

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

March 17, 2008

Meeting Notes from E-Board Retreat 3/17/08

Elise Bryant reviewed briefly the main points from the article about corporate strategic planning as well as the notes from the last meeting which was held 2/25/08. These notes included identified essential goals, as well as personal goals/wants for the organization.

The group broke into two components to each consider a different set of goals with a view to rating them as to what it takes to accomplish each goal, who will do it and what resources are needed to accomplish the goal.

Group 1 (John Boardman, Gino Renne, Gwend Johnson, Sonny Reed, Randolph Scott and Doris Reed) looked at the first set of goals identified:

- Council should work together as one
- Need to be able to run powerful successful political agenda where we can actually seat or unseat a candidate; support each others' bills
- True commitment, not voice support only
- Share knowledge and best practices among all members
- The group indicated that decision-makers must be in the room when decisions are

made to support candidates or issues. Roundtable formats which encourage openness should be used for meetings. More funds are needed. We need a playbook that incorporates what should be done each campaign rather than always trying to re-invent the wheel. Locals must put aside differences and work through the Council for the common good.

Group 2 (Anthony Garland, Lou Cernak, Mark Federici, Linda Bridges, Jos Williams, Sandra Fallwell) looked at the second set of goals identified:

- Political action
- Increase membership
- Every organization will follow the will on majority issue
- The group discussed the impossibility of the Council and all its locals working as one all the time. But to the extent possible we need to encourage swallowing of pride, we need to help each other's organizations, we need to act as a movement. We need to have a sense of honesty about our shortcomings (can't move ahead without affiliate support), end turf war, start trying to understand and support the interests of each sector (public, private, craft vs. industrial unions etc). These efforts need to be sustainable.

- Regarding increasing membership, we need funds to market the CLC to non-affiliates; market our successes in the legislative, political and mobilizing arena.

- Regarding majority rules, this is tough but do-able. More communication required. *Elise is to send out any assignments before the next meeting on 3/21.*

Official Executive Board Meeting Called to Order at 4:30P

February Minutes: Gwend Johnson and Gino Renne were excused from the last meeting. Corrected minutes approved as distributed.

February Financial Report: February report received as distributed.

Correspondence

- 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 Capital Area: 2008 Bill of Rights Luncheon, March 18,

Attendance:

Present: Jos Williams, Gino Renne, Linda Bridges, John Boardman, Eric Bunn, Doris Reed, Sandra Fallwell, Randolph Scott, Sonny Reed, Lou Cernak, Mark Federici, Gwend Johnson, Nathan Saunders, Anthony Garland.

Absent: Faith Jones, Anthony Frederick Sr., Tommy Ratliff, Fred Allen, Roxie Herbekian, Jerry Lozupone, Chuck Graham, George Johnson.

Excused: Dan Dyer, Jim Pappas, Merle Cuttitta, Carl Goldman.

Staff: Kathleen McKirchy, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell.

2008 at the Capital Hilton, 16th Street, DC 12:00 PM; \$450 Sponsor (2 seats)

- Mid-Atlantic Political Action Committee (UFCW): Maryland Attorney 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

- Nat'l Democratic Women's Club of DC; \$100

TOTAL approved \$3,240

Other Correspondence

- Jews United for Justice thanks the Council for the \$200 contribution and its ongoing support.

- National Labor College thanked the Council for the \$300 contribution towards the installation event of new president Dr. William Scheurman.

- President Williams recognized Nathan Saunders, WTU 6, back from a sabbatical at the Harvard Trade Union Institute.

Evening with Labor

Kathleen McKirchy reported

- 31st annual event is this Saturday; 800 tickets sold already, a little under normal because of upcoming Easter holidays. Tickets still available.

- Adbook has gone to press but can still take ads for big screen.

- Ticket prices have been at \$100 for quite a while; actual cost to us is nearly \$85, not including other hotel costs, including nearly \$10,000 in audio-visual and other costs;

need to revisit ticket cost before next year's event.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported

- 7/11 Labor Night at the Nats; no tickets yet but taking orders. Any local takes 50 or more gets name on big screen; first union that buys 1,000 tickets gets to throw out the first pitch.

- 9/27 Golf Tournament will be held once again at unionized Enterprise Golf Course.

UNION CITIES

- 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.

COPE

Rick Powell reported

- Consensus of unions in Montgomery County recommends endorsement of Nancy Navarro in Montgomery County in District 4 of the Montgomery County Council. Election is April 15, which is why process was expedited. Approved unanimously.

- Prince Georges County At-Large six female candidates issue due for discussion at Prince George's Democratic Central Committee Tuesday night; we'll be meeting with leadership Tuesday morning to see what they have to say about resolving labor's issues.

- Update on status of DC Noise Bill

- Coalition to Save Our Schools is holding a 3/26 teach-in on the plans to close schools and privatize public property.

Reports of Board Members

- Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU: 80 turned out for 3/1 annual Black History celebration, with gospel and jazz.

- John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25: Organizing at Gaylord National harbor, team in there now working on 1,100-member unit; IBEW 26 has signed up their unit and IUOE 99 has signed up their unit. Just got word that we'll be signing card check for food service of 860 people at National Stadium, will start that campaign next Monday.

President Williams reminded the Board to please stay for delegate meeting and the discussion on health care. Also

noted that long-time Board member Randolph Scott, IBEW 26, will be get well-deserved retirement at the end of the month after 38 years. He has served as Sergeant at Arms for the Council for many years and we look forward to continuing to work with him at the Council. Scott noted that it's time for him to move on but if there's anything he can do to help, he'll be glad to do so.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20P