



# Delegate's Meeting Minutes

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## Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

April 19, 2010

*Meeting called to order at 6:41p*

**New delegates sworn in:**  
*Janel Quarless, AFGE 2978, Adebayo Arowolaju, DCNA*

**Minutes:** March minutes moved, seconded to approve as distributed with question from AFGE 12's Dave Richardson, who re-raised the issue of the ACLU's stand on contributions as free speech. President Williams promised to have an answer by the May meeting.

**Financial Report:** moved, seconded and approved to receive the March report as distributed.

**Correspondence:**  
Will Campos (PG Council) April 8 Election Kick-Off: received;  
CBTU April 21 Awards reception "Investing in Communities": \$300 (ticket);  
Montgomery County NAACP April 25: \$125 (ad);  
DC CLUW May 2 Gloria Johnson Awards Luncheon: \$500 sponsorship (full-page ad, 8 tickets); Teamsters 639 May 21 Golf Tournament \$200 tee; Union Sportsmen's Alliance June 10 Clays Shoot: received  
Boilermakers 193 July 16 Golf Tournament: \$200 tee  
MidAtlantic PAC: \$1000

**Correspondence:**  
USLAW Affiliation Certificate AFM Local 161-710: Request that the Council's Evening With Labor band complete union contract in the future.  
Approved unanimously.

### **Community Services Agency**

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on the July 9 Labor Night at the Nats: 1,100 tickets sold thus far. The first local to buy 1,000 gets to throw out the game's first pitch.

### **Union Cities**

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:  
- *DOL WORKERS Picket G20 Labor Minister's Meeting:* AFGE 12's David Richardson reported on how "Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis advocates workers' rights everywhere but in her own building." An informational picket is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 12p, DOL, 200 Constitution Avenue.  
- *Save Our Safety Net (DC):* Community-religious-labor coalition opposing budget cuts. Joni Rebekah and Jessie Posilkin, SOS staff, outlined their ongoing work to oppose budget cuts and circulated sign-on support pledges for the coalition.  
- *Montgomery County Budget Cuts:* Coordinator

Chris Garlock reported that UFCW 1994 and SEIU 500 are leading the ongoing struggle to oppose cuts/furloughs to balance budget on backs of county workers  
- *Craig Simpson, ATU 689:* reported on Tuesday's rally against service cuts/fare increases at Metro, working with PRISCM, another local community group.  
- *Columbia Sussex/HEI hotel boycott pledges:* Pledged so far to support the hotel boycott: St. Anthony Parish; Americans for Democratic Action; Friends of the Earth; Green America; Africa Action; International Labor Rights Forum; D.C. Nurses Association; Teamsters Local 639; AFSCME Council 20; AFGE Local 12; ATU Local 689; Ironworkers Local 5; DC Metro Council AFL-CIO; Jobs with Justice; DC Employment Justice Center. Garlock urged affiliates to make sure they complete the pledges and turn them in, even if they don't currently patronize the hotels.  
- *Earth Day:* AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka to speak: Sunday, April 25, 12-1P, National Mall. John Brousseau IATSE 22, noted that the stage is not being put up union, and is working with Gordon Pavy in President Trumka's office to resolve this issue. Stay

tuned.

- *DC Labor FilmFest:* 20% discount for program book ads reserved by May 1!  
- *This just in:* Union City readership is almost 20,000; 19,500, to be exact. Please spread the word so we can get that last 500 to get us over the hump. It was suggested that the 20,000th Union City sign-up get prizes.

- *DC Jobs with Justice:* Ruth Castel-Branco reported on the "Nuisance Bill" in the DC City Council that JWJ says is dangerous and "could criminalize innocent residents." She thanked the Council for its recent Action Alert, which generated over 1,000 emails to City Council in the last few days and was effective: "at the hearing today, Council members Evans and Graham agreed to consider a compromise and perhaps to even withdrawing the bill." She also reported that on May 15 there will be a People's Assembly of the DC Social Forum.

### **COPE**

- Assistant COPE Coordinator Alya Solomon reported on the Tranquility Bill now before the DC City Council. In response to increasingly aggressive protests by an extremist animal rights group, which some members have been accused of harassing numerous D.C.

residents in their homes — shouting obscenities, yelling death threats and banging on doors, Council member Mary Cheh introduced a bill that abolishes targeted residential picketing in DC.

— Various unions and the ACLU have taken a position against this bill for infringing on free speech rights. Council member Phil Mendelson is working with Cheh to adopt restrictive recommendations, including: one cannot wear a mask, hood, device, attire or temporary facial alteration to conceal his/her identity; the office of the Chief of Police must be notified in writing 8 hours before a picket begins; abolish picketing in residential neighborhoods from 7p to 9a; If the police are not notified within that time frame, picketers will be subject to an arrest without a warrant. Mendelson is aware of labor's concerns and is working on new language that addresses those issues.

- *Employment Stimulus Bill:* In order to demonstrate more transparency to DC residents, Council member Michael Brown called a meeting inviting all stakeholders to discuss the Employment Stimulus Bill. Organizations included but were not limited to various labor unions and the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). Labor walked out of the meeting when it was discovered that Brown had reneged on a commitment he made to the Metro labor Council to hold a hearing in early April, instead setting the date for June 30th. The June date is a problem for labor, as City Council will not vote on

the bill until after the September primary and the Council was planning to use the AFL-CIO candidate endorsements as leverage over some Council members who ask for labor's support. In response, the Metro Council is planning to host an Accountability Night on May 10th, prior to the Council's endorsements, to solicit public support for the bill by Council members.

- *Labor Breakfast Fund-raiser for Phil Mendelson:* Council Member Phil Mendelson has been a great advocate and long term ally on the City Council for workers and unions in Washington and is labor's endorsed candidate. The Mendelson "Breakfast With Labor" is on Friday, April 23rd at 8:30a at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 900 10th Street NW. Solomon and President Williams urged locals to support Mendelson by donating the maximum contribution (\$1,000) to his reelection campaign. RSVP to Alya Solomon at asolomon@dclabor.org

- *Report on Maryland Legislative Session:* **Rick Powell** reported on highlights of the just-concluded Maryland General Assembly, including: UFCW 400 got shift breaks (the Healthy Retail Act) after four years; Mark Coles, WBCTC, in just his third year as lobbyist for the Washington Building Trades got prevailing wage enforcement passed after a hard fight ("he should get Rookie of the Year"); SEIU 500 got their bill turning the Governor's Executive

Order covering 6,000 child-care workers into law. Powell also noted that "a lot of our big wins come during an election year, even though the bills are just as valid the other years."

- *TriCounty COPE:* Meeting has been set with Sen. Mac Middleton  
- Reviewed revised Endorsements Timeline

### Reports of Affiliates

- *Jackie Jeter, ATU 689:* April 27 transit lobby day on the Hill for funding public transit; we're all going through the same thing with budget cuts, here and across the country. Must work together on these issues. Public transit is for all the public. 4/26 pre-meeting session at Local 689.

- *Kendall Martin, Iron Workers 5:* June 19 annual Dads Day Poker Run, raised over \$100,000 over eight years for Dollars Against Diabetes.

- *Fred Allen: GCC/IBT:* nomination of Bill Boarman as Public Printer of the US; former Executive Board member and winner of the JC Turner award for Outstanding Trade Unionist of the Year in 1983.

- *Sandra Falwell, DCNA:* former Greater SE Hospital — now United Medical Center — did not make their first payment to the city after all the concessions; this past Friday their water got shut off and they tried to make the emergency room function without water, which the nurses refused to do. "They change the name but they don't change the management. We'll need your help to stop this travesty." President Williams noted that "we need to get

DCNA and SEIU together to see what we can come up with in terms of a long-term plan. This hospital is critical to the local population, which is at-risk. "

- *Vanessa Dixon, Doctors Council/NUCCHE:* lost our free office space a few months ago and asked for support at this meeting and both Ann Hoffman (NWU) and DCNA offered and we've settled in at DCNA so Thank You. Alert to public sector unions: two city offices are making decision with potential to impact all public sector workers. Has to do with paying union dues; we won original case but employee has appealed and an adverse ruling could have far-reaching implications.

- *Clay White, WTU 6:* we are in court on the ongoing contract and budget issues, to re-open the portion of the case we lost when DCPS teachers/workers were fired last fall supposedly because of the budget crisis.

Thanked the Council and affiliates for all of your support. Questions ensued.  
*Dena Briscoe, APWU 140:* 4/28 Workers Memorial Day, National Labor College ceremony 12p, dedication of new workers' memorial starting at 2P

*Dan Fields, SEIU 722:* two issues at the Washington Hospital Center: mandatory flu shot we filed a grievance over; one of our members -- who refused the shot -- was terminated and we're fighting it; hospital also took position that anyone who called out during the blizzard would be automatically disciplined, which we think was a gross violation of our contract. We may need sup-

port on both these issues, including letters to interim president of the hospital.

## REPORTS OF ALLIES & CONSTITUENCY GROUPS

— - **Steven Frum, Nurses United:** in bargaining now, and represent 1,600 nurses at the Washington Hospital Center. We're a former affiliate of the Council, and very much want to rejoin. 18 of our members were unjustly fired during the blizzard; the hospital took advantage of the situation to fire our members. Bargaining is very tough, with hospital making major demands for concessions while the company is doing very well and is very profitable. Contract expires 5/10 and may well have an informational picket on 5/11; will keep you posted; the hospital is bringing in hundreds of strikebreakers now in preparation.

- **Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU:** reminder that the annual CBTU convention deadline is approaching; to be certified as delegates your dues must be in and paid 30 days prior. Convention is May 26-31 in Detroit. No meeting in April but probably in May and definitely in June.

- **Susan Clark, DC Labor Chorus:** 5/22 spring concert, One Voice, songs of peace and justice. Fundraiser for US Social Forum this year, attendance by people from DC, especially of people of color and low-income residents. Selling tickets tonight for concert, \$20 each; urge your locals to buy blocks of tickets as well. Attend the concert and you'll learn songs that'll

put a song in your heart and wings on your feet as you go on about your activism. Tickets available at laborheritage.org

— **President Williams** recognized "one of labor's staunch allies" Maryland Delegate **Tom Hucker**, "our strongest ally in Annapolis." Hucker called 2010 "Our best year yet for labor, with SEIU, UFCW and the building trades all getting big wins." He congratulated the Council and affiliates for "A more unified lobbying effort this year" and noted that another big win was anti-SLAP legislation lobbied for by UFCW 400 to protect free speech rights and restrain nuisance suits designed to tie up activists with lawsuits. The Assembly also approved a \$150,000 bond for the National Labor College for upgrades & renovations.

*Meeting adjourned 7:58p*

## DELEGATES

*(thanks to everyone for signing in!)*

Adebayo Arowolaju (DCNA)  
Deborah Beasley (AFSCME 3389)  
Alton Branson (NALC 142)  
John Brasseux (IATSE 22)  
Dena Briscoe (APWU, Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local)  
Avis Buchanan (AFGE 2782)  
Barbara Childs (AFSA 4)  
Mark Coles (WBCTC)  
Cynthia Collins (SEIU 400 PG)  
Stephen Courtien (IUPAT 51)  
Vanessa Dixon (Doctors Council DC / AFSCME NUHHCE)  
Rick Ehrmann (WBNG 35)  
Sandra Falwell (DCNA)  
Anthony Frederick (Laborers 657)  
Ronald Freeland (Laborers 657)  
Jo Freeman (NWU/UAW 1981 2)  
Riley Gaines (IBEW 26)  
Gerald Green (SEIU 400 PG)  
David Hershfield (AFGE Council 1)  
Ann Hoffman (NWU/UAW 1981)  
George Hogan (IBEW 26)  
Trent Holmes (SEIU 400 PG)

Jessica Ingerick (OPEIU 277)  
Jackie Jeter (ATU 689)  
Roland Jeter (ATU 689)  
Roosevelt Littlejohn (Machinists & Aerospace Workers, IAM-AW)  
Kendall Martin (Ironworkers 5)  
Yvette Martin-Gross (AFGE 631)  
Michael Murphy (IUOE 99)  
Elaine Newman (NCAUR)  
Tony Perez (UFCW 400)  
Janel Quarless (AFGE 2978)  
Carnell Reed (SEIU 400 PG)  
David Richardson (AFGE Council 1)  
Mark Sexton (IUOE 99)  
Craig Simpson (ATU 689)  
Eric Starin (OPEIU 2)  
Bob Stewart (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)  
Jimmy Tarlau (CWA 2336)  
John Walker (AFGE 383)  
Gerald Warrick (Laborers 657)  
Russell Washington (AFGE 2782)  
Hugh Weathers (ASASP)

## Guests:

Caleb Burris (NASPSO)  
Megan Caine (Nurses United)  
Stephen Frum (Nurses United)  
Geri Lee (Nurses United)  
Desmond Serrette (Office of Congresswoman Donna Edwards)