

Delegate's Meeting Minutes

APPROVED
3/16/2009

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

February 23, 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:36P

New delegates sworn in: Gregory Payne, IAM 1764, and William Linehan, IUEC 10.

Election of Executive Board Officers

Dario Ferruffino, Laborers 657, announced that the floor is open to elect the slate of candidates as nominated last month. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved. President Williams thanked the Elections Committee for their work and welcomed Mike Cavanaugh from AFL-CIO to swear in the newly-elected officers.

Cavanaugh: "I commend the officers and delegates of this council; I'm very proud to have such a great Council here where I live that leads the way. We asked for help staffing phone banks last fall and you and this Council stepped up and delivered and were part of our victory in the election, demonstrating what solidarity is all about. We really are about turning around America, as the big banner on our building says. Fight to win the Employee Free Choice Act, our #1 priority. We've been working together, the AFL-CIO, Change To Win, the NEA etc. The election was easy, this is the hard work. We have 39 Senate, and 211 House co-sponsors but we don't yet have the numbers we need to win. The situation is still very fluid,

especially with the Senate seats in Minnesota and Illinois in transition and the Republicans in opposition. Close to getting the bill introduced but this time we're playing for keeps and the President will sign the bill if and when it gets to his desk. We have a real struggle on our hands to win this. Member-to-member communication, yes, but we also have to counter a massive PR campaign funded lavishly by the Chamber of Commerce and their business allies; we've only seen the tip of the iceberg, they've pledged \$200 million to demonize the labor movement, so we have to counter that. We're putting together \$40 million to get our campaign up on the airwaves; thanks for the Executive Board's recommendation of a \$1,000 contribution by the Council tonight, the goal is ten cents per member. It's now or never, for the best chance we've had in the last 30 years. Thanks for your support and participation, I look forward to working with all of you."

President Williams thanked the delegates "for bestowing on us the privilege of stewardship for the next three years; we pledge to do everything we can to be worthy of this vote of confidence. This is my ninth election and I am privileged to have enjoyed your long support; this is a job I will do to the best of my ability."

Minutes (January): moved, seconded and approved to receive as distributed.

Financial Report (January): received.

Correspondence

- Gwend Johnson Retirement party, March 13: \$500
- International Labor Rights Forum 25th anniversary celebration, March 17: filed
- ACLU Capital Area Bill of Rights luncheon, 3/26: \$300
- Iron Workers 201 Dinner/Dance 3/28: \$150
- Baltimore CLC COPE Dinner, 4/21: \$300
- YWCA WAWIT luncheon, 4/22: \$150
- DC APRI 17th Birthday celebration, 4/26: \$100
- JWJ DC, contribution to publish Workers' Rights Board report: \$125
- AFL-CIO, support for Turn Around America Media Fund: \$1000 for ads supporting the Employee Free Choice Act
- Solidarity Center: Thanks for meeting with Arab trade unionists
- MD Comptroller Peter Franchot: Thanks for contribution

President Williams noted the Executive Board's recommended contribution to the Turn Around America fund and urged all affiliates to also make contributions to this critical fund. Also urged delegates to vote in the Parade magazine poll on whether American needs unions. Approved.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Bowling tourney: thanks for support and this year for first time ever the GPO hearing-impaired team won, which was great. Cleared \$10k to Emergency Assistance Fund.
- Mark calendars for 7/24 Labor Night at the Nats; buy at least 50 tickets to get your local's team on the Jumbotron; the first team to buy 1,000 tickets gets to throw out the first pitch. Iron 5 has done this the last 2 years.
- Door hangers with local resources available, left over from MLK Day event.

Evening With Labor; Fred Allen reported on this year's event. New venue; great food, ads available, tickets too.

Union Cities

Chris Garlock reported:

- CWA AT&T Bargaining Rally, Tuesday, 2/24, 7:30A, 3033 Chain Bridge Rd, Oakton (union Busting)
- UDC contract issues: working with Faculty Association.
- 2009 Council Directory draft (PDF version) will be out later this week

COPE

- DC: Alya Mbamba reported on the Public Employees Campaign to deal with union-busting by Mayor Fenty; Public Service 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

- Rick Powell: Maryland report; Monday meetings, 3:30 at MSTA to coordinate with each other. Congresswoman Donna Edwards fundraiser coming up. President Williams reported on Executive Board's recommendation to endorse Nancy Navarro in the upcoming Montgomery County Special Election is District 4. Tri-county: prevailing wage passed. Maryland COPE winner this year is Greg Waller from IBEW with honorable mention to Tri-County COPE leadership. Jim Lowery, IUEC 10, reported on labor fundraiser for Charles Cooper. Moved, seconded and approved to concur with endorsing Nancy Navarro. Merle Cuttitta, SEIU 500, reported on this election, noting that a lot of labor union members live in the district so this is very winnable for labor; Navarro lost narrowly last year.

Reports

- IBEW 26; Larry Greenhill reported that the local will soon be entering negotiations with the Washington Convention Center, covering 24 maintenance workers.

- UDC: Leslie Richards reported on attempt to raise tuition 100% over 2 years; negotiations with faculty association broke down last month. Discussion about proposals for 2-year college at UDC; pros and cons.

- DC VOTE: Ann Hoffman reported on Senate vote Tuesday on DC voting rights.

- Walter Carl, IBEW 26, & APRI-DC President: upcoming events: 3.27-28 regional meeting; 4/26 dinner/dance honoring Arlene Holt-Baker & Larry Greenhill.

- Trina Tocco, ILRF: update on MD sweat-free legislation; not being introduced this year but working with Governor to develop executive order. Also, about to start campaign in DC; \$3mil a year in government apparel being shipped off to sweatshop labor and it's then worn by union members here in DC. Also 25th anniversary dinner is coming up.

- Mackenzie Baris/Ruth Castel-Branco, JWJ DC: EFCA postcard blitz coming up March 4-8; day laborer training program; DC Workers Rights Board report now out; tool to bring leaders together to examine issue, in this case, the impact of DC Mayor Fenty's attack on public sector workers; report finds that Fenty is treating the city as a business and consolidating power without input by the City Council, to the detriment of unions, workers and the community; March 11 march on DOJ calling for investigation into actions against immigrant worker prisoners in Phoenix, AZ; this kind of scapegoating has happened across the country and here in the metro DC area.

- Larry Greenhill raised the issue that the Martin Luther King memorial project may wind up going non-union. President Williams noted that he's working with the director of the MLK Foundation to address the union concerns. President Williams spoke about the loss of a giant of trade unionists "who walked in our midst for 95 years." Cyprian Tilghman, former President of UNITE HERE Local 25. He "was a mentor to many labor leaders, including me, and he was one of the first to encourage me to run for President of the Council. Never slowed down, even after he retired, which just meant that he didn't get paid for the work he kept doing. Raynor and

Wilhelm were both at his wake tonight, that's how high regard he was held. He'd be the first to say 'Don't mourn for me, remember the good things I did as I moved through life.' Job well done, Cyp. He'll be up there organizing the angels, following the motto that Heaven works best when we say union yes."

Adjourned 8:16P

Attendance:

Vance Ayres, Washington Building Trades WBCTC
 Randall Baxter, AFSCME 3976
 Avis Buchanan, AFGE 2782
 Terry Cavanagh, SEIU Maryland/DC State Council
 Mark Federici, UFCW 400
 Ruben Dario Ferruffino, LABORERS 657
 Michael Flood, AFSCME 2921
 Anthony Frederick, Laborers 657
 Ronald Freeland, Laborers 657
 Jo Freeman, NWU/UAW 1981 2
 Riley Gaines, IBEW 26
 Carl Goldman, AFSCME Council 26
 Gerald Green, SEIU 400 PG
 Larry Greenhill, IBEW 26
 Keith Hickman, Plasterers' & Cement Masons 891
 Ann Hoffman, NWU/UAW 1981
 Trent Holmes, SEIU 400 PG
 Jessica Ingerick, OPEIU 277
 Mary Jones-Bryant, DCNA
 Roosevelt Limes, SEIU 400 PG
 Williams Linehan, IUEC 10
 Jim Lowery, IUEC 10
 Kendall Martin, Ironworkers 5
 Elaine Newman, NCAUR
 Gregory Payne, ATU 1764
 Gino Renne, UFCW 1994
 MCGEO
 Victor Reyes, LABORERS 657
 Leslie Richards, NEA/UDCFA
 David Richardson, AFGE Council 1
 William Schauman, AFGE 2782
 Raymond Scoggins, AFGE 2463
 Rodney Sewell, LIUNA 657
 Craig Simpson, ATU 689
 Gerald Warrick, Laborers 657