

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

FINAL

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

September 21, 2009

Meeting called to order at 4:15pm by Gino Renne, 1st Vice-President (MCGEO UFCW Local 1994).

Regular order of business suspended and DC Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas Jr. was introduced. He discussed the threat public sector unions are under by actions of the Mayor including lay-offs of recreation department child care employees and others. He discussed the Mayor's actions which have been contrary to law and to specific City Council directives. He indicated his support for At-Large Councilmember Phil Mendelson who has been a staunch supporter of workers. He is interested in meeting regularly with labor to ensure that we are all on the same page. Discussion and questions and answers ensued.

President Williams arrived and took over the direction of the meeting. The October Executive Board meeting will be moved to October 19 at 12 noon at which time the Board will consider the work plans of the Council and Community Services Agency. It was moved, seconded and approved to delay any financial requests until this meeting.

Community Services Agency - Kathleen McKirchey, ED, reported that the agency has won a contract from GSA to conduct pre-

apprenticeship training and placement into apprenticeship programs and jobs in construction for 220 area residents. She reminded all about the upcoming Golf Tournament September 28, and indicated that we had available 5000 free tickets for 3 Washington Nationals games courtesy of the Nats.

COPE Report - Alya Mbamba, MWC Staff, reported on the upcoming WTU Local 6 rally. Rick Powell, MWC Staff reported on the latest situation with the DC Police Department's "All Hands on Deck" program which an arbitrator has found is in violation of the MPD's contract with the Fraternal Order of Police. The Chief of Police indicates she will proceed with the program anyway which is likely to cost the City major funds once the arbitrator's decision is upheld by the courts. He indicated that Tri-County COPE will be working with Charles County Community College to make sure they are aware of union apprenticeship programs and what training is really required to succeed in the construction industry. Montgomery County is preparing for elections. It was decided that a meeting of public sector unions in the County and in Prince George's County would be beneficial to boost labor activity there as we lead in to the 2010 election cycle. A

general discussion ensued regarding various actions and battles taking place in the public sector across the Council's jurisdiction.

President Williams reported on the passing of the wife of Board Member Faith Jones (ACE-AFSCME 2250). He indicated we would pass on funeral arrangement information once we have it.

Sonny Reed (SEIU 400) reported that they are in discussions about the County Executive races but no conclusions have been reached.

Doris Reed (ASASP) reported that she is a member of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee and their annual breakfast is coming up in October. Support of this event will be discussed at the October 19 Executive Board meeting.

Merle Cuttitta (SEIU 500) reported that the 3 school system unions are going into negotiations and will be having joint wage discussions. This seems to be the time for language clean-ups in the contracts since budgets are tight.

Gino Renne (MCGEO UFCW 1994) indicated that they would start negotiations with Montgomery County in a few weeks. There is no money and there will be possible lay-offs.

Mike Murphy (IUOE 99) reported that they tried to re-

Attending: Jos Williams, Gino Renne, Doris Reed, Merle Cuttitta, Linda Bridges, Carnell Reed, George Johnson, Dan Dyer, Anthony Garland, Fred Allen, Dena Briscoe

Excused: Sandra Falwell, Carl Goldman, Faith Jones, Jaime Contreras, Vance Ayres

Absent: John Boardman, Mark Federici, Tommy Ratliff, Chuck Graham, Anthony Frederick

Guests: Dave Rodich, SEIU 500, Tony Perez, UFCW 400, George Bordenave, AFT

organize a group of workers which had de-certified them in the past. Despite having 85% signed cards, they lost the election 22-6, indicating how strongly management anti-union tactics can sway workers.

Anthony Garland (ATU 689) reported that the funeral was being held today for the worker hit on the tracks a few weeks ago. They expect arbitration on their contract negotiations. Lay-offs are occurring. Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D- 4th CD- MD) has been very helpful in trying to fight cuts at the METRO Board.

Dena Briscoe (APWU, NCSML) reported on the Post Office closings and lay-offs proposed by the USPS. Nationwide 150,000 workers are being targeted for early retirements. They are also offering early outs. SB 1507 and HB 22 ad-

dress requirements for the USPS to pre-fund retirement accounts even though no other federal agencies are required to do this. This is wreaking havoc on COLA's and benefit levels. There will be an informational picket on October 10 from 10am- 12noon at the Brentwood Facility to protest the proposed closing of 10 area post offices.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) reported on health care reform efforts. Letters were sent to Congressman Hoyer (D- 5th CD-MD and House Majority Leader) supporting the public option. They represent menhaden fisherman around the bay and Senator Cardin is introducing a bill to limit menhaden fishing. 200 fisherman could lose their livelihoods if this bill passes.

President Williams gave a brief report on the recently-completed AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh and indicated that there was a lot of energy and that good things are expected from the new leadership.

Meeting adjourned 6:20pm.

Merle Cuttitta,
Recording Secretary