

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

January 28, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:11P

President Williams introduced Elise Bryant from the National Labor College to discuss the ongoing strategic planning by the Labor Council.

Bryant began the discussion by noting that “we haven’t quite achieved critical mass” in terms of Board participation and need to figure out what’s going on to achieve real institutional change. Sonny Reed (SEIU 400) said that the Board members are the local leaders and those who had showed up for the noon retreat were very disappointed that so many other Board members did not show up, and the session had to be cancelled. Question was raised about how long this whole process will take. Bryant said that it depends on too many variables to say exactly; it could take a month or 6 months or a year. But the point is to take the amount of time necessary to make real change, instead of doing the same thing over and over. There was a consensus among those present that the Council is an important institution but that the demands on the time and energy of the leaders makes it very difficult to get extra time for strategic planning. There was some suggestion about doing weekend sessions; Fred Allen suggested meeting for an hour and a half

prior to each Board meeting for the next few months (2/25, 3/17, 4/21). Bryant reminded the Board that we’re not following an established model as we work toward transformative change.

December Minutes: approved as distributed. *(Note to amend the December minutes to note that President Williams thanked Gwend Johnson and CBTU for graciously providing the refreshments at the December meeting.)*

December Financial Reports: approved as distributed.

Correspondence

- DC Primary Care Association: recommended \$500 as annual membership fee.

- National Labor College: presidential installation February 7; recommended \$300 contribution.

- National Congress of Black Women: recommended \$300 contribution to Salute to Sojourner Truth

- DC Labor Chorus: \$200 recommended contribution.

- Valerie Ervin reception: \$250 patron

\$1,550 total recommended

Evening With Labor

Kathleen McKirchy reported:
- Invitations have gone out; 1 ad in already. This year includes award-winner names in

invitations.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock reported:

- Directors meetings resume February 21 at UFCW Local 400 at 8:30A. Open to all political, organizing and communication directors for affiliates

- March 7 training session for local webmasters coming up; will schedule another one after that for locals who want to get a website.

- Labor FilmFest: '08 dates October 9-12; started new free monthly series last Friday, with showing of At The River I Stand, introduced by Bill Lucy and co-sponsored with CBTU and Labor Heritage Foundation. Next month’s screening will focus on Black History Month theme, also co-sponsored by CBTU and LHF.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:
- Time for annual affiliate contributions to CSA’s Emergency Assistance Fund

- 16th annual Bowling for Gold yesterday; lots of fun and successful for raising funds for the Emergency Assistance Fund. Special thanks to Teamsters 639, ATU 689, Laborers District Council, GCIU’s Printcraft locals; IBEW 26, UNITE HERE 25,

Attendance:

Present: Jos Williams, Gwend Johnson, Linda Bridges, Dan Dyer, John Boardman, Roxie Herbekian, Fred Allen, Faith Jones, Doris Reed, Randolph Scott, Tommy Ratliff, Carl Goldman, Anthony Frederick Sr., Sonny Reed

Absent: Jackie Jeter, Jerry Lozupone, Chuck Graham, Gino Renne, Mark Federici, Merle Cuttitta, Lou Cernak, Sandra Falwell, Nathan Saunders, Jim Pappas, Bob Campbell, Eric Bunn, George Johnson.

Guests: Elise Bryant (National Labor College)

Staff: Kathleen McKirchy, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell.

Linda Bridges (OPEIU 2) who sold 50/50 raffle tickets (winner got \$905 cash) and to OPEIU 2 members who were 35% of bowlers.

- Alya Mbamba hired to replace Jackie Barnes. Most recently worked for Maryland Congressman Al Wynn and before that worked for Progressive Maryland. Will be doing a lot of the Emergency Assistance work.

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- Reported on Prince George’s County Labor-Community summit and follow-up.

- East Campus (College Park, Maryland): met with group of community representatives from the University of Maryland project committee. Laborers 657, UNITE HERE Mid-Atlantic Regional Joint Board, SEIU 400,

IUOE 99, AFSCME 1072, AFSCME 2462, UNITE HERE 25, Sheet Metal Workers 100, IBEW 26, AFSCME Council 26, Insulators 24, Washington Building and Construction Trades Council, and UFCW 400 are interested in working on the project, which includes a 200-room hotel, major grocery and retail, so a number of jobs involved.

- DC Council bills: supporting bills that would prevent Mayor from closing schools without Council approval. Not opposing closing schools; point is that these closings seem to have no rhyme or reason; people want some standard so they know why schools are being targeted for closing. DC Public School worker jobs will also be affected. January 31 demo planned by Save Our Schools.

- Council taking a neutral position on filling the seat vacated by the death of Maryland State Senator Gwendolyn Britt.

- Still lobbying for six female positions in Prince George's Democratic Central Committee for labor women.

- Paid Sick Leave: vote coming up February 5. Business is lobbying heavily against it.

- Still researching Fillmore project in Silver Spring, Maryland in old JC Penney's on Colesville Road; Laborers, UNITE HERE, IATSE 22 and Local 1994 are interested in this project.

- Fred Allen reported on success of labor slate in DC delegate selection vote for the Democratic National Convention.

Reports of Board Members

- UNITE HERE 25: John Boardman provided an update on Gaylord. Will be present for orientation for new employee sign-up for card-check. Potential for 1,200 members for Teamsters 639, IBEW 26, IATSE 22, SEIU 32BJ, UFCW 400 & UNITE HERE 25. Also reported on problem that's come up for food service workers at the Library of Congress; boycott by workers was very successful. Had first negotiating session last week and healthcare has now been restored for workers while negotiations continue; thanks to Saul Schneiderman, AFSCME 2910, for helping organize boycott that slowed business to a trickle – 12 instead of thousands – and was tremendously effective.

- SEIU 400: Sonny Reed thanked President Williams for participating in swearing in of the SEIU 400 Board (he was recently re-elected). Reed will send some photos and report for UNION CITY.

- Teamsters 639: Tommy Ratliff reported on new agreement at UPS, increases in pension, health & welfare, about \$10 over life of agreement; tentative agreement with Yellow Roadways and other freight companies (January 14) worth about \$7.20; also in other negotiations now. Plus dealing with ongoing issues at DC Public Schools.

- Laborers: Anthony Frederick reported that DC Council-member Kwame Brown will be attending the February 20 District Council union meeting at 7P.

- DC CBTU: Gwend Johnson

reported that she will forward constituency group calendar events for UNION CITY. Plus putting together annual Black History month program.

- AFSCME COUNCIL 26: Carl Goldman reported on win – after year-long struggle -- by AFSCME 2910 librarians at the Library of Congress to beat unionbusting attempts by management.

- OPEIU 2: Kathleen McKirchey indicated she had been honored to serve as election committee chair for her local, OPEIU 2, and also reported that Dan Dyer was re-elected President and Linda Bridges was re-elected 1st Vice President.

Meeting adjourned 5:56P