

Delegate's Meeting Minutes DRAFT: for approval

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

December 18, 2006

Called to order 6:45P

MINUTES

- November minutes accepted as distributed.
- November financial reports accepted as distributed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- From Friends of Jim Rosa-pepe, State Senator, explaining that he has a significant campaign debt and asking for contributions. Recommend \$300; approved.
- From the Martin Luther King Jr DC Support Group asking for participation in their 35th Annual Celebration. Tickets for Fashion Show Luncheon are \$50 each. Ad rates \$150 full page, \$75 half page, \$50 quarter page, \$25 business card. Event is January 15, 2007. Recommend full page ad (\$150); approved.

- Invitation to Mac Middleton 1/3/2007 fundraiser: recommend \$250; approved
- Request for \$250 to Our Nation's Capitol (President Williams on Board)
- From friends of MD Delegate Rob Garagiola, thanking the Council for its contribution of \$300.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Williams reported that the Trustees reviewed and accepted the audit of Metro Council finances for 2006. A per capita increase of \$0.02 (effective January-September 2007) earmarked for Community Services Agency is recommended; it's further recommended that Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy be 75% funded by Metro Washington Council (up from 50%) due to Community Services Agency financial situation because of drying up of United Way funds (United Way funding was \$260K, in recent years the scandal and Hurricane Katrina have decimated these funds; this year it was just \$98K). Also recommended setting up study group to look at Community Services Agency future and long-term funding. Moved and seconded to approve these recommendations. Committee to include Trustees, Merle Cuttitta, Jim Pappas, someone from UFCW 400, Jerry Lozupone. It was moved and seconded to approve Board recommendations.

REPORTS

Denise Lombard, United States Labor Against the War & DC Labor for Peace & Justice: it's going to be a very busy Spring 2007 as many groups work to hold Congress' feet to the fire as public opinion has turned against the war, including stopping funding for the war. If there's money to continue the war, there must be money to end the war. Don't confuse support for the troops with continuing the war. Circulated article by Dennis Kucinich on the issue. Delegation of Iraqi workers was not able to come in December because they couldn't get visas. Bruce Wolf, OPEIU 2: 1/27 rally; object is to bring people here from every congressional district in United States. Also need to mobilize people here in Washington and hope to have a big labor contingent. War affects us all. Eric Starin OPEIU 2: reminded delegates that things are bad now in Iraq and it's only going to get worse.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

Kathleen McKirchy
- 1/28 bowling tournament; register now. Few teams are serious, everyone else just there to have fun. Raise money for Emergency Assistance Fund
- early-bird warning: partnering with Northern Virginia

CLC in "Labor with the Nationals" in July. First time ever; we're very excited. Evening With Labor 3/24, black-tie optional major event of the year; usually have about 1,000 folks. Hilton Washington again; official invites will be after 1/1. nominations open now for awards; can do online at www.dclabor.org

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock

- Steelworker strike support for strike at Goodyear Saturday 12/16; good turnout, including President Sweeney. Stay tuned for updates on more actions if necessary.

COPE

- Craig Simpson reported on President Williams on Maryland Comptroller-elect Peter Franchot transition team; providing input. Also, President Williams was asked to co-chair the Dept of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation transition team (six labor people on the team, will be making written recommendations to Governor O'Malley on direction for the agency to take)
- Question of getting involved in municipal elections; possibility of getting into races in Takoma Park and Mt Rainier in upcoming special elections; good to start thinking about pros and cons of doing so; will discuss next month in more detail.
- Rick Powell reported on January 4 Maryland legislation

Delegate Attendance

Ambriz, Espinoza Hevily; IFPTE 70
Baxter, Randall; AFSCME 3976
Falwell, Sandra; DCNA
Grossfeld, Jim; NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Hershfield, David; AFGE 12
Hoffman, Ann; NWU 2
Horgan, Joseph; OPEIU 2
Johnson, Gwend; CBTU DC
Joseph, Ron; TEAMSTERS 639
Lozupone, Jerry; WBCTC
Murphy, Michael; IUOE 99
Putnam, Joyce; OPEIU 2
Reed, Carnell; SEIU 400 PG
Rodich, David; SEIU 500
Saunders, Nathan; WTU 6
Starin, Eric; OPEIU 2
Stern, Edward; AFGE 12
Tarlau, Jimmy; CWA 2336

reception at 6-8P, UFCW 400. Rick also reported on an update on Mt Rainier move to repeal collective bargaining ordinance so that when the police contract (only unionized city workers) expires next year the town can combine police forces with several other local municipalities. January 4 hearing; final vote 1/9 (7P both dates). Working with CWA's Jimmy Tarlau, Fraternal Order of Police, etc. Tarlau upset that union-busting is going on right in Mt Rainier; if they get rid of this ordinance, public employees will never have the right to organize. If a little place like this can roll back collective bargaining rights, what chance do we have to pass pro-worker legislation in Maryland or in the US Congress. We can't let them get away with this. Get in touch with union members in this city and ask them to write their elected officials. Also contact Congressman Van Hollen and other elected officials. Mayor of Mt Rainier was endorsed by SEIU and AFSCME 2 years ago.

- Powell also talked about President Williams serving on DC Mayor Fenty's transition team; President Williams appointed Powell to housing subcommittee, Fred Allen to serve on transition committee for Chairman-elect Vincent Gray; President Williams met with Gray last week to talk about issues and have already made recommendations last week that hearings be held during the evening so workers can attend.

- Rick also discussed the two vacancies on Council in Wards 4 & 7 when Fenty and Gray take office; there are currently 40 people who have said they're going to run in Ward 7, 14-15 in Ward 4. We will be doing questionnaires, interviewing and making recommendations. We need member files from those locals who didn't participate in the matching program earlier this year so we can turn out the union vote in these special elections. Discussion ensued.

REPORTS

- *Ed Stern, AFGE 12*: updated report on OSHA union member who would-

n't change asbestos report to suit big business. Miller and other Congress Representatives sent letters to Department of Labor & OSHA complaining about business influence on agencies. Baltimore Sun yesterday reported further on this situation; union has protected the member.

- *Dave Rodich, SEIU 500*: reported on 1,100 graduate students who organized at George Washington 2 years ago, but have been fought every step of the way – appealed endlessly – by the university. And in the fastest turnaround – 2 weeks – appeals court unanimously found for the union and ordered the university to begin bargaining. Hope to begin in mid-February; remember that all that means is that George Washington has to show up at bargaining, not actually settle a fair contract. We have a great group of folks and are doing a lot of education work and will be counting on the council and affiliates – this is only the 3rd private university in US where the faculty has organized. So this is a critical campaign and case.

- *Eric Starin, OPEIU 2*: Washington Gas is considering laying off 160 service representatives & outsourcing jobs (they take service calls, direct repair teams), may send that work to India. As soon as they have a specific plan they'll let the Council know so word can be spread.

- *Jim Grossfeld, Guild 35*: Montgomery Commission on Health update. Managed to get proposal through Montgomery County Council Thursday night after a very contentious meeting. January 4 legislation reception will be a good opportunity to educate members of County Council about this issue. Business folks in Montgomery County aren't onto this yet and when they do we anticipate they'll go nuts, calling it "Son of Living Wage" etc

- *Gwend Johnson, CBTU*: Thanks to everyone who supported shoebox gift-wrapping last Saturday. Next meeting in February annual Black History program. Delegates gave her a big round of applause and thanks for bringing the refreshments this evening. Also plans to put the CBTU application on the Coun-

cil's website. Thanked the Board and Delegates for appointment to the Board; look forward to representing the Constituency groups.

- *Ann Hoffman NWU* re: DC Vote: more bad news; we didn't get an elected representative out of this Congress. At last minute, Republicans decided not to bring it up.

- *Karen Minatelli, DC Employment Justice Center*: DC Injured worker protection bill: has now passed the whole Council. Now need funding; Mayor just sent down package to City Council including funding which is expected to be voted on tomorrow, need pressure on Council. Working with Councilmember Phil Mendelson to establish paid days off for illness for DC workers, which would take this issue off the table at contract negotiations etc.

- *Sandra Falwell, DCNA*: patient ratio bill will help eliminate the problem of too many patients to one nurse, which is unsafe for both workers and patients. Greater SE Hospital, bought by private company which is stripping hospital. Now they're getting ready to cut positions, including nurses. DC is pouring money into a private company that's not taking care of patients, just taking care of their own bottom line.

Randy Baxter; successful use of FLRA.

President Williams stated it's been great working together this year, and this is the best December we've had in several years. Wished everyone happy and healthy holidays and look forward to continuing the struggle in 2007.

Adjourned 7:46P

50/50 raffle