

Delegate's Meeting Minutes DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

February 18, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:40P by President Williams

New delegates sworn in: Jennifer Goncalves, OPEIU 277; Jenny Sylvester, CWA 2108.

January Minutes: approved as distributed

January Financial report: received as distributed

Delegate Attendance

Cuttitta, Merle SEIU 500
Ehrmann, Rick NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Falwell, Sandra DCNA
Ferrufino, Ruben Dario Laborers 657
Fields, Daniel SEIU 722
Former, Joseph ATU 689
Frederick, Anthony LABORERS 657
Freeland, Ronald Laborers 657
Freeman, Jo NWU/UAW 1981 2
Gaines, Riley IBEW 26
Goncalves, Jennifer OPEIU 277
Grossfeld, Jim NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Hoffman, Ann NWU/UAW 1981 2
Hogan, George IBEW 26
Ingerick, Jessica OPEIU 277
Newman, Elaine L. NCAUR
Pullium, Mark Mailers 29
Reyes, Victor LABORERS 657
Richards, Leslie NEA/UDCFA
Rodich, David SEIU 500
Schniderman, Saul AFSCME 2910
Sewell, Rodney LABORERS 657
Sylvester, Jenny CWA 2108
Tarlau, Jimmy CWA 2336
Warrick, Gerald Laborers 657

Others in Attendance: Jos Williams, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell, Karen Minatelli (DC Employment Justice Center), Mackenzie Baris (DC Jobs with Justice)

Correspondence

Financial requests: approved the following Board recommendations:

- \$125 half-page ad & 4 tickets to ACE-AFSCME (\$325 total)

- NAACP: \$750

- Baltimore Central Labor Council: \$400 Full page

- 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

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

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- Vacant County Council seats in Prince George's & Montgomery County; make endorsement based on recommendation by respective COPE committees. Interviews start this Friday in Prince George's County, Montgomery County interviews are TBA. Approved the recommendation to authorize the Executive Board to act before the March meeting.

- Maryland Congressional races: recommended to forward

the names of Donna Edwards in 4th, Steny Hoyer in 5th & Chris van Hollen in 8th to Maryland State/DC AFL-CIO for endorsement. *Moved/seconded and unanimously approved.*

- DC: planning budget briefing by City budget director for any union interested in participating; '09 budget will be submitted in late March. Opportunity for unions to ask questions and ask for changes in budget.

- Free Speech bill (AKA the Noise Bill) tabled last Tuesday thanks to opposition; turned around Kwame Brown & Yvette Alexander; urged thanking them for supporting free speech in DC.

- Karen Minatelli, DC Employment Justice Center (DC EJC) reported on Paid Sick Leave bill, which is coming up for 2nd reading March 4. Chamber of Commerce turned out in force, but City Council narrowly defeated motion to table and then the bill was overwhelmingly approved. Lobby day set for this Thursday, postcard campaign, and boosting turnout for vote next Tuesday, to show strong support for bill. NPR just ran a report this morning on the 1-year anniversary of the San Francisco bill; small businesses reported that the impact on them has been much less than they thought and admitted they overreacted. President Williams praised

DCEJC and DC Jobs with Justice (DC JWJ) for running a great labor-community coalition campaign: when labor and the community work together, there's no stopping us. We're almost there and these two organizations have been doing phenomenal work and it's up to us to step up and support them. Powell noted that the Mayor has not indicated whether he'll sign the bill; he could also let it go to the Hill, which Rick wouldn't be surprised if the business community tried this. President Williams stressed that because this bill is in DC, it makes it a national bill, and the spotlight is on us (plus there's a bill on the same issue in Congress).

- Prince George's County: still trying to get labor women appointed to Prince George's Democratic Central Committee.

- Prince George's County Council: \$35 million bond; 1 of the 5 hotels at National Harbor is union (Gaylord); there are four other unions there, and if the \$35 million is going to infrastructure that benefits them, we want to use the leverage to get the same card-check deal there.

- Gave updates on the University of Maryland College Park East Village project.

- Mont County: Fillmore East project: Live Nation concerts building a concert hall, we want it built and operated un-

ion

- Charles County: Still in the process of working on living wage legislation to present to the Charles County Council. Working with Rhonda Julius from the Maryland Department of Labor on the measure.

- 4/16 DC Voting Rights March: President Williams recommended that the Council endorse and support; Ann Hoffman, NWU/DC Vote spoke in support of the motion and resolution, noting there's a march, no rally this year.

UNION CITY

Chris Garlock reported:

- DC Labor FilmFest monthly screenings continued last Friday, and continues in March with a film on labor women

- Website training session on March 7, for unions with websites

- Labor Night at the Nats: hold the date 7/11/08.

Evening With Labor

Fred Allen reported:

- Deadlines for ads is 2/27 but we'll take them up until Friday. Tickets still available.

Reports from Local Unions

- Jim Pappas, CWA 2336: echoed President Williams point about the importance of partnering with community groups like DC JWJ; "I've been doing this for 35 years and they've taught me a thing or two. Reported on DC Connect campaign. "Recent hearings were best-attended ever, thanks to work by the council, community allies, ANCs, door-to-door, etc. Huge success; urge support for our bill, but especially recommend working in coalition." President Williams noted that "This is a consumer issue, and DC consumers include our mem-

bers."

- Mark Pulliam, CWA 14201: thanked everyone who made a call or sent an email to the Washington Post; no progress yet but we're not giving up the ship.

- Jim Grosfeld, Newspaper Guild: updated on Montgomery worker health and safety. Been in works but county still hasn't acted. Need to keep the pressure up on the council to act and stop delaying. Motion that the Council send letters to the County Executive and Council members to express our strong support for this issue and asking for action; approved.

- Ann Hoffman, National Writers Union 2: noted and commended the Council and Building Trades for continuing to push for PLAs. President Williams noted that these are the best way to get good-paying jobs with a future.

- Mackenzie Baris, DC Jobs with Justice: introduced the new Student-Labor Action Project coordinator. Andrew Dobbin; sophomore at AU; worked to help AU shuttle bus drivers organize (joined the Teamsters) and looks like they'll have a contract soon. Working to get everyone involved in DC student-labor together; probably focus on Coalition for Imokolee workers campaign to get better pay for farmworkers. President Williams recognized the "terrific work being done by a new generation of young activists who are so committed. I feel really positive about the future of the labor movement with these dedicated and committed young activists."

Meeting adjourned at 8P