



Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

February 22, 2010

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:47P.

Minutes: January minutes distributed; moved and seconded to accept with Dena Briscoe's name added as having attended.

Financial Report: January report received as distributed.

Correspondence: *Baltimore CLC:* COPE Dinner, \$350; *TENAC:* Request for contribution; *MCDCC:* Spring Ball, \$100; *Bricklayers Local 1 MD/VA/DC:* Affiliating with Council (470 members); *Union Plus:* Help for Haiti Fund; *NALC:* 2010 National Food Drive May 8; *President Williams:* Letter to Jules Bernstein (Bernstein & Lipsett Law Firm), Thanks for FilmFest/Union City contribution; *Endorsements:* Van Hollen, Hoyer & Edwards to the MD State Fed at tomorrow's meeting, Moved, seconded and approved; *Early endorsements & Requests:* DC Councilmembers Mendelson and Thomas, moved, seconded and approved; Requested \$500 contribution to Harry Thomas, moved, seconded and approved.

Community Services Agency
Kathleen McKirchy reported:
- Friday July 9 is next Labor Night at the Nats against San Francisco; all tickets \$10
- Evening With Labor: set for March 13; still time to take out ads, purchase tickets. Informa-

tion is available upon request.

Union Cities

- *2/23 AFGE TSO rally:* 11:30A AFL-CIO
- *Wings ironworker update (DC JWJ):* (passed the hat & raised \$364 for striking workers; President Williams noted that the Northern Virginia Area Labor Federation raised \$272 at their meeting) Jose David Benitez; "You'll be there one day longer" – President Williams. "This is a grain of sand and one that will be shared with all the workers"
- *3/15-26:* AFL-CIO 2010 Jobs Campaign Call to Action National Weeks of Bank Actions (Terese Bouey, Field Mobilization)
- *2/27:* NoVA Hotel Workers March & Rally, 5:30P National Airport Hilton
- *3/9:* *Health Care For America Now's* "Listen to us - not Big Insurance" demo/civil disobedience against America's Health Insurance Plans lobbyist meeting

COPE

- *Annapolis Lobby Report:* Rick Powell reported meeting weekly to coordinate info/strategy. Participants include MCGEO, CWA, SEIU, Building Trades & Laborers all have bills in.
- *Prince George's Survey Update:* Congressional, County Exec, couple of county races and perhaps some senate races.
- *Tri-County Meeting:* Mac Middleton, Chair of Senate

Finance Committee to discuss labor bills before his committee. Discussion ensued.

- *DC:* Alya Mbamba reported on the Office of the People's Counsel (OPC). The Mayor nominated Vicky Beasley to serve as the OPC and replace Elizabeth Noell- a 30 year veteran of OPC. Muriel Bowser introduced emergency legislation which was passed unanimously by the Council - to extend the term of Betty Noel for an additional 60 days until the council confirms Ms. Beasley's nomination. Alya also reported on the "Employment Stimulus and Trade Act of 2010" She thanked folks for participating in the lobby sessions every week. The bill was sequentially referred to CM Marion Barry's Committee on Housing and Workforce Development and CM Mary Cheh's Committee on Government Operations and the Environment. We are hoping both Councilmembers will get together soon and schedule a hearing on this issue as soon as possible.

Reports:

- *Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU:* Black History month program set for 2/27 at 11:30a at CWA IU.
- *Wanda Shelton-Martin, DC APRI:* annual celebration 4/24 5p features Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer; along with Bill Fletcher of AFGE.
- *Metro DC CLUW:* chapter

meeting tomorrow night; upcoming event: women's history 3/19 women's celebration recognizing major women leaders. Have new national and local leaders and CLUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with.
- *Nigerian trade unionists (Solidarity Center):* Siekegba Paul Kpokporo and Tamunokworo Fubara Dappu, members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) were guests. Michael Leslie, Solidarity Center program officer & OPEIU Local 2 member, introduced them and outlined the work their unions have been doing to organize the 5 big oil companies in Nigeria. Both spoke briefly but movingly about their struggles and their appreciation for the support of the American labor movement. President Williams pledged ongoing support as a Solidarity Center board member as well as head of the DC Metro CLC. "We have a lot to learn from you as well"
- *Cuba labor delegation report:* President Williams noted that the AFL-CIO has an official position against the Cuban embargo, he and this Council introduced and supported the resolution. Introduced Dena Briscoe, APWU NCSML, who reported on the US Labor for Friendship with Cuba labor delegation's findings. Met with trade unionists and union members. Very high level of satisfaction with unions; union membership is 97% in Cuba. Mechanisms for dealing with

problem employers. Retirees are very involved with their unions. Carl Gentile reminded delegates that Cuba is an afro-cuban country. Bill Preston, AFGE, noted that good economic opportunities for trade between the US and Cuba exist. Rick Ehrmann, WBNG and delegate for 30 years. US embargo is morally and legally wrong. Has cost Cuba \$96B in lost income. Has built one of best healthcare systems in the world but can't buy equipment from the US. Dena distributed group's brochure and took questions. Leonard Bumbaca, Fairfax County Education Association, Thomas Blanton, Carpenters, spoke about how Cubans like American people and understand that the policy is by the government. Their driver knew Obama's speeches by heart.

Rick Powell noted that these kind of exchanges -- like the Nigerians visiting or the US labor delegation to Cuba -- are the only way to get past propaganda and misinformation and find out what's really going on with workers. President Williams asked about what's next. Another delegation -- perhaps including high-level union leaders -- is planned for 2011. Also, support for right of ordinary citizens to travel to Cuba. Group is willing and interested in presenting to locals on their trip.

Secure Communities resolution: moved, seconded and approved.

New Delegate Sworn In: Recognized new affiliate, Bricklayers Local 1 DC/VA/MD; President who swore in Francis Jacobberger as delegate

Meeting adjourned 8:30P

Delegate Attendance:

Vance Ayres Washington Building Trades WBCTC
Brian Benson IATSE 22
John Brasseux IATSE 22
Dena Briscoe APWU
NCSML, Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local
Carl Carson Cement Mason Local 891
Milo Chaffee Sheet Metal Workers 100
Cynthia Collins SEIU 400 PG
James Demmel IUEC 10
Rick Ehrmann NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
Jo Freeman NWU/UAW 1981
Riley Gaines IBEW 26
Harry Geety IUOE 99
Larry Greenhill IBEW 26
Ann Hoffman NWU/UAW 1981
Trent Holmes SEIU 400 PG
Francis Jacobberger BAC 1
Gwend Johnson CBTU DC Chapter
Joe Kahraman NEWSPAPER GUILD 35
William Linehan IUEC 10
Jim Lowery IUEC 10
Michael Murphy IUOE 99
Elaine Newman NCAUR
David Richardson AFGE Council 1
Clifton Savoy Sheet Metal Workers 100
Saul Schniderman AFSCME 2910
Steve Shapiro AFGE 3331
Jimmy Tarlau CWA 2336
Tyrone Thomas Ironworkers 5

Guests:

Trina Tocco International Labor Rights Fund;
Wanda Shelton-Martin APRI;
Brenda Savoy-Bushrod
CLUW, Metro DC Chapter;
Robin Metalitz Jews United For Justice

Merle Cuttita, Recording Secretary