

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

February 18, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4P

President Williams, who suspended the regular order of business for a presentation by Chris Garlock, Rick Powell and Chris Hanson (of TheDatatabank) on an online database that would be a powerful new tool for the Council and affiliates for political action, mobilizing and communicating with members. After a Q&A session on various applications of this database – which is completely secure and accessible online from any computer – including during political, organizing and mobilization campaigns, President Williams said that Chris Garlock will follow up with the Board to determine which locals are interested in pursuing the idea of an online database.

President Williams then introduced Elise Bryant for the next installment of the Council's ongoing strategic planning process. He noted that after last month's meeting, he decided that instead of asking Board members to give up more of their limited time – a point that was made last month – he decided to include the planning time within the regular Executive Board meeting time slot.

Bryant did a round of introductions and then reviewed what's been accomplished thus far, as well as the strategic process and goals. She then had the Board members

break into several groups to brainstorm Wants and Needs, both organizationally (for the Council) as well as for themselves. This information was then collected and she'll follow up with Board members to determine what they think is doable.

Jacqueline Thompson of Bond Beebe reported to the Board on recent new rules governing auditing standards, especially those requiring direct reporting to the Board itself. Also reviewed scope and timing of audit: salary is the Council's major expense; plan to begin in mid-April; anticipate releasing the financial statements in time for the June Board meeting. One of the new things they'll be doing this year is to call a Board member – selected by Bond Beebe – to discuss the Council's audit and finances.

Minutes of January meeting approved as distributed.

January Financial Reports received as distributed.

Correspondence

Requests for contributions: the following actions were APPROVED for recommendation by the Board:

- \$125 half-page ad & 4 tickets to ACE-AFSCME (\$325 total)
- File Prince George's Will Campos request

- NAACP: \$750 unless UNITE HERE Local 25 objects

- Baltimore Central Labor Council: \$400 Full page

- YWCA: filed after discussion of unionbusting of IUOE 99 organizing at YWCA

- Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Spring Ball: \$200 half-page ad, to be accompanied by a letter from President Williams reviewing the history of union-busting at the Marriott.

- Our Nation's Capital: \$100 towards annual fundraising effort

- Mid-Atlantic UFCW PAC: hold to March meeting, pending details

- Central Maryland AFL-CIO: \$100 for Labor Day Salute to Working People

Evening With Labor

Fred Allen updated:

- Ticket/ad sales going along, but deadline approaching; Will meet with hotel on menu soon; meeting Friday was cancelled because of weather. Asked permission (approved) to go ahead and make decision because of timeliness issue.

Union City

Chris Garlock reported:

- 3/7 website training for locals with website; still time to sign up. Will be subsequently

Attendance:

Present: *Jos Williams, Linda Bridges, Roxie Herbekian, Fred Allen, Doris Reed, Randolph Scott, Tommy Ratliff, Carl Goldman, Sonny Reed, Sandra Falwell, Lou Cernak, Mark Federici, Merle Cuttitta, Jim Pappas, Nathan Saunders, Anthony Garland.*

Absent: *John Boardman, Dan Dyer, Jackie Jeter, Jerry Lozupone, Chuck Graham, Eric Bunn, Anthony Frederick Sr., George Johnson.*

Excused: *Gino Renne, Gwend Johnson, Faith Jones.*

Guests: *Elise Bryant (National Labor College), Jacqueline Thompson (Bond Beebe)*

Staff: *Chris Garlock, Rick Powell.*

organizing one for locals who want to get a website; 7/11 Labor Night at the Nats: hold the date

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- DC budget: looking for input.

- Noise bill before the DC City Council. Really an effort to limit free speech -- was tabled last Tuesday, 7-5. But there's still a campaign to bring the bill back, so stay tuned.

- Paid Sick Leave Bill passed first reading, avoided tabling vote; working with partners to get it passed on second reading.

- Prince George's County primary to fill Gwedolyn Britt's Maryland State Senate seat; Prince George's COPE will in-

interview candidates starting this Friday and will make a recommendation on this to Board. Moved and seconded to ask delegates to authorize Board to make the endorsement prior to the next Executive Board meeting upon recommendation by Prince George's COPE.

- Prince George's County Councilmember Tony Knotts has introduced bill for \$35-million bond for National Harbor infrastructure; there had been concern that some of this would go to non-union hotels and provide leverage to get them to do card-check. There will be a recommendation from Prince George's COPE.

- Still working to get 6 labor women appointed to Prince George's Democratic Central Committee; will need 12 votes and may have 10-11.

- Montgomery County Council vacancy: amended previous resolution (in Prince George's race) to include authorizing the Board to act in this race as well.

- Domestic workers bill in Montgomery County, giving domestic workers a right to join a union, which they cannot do not under current law.

- Tri-County: still working on getting prevailing wage passed in Charles County. Working with Rhonda Julius from the Maryland Department of Labor on the measure.

- Recommend forwarding the names of Donna Edwards, Steny Hoyer and Chris van Hollen in 4, 5 & 8th districts. *Unanimously approved.*

- The University of Maryland East Campus Project in Col-

lege Park, Live Nation & National Harbor projects all continuing along.

Reports of Local Unions

- Mark Federici, UFCW 400; negotiations with Giant and Safeway going on now. The Council was very supportive last time, during the big strike; negotiations have not been trending that way this year and we're hopeful for a positive outcome this year but stay tuned. Also, having a world of trouble getting DC Mayor Fenty to acknowledge and/or meet with unions, despite council and affiliates supporting him against an incumbent when he first ran for City Council. Moved and seconded that the council send a letter about it being unacceptable that the Mayor is giving labor the cold shoulder in getting a meeting. Discussion ensued. *Unanimously approved.*

- Jim Pappas, CWA 2336: reported on DC Connect campaign and Voice Over Internet Provider (VOIP) issue; look for more updates in UNION CITY.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35P