Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: June 18, 2012

DRAFT

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

President Williams reminded the Executive Board that they would not be meeting in July and August except in the case of emergency. Approved.

Minutes (May) moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

Financial Report (May) moved and seconded to accept. Approved.

Correspondence
The following contributions were approved: $500 to Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker for his forthcoming fundraiser and $40 for 2 tickets to the upcoming Women's National Democratic Club luncheon honoring NCAUR's Elaine Newman.

Union Cities: Coordinator Chris Garlock gave a mobilization report on the recent AFGE VA rally and CWA FCC rally, both last week. Ads are still coming in for the DC Labor FilmFest and the film line-up will be available soon. Garlock added that the recent *Union City* Reader Survey showed that folks are generally happy with what is being produced, and he will be working on a more detailed report on the results.

Assistant Mobilizer Julia Kann reported on the following upcoming actions and events, which are in the online labor calendar: DC JwJ 10th Annual "I'll Be There" Awards (6/21), CWA Capitol Grille actions (6/22); The Great Labor Arts Exchange (6/22-25), "Trash Dance" screening at Silverdocs (6/23-24), "Save Our Postal Service" Hunger Strike (6/24), "T-Mobile Bring Our Jobs Back Home" action (6/28), Retirement Party for Dave Richardson (7/6)

President Williams introduced a resolution in support of the "Save Our Postal Service" Hunger Strike. Moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

Community Services Agency: Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reminded the board about Labor Night at the Nationals on 8/3. A reminder that Labor Night with the Orioles is this week and is sold out. Tickets for Labor Night at the Nats are $10; about 2,500 tickets sold so far; buy 50 or more to get your name on the big screen and the folks who buy the most tickets get to pick who throws out the first pitch (700 have been purchased by AFGE 3615 so you'd have to top that). Also the Golf Tournament is coming up on 9/24; registration information just went out; goal is 144 golfers (which is the maximum and about 40 more than previous years).

McKirchy also announced that CSA joined with a nonprofit in PG county (The Training Source) and PG Community College to do hospitality training. They have received a grant to help place folks in union jobs after the program. Thanks to John Boardman (Unite Here 25) for writing a letter of support. The project begins right away and will last two years.

Executive Board Attendance

Present: Allen, Fred (GCC 538-C); Boardman, John (UNITE HERE 25); Bridges, Linda (OPEIU 2); Dyer, Dan (OPEIU 2); Falwell, Sandra (DCNA/NNU); Frederick, Anthony (Laborers 657); Murphy, Michael (IUOE 99); Perez, Tony (UFCW 400); Reed, Doris (ASASP); Reed, Carnell (SEIU 400 PG); Saunders, Nathan (WTU 6) ;Taylor, Katherine (1199 SEIU); Williams, Jos (MWC); Proxy: Avis Buchanan for Dwight Bowman

Excused: Renne, Gino (UFCW 1994); Briscoe, Dena (APWU); Goldman, Carl (AFSCME Council 26); Johnson, George (AFSCME Council 20); Jeter, Jackie (ATU 689); Contreras, Jamie (SEIU 32BJ); Bowman, Dwight (AFGE District 14); Tarlau, Jim (CWA District 2); Gaines, Riley (IBEW 26)

Staff: Garlock, Chris; Kann, Julia; McKirchy, Kathleen; Powell, Rick; Solomon, Alya

COPE Reports

DC COPE: Political/Legislative Assistant Alya Solomon reported on three recent victories at the DC City Council: repayment of unnecessary furlough days, reversal of legislation that changed workers annual leave carry-over hours, and stopping the city's decision to increase the amount employees pay into their healthcare (rather than the city).

President Williams reminded the board that this fight was not just about these specific issues, but really about making it clear that the city cannot legislate against items that were previously agreed upon in collective bargaining negotiations.

Solomon announced that DC City Councilmember Phil Mendelson will fill in as Interim Chair of the City Council, following Councilmember Kwame Brown's recent resignation and At-Large Councilmember Michael Brown will be the Chair Pro Tempore. The election for the Chair seat will be held with the general election in November. Mendelson and At-Large Councilmember Vincent Orange have both expressed interest in running for this position.

Solomon announced that some Council committees have changed membership and information on new committee assignments is in the packets. There is a new committee on Jobs and Workforce Development, which newly-elected Ward5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie will chair.

MD COPE Report: Prince George's/Montgomery County COPE Chair Doris Reed (ASASP) reported on the subcommittee in formation that Tony Perez (UFCW 400) is chairing to create a report card for all elected officials. Perez added that they have had good meetings thus far as they plan how to score politicians. The hope is that this will lead to better, easier decision-making when discussing endorsements and support. They want to make sure to pay attention to issues not just important to large locals but also smaller groups. They are on track to develop it in time for September. President Williams hopes that this will be a tool that can become a model for the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO.

Reed reported on the discussion on the Prince George's County School board. There may be a fight between some school unions (not the teachers' union but AFSCME 2250, SEIU 400, and ASASP) and the Board of Education. The School Board offered a .5% one-time bonus after years without raises and the teachers and SEIU 400 accepted, but others did not. Two locals continue in negotiations. The Board also put a policy in place to keep the student board member from attending some meetings. The newly-elected student board member is the sister of the person currently running against the Board Chair.

Reed added that Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker is setting up an Education Commission to make recommendations on policy in the Public Schools and there are no labor representatives on the commission.

Reed reported that representatives from FOP attended the PG/MC COPE meeting (though they are not members). They are upset with the County Executive, saying they will support anyone against Baker in the future despite being in favor of him previously. Discussion ensued.

Reed reminded the board that Eric Hensal is running for City Council in Takoma Park and has been endorsed by the Council. Larry Stafford, President of the Young Democrats, also attended the meeting and shared information on what the Young Democrats have been up to.

Political/Legislative Coordinator Rick Powell reported on gaming at National Harbor. He anticipates a special session on July 9 and a favorable committee report should come out Wednesday.

President's Report

President Williams congratulated AFSCME 2910's Saul Schniderman, who will be given the Joe Hill lifetime achievement award on June 24 at the Great Labor Arts Exchange concert at the Maritime Institute.

President Williams also reviewed a resolution on restoring the DOL Labor Hall of Fame.

Garlock explained that the Labor Hall of Fame at the U.S. Department of Labor was an exhibit full of historical artifacts from famous figures from labor history. About a month ago it was replaced by a "Labor Wall of Honor" that has names of inductees and a mural of Cesar Chavez, but everything else is gone. AFGE 12 and the AFL-CIO were not consulted and AFGE District 14 recently passed a resolution calling on the DOL to bring it back. They will be bringing it to their national convention in August. President Williams added that this is a first step and he is hopeful that this will lead to national unions adopting the resolution as well.

President Williams recommended that the board adopt the resolution. Moved and seconded to adopt. Approved.

Reports of Board Members

Sandra Falwell (DCNA/NNU) announced a "Robin Hood Tax" (financial transaction tax) rally that will be held on 6/19 at a JP Morgan in downtown DC. They will be wearing red scrubs and Robin Hood hats and masks. They will go from there to protest at a bank, as well. DCNA and Washington Hospital Center nurses will be attending tomorrow and all are welcome.

Tony Perez (UFCW 400) reported that they are in negotiations with Shoppers and having issues with the pension. They are making some progress and will keep the Council informed of actions coming up.

Anthony Frederick (LiUNA 657) reported on a rally for First Source hiring that DC Councilmembers Mendelson, Brown, and McDuffie attended last week in front of the Wilson Building. The law is supposed to bring training for DC residents and it has been challenged as unconstitutional by the anti-union Associated Builders & Contractors. The rally included members of the Building Trades and community groups.

Nathan Saunders (WTU 6) reported on a scholarship awards ceremony to be held at the DC City Council tomorrow for $80,000 to students in DC public schools. Councilmember McDuffie will co-host with Saunders at 4:30p.

Moved and seconded to adjourn at 5:18. Approved.

ACTION ITEMS

Publicize WTU 6 Scholarship event in *Union City*