



Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

Meeting called to order at 6:35P by President Williams, who reminded delegates that the January and February meetings will be held the fourth Mondays (rather than 3rd Mondays, as usual).

November Minutes: moved, seconded and approved.

November Financial Report:

Delegate attendance:

Adbul Camus, SEIU 32BJ
Ann Hoffman, NWU/UAW 1981 2
Avis Buchanan, AFGE 2782
Barbara Childs, AFSA 4
Craig Simpson, ATU 689
Cynthia Collins, SEIU 400 PG
David Rodich, SEIU 500
Donna McCrea, AFGE 1975
Elaine Newman, NCAUR
Eric Starin, OPEIU 2
George Hogan, IBEW 26
Gina Walton, AFGE 1975
Gwend Johnson, CBTU DC
Hevily Ambriz Espinoza, IFPTE 70
Jackie Jeter, ATU 689
Jessica Ingerick, OPEIU 277
Jim Lowery, IUOE 10
Jo Freeman, NWU/UAW 1981 2
Joseph Henry, NALC 142
Larry Greenhill, IBEW 26
Leslie Richards, NEA/UDCFA
Mark Sexton, IUOE 99
Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500
Michael Flood, AFSCME 2921
Michael Murphy, IUOE 99
Philip Alter, Teamsters 96
Rick Ehrmann, Newspaper Guild 35
Robert Mayfield, AFGE Council 211, Local 2978
Roland Jeter, ATU 689
Saul Schniderman, AFSCME 2910
Sharon White, AFGE 1975
Tony Perez, UFCW 400
Wanda Shelton-Martin, OPEIU

moved, seconded and approved to receive.

Correspondence

Since the Executive Board did not meet, there were no action items to report.

Union Cities

- Coordinator Chris Garlock introduced Tony Perez, UFCW 400, to report on the recent organizing victory by Smithfield workers. Perez – who received a vigorous round of applause from the delegates -- thanked President Williams and the Metro Council – including the affiliates and delegates -- for their assistance during the campaign by Smithfield workers to organize a union. “You’ve been there whenever we needed you,” Perez said, “You were there to march, hitting the streets, leafletting in this tough campaign, all just to get to an election.” Perez told the delegates about his work house-calling workers for the election over the last few weeks, most of which was spent in South Carolina, just over the border from the Smithfield plant. Although Smithfield had agreed to neutrality and was closely monitored by the government and the union, they did things like bring in celebrities for “Family Fun” days at the plant, to implicitly support the company. “But in the

end, it was our intensive one-on-one contact – there were over 90 union organizers in the field – that made the difference,” reported Perez. “After seeing the living conditions of many of these workers, I’m truly humbled and I know that the UFCW will raise up these workers from their poverty.”

- Garlock reported on the new online DC Labor Map, which uses Google map technology to show the location of area union hotels, restaurants, labor history and other sites. He also recognized Assistant Mobilizer Andy Richards, who’s moving on after helping build the Council’s website and Union City into award-winning publications, as well as critical work with the Labor FilmFest, and moving the Council’s database online. Richards received a standing and prolonged ovation from the delegates and said that he has really enjoyed working with the Council and hopes to continue working in the labor movement in the future.

Community Services

Agency

On behalf of Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy, Garlock reported:

- Bowling Tournament 1/25/09: fundraiser for

December 15, 2008

Emergency Assistance Fund is one of the most fun events of the year; still time to sign up a team.

- Holiday Basket Project: thanks to all locals who adopted a needy family; support is much appreciated during these tough times.
- CSA was just awarded two grants totaling nearly \$200,000 that will enable CSA to continue and expand its Building Futures Apprenticeship Recruitment Project. The Community Foundation of the National Capital Region has awarded CSA a \$150,000 grant, while the MARPAT Foundation has awarded \$20,000.

COPE

Rick Powell reported:

- Vote coming up in City Council Tuesday on emergency measure to block privatization of Department of Mental Health; supposed to be 8 solid votes.
- DC Councilmember Cheh abandoned plan to introduce bill barring public demonstrations at private homes after opposition from ACLU and labor.
- Labor contingent in Inaugural Parade being organized by Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO; if interested

must get names to State Fed by Wednesday. Participants must be able and prepared to walk 4 miles and be in the cold weather for up to 6 hours, be at the bus pick-up at approximately 6A in DC and be able to pass a Secret Service security clearance.

- Tri-County COPE: Won prevailing wage legislation in Charles County, thanks especially to leadership of Bill Grooms (IUOE 77), Larry Greenhill (IBEW 26), Jim Lowery (IUEC 10) and Greg Waller (IBEW 1900). Also, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer showed up at the Christmas party 12/12 and was honored by Tri-County COPE.
- Prince George's COPE: plan presence in Annapolis for the next session, including close working with both Delegates and Senators.
- Montgomery County: re-starting COPE meetings to prepare for 2010 elections.

REPORTS

- Rick Ehrmann, Newspaper Guild 35, reported on the Guild's battle to protect contract and pensions at the Baltimore Sun.
- Kristin "uniongal" blogger reported on efforts for a "People's Inaugural Ball" co-organized by a number of labor-friendly organizations who hope to get labor support and involvement.
- Jessica Ingerick, OPEIU 277 and American Income Life, reported that AIL is working on identifying and rallying business sup-

port for the Employee Free Choice Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29P after Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910) led the delegates in a rousing rendition of "Rudolph the Union Reindeer." President Williams thanked CBTU DC Chapter President Gwend Johnson for providing the traditional annual holiday repast for delegates, which followed the Council meeting.