

# Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

## Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

May 19, 2008

### *Executive Board Meeting Called to Order 4:30P*

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 Scholarship 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: Donna Edwards request to help defray expenses of band trip to Beijing for Olympics: \$1000.

Letter from Washington Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Lozupone resigning and recommending Vance Ayers as his replacement to complete his current term. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appoint Ayers to the Board, and he was welcomed as a new Board member.

### **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 Williams 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!**

- Website training session on RSS feed 5/22

- Major campaigns: Indian workers on Day 6 of hunger strike against exploitative guest worker program and employer Signal corporation; UAW demo in Atlantic City on Saturday, June 21. Buses leaving from DC; A new DC Smithfield campaign will start in June.

- 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 showing of Brother Outsider:

### *Attendance*

*Present: Jos Williams; Linda Bridges; Sonny Reed; John Boardman; Mark Federici; Jim Pappas; Doris Reed; Nathan Saunders; Fred Allen.*

*Excused: Roxie Herbekian; Sandra Falwell; Carl Goldman; Tommy Ratliff; Merle Cuttitta; Chuck Graham; Gwend Johnson.*

*Absent: Gino Renne, Lou Cernak, Eric Bunn, George Johnson, Anthony Garland, Anthony Frederick, Sr, Faith Jones,*

*Also attending: Dwight Bowman, AFGE District 14, Dave Richardson, AFGE 12; Vance Ayers, WBCTC; Earl O'Neal, AFSCME Council 20; Gerald Warrick, Laborers 657; Sarah Heydemann, UNITE HERE 25.*

The Life of Bayard Rustin at the AFL-CIO. Filmfest proper will happen in October. Now accepting ads for the 2008 program book.

### **Community Services Agency (CSA)**

- 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. Vance Ayers, WBCTC, reported that the national building trades are also organizing a labor event with the Nats; he'll get back with the date. Boardman, UNITE HERE 25, reported that the Nationals are denying UNITE HERE 25

access in their card-check organizing drive. President Williams noted that AFSCME is also having problems and said we need to make sure everyone's coordinating their efforts.

- Financial Situation and Budget Challenges: McKirchy discussed the current CSA financial situation with the Board, indicating that a major grant from DOES will not be renewed because they are no longer doing sole source contracts. Grant proposals are going out to area foundations to keep the Building Futures project going, but in the interim, CSA would like to transfer one of its employees to the MWC payroll, to assist with COPE and legislative activities through the end of the year. It was moved, seconded and approved to take this action effective 6/1/08.

#### **COPE Report**

- DC Noise Bill: Labor agreed on a compromise amendment in which sound would be measured from inside nearest building and would be citywide. 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 dis-

tributing 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. *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; *moved, seconded and unanimously approved*

- Montgomery County Budget/Union Contracts: Rick Powell reported that UFCW 1994/MCGEO successfully fended off efforts last week to reduce funding for their contracts. Congrats to UFCW 1994/MCGEO and Board member Gino Renne.

- DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton Fundraiser: Need everyone's full support on this; 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. Deadline for DC City Council candidates to submit questions is Friday, May 23.

- Oxon Hill marching band: *moved, seconded and approved to make a \$1,000 contribution -- and publish a request for contributions in UNION CITY! -- to the Oxon Hill band as part of their effort to raise money for their trip to the Olympics in Beijing. This is a project by candidate for Congress Donna Edwards to raise \$53,000 for the band.*

***Meeting adjourned 6:40P***