

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

June 16, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:20P.

President Williams noted that some concerns have been raised about the letter sent to Prince George's County officials last week, but that absent critical mass – and some key members – it may be best to hold that discussion to another meeting, one sooner than the next scheduled meeting in September. One of the issues this raises is also the ongoing problem of attendance/participation at Board meetings. Separately, the question of SEIU affiliate participation (vis-à-vis the dispute with California Nurses Association) was raised and addressed, with SEIU 500's Merle Cuttitta noting that Central Labor Councils across the country have always been very supportive and there was no intent to affect those relationships.

May Minutes: moved, seconded and approved as distributed.

May Financial Report: moved, seconded and received as distributed.

Correspondence

The following recommendations were moved, seconded and approved:

- Pride at Work Membership Fee: \$100.
- Pledge to 89.3FM WPFW:

\$300.

- AFL-CIO & Solidarity Center George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award (June 25) to support programs of the Liberian rubber workers: \$50.

- Maryland Delegate Brian Feldman June 16 Reception: \$250.

- The Washington Informer Celebrating the 90th Birthday of Nelson Mandela: Received.

Other Correspondence

- Maryland Delegate Tom Hucker thanked the Metro Council for the \$500 contribution to his campaign and for all of Labor's support.

- The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association thank the Metro Council for the \$200 donation in support of the 2008 Walk to Defeat ALS in Washington, DC.

- The National Elevator Industry Educational Program thanked the Metro Council for the financial support of \$250 toward the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2007.

Evening With Labor (EWL)

EWL Chair Fred Allen distributed a report with an estimated profit for 2008 of \$15,657, "The lowest in years." He noted that "we actually lost money on dinner ticket sales," with \$90,000 in dinner expenses and \$80,000 in din-

ner ticket income. Allen said that he will review this with staff and the President to come up with recommendations for 2009, including considering looking for a different venue. Discussion ensued.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock reported:

- 'Buy Better Than Smithfield' DC campaign launches June 19; UNITE HERE's John Boardman offered use of unused radio spots from the noise bill campaign to UFCW

- June 21 Atlantic City demo supporting casino workers who are trying to organize with the United Auto Workers; seats still available on buses leaving from DC.

- United Steelworkers organizing a Toxic Trade event on July 9.

- Indian hunger strike called off last month after gaining support from Congressmembers and activists across the nation.

- 2008 DC Labor FilmFest: June screenings of film on Bayard Rustin in honor of Gay Pride Month; two screenings on Wednesday, June 24 at American Federation of Teachers and Department of Labor (American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) 12) and one on Friday, June 27 at the AFL-CIO. Also pleased to report we're

Attendance

Present: Jos Williams, Gino Renne, Sandra Falwell, Lou Cernak, Sonny Reed, Dan Dyer, John Boardman, Merle Cuttitta, Anthony Frederick, Sr, Gwend Johnson, Anthony Garland, Fred Allen.

Excused: Linda Bridges, Carl Goldman, Mark Federici, Jim Pappas, Faith Jones.

Absent: Roxie Herbekian, Tommy Ratliff, Eric Bunn, George Johnson, Doris Reed, Chuck Graham, Nathan Saunders.

Also attending: Kathleen McKirchy, Rick Powell, Chris Garlock

working on adding AFGE and the Communication Workers of America as venues beginning in September; still time to reserve ad space in FilmFest Program Guide.

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- Letter to Prince George's elected officials, Prince George's Democratic Central Committee (PGDCC) (held this for later discussion).

- Noise Bill; Powell and John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25, reviewed the background and history of the noise bill issue and the impact it would have had on free speech in DC as well as the successful campaign to defeat the bill last month. Boardman credited the campaign and the massive turnout by many unions, noting that the campaign was so effective that some Councilmembers accused

local labor of using this issue “as an assault weapon” and said area labor leaders “were terrorizing children.” “One of my members said ‘Well, they were pretty insulting, but we must have been doing something right,’” said Boardman.

- Labor 2008: Powell reported that the Metro Council is working with colleagues in Northern Virginia, which is a battleground state for the first time in many years and could go Democratic.

- DC Council Questionnaire: We are sending our questionnaires out next week; the deadline for candidates to return them will be Friday, July 11; interviews will start July 16-July 19, with recommendations given to the Executive Board by Monday, July 21. President Williams asked for recommendations from the Board that delegates empower the Board to act on DC City Council endorsements, since there won't be a Delegates meeting until September; moved, seconded and approved to do so.

- ACLU “Safe Neighborhoods” campaign: President Williams joined DC Jobs with Justice and others in the ACLU protest of police barricading DC's Trinidad neighborhood, ostensibly to deal with crime wave there.

- DC Councilmember Jack Evans Ward 2 endorsement support request; this is not a labor endorsement—that process is already in place—asking for labor turnout at Ward 2 Democrats endorsement meeting.

- Maryland 4th District Special Election Tuesday June 17: Powell reported that the Metro Council is supporting

labor-endorsed candidate Donna Edwards.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- July 11 Labor Nights at the Nats; last year sold 5,500, 3,600 sold so far this year. Discussed ways of showing support for service workers at stadium.

- 2008 Golf Tourney: September 29 this year.

Reports of President & Board Members

- Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500, and Gino Renne, UFCW 1994/MCGEO, reported on the effective campaign to protect negotiated contracts for Montgomery County workers, despite projected deficits and a sustained attack on the County Council. We were very disappointed by the lack of support from some of the Councilmembers who labor had supported and who turned their backs on labor in this fight. UFCW 1994/MCGEO alone turned out 1,000 members over a series of meetings. Although county worker unions won this battle, they anticipate more struggles ahead, and warned that “this is the least labor-supportive Council in many years” noting that as goes Montgomery, well-known as the most progressive in the area, so may go the rest of the region.

- President Williams reviewed the Metro Council's Constitutional amendment for a COLA per cap increase – which would amount to .02 per member per month – which needs to be recommended by the Board. “Not asking for vote now but want to be able to make that recommendation – which would

take effect in September – at the September meeting.”

- Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500: 1,094 Montgomery County College adjunct faculty voted to join SEIU 500 earlier this month; hope to start on contract in late August, early September.

- Sandra Falwell, DCNA: In contract negotiations with Children's Hospital; not going well; both sides digging in heels.

- Sonny Reed, SEIU 400: In negotiations now with Prince George's schools; all 4 unions have met “and we're not going to give in to the demands for takebacks from all the county school unions, though we know the budget is going to be tight.”

- Anthony Garland, ATU 689: In negotiations with Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, which has been attacking the pension plan. Successful getting Bill 17-233 passed in the DC City Council, to increase fines for assaults on transit workers, and are pushing for HR 401 in Congress to protect collective bargaining rights and pension, which was attached to a \$1.5 billion capital improvement plan.

- Gwend Johnson, DC-CBTU: reported for several constituency groups: *Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)* just held convention in St Louis, congrats to President Williams for being elected to Board again; added 10 more members and 2 more trustees (President Williams elected Trustee), planning Region 2 conference in Philadelphia after elections; local meetings start again in fall. *Coalition of Labor Union*

Women are planning a health fair November 15. More info soon. *Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance DC chapter* is still organizing and holding and will hold a membership meeting this Wednesday, June 18 here in AFL-CIO.

- Anthony Frederick, Laborers 657: laborers have completed negotiations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25P