

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

January 23, 2012

Meeting called to order by President Williams at 4:15p

Minutes (December): Moved and seconded to approve with the correction that Steve Cour-tien's affiliation be changed from Painters to Building Trades. Approved.

Financial Report (December): Moved and seconded to receive. Approved

Correspondence: The following contributions were approved: \$250 to IUEC Local 10 (half-page ad, apprenticeship dinner); \$100 to DC JWJ (annual dues); \$250 to US Labor Against the War (annual dues); \$100 to the Economic Policy Institute (contribution); \$100 to TransAfrica (contribution); \$100 to WPFW (contribution). In recommending the JWJ DC annual dues, President Williams noted that after 10 years of being hosted by the Metro Council, DC JWJ has moved into its own offices and also has a new Executive Director; Mackenzie Baris has moved on to the national JWJ and Nikki Daruwala (formerly of American Rights at Work) will be taking on the duties of Executive Director.

Community Services Agency, Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported: Annual "Bowling for Gold" Union Bowling Tournament will be January 29; morning lanes are full and 8 lanes are still available for the afternoon.

Labor Night at the Nats – they have offered us Friday, August 3 game against Miami Marlins; question of whether to move to a Saturday or stick with a Friday night; discussion; consensus was to stick with Friday, August 3.

Union City
Chris Garlock reported: On the forthcoming demonstration at the Conservative Political Action Conference (February 9-11)
Reminder to fill out the FilmFest survey in Union City
Julia Kann reported: An Occupy DC update – occupation goes on with actions as recently as last Friday; occupiers plan to continue through the winter; occupiers on West Coast are building support for longshoremen.
T-Mobile campaign – CWA going after T-Mobile now, since AT&T merger with T-Mobile fell apart; large-scale campaign to support workers at T-Mobile trying to organize

COPE
Alya Solomon reported: DC primary will be April 3; questionnaires for candidates seeking endorsements were sent out Friday and are due back this Friday, after which they will be circulated to Executive Board for review; February 7 DC COPE will interview candidates running in Wards 2, 4, and 8 from 6 to 9p at Teamsters Local 639 Union Hall (3100 Ames Place NE); February 9 DC COPE will interview candidates running in Ward 7 and At-Large

from 6 to 9p at Teamsters Local 639 Union Hall (3100 Ames Place NE), which is the DC COPE meeting; DC COPE will vote to endorse candidates after the final interview on February 9
At the February 27 Metro Council Executive Board Meeting, DC COPE will bring their candidate recommendations to the Executive Board for a vote at 4p at the AFL-CIO; at the Metro Council Delegate meeting afterwards at 6p at the AFL-CIO delegates will vote to ratify the Executive Board's recommendations
The special election for vacant Ward 5 City Council seat is set for May 15; early voting will be May 5-12; questionnaires will be sent to candidates seeking endorsement as soon as the candidates are finalized
In Ward 4b there is a recall election of incumbent Doug Smith because the community felt they were not being properly represented in regards to the plans to build a Walmart in the neighborhood; the election will be held February 28
WTU Local 6's Nathan Saunders added that it is important that we work together on these political elections, commenting "we could be a difference maker in those wards;" WTU 6 will be holding political forums in Wards 7 and 8 inviting candidates to speak
Kendall Martin (WBCTC) added that it is good to know

ATTENDANCE

Present:
J. Boardman, UNITE HERE 25; F. Allen, GCC 538-C; C. Goldman, AFSCME Council 26; N. Saunders, WTU 6; J. Williams, Metro Washington Council; G. Johnson, AFSCME Council 20; D. Briscoe, APWU; S. Falwell, DCNA/NUU; V. Ayres, WBCTC; A. Garland, ATU 689; K. Martin, Ironworkers 5; C. Reed, SEIU 400 PG; T. Perez, UFCW 400
Excused:
L. Bridges, OPEIU 2; J. Contreras, SEIU 32BJ; M. Murphy, IUOE 99; D. Reed, ASASP; G. Renne, UFCW 1994; K. Taylor
Absent:
R. Gaines, IBEW 26; C. Graham, IBEW 26; T. Ratliff, Teamsters 639
Also present: Michelle Hatton (AFGE District 14, for Dwight Bowman)
Staff: McKirchy, Garlock, Powell, Solomon, Kann

we are going to make endorsements together

Rick Powell reported: The Prince George's and Montgomery County COPE have combined and Doris Reed was appointed Chair by President Williams; they meet the second Thursday of every Month at UFCW 400 at 10a; the Tri-County COPE meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 PM, American Legion Hall, LaPlata, MD.



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At the last PG/MC COPE meeting members brought forward legislation they are working on but none seek support yet

At the Tri-County COPE the primary item of discussion is the new mapping for Congressional districts; the Legislative Black Caucus is challenging the re-drawn map asserting that the way the lines have been drawn in Prince George's county will dilute the minority vote in the county and therefore the state

New mapping brings Congressional District 6 into the Metro Council's jurisdiction

February 10 candidates in CD 6 will be interviewed by the Metro Council Executive Board from 1 to 6p at UFCW 1994 (600 South Frederick Ave, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, MD); interviews for the 5th and 8th CDs will be held at the AFL-CIO on February 13 from 1 to 6p; the endorsement recommendation vote for the 5th, 6th and 8th CDs will be held immediately after the last interview on February 13; the Maryland COPE will be invited to participate in the candidate interviews but only Executive Board members will be allowed to vote on the endorsement recommendation; on February 21 the State Fed will receive the recommendations and vote on the endorsements

Discussion ensued; President Williams commented "if candidates don't show up, we don't make a recommendation" and promised to send a letter to the executive board

detailing election and endorsement details

Alya Solomon reported on an upcoming ballot initiative, brought forward by Brian Weaver, to prevent the bundling of campaign funds and restrict corporate donations to campaigns; she confirmed that in the initiative unions are explicitly excluded from the definition of corporations; discussion ensued

Nathan Saunders asked if the Metro Council would be continuing to investigate doing a political poll in wards 4 and 7? Rick Powell replied that he has contacted polling consultants who are eager to work with labor; Rick will be in touch with the consultant company get details and then will seek financial commitment; Rick will send invitations tomorrow

Evening With Labor

McKirchy reported that the annual Evening with Labor will be held on Saturday, March 10 at Omni Shoreham Hotel again; invitations have gone out and she is starting to receive RSVPs; for the first time awardees are on the invitation; the same band from last year will play the event; ticket price was increased per discussion at last month's meeting; executive board members are encouraged to reach out to vendors with whom they do business to buy tables and ads in the program; President Williams will be calling board members to urge them to reach out to vendors;

send vendor information to McKirchy and she mail them an invitation

President Williams reported that the Officer and Executive Board terms expire this February; notices were sent to affiliates; nominations will take place at February meeting; elections will take place at the March meeting

President Williams appointed an Election Committee for 2012-15 Board Election subject to the approval of the Executive Board as follows: Ann Hoffman (Chair), NWU; Dan Fields (SEIU 722), Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910), Dario Ferrufino (LIUNA 657), Avis Buchanan (AFGE Council 1).

Moved, seconded, approved

Reports of Board Members

Nathan Saunders of WTU 6 reported that WTU 6 has purchased a new office at 1237-41 Pennsylvania Ave SE and plans to move there officially at the start of September 2012

John Boardman of UNITE HERE 25 reported that they are bargaining in the same room as workers in UNITE HERE local 6 in New York; the New York contract expires in July and the DC contract expired back in September of 2010; it is possible the two locals could have similar contract dates in the future; such co-terminus contract dates have not been seen before; DC and NY are the biggest hotel cities in the country; Boardman says "we're

either going to be getting a deal with week (by the 27th) or gearing up for a fight."

Sandra Falwell of DCNA/ NNU reported that nurses at Howard University Hospital are trying to get to the negotiation table (their committee is formed, they are waiting on management); attempts at negotiations did not go well last time so they are not optimistic but will be keeping people informed as it progresses.

Vance Ayres of the Washington DC Building Trades Council reported on the building trades legislative agenda in Virginia regarding attempts to get PLAs on the Dulles Corridor; the GOP control of state is causing problems; Ayres says "if we don't win the governor next time, we're done."

Michelle Hatton of AFGE District 14 reported that they will be having their 2012 legislative and grassroots mobilization conference February 11 to 15; District 14 will have a forum geared specifically at DC workers that will follow the DC budget through congress and send members to Capitol Hill to talk to politicians overseeing the DC budget. Hatton also reported that District 14 got media coverage at their holiday event in December members of City Council and Eleanor Holmes Norton were in attendance.



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Tony Perez of UFCW 400 reported that they have kicked off negotiations with Giant and Safeway with a new campaign called “Occupy Giant and Safeway”; they have been planning ahead; Executive Board members will receive information to keep them up to date on negotiations, which started the week before last; shop stewards from Safeway and Giant were brought together to share in solidarity of struggle for a fair contract (CSA’s Kathleen McKirchy attended). Perez also reported on legislative agenda, which includes pushing prohibition of the purchase of alcohol through self-scanners, which would create more jobs; discussion ensued; other legislative issues include flexible schedule, protection of member information; they are moving forward with a Montgomery County zoning amendment and keeping a Big-Box bill on the back-burner. Perez also noted that Leventhal is a big problem in Montgomery County.

Anthony Garland of ATU 689 reported that a judge upheld arbitrator award and workers have received their back pay; negotiations with WMATA will start soon and they are anticipating a big fight

Adjourned: 6:20p
