



Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

January 25, 2010

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:39p.

New delegate sworn in: Tyrone Thomas, Iron Workers 5

Guest: regular order of business suspended for presentation by Montgomery County Council At-Large member Mark Elrich. Elrich discussed a transit plan he's working on; over 100 miles of dedicated bus service using medians to help alleviate the traffic problems. Much cheaper than some of the other plans being discussed (though this doesn't compete or interfere with the Purple Line). The County Executive has okayed \$500,000 to study the proposal; private sector very interested in doing a private/public partnership, and Chamber of Commerce is on board as well. Discussion ensued.

Minutes: November minutes (there being no Dec meeting due to blizzard); accepted as distributed

Financial Report: December 2009 financial report received as distributed.

Correspondence: approved as recommended by the Board: TransAfrica Forum: \$125; National Labor College: \$125 (Worker Memorial brick); MLK DC Support Group: \$150; DC Fiscal Policy Institute: \$100; WPFW \$50; AFGE 2741: affiliating with Council; Karen Peek (IAMAW):

Thanks for sympathy card; George Snyder Memorial Golf: Thanks for support; NoVA Labor: Thanks for help; Dawn Babineaux: Thank you for condolences

Affiliate Reports:

- *George Parker, WTU 6:* never a dull moment at DCPS; Chancellor Rhee has recently accused teachers of molesting children and absenteeism, none of which is true and may well be another part of her attempts to discredit our teachers while building up her own reputation. We have demanded a retraction. If the accusations were true there should be legal action, which there hasn't been. Chancellor has also now admitted -- after asserting the contrary in court -- that the RIFs last year were created to get rid of certain teachers. Yet more disrespect and disregard for our teachers. We're also still trying to get our contract, as well. Q&A followed. President Williams emphasized that "this is not just the teacher's fight."

- *Anthony Garland: ATU 689* officers reelected last month; WMATA is appealing arbitrator's award regarding contract. Tremendous pressure in the region for service cuts in mass transit. Craig Simpson: reported on resignation of WMATA GM Catoe, who had clearly lost support of the WMATA Board. Regardless, the agency is facing troubled times; \$40 million shortfall this year alone; service cuts

and fare increases will be on the table at meeting this week and we're urging opposition. The serious problem comes up in 2011 with a likely deficit of \$200 million once our wage increases have been added in.

- *Sylvia Lake, SEIU 500:* MACO trying to intro bill to reduce maintenance of effort so that counties in financial trouble could put through automatic reductions in maintenance of effort.

- *Johnnie Walker, AFGE 383/AFGE:* Mayor just ordered RIF in department, supposedly because the workers don't live in DC, but the company they're outsourcing the jobs to is out of Pennsylvania. AFGE co-founded first-ever dream camp for MLK Day of Service in Ward 5, over 50 school-age kids working with us, helping out and learning about civil rights struggle.

- *Eric Starin: OPEIU Local 2:* similar problems at WMATA as 689; we haven't even gotten to arbitration yet (scheduled for 2/25).

WMATA wouldn't even address simple cost-free safety proposals.

- *Vanessa Dixon: Doctors Council/NUCCHE AFSCME:* St Elizabeth's is being given to developers and Drs Council is looking for a new home by March; don't need much space at all. DCNA agreed to help out.

- *Gwend Johnson: DC CBTU:* 2010 membership drive; join or renew. Invite all to Black

History program 2/27 at CWA HQ. National Convention coming up this year May 26-31; all local members must be paid up.

- *Jim Lowery, IUEC 10:* thanked the Council and especially Alya Mbamba for reintroducing us to the DC City Council, opened a lot of doors and it has worked out very well. Thanks everyone for contributing to the Tri-County COPE Christmas party; very successful, with good turnout and participation. "Thanks for your great work, we're very proud of you" said President Williams.

- *Sandra Falwell: DCNA:* UMC (former Greater Southeast Community Hospital) contract just completed; very ugly with a lot of attempted take-backs. Also there's a possible scam about ACTE Inc -- 301-861-5023 Niqua Beverly www.adamscomm.com -- that says they're hiring people to do reconstruction in Haiti; says all you need is a passport, seems unlikely. Though their national union, DCNA is helping with a huge push to get nurses to Haiti, over 8,000 signed up, who will go in shifts to help.

- *Sonny Reed, SEIU 400:* what's status of Prince Georges apprenticeship program; Kathleen McKirchy says she thinks it's stalled because of funding issues.

Evening With Labor

Kathleen McKirchy reported that this year's Evening With Labor (EWL) is at the Omni

Shoreham again; the date is Saturday March 13. Executive Board awardee recommendations approved: Golden Picket: SEIU1199; Organizing Award: IUOE 99; COPE: Bill Grooms (Tri-County) & Johnny Walker, AFGE 383 (DC); Community Service: Mike Murphy, IUOE 99; JC Turner: Faith Jones, AFSCME 2250; Outstanding Citizen: Elbridge James. In response to a question about the value of attending EWL, McKirchy said it's a fundraiser for Council/CSA activities, a great chance to meet other union members, plus a great band and food. President Williams added that EWL is local labor's prime way of recognizing the great work we do year-round; also well-attended by politicians so it's a great opportunity to buttonhole them on your issues.

Community Services Agency

Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Bowling: annual Bowling for Gold tourney coming up Sunday, can still get teams in. Lots of fun and raises money for Emergency Assistance Fund. Holiday basket program: thanks to everyone who helped out. Raised over \$20,000 in cash and equivalents.

- Building Futures Program: pre-apprenticeship training program; will be doing this at least through the end of September and may be extended. Got highlighted in last Friday's Washington Business Journal.

Union Cities

- *Jobs With Justice:* Ruth Castel-Branco reported that the 2010 grassroots education calendar now out; check it out and sign up; still working on striking Wings campaign, now in its 3rd month. Letters of support from area legislators have been sent but Wings has refused to meet with anyone, so we need support to bring

them to the table. Passed around postcard for delegates to sign to demand sit-down with striking workers. Campaign also has a couple of key targets; need to know if anyone can help us with them.

Mackenzie Baris reported that the DC police department has just signed an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security called Secure Communities that will send fingerprints to an FBI database that raises a lot of civil liberties concerns; distributed a fact sheet on the issue. Baris introduced Arturo Griffith, newest JWJ staffer, who passed out flyers promoting 2/18 Workers Rights Board hearing on wage theft, a huge issue in the United States and in the District. Baris also recognized Eugene Kinlow (DC Vote), who was attending the meeting, and thanked him for his support of JWJ.

Chris Garlock reported that the 2010 Directory has now been published and will publish annually from now on; Union City: hiring Part Time intern for 10 weeks, thanks to contribution from UC supporter; Labor FilmFest: 10th annual; acquiring AFL-CIO labor film poster exhibit; hiring Part Time intern for 10 weeks, thanks to contribution from FilmFest supporter; co-sponsoring labor video of the year competition with LabourStart.

COPE

- DC: Alya Mbamba reported on: Housing and Economic Development Labor Standards Bill; DC Attorney General Elected Term Amendment Legislation; Grievance Filing Bill; Secure Communities Program; COPE Committee review of the OPC Nomination of Vicki Beasley. DC COPE Committee recommendation is that the Council not support her nomination. Ex-

ecutive Board voted to oppose the nomination. Unanimously approved by the delegates. - MD (Annapolis): Rick Powell reported that the Council will again be convening weekly meetings in Annapolis Monday Feb 1 through the entire session; work sessions for those who have bills before the legislature; was very effective last year; reported on recent meeting with Mike Miller and President Williams to clear the air/turn over a new leaf; 6 labor bills coming up; upcoming Tri-County COPE meeting—Mike Miller to speak.

Other Reports

Johnny Walker (AFGE 383) reported on activities at AFGE, including new website.

President Williams reported on labor's participation in this year's US Census. A resolution of support for the census (see below) was moved, seconded and approved. Affiliates need to sign partnership agreements, available from Gwend Johnson at the Council office. President Williams also remarked on the installation party last Saturday for re-elected APWU National Capital Area President Dena Briscoe: round of congratulations and applause. Eugene Kinlow (DC Vote) reported on continuing efforts to win the vote for DC; delivered petitions to President encouraging him to include comments on DC voting rights in his State of the Union remarks; watch parties set for the State of the Union address Wednesday.

Meeting adjourned 8:36P

Delegate Attendance:

Brian Benson IATSE 22
Carl Carson Cement Mason Local 891
Terry Cavanagh SEIU Maryland/DC State Council

Barbara Childs AFSA 4
Cynthia Collins SEIU 400 PG
Stephen Courtien IUPAT 51
Vanessa Dixon Doctors Council of DC
Rick Ehrmann NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Sandra Falwell DCNA
Jo Freeman NWU/UAW 1981 2
Riley Gaines IBEW 26
Gerald Green SEIU 400 PG
David Hershfield AFGE Council 1 12
Ann Hoffman NWU/UAW 1981
Trent Holmes SEIU 400 PG
Gwend Johnson CBTU DC Chapter
Roosevelt Limes SEIU 400 PG
William Linehan IUEC 10
Jim Lowery IUEC 10
Kendall Martin Ironworkers Local 5
Yvette Martin-Gross AFGE 631
Michael Murphy IUOE 99
Elaine Newman NCAUR
Tony Perez UFCW 400
Doris Reed ASASP
David Richardson AFGE Council 1
Clifton Savoy Sheet Metal Workers 100
Mark Sexton IUOE 99
Steve Shapiro AFGE 3331
Eric Starin OPEIU 2
Tyrone Thomas Ironworkers 5
John Walker AFGE 383
Russel Washington AFGE 2782
Clay White WTU 6