



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

January 24, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:09P

Minutes: December minutes approved with two corrections: Fred Allen present, Steve Lanning's affiliation with the Laborers was added.

Financial Report: December report received as distributed

Correspondence: IUEC 10 Graduation Dinner: \$250 approved for ad in program book; MD Delegate Tom Hucker Reception: Tabled until April; Council member Obie Patterson Reception: \$250 approved for tickets.

President's Report:

- Walmart Update: convening meeting of building trades, UFCW and Teamsters, AFL-CIO and reps from IUs, to make sure that what's happened in Chicago and elsewhere -- Walmart able to drive wedge between different unions -- does not happen here. Have been working on building coalition of unions, civic and faith organizations to build a solid front of solidarity in the Walmart campaign. Today's meeting was part of that effort. A good meeting. Will participate in community benefit alliance, not to stop Walmart -- though that may be a by product -- but at making sure that if Walmart does come into DC, it meets standards of a good employer, like Giant, Safeway and other responsible local employers. Not sure what victory looks like yet but we'll get there together.

Ask you to approve proposal to work with the community.

- *Mark Federici UFCW 400:* reviewed highlights of UFCW's battles with Walmart over the years, nationally as well as locally. Now the day has come when Walmart has come to metro DC, as we have long expected. They depend on extreme growth selling and making profits to succeed, not providing jobs. Now they're trying to get into town by promising jobs. He introduced IU staffer Beth Pointer.

- *Beth:* Walmart's run out of places to expand, that's why they're trying to get into cities across the country and have launched a major public relations campaign to repair their bad public image, including last Thursday's appearance with First Lady Michelle Obama promising healthier and less expensive food. Talked to 200 people last weekend during the canvassing; people took signs for their windows; this effort will continue and need your support for the phonebanks and canvasses. First event is this Thursday at the Wilson building to lobby politicians on this issue; hope to have 100 turn out; we're not just going to roll out the red carpet for Walmart.

- *Steve Courtien (Washington DC Building & Construction Trades Council):* we have no deal with Walmart in DC; they've been calling but we haven't met with them. Have been working with UFCW and the community group and that's where we stand. None of

our affiliates have cut a deal either. Extensive discussion ensued.

- President Williams asked for approval of the Council involvement with the Living Wages Healthy Communities Coalition; moved, seconded and approved. Williams stressed that this is not just a short-term issue and we need to be prepared to hold together in this struggle over the long-term.

- Metropolitan-Washington Alliance For Progressive Solutions (MAPS) Update

- Showed stop the lies video; outlined ongoing attack on public sector workers and blaming economic crisis on high wages and benefits for public sector workers. This is another example of the classic "race to the bottom" that we've seen in industry after industry. Extensive discussion on the attacks and this campaign ensued. Steve Courtien asked for materials to hand out to members on this issue, Carl Goldman said to be sure to involve federal workers, and others wondered what's going on at the national level and how does this effort fit into these efforts. President Williams said that while the AFL-CIO is meeting with key International Unions on this issue, we can afford to wait, especially with cuts coming down on the state and county level. Discussion about the need for Labor Council to push this from the bottom up ensued.

Evening With Labor: Award

ATTENDANCE

Dena Briscoe (APWU Nation's Capital and Southern MD Local), Carl Goldman (AFSCME Council 26), Steve Courtien (WBCTC), John Boardman (UNITE HERE 25), Sonny Reed (SEIU 400), Sandra Falwell (DCNA), Michael Murphy (IUOE 99), Dwight Bowman (AFGE District 14), Fred Allen, Doris Reed (ASASP), Mark Federici (UFCW 400), Jimmy Tarlau (CWA District 2), Gerald Warrick (Laborer 657), Nathan Saunders (WTU 6), Anthony Garland (ATU 689)

Guests:

Villareal Johnson (WTU 6), Beth Pointer (UFCW)

Staff: *Kathleen McKirchy, Chris Garlock, Rick Powell, Alya Solomon*

recommendations; Fred Allen reported:

- March 12; considering some new possibilities, to be reported on soon.
- Program: how to get through the political introductions faster.
- Award recommendations: see list below*.

Community Services Agency
CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- Bowling: Sunday, January 30, 10a & 1p at Crofton; still slots available
- Building Futures/Prince George's Community College continuing partnership
- Early bird alert- Labor Night at the Nats 7/29 vs. NY Mets

Union Cities

Mobilization Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- 2011 Directory (final draft)
- 2011 Labor FilmFest tentative dates: October 13-16
- Upcoming events: Mexico Day of Action, February 16, 12-1p, Mexican Embassy (AFL-CIO's Jeff Vogt to report at Delegate meeting)

COPE

Maryland Report: Legislative & Political Coordinator Rick Powell reported:

- 2011 Annapolis Legislative Session: keep us posted on your issues
- MAPS Coalition: President Williams reported: The Metropolitan-Washington Alliance For Progressive Solutions (MAPS) Coalition looking at the impact of budget cuts on public employees and deal with the vilification of public employees
- Tri-County COPE Meeting January 25th, 7 PM LaPlata & 4th Tuesdays after that

DC: Assistant Legislative & Political Coordinator Alya Solomon reported:

- DC COPE Summary:
- On January 6 the DC Democratic State Committee

chose Sekou Biddle, to temporarily fill Kwame Brown's seat as an At-Large Councilmember on the City Council. Sekou is a former Ward 4 Board of Education member, who supported Fenty's re-election campaign for Mayor and who supported the position of the former DC School's Chancellor, Michelle Rhee. On April 26 a special Election open to all party affiliations will be held City Wide to fill the seat permanently. Six council members and Mayor Gray have endorsed the interim Councilmember Sekou Biddle but the concern is that, challengers like Vincent Orange, who has name recognition in DC, will split the vote giving a good chance to a Republican challenger to win. Also, the City Council only budgeted \$590,000 for the cost of this special Election but it is now estimated to cost \$829,000. Because of the cost of the special election, the District is considering opening only 16 voting centers, instead of all 143 precincts where residents can cast ballots at any of the centers over three days.

- Solomon also distributed the new DC Council committee assignments.

Reports of Board Members

- *John Boardman (UNITE HERE):* Appears that we're headed for strike at Madison Hotel. Will provide updates as the situation unfolds.

Meeting closed at 6:28P

***JC Turner Award for Outstanding Trade Unionist**

The nominee will have demonstrated OUTSTANDING commitment to the labor movement, in ALL areas including political activity, community services and local union support activities, like Street Heat, of the MWC AFL-CIO.

Jackie Jeter, ATU 689, for visibly leading her own local union during very tough times, for supporting the political, legislative and community services activities of the Council and Agency. Supports

financially all of the CSA fundraisers and very generously supports the Emergency Assistance Fund.

COPE Awards

The nominee will have demonstrated VOLUNTEER activities in the areas of voter registration, labor-endorsed candidate support, labor campaign activities, legislative activities and GOTV through the MWC AFL-CIO program in the previous calendar year.

DC- Carl Carson, President of the Cement Masons 891.

He was always available upon request to lobby, testify, door knock, collected post cards, attended rallies, and helped with turn out for the Employment Stimulus Bill. He also attended all the DC COPE meetings.

Organizing Award

This award goes to the local union which has organized the most new members, or increased their membership through organizing by the greatest percentage. Creative organizing campaigns and tactics can also be taken into account.

AFSCME Council 26

Visitors to our nation's Capitol are now guided by union members, who organized in 2010 for the first time in the 134 years since Congress' Capitol Guide Service was created and just two years after the new Capitol Visitor Center opened. Despite intimidation by CVC managers during the organizing drive, the guides overwhelmingly voted to join AFSCME Council 26, sending "an unmistakably strong message to CVC management that we need a voice at work and protection on the job," a member of the Organizing Committee. The successful drive inspired the CVC Gift Shop employees to also seek union representation.

Golden Picket Award

This award goes to the local which has turned out the most members for Street Heat activities in the previous year, or conducted unique and creative mobilization campaigns.

Teamsters 639

Striking workers at Daycon Products not only maintained their picket line against the Upper Marlboro cleaning company for months, through the heat and rain, but also conducted an effective roving picket that tracked scab drivers to the company's customers. Like the Mott's strikers in upstate New York, the Daycon strikers became a

powerful symbol of worker resistance to unmitigated corporate greed, drawing support from the local labor, religious, community and political community, which turned out to walk the line to demonstrate their solidarity.

National Nurses United, WHC Local

The nurses at the Washington Hospital Center were an inspiration throughout the year as they battled their employer, first for firing nurses who hadn't been able to make it to work through blizzards that shut down the city, and then to win a fair contract. Throughout their struggles, the WHC nurses showed fortitude and creativity, working with the local labor community to stage several major demonstrations outside WHC as well as mobilizing extensively and effectively within the hospital, culminating in several dramatic "marches on the boss" that saw hundreds of nurses in red scrubs and their supporters wending their way through the hospital.

Thomas M. Bradley Community Services Award

The nominee will have demonstrated commitment to his/her community through VOLUNTEER activities, active participation in activities of the Community services Agency, participation in the labor United Way/CFC or Union Community Fund Campaigns, and/or participation in their local union-sponsored community services programs.

Stan Gordon, AFGE 65.

Stan is an original member of the Board of Trustees of CSA since its founding in 1991. He has been a stalwart and consistent supporter of the Agency and all of its programs for twenty years. He provided valuable professional support to the CSA Director as the new agency was getting off the ground in 1991, has actively volunteered over the years on fundraising and community events, and helped connect the Agency into programs of the Labor Participation Office of the American red Cross, including its disaster operations. As the current president of the National Capital Area union Retirees, he has ensured generous contributions to United Way, earmarked to the Agency, from the members.