

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

May 18, 2009

Meeting called to order at 4:15P

President Williams introduced Vinnie DeMarco of the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition. DeMarco thanked labor for "significant support" that has helped move Maryland from 44 to 24th in the country for adult healthcare, adding that this constitutes "Great progress but still a long way to go." The Coalition is fully supportive of national health care campaigns but need to be ready on the state level. Working to make quality healthcare affordable for all Maryland residents. Outlined details of plan; available online at www.healthcareforall.com Moved, seconded and unanimously approved to endorse the Maryland Health Care for All Plan.

Next, President Williams introduced Katie Gjertson of the AFL-CIO's Turn Around America Health Care Reform Campaign. Gjertson reported

on the upcoming June 25 Lobby Day Mobilization, noting that "things are moving incredibly fast on health care and it looks like 2009 is the year for comprehensive healthcare in America; committee meetings and roundtables have and are being held, and the labor movement is deeply involved to protect workers and ensure the broadest possible healthcare and make sure it's financed fairly." The AFL-CIO and allies are working inside and outside the Beltway on this critical issue, with a final vote expected as soon as October." Main issues: everyone pays fair share, no taxing benefits, strong public health insurance plan. Big push is on for massive June 25 mobilization lobby day on Capitol Hill. Lots of commitments already but really depending on local labor movement to turn out as well. Q&A and discussion ensued, including Gjertson noting the leadership of the Metro Council and President Williams in attending and

speaking at last week's nurse's rally supporting single-payer. President Williams urged strong support by all Council affiliates for both initiatives. Questions ensued on the healthcare policy issue, the June 25 schedule and lobbying details.

ASASP's Doris Reed introduced Prince George's County Sheriff Michael Jackson, saying that he "is and was labor-friendly, which is why he's always been fully supported by labor." Jackson noted that he is coming up on 20th year as a Sheriff this September and has always been a strong union member and leader. Spoke about combating domestic violence; his office collects old cel phones for victims of domestic abuse and would love labor's support for this program; donations are tax deductible. He also reported on their public safety food basket program, saying that "everyone's hurting" and they're collecting non-perishable items for this.

Attendance:
Present: Williams, D Reed, Falwell, Cuttitta, S Reed, Goldman, Murphy, Allen, Briscoe
Excused: Boardman, Ratliff, Johnson, Graham, Jones, Contreras, Gaines
Absent: Renne, Bridges, Federici, Dyer, Frederick, Garland, Ayres
Also attending: D Rodich, SEIU 500; T Perez, UFCW 400, G Warrick, LIUNA 657
Staff: McKirchy, Garlock, Powell, Mbamba
Guests: Vincent DeMarco, Sheriff Michael Jackson, Katie Gjertson

"Thanks for all your support over the years; it has meant a lot to me and made a big difference. Our success is built on relationships; have doubled our unit's size and have a perfect record of passing our legislation in Annapolis. Looking forward to continuing my relationship with labor. My commitment to you is this: I take care of my people." Second term as Sheriff ends December 2010; considering other possible options as well. Presi-

CORRESPONDENCE

Organization	Event Date	Request/Purpose	Approved
Coalition of Labor Union Women	5/03/2009	Gloria Johnson Awards Lunch	\$230 (2 Tickets, 1/2 P Ad)
NoVa Labor	5/08/2009	Volunteer Recognition Dinner	\$725 (3 Tickets, Full P Ad)
Americans For Dem. Action	6/05/2009	Annual Banquet	\$289 (1/4 P Ad)
MD & DC AFL-CIO	6/05/2009	"Salute To Leadership" Dinner	\$550 (2 Tickets, 1/2 P Ad)
WBCTC	6/05/2009	Golf Tourney	\$300 Tee
Teamsters 639	6/12/2009	Golf Tourney	\$300 Contribution
Ironworkers 5	6/20/2009	Dad's Day Poker Run	\$300 Contribution
Boilermakers 193	7/17/2009	Golf Tourney	\$200 Tee
			TOTAL: \$2,894

Other Correspondence

NoVa Labor	Thanks for remarks at Evening With Labor; appreciate kind words and help in Labor in 2008
MD Comptroller Peter Franchot	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 America Fund

dent Williams noted that the Sheriff appeared to be in excellent physical condition and Jackson said that with increased stress levels it's more important than ever.

Minutes: April minutes approved as distributed.

Financial Report: April financial report approved as distributed.

Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- Upcoming event calendar
- 2009 Council Directory PDF draft now available for download
- Labor Heritage Foundation: Great Labor Arts Exchange, Conference on Creative Organizing, Camp Solidarity, and upcoming action in June
- 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: latest bi-annual survey got most response yet and shows that Union City continues to be highly popular with readers, who have some suggestions for improvements but mostly want it to continue as is.

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Labor Night At The Nats: tickets for July 24 available now. President Williams urged support; it's important this year because of challenge from Baltimore CLC; their board voted to invite the Metro Council to a friendly wager regarding the Baltimore CLC's annual Union Night at Camden Yards, when the Orioles play the Nationals. The losing team's Council will serve the winning team pizza. Since it's

now a toss-up as to which is the worst team, President Williams recommends we take up the challenge; all board members have been invited to join the Baltimore Council that night, which attracts 15,000 (they've been doing it for almost 20 years). DC did 5,500 last year and it would be nice for us to get 10,000 turned out this year.

- CSA Golf Tournament: 9/28 set; flyers out now
- unemploymentlifeline.org: national AFL-CIO and Community Service Network has launched this as a resource for folks around the country. The AFL-CIO is asking all Councils to promote this and get people to join Working America.

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 representative Walter Kamiat's term. Also need to pressure the Council Chair to get his people in step with him, rather than the Mayor. Request was made for talking points on this issue.

- Mbamba also briefly reported on the DCRA licensing issue regarding elevator constructors.

- DC COPE: People's Property Campaign; recommendation that the Metro Council endorse 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; Mbamba will follow up on this.

- Maryland General Assembly debriefing: 5/29 scheduled, Coordinator Rick 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.

- Maryland Report (Mont., PG, Tri COPE): Powell reported that labor-endorsed candidate Nancy Navarro won the April primary in District 4 by 62 votes; 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 is up against Republican Robin Ficker in tomorrow's general election and we're feeling pretty confident.

- PG COPE meetings will start back up in June; MWC 6/22 fundraiser for Congresswoman Donna Edwards.

- Tri-County: 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.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10P

*Merle Cuttitta,
Secretary*