

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

March 15, 2010

Meeting called to order at 4:18P

Minutes: Moved and seconded to accept February minutes as distributed; approved.

Financial Report: Moved and seconded to receive February report as distributed; approved

Correspondence:

Requests for contributions: Prince George's County Councilmember Michael Jackson, 3/2 Fundraiser: received

Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal, 3/18 Reception: received
CLUW: 3/18 1st Annual Working Women's Celebration: received

ACLU-NCA: Request of funds to help print annual directory: \$500 moved, seconded and approved

JUFJ: 4/11 Labor Seder: \$250 moved, seconded and approved

APRI: 4/24 Birthday Dinner: \$140 (2 tickets) moved, seconded and approved

Progressive Prince George's undated event: received

Correspondence:

DC CouncilMember Michael Brown: Thank-you letter for participation in 1st-year celebration

ADA: Request to be added as ally – approved by President Williams; added to online Directory

ILCA: Request to be added as ally - approved by President

Williams; added to online Directory

President's Report

Endorsement process: President Williams reviewed the proposed timeline (see next page). COPE Coordinator Rick Powell outlined proposed bifurcated questionnaire/interview/endorsement process. Mark Federici urged the Council to move more quickly on the Prince Georges County Executive endorsements -- as early as the April meeting -- due to that race's critical impact on a number of affiliates. Vigorous discussion followed. Consensus that an exception was warranted in this case; consensus also that an exception should be made in the DC Mayoral race as well. Powell will get the draft questionnaire out for comment. President Williams distributed a list of affiliates and their paid per capita numbers as of December 2009, following up on the request for this information at the February Council meeting, and in the interest of being clear about both the actual and potential capacity of the local labor movement. With a universe of potential members of nearly 200,000, just 105,740 are accounted for in the existing Council membership, which is a factor of both under-reporting by existing affiliates and the need to bring in the non-affiliated locals. President Williams reported that Council staff will be working with the Council trustees to work on both these issues. Per

capita has not been raised in two years; supposed to track COLA, but was not raised two years ago when there was an increase in COLA or last year when there was a slight decrease. **Motion made and seconded to approve the endorsement timeline -- with the two exceptions as noted above -- approved.**

Per capita increase: President Williams asked for a vote on the trustee's recommendation to increase per capita from \$0.53 to \$0.56 per member per month. **Moved and seconded;** it was noted by some board members that this may be problematic for those locals that have already set their budgets based on the \$0.53. President Williams said that the increase should have been made last fall and wasn't. **Amendment proposed -- and accepted -- to make the increase effective June 1.** Jimmy Tarlau, CWA District 2, asked if the vote on the increase could be delayed to the April meeting, to give him time to inform the CWA locals. Dan Dyer (OPEIU 2) said this proposed increase has been in the works for several months and should be voted on now. **Motion to increase per capita from \$0.53 to \$0.56 -- to take effect June 1 -- carried 13-1.**

Report on P.G. County Political Poll:

Rick Powell reported that pollster is drafting poll, with focus on Exum and Harrington Senate races. Still

Present: Fred Allen, GCC/IBT; Vance Ayres; John Boardman; Dwight Bowman; Linda Bridges; Merle Cuttitta; Dan Dyer; Sandra Falwell; Mark Federici; Anthony Frederick Sr.; George Johnson; Kendall Martin; Doris Reed; Carl Goldman; Faith Jones; Mike Murphy; Jimmy Tarlau
Excused: Sandra Falwell, DCNA; Tommy Ratliff, IBT 639; Gino Renne
Absent: Sonny Reed; Anthony Garland; George Parker; Riley Gaines
also attending: Gerald Warrick, Laborers 657; Jessica Semachko, SEIU State Council; Bob Stewart, UFCW 1994; Mark Cole, WBCTC
Staff: Kathleen McKirchy, CSA; Chris Garlock, Union Cities; Rick Powell, COPE; Alya Solomon, COPE

short of funds necessary to conduct the poll.

Evening With Labor

Dinner Chairman Fred Allen, GCC/IBT, reported that it's too early for final financial report, but that the adbook at 64 pages was the same as last year, and that close to 850 attended. He also noted that he received a question about how the band is paid for the relatively small amount of time they play. Other than that the feedback was positive.

COPE

DC Cope report: Alya Solomon

- New DC Council Committee

assignments: in the wake of Marion Barry being stripped of committee posts, Michael Brown is now Chair of Councilman Barry's old committee (Committee on Housing and Workforce Development); Harry Thomas has replaced Barry on the Committee on Finance and Revenue; Yvette Alexander has replaced Michael Brown on the Committee on Statehood and Self-Determination and oversight of the Taxi Cab Commission. An updated committee list will soon be available for distribution.

- *Employment Stimulus and Trade Bill:* referred to Cheh's committee and Brown's committee, which is good for labor since Brown co-introduced the bill. Still looking for a hearing on the bill, hopefully early April.

- *Office of the People's Counsel:* Bowser pushed for disapproval vote of Fenty's nominee and she was voted down by Council. Since former OPC Betty Noel has vacated the position of People's Counsel, the emergency bill the Council passed is moot, and there is a question about the legality for the mayor to appoint an interim OPC.

- *Labor Breakfast Fundraiser for CM Harry Thomas:* please make maximum \$500 contribution: fundraiser is this Friday at 8:30A.

- *Safe Communities program:* reported on this program by the District to send fingerprints of all arrestees to ICE, which ACLU, and others, including the Metro Washington Council last month, are opposing. This affects everyone, not just immigrants.

Maryland Report: Rick Powell

- *State Senator Mac Middleton meeting:* planned to discuss labor bills in his committee; because of concerns

about whether the meeting would jeopardize affiliate's bills and in the interests of solidarity, the meeting was canceled.

- *Annapolis Lobby Meetings:* proving to be helpful in developing strategy and sharing information, will continue through session.

- *Pending Bills:* if you need us to testify, let us know asap so we can get it on President Williams' schedule

- *Building Alliance with Progressive Maryland for 2010 Elections:* meeting with them in next week or so to discuss forming alliance; Laborers also very interested, and talking about putting \$250,000 into races.

- *Maryland COPE Reports, PG and Tri-County:* PG COPE meeting 3/24, Tri-County meeting set for next Tuesday Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2) reported on last week's firework at the MD State Delegate Dereck Davis hearing, where Davis told CWA District 2's Ron Collins that he didn't want to hear about the bill CWA was supporting and accused CWA of trying to negotiate through the Assembly, which is Verizon's line on this issue. Collins stood up to the chair and said he was wrong, which apparently concerned a lot of the other Democrats on the committee, as well as some labor folks. President Williams expressed his concern that "we in labor have a tendency to allow chairs and other key politicians to disrespect us and get away with us. Same thing with the Middleton meeting, which I went out on a limb to set up and then saw my own affiliates disavow and get cold feet out of concern for their bills. These folks are in office because of our members and should respect us. You pull the rug out from under the Council and you weaken yourselves."

Union Cities

- *UNITE HERE request for Council support/endorsement of Columbia Sussex Westin City Center boycott* (boycott launches 3/25): John Boardman, UNITE HERE 25, provided background on this issue, which involves hotel mogul Columbia-Sussex, the target of a several-year attempt to win contracts. There have been many demonstrations at their hotel in Northern Virginia and the boycott is now being expanded to the Westin in the District. Boardman moved that the Metro Council endorse and support the boycott; it was seconded and approved. Garlock also noted that all affiliates will be asked to sign pledge of support for boycott.

- *March 21st immigration rights rally:* over 100,000 expected to rally on mall; supported by labor movement

- *Report on upcoming bank demo – date/location TBA --* including DC and possible suburban actions, part of the AFL-CIO's 2-week campaign of actions nationwide.

- *Report on 3/9 Big Insurance mass demonstration;* thanks to everyone for turning out for a terrific demonstration, one of the biggest direct actions in years, well-attended and well-covered in all major media.

- *10th annual DC Labor FilmFest* dates set for October 14-18

- *Workers Memorial Day April 28* theme: "Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. NOW" Looking for local(s) to head up event focusing on issue of job safety; any local(s) interested should let us know.

- *Dena Briscoe (APWU NCSML)* reported on Saturday's planned commemoration of 1970 postal strike

Reports of Board Members

- *Jessica Semachko, SEIU MD political organizer:* trying to move bill on responsible procurement in DC City Councilwoman Cheh's committee; asking for Metro Council support for stronger amendments. Other labor folks have concerns and are now working together on it.

- *John Boardman (UNITE HERE 25):* Local 25 may be picketing

Opening Day at the Nationals; they want to sub out 15% of the unit to charity, more than 100 jobs at stake.

Meeting adjourned 3:48p

PROPOSED TIME LINE FOR 2010 COPE INTERVIEWS & ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Candidate Filing Deadline for D.C. is July 2, 2010, and in Maryland, July 6, 2010. In order to conduct effective labor campaigns to support endorsed candidates the following time line is proposed:

Monday, April 5th – Finalize candidate questionnaire
Tuesday, April 13th – Start sending out questionnaire
Friday, April 23rd – Deadline to return candidate questionnaire

Monday, April 26th – COPE interviews begin D.C. & MD (non-legislative races)
Friday, May 7th – Interviews completed

Monday, May 10th to Saturday (if necessary) May 15th – COPEs begin meeting to make recommendations for endorsement

Monday, May 17th – Executive Board to receive COPE recommendations for candidate endorsement (D.C. & MD. Non-legislative races)

Monday, May 17th – Executive Board makes candidate endorsements and ratification by the delegates

Monday, May 24th – MD Legislative COPE interviews begin
Friday, June 11th – MD COPE interviews complete

Monday June 14th – MD COPE meets to make recommendations begin

Monday June 21st – Executive Board receives MD COPE recommendations & Delegates ratification of endorsements