



# Delegate's Meeting Minutes DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

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## Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

March 17, 2008

*Meeting called to order at 6:32P*

- President Williams welcomed delegates and guests and suspended regular order of business for a special presentation. "We are the first Central Labor Council (CLC) in the country to present the new 'Healthcare Meeting In A Box' which is being distributed across the country to 300 other Labor Councils. Not as an audience at a screening but as leaders, organizers and mobilizers."

- Screened 3-minute healthcare DVD

- President Williams then introduced AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, reminding delegates that Sweeney had promised to put CLCs front and center in a revitalized labor movement and said that this has been the case and he has held that promise.

- President Sweeney thanked President Williams for his leadership and support. "Glad to start off tonight's special agenda and pleased that the Washington Metro Labor Council is the first to step up on this program, which more than 300 councils have already signed up for in April. Thanks for agreeing to do this dry run and welcome to AFL-CIO staff in attendance. This is the most important election in our lifetime and this is one of the most important issues – the most important being electing

a new President of the United States. I was very active in the NYC CLC when I lived and worked there and appreciate the good and important work done by CLC leaders, delegates and affiliates. What you hear in this video and the presentation is no different than what you're hearing in your own locals; there's not a local in the country that's not dealing with these issues in negotiations every day.

- Showed second section of video and President Williams asked for show of hands of those who think they can use it in their union locals.

- President Williams then introduced Nick Unger and Heather Booth, who have been working on this issue. Unger asked if anyone in the room thought new contracts would be easier to negotiate, if they ever had members who had problems with their healthcare, to which delegates replied with a resounding Yes!

- President Williams asked Heather Booth what delegates should do. She noted 2 major points: take this message into your locals and have this conversation in May; download this material and use it. Take this into Labor 2008 and move it politically.

- President Williams asked for introduction of health care resolution: seconded. Approved unanimously. May 17 event will be kick-off event;

watch UNION CITY for details to follow. President Williams asked for commitment from delegates and affiliates to move this program forward; applause. Suggestions included: gearing video and materials to demographic; materials need to be available for download. President Williams said all info will be referenced in UNION CITY.

### UNION CITY

- UFCW Local 400's Mark Federici reported on ongoing negotiations with Giant and Safeway; current contract covers over 26,000 union members and expires 3/31 at midnight. Heavy bargaining for last 3 weeks. Last time there were 70,000 UFCW members on strike in Southern California and efforts by bosses to wrest concessions across the country. That effort was stopped in DC, thanks to help from the Metro Council and religious and community allies, which Local 400 appreciates and will never forget. Now, bargaining is not going well and Giant and Safeway are demanding concessions – healthcare co-pays, premiums, etc -- even though they're making plenty of money. We want raises, better pay rates for new hires, good pensions and healthcare for retirees, all of which are in jeopardy. Drew attention to the ad Safeway ran for scabs in Washington Post over the weekend; noted that the \$12/hr is more than some of the union members make, which

adds insult to injury. Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock outlined activities planned to assist, including Action Alert sent Monday afternoon and downloadable materials available online. Updates to be provided online and in UNION CITY.

- Mackenzie Baris, DC Jobs With Justice, introduced Graciela Lopez from the Student-Farmworker Alliance and Immokalee Workers who described the One Penny More Per Pound campaign to double farm worker pay; already won with McDonalds and Taco Bell and now building groundwork for campaign to pressure Burger King. 3/29 fundraiser.

- Darya Mathes, Jews United for Justice Executive Director, announced 4/15 Labor Seder, which attracts 200 people each year to this very special event. President Williams noted that the Council has supported this since the very first one.

### Correspondence

*Requests for contributions recommended by the Board:*

- Friends of George Leventhal: tabled until the April meeting.

- Greater Washington Chapter A. Philip Randolph Institute: 16th Annual Birthday Celebration, April 6, 2008, Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt, MD 7:00 PM. \$140 (2 tickets)

- American Civil Liberties Union Fund of the National Capi-

tal Area: 2008 Bill of Rights Luncheon, March 18, 2008 at the Capital Hilton, 16th Street, DC 12:00 PM; \$450 Sponsor (2 seats)

- Mid-Atlantic Political Action Committee (UFCW): MD Attny General Doug Gansler "Person of the Year" Dinner, April 17, 2008, Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD 5:00 PM; \$1,000 Senators Club

- National Elevator Industry Educational Program (IUEC 10): Class of 2007 Celebration, May 17, 2008 at 5:30, 9600 MLK Hwy, Lanham, MD; \$250 Half page black and white

- Jews United for Justice: 7th Annual Labor Seder, April 15, 2008 at Adas Israel, Washington, DC; \$200

- YWCA: WAWIT Luncheon, April 17, 2008 at Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street, NW; \$500 contribution on condition they provide a letter assuring that next year's event will be at a union location.

- Progressive Student Union (GW): Help subsidize trip to United Students Against Sweatshops National Winter Conference; \$300

- Montgomery County NAACP: Annual Dinner 4/17; Half-page \$200 1 ticket \$100, total \$300

- National Democratic Women's Club of DC: \$100 **TOTAL approved \$3,240 Moved, seconded and approved to approve the actions.**

New Delegates Sworn In: Gregory Waller Sr., (IBEW 1900), Sharon Harris (AFGE Council 1), Margaret Shanks (DCNA), Pafoua Lee (APALA-DC Chapter)

## **COPE**

*Rick Powell reported:*

- Discussed recommendation to endorse Nancy Navarro in Montgomery County Special Election in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Approved. President Williams introduced Navarro, "the next County Council member in Montgomery County's 4th District." Navarro talked about her labor background: mother immigrated from Venezuela and worked as a domestic and then in a factory, where she had a union and stressed the importance of their power for workers. President Williams noted that with endorsement comes support and commitment from affiliates and our members; if we don't deliver, it's not the candidate who loses but working people. President Williams asked for recommendation of a contribution of \$1,000 to the Navarro campaign; moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

- Valerie Ervin, Montgomery County Council: started out as a grocery-bagger in high school, and her mother retired from Safeway, so she's there for Local 400. Also with SEIU 500 in their struggle to organize faculty at Montgomery College, which has now engaged a union-buster to fight the organizing campaign. Just got a budget today; school system will be short \$50 million so what's being set up is that the Montgomery County Council will bust open the union contracts to pay for the shortfall. So we need Nancy Navarro on the Council to provide a strong labor vote on these and other critical issues. In 2004 I was the first-ever labor and African-American woman to serve; and look forward to serving with Nancy on the County Council. Sponsoring first-prevailing-wage bill in the county; has 5 co-sponsors already, enough to

pass the bill and hope to pass it in May and look forward to having you on hand to win on this then.

February Minutes: approved as distributed.

February Financial Report: approved to receive as distributed.

## **Evening With Labor**

- Kathleen McKirchy reported that it's this Saturday, tickets still available.

## **Reports from Delegates**

- Dave Rodich, SEIU 500: seconded strength of Valerie Ervin as a strong labor supporter; Nancy Navarro was in the SEIU 500 office last Saturday working with the Montgomery County College organizing team.

- President Williams reported on the recently-passed Paid Sick and Safe Days bill in DC and credited the Employment Justice Center – and Deputy Director Karen Minatelli -- for all their work on this bill. Perhaps not the exact bill we wanted but a great start.

Wanda Shelton-Martin, DC A. Philip Randolph Institute: thanked the Council for its support of the APRI Birthday Celebration every year; this year we're honoring Jackie Jeter of ATU 689 and Glennard Middleton, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 67.

- President Williams reported that Sergeant at Arms Randolph Scott is retiring from IBEW Local 26 after 38 years. Scott said "I've been so diligent in my duties for the Council because I know the Council is doing good work and I believe in the Council and I will be there as needed."

- President Williams and Kathleen McKirchy asked delegates

to remember the apartment dwellers who have lost their homes in the recent 5-alarm fire in Columbia Heights, some of whom are union members.

*Adjourned 8:35P*

*50/50 won by Cynthia Collins (\$67)*