president of the Metro Washington Council. The appeal (see attached) alleges violations of multiple articles of the Council's constitution in the conduct of the election and urges that it be re-run.

**Upon careful review, we find the allegations to be without merit and recommend that the Board reject the appeal.**

While we respond to some of the specific allegations below, in general they are either inaccurate or appear to be based on a foregone conclusion. We would like to point out that Mr. Bunn chose not to avail himself of the opportunity to inspect the election ballots before filing his appeal.

The 2020 MWC election, despite being conducted under extraordinary circumstances – the first contested election for president in the midst of a historic global pandemic – drew record participation by affiliates and delegates and had a voter response rate well above average for online elections. The election committee and MWC staff worked diligently to ensure maximum participation by affiliates, to provide a fair election and to do so with the utmost transparency, which we feel has been affirmed by the subsequent overall positive response by affiliates, delegates and the Executive Board.

Below are the MWC Election Committee's responses to specific points raised in Mr. Bunn's appeal:

### **Credentials Committee**

Establishment of the Credentials Committee is – per Article XV, Section 1 of the MWC Constitution – the purview of the President and it is not known when the last one was appointed. (For the record, other constitutionally-required committees that also do not exist are: Ethics, Affiliations, Mobilization, Organizing, Economic Development, Relief Appeals, Civil Rights and Constitution/By-Laws.)

There was ample opportunity for delegates or candidates to suggest or request the appointment of a Credentials Committee.

Lastly, the Election Committee was also concerned that re-credentialing all delegates and officers in advance of the special election would result in further delays to the election during the COVID-19 pandemic and was in fact violating the precedent established in previous MWC elections. Based on conversations we had with the national AFL-CIO, the committee did not want to further postpone or delay the election, because we understood that the work of labor councils around the country needed to continue.

### **Delegate eligibility**

The Committee followed the identical delegate eligibility procedure as in previous MWC elections; affiliates were notified multiple times of the need to check and update their delegates, and updated lists of delegates were posted on the election page on the MWC website. These updates occurred in advance of the originally-scheduled March election date, prior to the pandemic closures. In fact, due to the delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affiliates were afforded ample additional time to update their delegates.

Affiliates were clearly notified in advance of the deadlines for updates, as well as that the final list of updated delegates would be used to determine eligibility to vote. Those who were on the list and who responded to the June 15 roll call comprised the final voter list provided to ElectionBuddy, and their local's votes were apportioned to those delegates from each local.

### **Distribution of affiliate votes**

ElectionBuddy (not Zoom) was the platform used for the actual election voting, and affiliate voting strength was distributed among the delegates present from each local, per the provisions of the MWC Constitution at [Article IV, Section 3](#).

### **Variance between registered delegates and those who voted**

As indicated at the outset in the election meeting, delegates registered in the roll call received ballots, even those few who dropped out of the Zoom room; this possibility was the reason the Election Committee and staff worked hard to ensure that we had email and/or cell phone numbers for delegates, so that they would be sure to receive ballots, irrespective of possible technical issues that a delegate might encounter.

Regarding the difference between the number of delegates registered and the number of votes in the election for president, there are three possible reasons for this: 1) some delegates neglected to click on the "confirm" button; 2) some delegates – despite the best efforts by the committee, staff and ElectionBuddy – had unresolvable technical issues; 3) some delegates opted not to vote in the election for president or to leave the meeting prior to, or during, the voting.

As reported in the Election Committee report presented at the July 20<sup>th</sup> MWC delegates meeting, during the June 15<sup>th</sup> Election, the vote for the President position, 185 ballots were submitted of 208 eligible voters - that is, 89% participation, which is a record turnout for a MWC election.

### **Ballot inspection**

Regarding the concerns raised about inspecting the ballots, Mr Bunn has been afforded the same opportunity to inspect the ballots as everyone else; it has been his choice not to do so. Other delegates have inspected the ballots and found the process fair and acceptable.

### **Availability of records for review**

All candidates were notified of the availability of the records for review as outlined in Article VIII, Section 3 in an email sent to them on June 24, 2020. The same email was sent to the five delegates who requested the opportunity to inspect the ballots.

Also, the election committee followed the same process for candidate mailings to delegates as in previous elections, providing equal access for all candidates and protecting delegate privacy.

### **List of MWC affiliates**

Regarding the list of MWC affiliates, it has long been the practice of the MWC to publish a Directory of Affiliates – which now exists in both a hard-copy version (updated annually) and an online version (updated on an ongoing basis). This was discussed and approved by the Executive Board prior to the release of the first Directory.

For the reasons outlined above, the Election Committee asserts that Mr. Bunn's protest of the results of the June 15, 2020 MWC Election is without merit.