

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *DRAFT: For Approval*

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

November 17, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:15P by President Williams.

Minutes (October): moved and seconded to approve. Gwend Johnson (DC CBTU) noted that she had asked to be excused from last month's meeting. Unanimously approved as amended.

Financial Report (September/October): moved and seconded to receive the reports. President Williams drew the Board's attention to the over \$100,000 deficit; some of which has to do with per capita collection being behind and also to do with the pressures we are under due to transferring several CSA expenses over to the Council. Will be convening a meeting of the Trustees to review the situation and report back to the Board at the December meeting. Approved.

Correspondence:
Maryland Delegate Roger Manno 11/18/08 Breakfast reception: \$100 approved
Phelps Foundation 11/20/08 Fundraising Reception/Open House: \$100
Charles County Commissioner Collins 12/02/08 Reception; \$70 (2 tickets)
Farmworker Justice 12/03/08 Socially Responsible Wine Tasting: filed; no action taken
DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton 12/17/08 Covenant House Party for underprivileged children: \$100
US Labor Against The War

12/05-7/2008 Leadership meeting in Chicago: no action
US Labor Against The War: Annual Dues: \$250
Total: \$620

Other Correspondence

- NoVA Labor: Thanks for help with NoVA election work
- Jews United for Justice: Thanks for support of 10th anniversary celebration
- Asbestos Workers 24: Thanks for support of Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund
- DC Workers' Rights Board 11/20/08: Protecting Public Services, Respecting City Workers Hearing
- UCS catalogue: sending 100 for Delegate meeting
- Labor Heritage Foundation : sending 100 catalogues for Delegate meeting

Community Services

Agency
Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Fall Employee Giving Campaigns: need more now than ever. Available to come out to talk in workplaces whenever and wherever.
- Bowling Tournament 1/25/09: fundraiser for Emergency Assistance Fund and, as always, a lot of fun.
- Holiday Basket Project:

focusing on gift cards this year – easier to get families exactly what they need -- but will take canned food and other non-perishable food. Plus your local can adopt a needy family; or if your local has needy families that need adoption, let us know. Note: this is for Christmas holidays, not Thanksgiving.

Evening With Labor

Chair Fred Allen reported:

- Reminded that Evening With Labor will be held at the Omni Shoreham on March 21 instead of our usual location.
- Ticket prices: no increase in 7 years. Lost about \$10/ticket just on the dinner cost alone; make about \$15,000 thanks to ads from sponsors. Discussion ensued. It was moved and seconded to increase the ticket price to \$125 to cover costs. M. Cuttitta (SEIU 500) suggested that she'd like to see a pass-the-hat to go to the Community Services Agency. Discussion ensued. Approved.
- Awards, speakers. Award nomination form to go out tomorrow: JC Turner, Organizing, COPE (MD & DC), Community Services, and Rolark Outstanding Citizen. President Williams will be appointing the JC Turner Award Committee, ap-

Attendance:

Present: Jos Williams, Gwend Johnson, Sonny Reed, Merle Cuttitta, Linda Bridges, Lou Cernak, Jim Pappas; Carl Goldman; George Johnson; Dan Dyer; Doris Reed; Fred Allen
Excused: Gino Renne, Tommy Ratliff, Anthony Frederick; Sandra Falwell; Vance Ayers; Mark Federici
Absent: R. Herbekian; John Boardman; Eric Bunn; Chuck Graham; Anthony Garland; Faith Jones; Nathan Saunders
Also attending: Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14); Ronald Freeland (Laborers 657); David Rodich (SEIU 500); Earl O'Neill (AFSCME Council 20)
Staff: Kathleen McKirchy (CSA); Chris Garlock (Union Cities); Rick Powell, Alya Mbamba

pointed Gino Renne Chair and reminded the Board that awards do not have to be made if there are not clearly qualified nominees. Discussion ensued on question of whether to have a speaker, and if so, who. It was the strong sense of the body that the Mayor of the District of Columbia not be invited. There was also a sense that this is labor's night and the political content should be kept to a minimum, certainly no more than recognizing from the podium (i.e. not speeches).

Union Cities*Chris Garlock reported:*

- Workers' Right Board Hearing on Fenty administration attacks on public sector workers this Thursday
- Online Database update: Council's database is now online and is being tested. Affiliates interested in considering this tool can give Chris a call.
- Affiliate Drive: working to identify non-affiliated locals and meet with them to recruit as affiliates. Also to work for full affiliation and participation by existing affiliates.
- 2009 Affiliate Directory: update mailing to go out via mail, email and fax; updates will be made to the Online Directory and new hard-copy Directory published in 2009.
- New Council brochure: update in process.
- ILCA awards lunch 11/21: Union City and www.dclabor.org to receive awards.

COPE*Rick Powell reported:*

- Labor 2008 report, DC, MD and VA: Powell and Alya Mbamba reported on the incredible local labor effort to elect Barack Obama and the rest of the labor-endorsed candidates, calling it "a dream campaign" that built every week until there were hundreds and hundreds of activists hitting the streets every week and knocking on tens of thousands of area union member's doors. Thanked everyone for their help and hard work.
- Tri-County COPE: Christmas party coming up 12/12 and hearing on prevailing wage.

- Prince George's COPE: report on status of PG boycott of campaign contributions to PG candidates and incumbents. Doris Reed reported on recent meeting to address outstanding issues with area Delegates that resulted in wiping the slate clean and starting fresh. PG COPE Committee not prepared to make a recommendation on whether or not to proceed with the boycott until a report at the December meeting. It was moved, seconded and approved (with one abstention) to continue the boycott until December meeting.
- Montgomery County: MCGEO has reported working things out with the County so that there will be no furloughs, though there may be some layoffs. Purple Line hearing last weekend went very well, though apparently Montgomery County Councilmember Marc Elrich raised some concerns. Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500, reported that first meeting had been held today with school system on re-opening contract; very preliminary at this point. Meet again later this week.
- DC COPE: Powell reported on the ongoing struggles between public sector unions and the Fenty administration, which he said "is determined to break the unions" and has now contracted out mental health services, firing hundreds of workers and privatizing the jobs. Labor is pushing emergency legislation in City Council to block privatization. Circulated copy of resolution supporting emergency measure.
- President Williams summarized the current situation with the Fenty administration's attacks on public sector workers, recapping the campaign that began in Denver in which the attacks were exposed and Fenty targeted. Noted that the campaign is not just about public sector workers, but about rights and respect for all DC workers. Labor had gone to bat for the Mayor on several key issues earlier in his term, delivering as agreed, but he has reneged on his own commitments, including project labor agreements, appointments to boards and commissions (in fact, he's kicked off labor supporters and replaced them with his cronies), gutted the Public Employee Relations Board. Have put together committee – including major affected internationals and locals – to organize major campaign around these issues, which includes 8-point list of demands. If the demands are not met – he will be given a 10-day deadline -- this campaign will target Fenty, especially using the leverage of the upcoming Inauguration. Moved, seconded and approved (with one abstention) to support the campaign. Moved, seconded and approved (with one abstention) to support the emergency legislation (see resolution text below). Also asked the Board for a motion supporting the City Council Public Safety and Judiciary commit-

tee's rejection of Fenty's nomination of DC Acting Attorney General Peter Nickles; moved, seconded and approved (with one abstention).

- MD/DC AFL-CIO Legislative Conference 12/9

Metro Council Obama 2008 t-shirts were distributed to Board members.

Adjourned 6:18P