

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

September 15, 2008

Called to order 4:18P

June Minutes: moved, seconded and approved

June Financial Report: moved, seconded and approved to receive

Correspondence:

Requests for money (Executive Board recommendations in parentheses):

- Sheet Metal 100; Killeen Memorial Golf Tournament 9/19 (\$250)
- DJ Employment Justice Center Labor Day Luncheon 10/2 (\$600)
- DC Jobs With Justice Together We Stand festival 10/5 (\$50)
- MontCo Hispanic Democratic Club Annual Hispanic Heritage Month fundraiser 10/6 (\$175)
- Jews United for Justice Request to join Host Committee for Heschel Vision Awards 10/19 (\$360)
- DC Vote Champions of Democracy (with Danny Glover) 10/22 (\$1,000)
- Peggy Browning Fund 10th Law Students Workers Rights Conference 10/17 (received)
- NAACP MD State Conf Labor Luncheon 10/30 (\$420)
- Trade Prep Inc CSA program support (\$100)
- Purple Line Now! support light rail campaign staffing (\$200)

TOTAL: \$3,155

Thank-You's/Other:

- ILCA: Union City/dclabor.org awards
- Pride at Work: Thank You
- MD Delegate Anne Healey (Dist 22): Thank You for campaign contribution
- Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal: Contribution receipt
- ACE-AFSCME 2250: Thank You for supporting Annual Appreciation Awards Night
- Central MD Council: Labor Day ad; Thank You
- Boilermakers Lodge 193: Thanks for 7/18 Golf Tourney support
- Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics Invite to President Williams for conference in Phillipines 10/19

Community Services

Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Golf Tournament in two weeks; still time to sign up to golf or to take ads & tee signs.
- Emergency Assistance Fund: had run out of money but just received \$7,500 contribution from ATU 689, which will keep the Fund going until it's replenished by the Golf Tournament.
- Fall worksite campaigns are underway: United Way, CFC DC One Fund. CSA needs help getting the word out to

members that they can designate CSA for contributions.

Union City

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- 2008 Labor FilmFest coming up October 9-14 at AFI
 - Better Website trainings were conducted this summer:
 - July 23: Social Networking: Laura Packard of the New Organizing Institute on the exciting organizing and communication possibilities of online social networks like MySpace and FaceBook.
 - August 20: Introduction to Content Management Systems; Jason Lefkowitz, Online Campaigns Organizer for Change to Win, & Chris Kenngott, AFL-CIO Online Mobilization and Working Families Network Manager
 - September 10: Search Engine Optimization, Or, Being Found On Google; Beth Allen of the Communication Workers of America
 - Street Heat actions
 - APWU demo in Georgetown
 - DC public unions City Hall demo
 - Union City & dclabor.org website win ILCA awards; Union City wins 1st place in division, while dclabor.org wins Honorable Mention in division.
- Vance Ayers, WBCTC, suggested setting up FilmFest

Attendance

Present: Jos Williams, Gino Renne, Sandra Falwell, Lou Cernak, Sonny Reed, Dan Dyer, Carl Goldman, Eric Bunn, Mark Federici, Anthony Frederick, Sr, Anthony Garland, Fred Allen, Vance Ayres.

Excused: John Boardman, Gwend Johnson, George Johnson, Merle Cuttitta, Jim Pappas, Doris Reed

Absent: Linda Bridges, Roxie Herbekian, Tommy Ratliff, Chuck Graham, Faith Jones, Nathan Saunders.

Also attending: James Ivey (AFSCME Council 20), Earl O'Neal (AFSCME Council 20) David Dzidzienyo (AFGE Council 211), George Bordenave (AFT), Tony Perez (UFCW 400), Terry Cavanugh (SEIU)

screenings in Northern Virginia

COPE

Coordinator Rick Powell reported:

- East Campus: trying to get this project constructed and operated union; have communicated our concerns to Maryland Governor and hopefully he'll be weighing in on this in the next week to 10 days. Asking for Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which includes a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), labor peace, etc.
- PG COPE: whole committee to work on plan at next meeting this Thursday. Endorsed Edwards for Congress in Maryland's 4th CD and reports are that she's expanding her support. Reminder that federal contributions must come from your international.

- Tri-County: Charles County looks good to pass prevailing wage; the next meeting is 9/23 7P in La Plata

- Montgomery County: passed prevailing wage last week; bill was led by Councilmember Valerie Ervin with only two opposed (Andrews and Praisner). Takes effect in July 2009. County Executive is trying to balance budget shortfall on County workers. Gino Renne, MCGEO 1994, reported that the unions are trying to work out a compromise that respects the union contracts. "If it's happening in Montgomery County, it's going to happen everywhere." Working on short and long-term strategies to avoid re-fighting this issue on a regular basis. Will keep Council and allies posted. Also anticipate further demands for takebacks when Phil Andrews becomes Council President in January 2009. Not sure he has votes but the attempt could create a blueprint for others around region to try to do the same. President Williams noted that this was tried in DC a few years ago by Councilmember David Catania who tried to restrict unions to only negotiating on wages; interesting to see the issue pop up again.

Labor 2008: President Williams introduced Mike Cavanaugh from the AFL-CIO, reminding the Executive Board that the Council agreed to focus local efforts on supporting NoVa efforts. "We must be successful in this election and this is a real challenge," said Cavanaugh. "The polling among union voters – especially in battleground states – is very sobering. Our whole agenda depends on our success November 4; Virginia is a battleground state and anything you can do out there is great." Also doing phone-

banking into other key states out of the AFL-CIO phone-bank. Key is to talk to each union member at least 6 times. Encourage unions to each adopt a shift. Got a great opportunity to win but we must connect the issues to the candidates. And, frankly, we face significant hurdles – there's 30 phones in there tonight and only 6 people on them.

DC: President Williams reviewed background of rocky labor relations with DC Mayor Fenty, which have been problematic since beginning, given that the Council supported his opponent. The school takeover was planned without labor input and when Fenty asked for support of Chancellor Rhee, the Council pledged support in return for union renovations on the schools and a consultative relationship. Councilmember Thomas brokered the meeting and agreement with the Mayor and labor held up our end of the bargain but Fenty has not, instead expanding anti-labor actions to city workers. That's why President Williams asked Executive Board's permission to expose the Mayor's anti-labor record at the DNC in Denver. The campaign has generated support from labor allies across the country, but we must also put pressure on the DC City Council to stand up to the mayor and exercise their responsibility. As DC goes, so goes Prince George's County, Montgomery and the rest. Eric Bunn, AFGE Council 211, reported on city worker's planned action for 9/16 at DC Council; this is only the start, we've got to keep the pressure up. "This is a make or break campaign," said James Ivey, AFSCME Council 20, "make no mis-

take. This is part of a national effort to destroy unions. They tried it in New York City, tried in New Orleans. Rhee and Fenty are just puppets. George Bordenave (AFT) quoted Rhee as saying "My job is to bring pain and suffering to the dysfunctional school district" in the Dallas News. WTU has committed \$5,000 to this effort and we're prepared to raise and spend more. Discussion ensued. "It's a cancer that keeps growing; either it stops now or we're out of business. I'm in the fight but I expect everyone else to be in there with me" said Gino Renne.

DC COPE meeting: DC COPE to meet asap to begin candidate interview process and make recommendations to Council.

Alya Mbamba, Assistant COPE Coordinator, reported on local turnout for primaries in DC, thanking locals for their participation.

10/4 ATU 689 dinner dance planned, as fundraiser for the COPE fund.

Adjourned 6:35 p