

Delegate's Meeting Minutes

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

May 19, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:40P

Letter from Washington Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Lozupone resigning and recommending Vance T.

Delegate attendance:

Ayres, Vance Washington Building Trades
Benson, Brian IATSE 22
Buchanan, Avis AFGE 2782
Coles, Mark Ironworkers 5
Collins, Cynthia SEIU 400 PG
Dugan, Dan Fire Fighters 36
Ferruffino, Ruben Laborers 657
Fields, Daniel SEIU 722
Frederick, Anthony Laborers 657
Freeland, Ronald Laborers 657
Gaines, Riley IBEW 26
Green, Gerald SEIU 400 PG
Greenhill, Larry IBEW 26
Holmes, Trent SEIU 400 PG
Jeter, Jackie ATU 689
Jeter, Roland ATU 689
Lowery, Clifford AFGE 1975
Lowery, Jim IUEC 10
Mayfield, Robert AFGE 2978
Newman, Elaine L. NCAUR
Reyes, Victor Laborers 657
Sewell, Rodney Laborers 657
Shelton-Martin, Wanda APRI
Starin, Eric OPEIU 2
Warrick, Gerald Laborers 657

Others in Attendance: Jos Williams, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell, Kathleen McKirchy, Mackenzie Baris, DC Jobs with Justice, Kevin Byrne, AFL-CIO Voice at Work Campaign, Jacob Horwitz, New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice, Vijay Kumar and other workers from the Indian Workers Congress; Harris, Sharon AFGE Council 1 2607

Ayers -- the new Secretary-Treasurer of the WBCTC -- as his replacement to complete his current term. The Executive Board had previously unanimously approved the recommendation and welcomed Ayers as a new Board member. President Williams swore in Ayers and delegates applauded.

April Minutes: Approved as distributed.

April Financial Report: Received as distributed.

Correspondence

- Americans for Democratic Action: 2008 National Convention Banquet on Thursday, June 12: \$320 for 2 tickets.

- Boilermakers Local 193: 19th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament July 18 at the Twin Shields Golf Club: \$200 Tee.

- Friends of Delegate Anne Healey: Breakfast honoring Delegate Healey May 27 at the Greenbelt Marriott: Tabled.

- MD State/DC AFL-CIO COPE: Salute to Leadership June 20 at the Martin's West: \$1000 for a full-page ad and 4 tickets.

- DC Building Trades Council: Annual Golf Outing honoring Disabled American Veterans on June 6 at the Twin Shields Golf Club: \$300 tee.

- Teamsters Local 639 Schol-

arship Fund: 23rd Annual Golf Tournament on June 6 at the Atlantic Golf's Potomac Ridge Golf Course: No Action.

- Community Services Metro Baltimore Council: 24th Annual Charity Golf Classic Fundraiser on September 12 at the Rocky Point Golf Course: No Action.

- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association: Scholarship Foundation 50/50 Raffle at the August 21 Conference: No Action.

- Communication Workers of America & ALS: 2008 Walk to Defeat ALS Sponsorship: \$200.

- Iron Workers 5: D.A.D.'s Day Poker Run (Dollars Against Diabetes): \$500 for name on back of shirt.

- Oxon Hill marching band: Congressional candidate Donna Edwards request to help defray expenses of band trip to Beijing for Olympics: \$1000.

Other Correspondence

- Jews United for Justice thanked the Council for the generous \$200 contribution as a co-sponsor of the 2008 Labor Seder.

- Communications Workers of America (CWA) America Civil Rights Department and the National Equity Committee thanked President Wil-

liams for his participation at the 2008 Civil Rights and Equity Conference.

- United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 400 sincerely thanked President Williams for his involvement in the community campaign during recent negotiations with Giant Food and Safeway.

Evening With Labor Update

- Fred Allen said that the final report is not yet ready and it'll be made at the June meeting.

UNION CITY

- Indian workers on hunger strike against exploitation in guest worker program; Jacob Horwitz, New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice, reported on the plight of these workers. Worker Vijay Kumar described how workers sold their homes and valuables to come to the US, only to be forced into slavery-like conditions, crammed into crowded housing they were charged for, bad food they were over charged for and no rights at work. So they organized; leaders were harassed and then fired. *\$620 donated in pass-the-hat; it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Council donate \$380 to the National Immigration Law Center for the legal work of the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice to make the total contribution \$1,000.*

- UAW demo in Atlantic City:

Kevin Byrne, AFL-CIO Voice at Work Campaign, reported that casino workers are fighting for union representation. A rally will be held to support their fight on Saturday, June 21. Buses will be leaving from DC.

- Smithfield campaign: Chris Garlock reported on a Thursday, June 19 kick-off for a two-month Don't Buy Smithfield campaign in DC.

- Website training session on RSS feed Thursday, May 22.

- Labor FilmFest: Upcoming screenings include a Friday, May 30 showing of Grassroots Rising at the AFL-CIO, a Sunday, June 1 screening of SiCKO at the National Labor College and a Friday, June 27 screening of Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin at the AFL-CIO. The 2008 Filmfest proper will take place in October. Now accepting ads for the 2008 program book.

COPE Report

- DC Noise Bill: Labor agreed on a compromise amendment in which sound would be measured from inside nearest building and would be city-wide. The bill then failed in a 7-6 vote with Alexander and Brown switching votes. Brown then pulled a surprise amendment -- which increased the decibel limit and added convoluted enforcement requirements -- out of his pocket that he hadn't mentioned to us. John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25, made a presentation on this issue, noting that not only is free speech critical to almost everything organized labor does in metro DC, but that labor was deeply disrespected in this process by broken promises. Sarah Heydemann, UNITE HERE 25 reported on the labor campaign

to beat the noise bill, which includes distributing and posting "Protect Free Speech" flyers, a "Roll of quarters" campaign to call Councilmembers, and other tactics including a lobby day and "moving strike" in which hundreds of union members clog up City Council's halls, phones, fax and email. Discussion ensued, including a question of investment of resources, both financial and staff. Executive Board moved, seconded and approved to endorse and support the campaign.

- Prince George's County Update: Rick Powell and President Williams reported on the ongoing dispute with the PG County Democratic Central Committee and circulated a draft letter on the issue. Lengthy discussion and debate ensued. Motion to send the letter (modified as discussed) with the names of all Board members as well as other major labor leaders to County elected officials.

- DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton Fundraiser: Need everyone's full support this Thursday; she chairs a major House subcommittee and has responsibilities for fundraising for the Democratic Party.

- Questionnaires: Rick Powell reviewed planned schedule for questionnaires and interviews for DC City Council candidates. Deadline to submit questions is Friday, May 23.

- Tri-County COPE: Jim Lowery, IUEC 10, reported that Tri-County COPE members have gone to several fundraisers in last few months, among other activities.

- DC Democratic Convention: Powell reported on recent convention and labor caucus.

Community Services Agency

- Labor Night at the Nats: already sold 2,700 tickets. Two union members will probably be singing the national anthem at the beginning of the game and God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch.

Reports

- Eric Starin, OPEIU 2: Reported that Montgomery County public employees successfully fended off attempts by some on the County Council to renege on contracts.

- Dan Fields, SEIU 722: warned that they may need help later this year when they begin negotiating a contract at Washington Hospital Center.

- President Williams reported that Avis Buchanan, AFGE 2782, is retiring from the Census Bureau after 43 years; he recognized her long support and involvement in the labor movement. Also the AFGE District 14 caucus re-elected Dwight Bowman as Vice-President of District 14 last Saturday.

- Rick Powell reported on the Americans for Democratic Action Convention coming up in early June.

- Jackie Jeter, ATU 689: Encouraged anyone who has the opportunity to travel to or support the people of New Orleans; she did so recently and reported that the workers there are still very much suffering, living under bridges, etc.

Meeting adjourned 8:10P

COPE 50/50: Sharon Harris, AFGE 2607, donated her \$26 to hunger strikers