



# Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: March 19, 2012

*Meeting called to order by President Williams at 4:15 PM*

**February Minutes** were moved, seconded and approved

**Financial Report:** February 2012; moved and seconded to receive; approved.

**Correspondence:** The following contributions were approved: \$250 Andrea Harrison (PG Council 5, Reception); \$1,000 Mid-Atlantic PAC Person of the Year Dinner; \$150 AVODAH Jewish Service Corps; \$500 Iron Workers (Dads Poker Run).

President Williams changed the order of the agenda to allow for a guest presentation. Don W. Boggs, former President of the Detroit Labor Council, made a presentation on the Labor Hall of Fame, which is affiliated with the Walter Reuther Library. There will be an induction ceremony on May 17, 2012 at the AFL-CIO headquarters of the more than 600 union members who died in the 9-11 attacks. Boggs encouraged the Executive Board members to buy tickets to the event.

Boggs also report on the failed petition effort in Michigan to get the right to collective bargaining on the ballot to change state constitution.

### **Community Services Agency**

CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported on the partnership CSA is continuing with Prince George's Community College and a job training grant proposal CSA is writing that targets hospitality jobs in P.G. County.

McKirchy also reported that CSA's Building Futures latest class graduated 20 out of 20 trainees on March 19. McKirchy informed the Board that another class is beginning and encouraged them to send applicants to apply for the program.

### **Union Cities**

Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock reported that the new 2012 Directory of Local Unions was out, and copies could be picked up in the back of the room. A PowerPoint slideshow shown at the Evening with Labor Awards Dinner featuring Labor Council events in 2011 was shown to the Executive Board. Assistant

Mobilizer Julia Kann reported on upcoming actions and events which are posted on the website on the event calendar and which include CWA contract rallies against Verizon; Occupy Our Homes DC; JUFJ Annual Labor Seminar; Our DC actions against Pepco; and School of America's Watch action in April.

Board member Tony Perez, UFCW 400, was called on to report on the local's ongoing contract negotiations with Safeway and Giant. Both stores are hiring temp workers, which is a concern; on April 3, Local 400 will have a strike or ratification vote at the Stadium Armory in SE Washington, DC. Thursday the 22nd of March, UFCW 400 will have a support rally, organized by Rev. Graylan Hagler. Perez passed out flyers about the rally and buttons and encouraged Board members to attend and thanked the Labor Council and affiliates for all the support to date. Perez also reported that elected officials in Montgomery County, Prince George's County and D.C. were asked to sign a letter supporting Local 400's efforts to

### **ATTENDANCE**

Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C)  
Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14)  
Bridges, Linda (OPEIU 2)  
Briscoe, Dena (APWU)  
Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2)  
Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU)  
Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26)  
Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689)  
Martin, Kendall (Ironworkers Local 5)  
Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99)  
Perez, Tony (UFCW 400)  
Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400)  
Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994 MCGEO)  
Williams, Jos (MWC)

### **Staff**

McKirchy, Kathleen; Community Services Agency  
Garlock, Chris; Metro Council  
Powell, Rick; Metro Council  
Solomon, Alya; Metro Council  
Kann, Julia; Metro Council

reach a fair contract; to date Prince George's County Council members Karen Toles and Will Campos have not sent letters of support. In Montgomery County Local 400 has not received letters from County Council Members Phil Andrews and Roger Berliner. In D.C. Councilmembers Orange and Alexander agreed to sign letters but Local 400 has not received them thus far. President Williams committed to reaching out to all DC City Council members to get letters of support for their contract. The Maryland State and Congressional delegations have not sent letters of support. Perez passed out "support cards" to the Executive Board and asked



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: March 19, 2012

that the cards be signed and mailed back to him. President Williams also asked Chris Garlock to contact Timi at Local 400 to get the cards loaded onto the Council's website.

Garlock and Kann reported on upcoming Affordable Care Act demonstrations planned at the Supreme Court; will get details to the Board.

President Williams commented favorably on the recent rally ATU Local 689 had at McPherson Square with Occupy D.C. raising the importance of the region investing more in public transportation.

**D.C. COPE Report:** Assistant Political Coordinator Alya Solomon introduced Amelia Torre of the AFL-CIO's political department, who walked the Board through the Working Families Toolkit website and its functions. The AFL-CIO will print and ship political flyers to affiliates at no charge; print turnaround time is 2 days. Solomon also urged Board members to send letters to their members encouraging them to vote for the labor-endorsed candidates and noted that sample letters and flyers were available for download on the Working Families Toolkit. Some Board members asked about the accuracy of some of the statements in the AFL-CIO prepared flyers

and Solomon assured them that the facts were vetted by the AFL-CIO.

Solomon also gave a report on the DC Labor-to-Labor proposed budget of \$5,000 each for Wards 4 and 7 in the upcoming April 3rd Primary Election. The budget included two options for the Labor-to-Labor campaign. Option 1 included a mass mailing to Wards 4 and 7 union members, robo calls, and a live professional phone campaign costing \$10,000 for each campaign totaling \$20,000 for Wards 4 and 7. The second option included a mailing from affiliates to their own members, robo calls, and a live professional phone campaign costing \$5,000 for each campaign totaling \$10,000 for Wards 4 and 7. After some discussion, President Williams recommended Option 2 and Solomon laid out the timeline for sending out questionnaires, interviewing candidates and making an endorsement recommendation. Solomon went over the budget items and answered questions from the Board. It was moved and seconded to accept a budget totaling \$10,000 for Wards 4 and 7. Due to the results of a poll, President Williams urged the Board to put most of the resources in Ward 7 and further urged the Board

to raise the funds for the labor-to-labor campaign. Solomon then proposed a budget for the Ward 5 Special Election coming up on May 15th and laid out the timeline for sending out the questionnaires, interviewing candidates and making an endorsement recommendation. Dwight Bowman of AFGE District 14 questioned the timing of putting together a budget now for the May Special Election when the Council has not yet endorsed in that race. Bowman asked to revisit Ward 5 at another time. President Williams then asked the board for authority to set up an independent expenditure campaign for Ward 7; the motion was moved, seconded and approved.

Solomon ended her report by telling the Board that in Ward 4 the ANC 4B commissioner was successfully recalled because of his support for Walmart coming to the Ward. President Williams recommended doing an article on the Walmart/ANC recall story.

### **MD COPE Report:**

Political Coordinator Rick Powell reviewed the outline of issues in the agenda under the Maryland COPE report which included a report on the P.G. School Board race asking affiliates to send letters to

their members to support labor endorsed candidates; report on Congressional District 6 race State Fed request for 300 volunteers; request for reports on status of bills and assistance needed in Annapolis.

### **President's Report**

President Williams commented on this year's Evening with Labor saying "a good time was had by all."

President Williams reported on the upcoming D.C. government holiday, Emancipation Day, and encouraged all Executive Board members to become Grand Marshals for the parade, noting that the invitation came from At-Large Councilmember Vincent Orange.

President Williams recommended that the Metro Council officially become a member of "Fund Our Communities," a local community group working to press Congress to cut military spending and fund local communities.

The recommendation was moved, seconded and approved by the Board.

### **Reports of Board Members:**

- **Mike Murphy of Operating Engineers Local 99** reported that Local 99's Keith Moore Sr., a 53-year



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: March 19, 2012

member, won the Louie Goldstein Director's Award at the recent Calvert County Democratic Dinner.

- **Tony Perez, UFCW Local 400** reported on the following: Big Box Zoning Bill hearing before the Montgomery County Council, Tuesday the 20th of March; he asked for support from other affiliates;

thanked the President and the Council for testifying in support of the Union/Member Privilege bill in Annapolis; bill before P.G. County Council to reduce the square footage threshold for Big Box retail development; introduced Jim Jarboe, a UFCW 400 member and union rep from Charles County and reviewed the referendum to

impose zoning restrictions on Wal-Mart in Charles County.

- **Sandra Falwell, DCNA** noted that DCNA was honored to be asked by the NNU members at Washington Hospital Center to join them when accepting their Evening with Labor award; they've done a lot of work together.

- **Sonny Reed, SEIU Local 400** reported that Veronica Turner, SEIU union member, staff member and Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly is recovering from her illness and is receiving calls from well-wishers.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.*