



# Delegate's Meeting Minutes

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## Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

May 18, 2009

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:38P

President Williams introduced Greg Singleton, Regional Coordinator for the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. Singleton outlined the background of the organization, which is a program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in conjunction with the AFL-CIO. The Alliance's first annual Union Sportsman's Alliance Sporting Clays Shoot is set for June 18.

President Williams introduced Katie Gjertson of the AFL-CIO's Turn Around America Health Care Reform Campaign and June 25 Lobby Day Mobilization. Gjertson thanked the Council and President Williams for leadership on healthcare issue, noting that the Metro Council was one of the first places the AFL-CIO tested its campaign in 2008. Healthcare is moving now and moving fast and will most likely be voted on by early Fall. Main issues: everyone pays fair share, no taxing benefits, strong public health insurance plan. Labor wants reform that works with us and advances healthcare for our families. National Health Care Reform Lobby Day set for June 25: already a lot of turnout commitments. Discussion ensued, including delegates reporting that turnout for this event is already being discussed and planned for. "This

is something that we've been working on for so long; it's happening and happening right here on our doorstep." Gjertson outlined the tentative plan for the June 25 schedule, which may take place on either the Mall, if there's a really large crowd, or in Upper Senate Park, if there's a large crowd. Lobbying on the Hill is part of the plan.

**Minutes:** April Delegate minutes moved, seconded and accepted as distributed.

**Financial Report:** April financial report moved, seconded and approved to receive the report.

**Correspondence:** The following correspondence was received and contributions approved :

- Coalition of Labor Union Women May 3 Gloria Johnson Awards Lunch \$230 (2 tickets, 1/2 page ad)
- NoVa Labor May 8 Volunteer Recognition Dinner: \$725: 3 tickets & full-page ad
- Americans For Democratic Action: June 5 Annual Banquet: \$289: 1/4-page ad
- MD & DC AFL-CIO: June 5 Salute To Leadership Dinner: \$550: 2 tickets, 1/2 page ad
- Washington Building & Construction Trades Council: June 5 Golf Tourney: \$300 tee
- Teamsters 639: June 12 Golf Tourney: \$300 contribution
- Ironworkers 5: June 20 Dad's Day Poker Run: \$300 contribution

- Boilermakers 193: July 17 Scholarship Golf Tourney: \$200 tee
- NoVa Labor: Thanks for remarks at Evening With Labor, appreciate kind words and help in labor in 2008
- MD Comptroller Peter Francho: Thanks for the invitation to Evening With Labor & commitment to working families
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists: Thanks for support of awards reception
- AFL-CIO: Thanks for contributions to the Turn Around American Fund

### Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Labor Night At The Nats: July 24 against San Diego, \$10 tickets available now. Had 5,500 turn out last year and President Williams hopes we can have 10,000 this year. He reported that "We have accepted the friendly wager from the Baltimore CLC to see who wins the Orioles-Nationals game and we look forward to Baltimore coming down to serve us pizza.
- CSA Golf tourney set for 9/28 at the Enterprise Golf course, whose workers are represented by UFCW 1994. Event flyer out now. Both events benefit CSA's Emergency Assistance Fund.
- unemploymentlifeline.org; national database of resources for the unemployed to access;

this is an effort to organize the unemployed and provide resources, as well as sign up people for Working America.

### Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- Upcoming event calendar
- May 26 EFCA event
- 5/26 Unemployment Rights Forum: JWJ DC's Mackenzie Baris reported on the upcoming forum on knowing your rights to unemployment benefits. She also reported on the June 11 annual "I'll Be There" Awards, this year honoring Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association, workers at the Gaylord and Sheraton Crystal City hotels, and Vanessa Dixon of CIR/Doctor's Council. President Williams, noting that he serves on the JWJ DC Board, spoke strongly in support of the event, especially Councilmember Thomas, who's been a big labor supporter.
- Labor Heritage Foundation: Darryl Moch reported -- partly in song -- on the upcoming Great Labor Arts Exchange, Conference on Creative Organizing, Camp Solidarity, and upcoming action in June
- 2009 Council Directory PDF draft now available for download
- DC Labor FilmFest: reserve ad space now. Also reported on recent successful Dublin Labour FilmFest and role of DC Labor FilmFest
- Union City Reader Survey:

continues to be highly popular with readers

### COPE

- DC: Alya Mbamba reported on the latest chapter in the ongoing battle with DC Mayor Adrian Fenty over the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) appointments, which includes his veto of the Council's emergency legislation for a quorum of one to allow the PERB to function, the subsequent delay of the vote to override the veto. Votes coming up June 2 and need to put pressure on the Council to override the vote and to extend labor rep Walter Kamiat's term. Also need to pressure the Council Chair to get his people in step with him, rather than the Mayor. Discussion ensued. -Maryland Report (Mont., PG, Tri COPE): Coordinator Rick Powell reported that labor-endorsed candidate Nancy Navarro won the April primary in District 4, by 62 votes in Montgomery County; there's no way anyone can deny that labor played a major role in that win, with MGCEO UFCW 1994, SEIU 500 and the Metro Council playing a key role in getting the labor vote out. Navarro's up against Republican Robin Ficker in tomorrow's general election and we're feeling pretty confident. - Maryland General Assembly debriefing: 5/29 scheduled, Powell reported. Primarily a work session to look at what happened in Annapolis to see why bills did or didn't pass and plan strategy for 2010 and lay groundwork for 2010 elections. - PG COPE meetings will start back up in June; 6/22 fundraiser for Congresswoman Donna Edwards. - Tri-County COPE: Sponsored by the MWC AFLCIO, our own Frank Lancaster --

retired IBEW 26 member and longtime political and labor activist for over 40 years -- was appointed to Orphans Court in all-out Democratic effort with labor support over recommendation of a Republican by State Senator Mac Middleton.

- DC COPE: People's Property Campaign; The Executive Board recommends endorsement by the Metro Council of this campaign against the transfer of public property to the private sector and support legislation on this issue. Moved, seconded and approved to endorse the campaign.

### REPORTS

- Brian Benson, IATSE 22: thanks to Council and Chris Garlock for making sure the stagehands doing sound and light at the Evening with Labor were all-union this year. - Tracy Lingo, UNITE HERE: Reported on union-busting in NoVa at the Sheraton Crystal City hotels and ongoing boycott against hotel; DC Salsa conference has returned to the hotel despite knowing that the boycott is still going on; big action planned for June 20. - Valerie McCambrey, NALC Branch 142: 62,000 pounds of food collected in DC area during recent food drive; thank you! - Vanessa Dixon: Doctor's Council: legislation to stop privatization of mental health clinics by Mayor Fenty. Councilmember Barry has taken up this issue so it should get interesting soon, especially since clinics may be forced to dump clients out into clinics in the city; public health and safety issues involved. Hopefully legislation will succeed; probably votes on emergency and permanent legislation coming up June 2. - Kimberley Johnson, EMPOWER DC: reported on pub-

lic property campaign; public input needs to be at the front-end and stop the giveaways to developers; invite to workshops and 5/29 event. President Williams noted that the Executive Board voted to endorse this bill and will work with Empower DC, Councilmember Harry Thomas and others.

*Moved, seconded and approved to adjourn meeting at 8:04P*

### Delegate attendance

Brian Benson, IATSE 22  
Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council of DC  
Ruben Dario Ferrufino, LABORERS 657  
Anthony Frederick, Laborers 657  
Ronald Freeland, Laborers 657  
Jo Freeman, NWU/UAW 1981 2  
Riley Gaines, IBEW 26  
Gerald Green, SEIU 400 PG  
Ann Hoffman, NWU/UAW 1981  
Trent Holmes, SEIU 400 PG  
Roosevelt Limes, SEIU 400 PG  
Tracy Lingo, UNITE HERE 7  
Valerie McCambrey, NALC 142  
Darryl Moch, Labor Heritage Foundation  
Michael Murphy, IUOE 99  
Elaine Newman, NCAUR  
Carnell Reed, SEIU 400 PG  
Victor Reyes, LABORERS 657  
David Richardson, AFGE Council 1  
Brenda Savoy-Bushrod, CLUW, Metro DC Chapter  
Mark Sexton, IUOE 99  
Katherine Taylor, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East  
James Washington, TEAMSTERS 639  
Sybil Williams, AFGE Council 1 2876