

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

April 25, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:10P by President Williams.

Minutes: (March) approved.

Financial Report: (March) received.

Correspondence: The following contributions were recommended for approval by the delegates: Martin Luther King DC Support Group, \$100; Jews United for Justice Labor Seder, \$250; ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner, \$150; CBTU Annual Awards Reception, \$300 ; APRI Annual Birthday Celebration, \$100; UFCW Mid-Atlantic Political Action Committee 2011 Person of the Year Dinner, \$1,000; Baltimore Labor Council COPE dinner, \$350; MD Delegate Joanne Benson fundraiser, \$80; Teamsters 639 golf tournament, \$250; DC Vote annual dues, \$250; DC Jobs with Justice annual dues, \$100.

TOTAL: \$2,930

Community Services Agency Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on several upcoming events:

- Labor Night at the Nats, July 29; tickets are still available, with Iron Workers 5 set to throw out the first ball unless another local buys more than 500 tickets. Any local buying 50 or more tickets gets their name on the big screen.
- Golf tournament, September 26; looking for more volunteers to help plan. Both events are fundraisers for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

- Prison Book Drive: CSA is coordinating a book drive for area prison libraries suffering budget cuts. Most people in prison usually get out someday and return to the community," said McKirchy. "Anything we can do to help them prepare for re-entry while they are still inside is a worthwhile venture."

Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- National Nurses United/WHC: picketing planned for 5/6, 9, 16 & 23
- 2011 DC Labor FilmFest: May 6 deadline for 20% earlybird discount
- UNITE HERE Local 25 Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Boardman reported on the successful conclusion to the nine-and-a-half week strike by workers at the Madison. Not only did the workers get their jobs back – or a generous buy-out offer – but the hotel management agreed to a “me-too” provision so they’ll have to abide by what’s agreed to by the rest of the DC hotels. “As one member told me, it’s a ‘kick-ass settlement,” said Boardman.

- Upcoming events:

—Wednesday 4/27, 12-1:
Farmworkers To Protest British Tobacco; British Embassy; 3100 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest
—Thursday, 4/28, 8-9:30a:
Safety/Hospitality and Maintenance (SAMs) Workers Rally For A Contract; Newseum; 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW

—Thursday, 4/28: 2p: **Labor College Hosts Workers Memorial Day observance,** 10000 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD
—Fri/Sat, 4/29 (6-8:30p) & 4/30 (12-3p): Maryland State and District of Columbia’s **International Workers’ Day celebration**

COPE Report: Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell reported:

- DC At-Large campaign: update on coordinated campaign supporting Labor Council endorsee Vincent Orange; vote is tomorrow and with low turnout expected, labor’s endorsement/turnout is expected to be a critical factor.
- 2011 Annapolis Session: characterized as the “least productive” ever, as labor was forced to fight a number of “purely defensive” battles against anti-worker legislation that had no chance of passage in the Assembly or signature by the Governor.
- Montgomery County: updated on the Metropolitan Washington Alliance for Progressive Solutions effort and plans to develop strategies to confront the attacks on public sector workers.
- Prince George’s County —Mel Franklin, new Prince Georges Councilman, has five bills that labor is interested in, and that comprise the “Omnibus Economic Development” package.
—PG COPE to resume
—Tri-County - Regular Meeting Tuesday, 4-26-11

ATTENDANCE

Present: J. Williams, D. Reed, L. Bridges, J. Boardman, C. Goldman, T. Perez, A. Garland, M. Murphy, K. Martin, D. Bowman, F. Allen, D. Briscoe, N. Saunders.

Excused: G. Renne, S. Falwell, M. Federici, G. Johnson, A. Frederick, J. Tarlau, R. Gaines
Absent: C. Reed, T. Ratliff, C. Graham, D. Dyer, J. Contreras, V. Ayres

Staff: McKirchy, Garlock, Powell

President's Report:

President Williams shared a letter critical of public sector workers that's been sent around to State Federations across the country. Noting that the author may be mistaken about certain details, President Williams warned that "we ignore or dismiss such views at our peril, as they're shared – by one extent or another – by many among the general public. An extensive discussion ensued by Board members who debated how labor needs to deal with such perceptions, with a special focus on the fundamental class struggle that's now going on between the wealthy and corporations and workers, but in which the middle class has instead been pitted against the working class and poor.

Reports of Board Members

- Iron Workers 5: Kendall Martin noted, for the record, that his recent comments supporting the entire \$66-million District development had been misinterpreted to include support for the Walmart portion, which is a small part of the project. Martin reiterated his strong support for the Community Benefits Agreement that has been developed by the community-labor coalition against Walmart.

- OPEIU Local 2: Linda Bridges reported that negotiations for workers at Planned Parenthood are "back to square one" after management reneged – again – on an agreement. Bridges extended special thanks to President Williams and CSA Executive Director McKirchy for their efforts to persuade Mayor Gray to exert some pressure on management to settle the contract.

- AFSCME Council 26: Carl Goldman reported on the 17-0 win by Capitol Visitor Center

(CVC) gift shop workers who now join the CVC local. Goldman noted that although a government shutdown had been narrowly averted, federal employees are still wary of the results of upcoming negotiations over raising the debt ceiling and the 2012 budget. He also thanked Chris Garlock for help designing a shutdown t-shirt and finding a t-shirt printer who – overnight – delivered the shirts, "which may yet be needed this year."

- WTU 6: Nathan Saunders thanked the Council and President Williams for supporting the local's recent demonstration at the Washington Post as well as for the loan of "Ratty," the first time the inflatable rat had made an appearance at a Washington Teachers Union demonstration.

- UFCW Local 400: Tony Perez thanked Union City for featuring the passage of the Big Box legislation in Loudoun County, noting that this was a big deal and culmination of several years of such efforts on this issue.

- ATU 689: Anthony Garland reported that there's still been no resolution on the WMATA contract.

- APWU (Nation's Capital And Southern Maryland): Dena Briscoe reported that the union's tentative agreement goes to the membership for a vote May 10, but is under attack in the House.

- AFGE District 14: Dwight Bowman reported on ongoing efforts to re-establish the District's Labor-Management Committee and voiced some concerns about how that effort is going. Bowman also reported that although AFGE narrowly bested NTEU in the recent election for Transportation Security Officers, the small margin means run-off must be held, which will take place in June, and once again, support by other AFL-CIO

affiliates will be much appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24P