



Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

March 16, 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:39P

Executive Board members Sandra Falwell (DCNA), Michael Murphy (IUOE 99) and Doris Reed (ASASP) sworn in; new delegate Abdul Kamus, SEIU 32BJ sworn in.

February 23 minutes approved as distributed

Financial Report: Delayed until next month due to computer problems with the per cap billing system.

Correspondence: the following Executive Board recommendations were approved:

- Nancy Navarro (Friends of) March 25; Reception: \$500
- United Students Against Sweatshops; 28-March; Regional conference: \$100
- Jews United for Justice; 31-March; Labor Seder: \$250
- Valerie Ervin; 15-April; Reception: \$500
- ACE/AFSCME 2250; April 25; Awards Night: \$250
- Charles County Democratic Central Committee; May 16 Truman-Kennedy Dinner: \$250
- MidAtlantic PAC (UFCW): \$1,600

Total: \$3,450

Correspondence received:

- Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild: 31-March: Invite to Front Page Awards
- DC Councilmember Harry

"Tommy" Thomas: Thanks for MLK community cleanup event

- AFL-CIO: 2009 Workers Memorial Day April 28; Locals encouraged to do some action around this annual national event.

Evening With Labor Chairman Fred Allen reported: - adbook at 64 pages, same level as last year; no more ads being accepted - ticket sales at 750; down from last year, but we'll keep selling right up through Saturday - anyone hosting politicians at their table, please let us know

Community Services Agency - next big fundraiser is Labor Night at the Washington Nationals 7/24: ad in EWL adbook and flyer coming out soon. Ironworkers 5 has already snapped up 1,000 tickets -2009 Emergency Assistance payments due from locals, whose members aren't eligible to receive assistance unless their local makes a contribution. We can pay up to \$300 per applicant, so our funds go fast and appreciate the contributions.

- Union Plus program: critical to promote to your members, who must be credit card holders to receive benefits, which are really good.

Union Cities

- New Directory draft: updated PDF to be posted online by end of the week.
- Ongoing solidarity work, including IUOE 99 workers terminated by United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Reston, VA: Harry Geety re-

ported on latest developments, including possible settlement after several rallies and extensive coverage in Union City.

- Union City: is everyone getting it? We recently jumped to readership of over 13,000 and some addresses, especially hotmail and AOL, have not been getting it. Be sure to check your spam filters to see if Union City's getting caught there.

* AFL-CIO Northeast Regional Conference: presentation on the Council's online activist database was the envy of our colleagues

- Labor FilmFest update: The DC Labor FilmFest is scheduled for October 13-18; the AFI in Silver Spring is once again our main venue - with screenings each night - and a number of free noontime screenings have tentatively been lined up that week at the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, AFT and the JCC. FILMS: We're beginning the selection process for this year's films, the most exciting of which is The People Speak, the new film based on "A People's History Of The United States," Howard Zinn's seminal 1980 book. We're excited to report that both Dublin and Toronto will kick off labor film festivals this year, Dublin in May and Toronto in November. Both are directly inspired by DC: the local organizers attended our screenings and took the idea home with them. We've been working with a loose network of local labor filmfest organizers, sharing tips, films and contacts to help build a new "labor film festival circuit" worldwide.

COPE

D.C.: Alya Mbamba reported: - Graham Loitering Bill withdrawn after coverage in Union City and community criticism. The Bill would have diminished the right to peaceful assembly. President Williams noted that "this is really a victory for the community organizations -- led by Jobs With Justice DC -- and organized labor; we should savor this win but also reminds us how vigilant we must always be to catch these attempts, even by our friends, to curtail civil liberties."

- PERB, Public Employees Relations Board Appointment Campaign update; thanks to 16 unions who turned out to testify.

- DC Vote: Senate approved DC Voting Rights Bill 61-37 but opponents introduced an unacceptable amendment to repeal DC gun laws.

- DC teachers: financing for increased pay has fallen through and Chancellor Rhee is back to the drawing board; negotiations with WTU Local 6 are ongoing.

Rick Powell updated delegates on actions in the Maryland General Assembly on bills/issues of interest/concern to labor and working people. There are a number of affiliates with bills in, and everyone's helping each other, testifying at each other's hearings. This is new and it's being effective. Both President Williams and Rick are available as needed, for testifying etc. Weekly Monday meetings continue so we can keep coordinating. Prince George's County COPE: No meeting until May

Tri-County COPE: IBEW 26's Frank Lancaster appointed to Orphans Court; Jeff Guido, Plumbers 5, honored by the Charles County Democratic Central Committee for his work on the prevailing wage bill.

Montgomery County: Navarro Campaign for County Council: Powell reported on the proposed labor campaign, which will involve mail and phone efforts to ID and turn out the labor vote for Nancy Navarro. The budget for the campaign is projected at \$8,000. Moved, seconded and approved the Executive Board's recommendation that the Council make a contribution of \$500 to the Navarro campaign.

Reports

- AFL-CIO Free Choice Media Fund update: \$5,200 raised so far: \$2,000 UFCW 400, \$1,000 MWC; \$500 CSO Local 4; \$200 NCAUR; \$500 CWA 2108; \$1,000 Ironworkers 5. President Williams thanked these locals and reminded delegates that the Council last month committed to raise \$10,000 from the Council and our affiliates, and promised to re-send the request to other affiliates.
- Ruth Castel-Branco (JWJ DC) introduced Joseph Tso (USAS) & Ramon Zepeda (Day Laborer organizer).
- Graham HotSpot "loitering" bill: Ruth reported more on the incredible groundswell of opposition that rose up to put pressure on the Council to kill the bill, which had six Council members co-sponsoring as of last Thursday. March 28 training "Facing What Divides Us" on the way landlord and policymakers have been using divisions against citizens.
- Joseph Tso reported on USAS Week of Action coming up.
- Ramon Zepeda reported

on the day laborer organizing project; encouraged volunteers to help teach day laborers, good opportunity to practice Spanish too.

- Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council: unions working to stop privatization at the DC Dept of Mental Health; Alya/Vanessa lobbied against a bill on this and Vanessa is also working on public action on this issue. Hearing coming up on this issue as well, set for March 30 10A.
- Eric Starin (OPEIU 2): 40 recent layoffs at WMATA; looks like thinly disguised union-busting; 27 were union. We've lost 10% of our membership in last year. This at a time when WMATA is in line for as much as \$200 million in stimulus funds, which they're planning to spend on capital improvement, not staff.
- -Craig Simpson (ATU 689): bill providing additional protections to transit workers reported out favorably from Maryland General Assembly sub-committee last Friday; coalition of unions and locals working together on this; transit agencies also on board and hope to get support on senate side. Another bill deals with funds for capital improvement, but 3-state compact must be synchronized and DC bill at this point is out of synch with VA and MD. \$29 million shortfall in WMATA budget; some bus lines cross regional lines and WMATA last week voted to let local governments cut their part of regional line services, which is a major policy change; when this goes to public hearings we'll be back for support. WMATA and Fairfax are engaging in straight out union-busting; contracted to non-union provider that'll actually cost over \$100,000 more than union service,

so this is obviously plain old union-busting.

- Johnny Walker (AFGE 383): working with DC Councilmembers Graham and Wells to change laws that affect his agencies.
- Dave Rodich (SEIU 500): organized 6,000 home healthcare workers last year thanks to executive order from the governor of Maryland. This order's legality was challenged and last week we won the case, affirming his right to do so. Meanwhile we were able to commence contract negotiations and we think we're a meeting or two away from getting a contract; negotiations for 1,000 part-time Montgomery College faculty are ongoing and should be wrapped by summer; reported on collective bargaining bill in Maryland Assembly.
- NALC Branch 142 delegate Valerie McCambry: bill affecting carrier sick leave health benefits. Reminded delegates of upcoming NALC food drive May 9; offered to come to local union halls and pick up canned goods to make it easy for members and locals. Discussion ensued.
- - Dena Briscoe (APWU): reiterated the issue above, which she helped lobby on Capitol Hill earlier this month, as well as Employee Free Choice Act.
- - Rick Powell reminded delegates that March 30 is Labor Night in Annapolis, sponsored by the State Federation.

Meeting adjourned 8:05

*Merle Cuttitta,
Secretary*

Delegate attendance
 Al Bilik, AFSCME 709
 Terry Cavanaugh, SEIU State Council
 Eamon Clifford, IUOE 99
 Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council
 Rick Ehrmann, NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
 Sandra Falwell, DCNA
 Ruben Dario Ferrufino, LABORERS 657
 Anthony Floyd, AFSCME 709
 Anthony Frederick, Laborers 657
 Ronald Freeland, Laborers 657
 Dorothy Howard, AFSCME 709
 Jessica Ingerick, OPEIU 277
 Abdul Kamus, SEIU 32BJ
 Kendall Martin, Ironworkers 5
 James Carl Mayers, NABET-CWA 31
 Robert Mayfield, AFGE 2978
 Valerie McCambry, NALC 142
 Michael Murphy, IUOE 99
 Gregory Payne, ATU 1764
 David Rodich, SEIU 500
 Brenda Savoy-Bushrod, CLUW, Metro DC Chapter
 Rodney Sewell, LIUNA 657
 John Walker, AFGE 383
 Gerald Warrick, Laborers 657
 Sheila Wilson, AFSCME 709
Note: this list is not complete, as someone mistakenly took the third sign-in sheet. Please let us know if your name should be added to this list of attendees, and PLEASE DO NOT remove the sign-in lists from the sign-in table.
Thanks!