

Executive Board Meeting Minutes *APPROVED* 3/16/2009

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

February 23, 2009

Called to order 4:25P

Minutes (January): moved and seconded to approve. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report (January): moved and seconded to receive.

Correspondence: See below

Community Services

Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Bowling report: thanks for all the support; the event was very successful and the funds raised are especially needed with so many people now in financial straits.

- 2009 Labor Night at the Nats; 7/24 against San Diego. working on details now; tickets still just \$10.

- Thanks also to ATU 689 for raising \$7,500 through holiday party for CSA's Emergency Fund. Again, much appreciated in these tough economic times.

Evening With Labor

Chair Fred Allen reported:

- 32nd annual, set for 3/21 at new location: Omni Shoreham, a great location. Plenty of tickets available. Fred recommended doing what IBEW 26's Larry Greenhill did, reaching out to his contractors, who are taking ads and buying tickets; "It's a great way to show support." March 6 is the cut-off for ads in the program book. President Williams urged the Executive Board to "really step up" and to urge our political friends to support it as well.

Union Cities

- CWA AT&T Bargaining Rally, Tuesday, 2/24, 7:30A, 3033 Chain Bridge Rd, Oakton (union busting)

- UDC contract issues: working with Faculty Association (union busting)

- 2009 Council Directory draft (PDF version) will be out later this week

- will be taking Executive

Board individual and group photos tonight

COPE

- DC: Alya Mbamba reported on the Public Employees Campaign to deal with union-busting by Mayor Fenty; Public Services Commission nominations of unqualified candidate; PLA/Labor Standards Bill update - states that anyone that receives a DC subsidy of \$200,000 or more is required to have First Source Hiring, Certified Training Programs, a Labor Peace Agreement, and a Project Labor Agreement

- MD: Rick Powell reported on weekly meetings in Annapolis on labor bills/issues to provide a more consistent presence in the General Assembly, next couple weeks will be heavy labor weeks; Congresswoman Donna Edwards Fund Raiser; P.G. COPE, Dinner with Prince Georges County Democratic Central Committee, Getting

Attendance:

Present: J Williams, G Renne, L Bridges, S Reed, D Dyer, V Ayers, C Goldman, T Ratliff, E Bunn, M Federici, M Cuttitta, A Garland, A Frederick, Sr, F Jones, F Allen, J Contreras
Excused: S Falwell, J Boardman
Absent: R Herbekian, L Cernak, G Johnson, J Pappas, D Reed, C Graham, G Johnson, N Saunders

Ready For 2010; Mont. County, County Council Special Election: Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500, reviewed background; labor backed School Board Member Nancy Navarro last year against Don Praisner, who won and has since died and there's another special election in April (general in May). She's recommending Navarro again this year; stressed that time is of the essence with this compressed election schedule; also, days of strong labor support on the Montgomery Council are gone and labor needs Navarro on the Council. President Williams concurred and stressed that labor really

Organization	Event Date	Request/Purpose	Approved
Gwend Johnson Retirement	03/13/09 Evening	\$500	\$500
ILRF 25th Anniversary	03/17/09		
ACLU Capital Area	03/26/09 Luncheon	\$300	\$300
Iron Workers 201	03/28/09 Dinner/Dance	\$150	\$150
Baltimore CLC	04/21/09 Dinner	\$300	\$300
YWCA WAWIT	04/22/09 Luncheon	\$150	\$150
DC APRI	04/26/09 Birthday	\$100	\$100
DC JwJ WRB Report	Contribution	\$125	\$125
AFL-CIO	Free Choice Media Campaign	\$1,000	\$1,000

TOTAL: \$2,625

Other Correspondence

Solidarity Center

Thanks for meeting with Arab trade unionists

MD Comptroller Peter Franchot

Thanks for contribution

needs to work hard to win this one to send a strong message, and as a prelude for races in 2010. Discussion ensued; moved, seconded and unanimously approved to endorse Navarro. President Williams reported that Congresswoman Donna Edwards has asked the Council to help her raise funds at her April 3 fundraiser; asked Board members to ask national unions to tap COPE funds for significant contributions

(question on which cycle we're in, in terms of folks who have maxed out); Have been invited by PG Democratic Committee to have breakfast with them to talk/review issues. Rick Powell urged attendance at upcoming Tri County COPE meetings.

Reports of Board Members

- IBT 639: Tommy Ratliff reported that his DCPS maintenance department members are in contract negotiations; contracted out cafeteria workers last year and "now we negotiated better benefits for them" since "we could strike Chartwell but couldn't strike DCPS." Also reported that trucking companies are all merging, Yellow and Roadway will now be YRC; used to be 100 national trucking companies.

- SEIU 32BJ: Jaime Contreras reported organizing almost 4,000 office cleaners in Northern Virginia. They work for same contractors as in DC, went up to \$8, now getting benefits; went from zero to 80% union market in NoVa. 40 workers at UDC getting ready to bargain contract.

Newseum workers just joined union; IMF and World Bank workers also organizing.

- ATU 689: Anthony Garland reported that the local is in arbitration at WMATA where he characterized the situation as a "dogfight; it's ugly." They've now had three ses-

sions and "they're using expensive consultants from outside." Because of the trend in labor, shrinking union percentage in the country and the bad economy are "all being used to hammer away at everything we've won, after we've forgone increases for years to invest in healthcare and pension." WMATA also threatening to cut service when ridership is at all-time highs.

President Williams reported that the new board – to be voted on at tonight's Delegate meeting -- will serve a 3-year term. "It's been a pleasure working with you and I'm looking forward to working together over next three years. But at the same time we face serious challenges; people used to say DC was recession-proof but not at all sure that's the case. It's also about how employers are treating their workers and the unions. This struggle is happening regionwide, in DC, PG, Montgomery County, where actions being taken with unions informed after the fact. How do we retool ourselves for these new days; employers are adjusting and we need to do so as well. One of first things we need to do is get together and work on a 3-year strategic plan. We especially need to start thinking about the 2010 elections and not wait until late in the cycle, as we usually do. Need to go into next year prepared and ready to hit the ground rolling." Discussion ensued.

Adjourned 6:25P