



Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

March 15, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:36p

President Williams reminded all delegates to be sure to sign in

Minutes: February moved, seconded and approved

Financial Report: Moved and seconded to receive February financial report; approved

Correspondence
Moved, seconded and approved contributions (see below) totaling \$890.

ACLU-NCA: 3/18 Bill of Rights Dinner: \$500 moved, seconded and approved

JUFJ: 4/11 Labor Seder: \$250 moved, seconded and approved

APRI: 4/24 Birthday Dinner: \$140 (2 tickets) moved, seconded and approved
Other requests for contributions: Prince George's County Sheriff Michael Jackson, 3/2 Fundraiser: received

Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal, 3/18 Reception: received; CLUW: 3/18 1st Annual Working Women's Celebration: received; Progressive Prince George's undated event: received.

Other correspondence: DC CouncilMember Michael Brown: Thank-you letter for

participation in 1st-year celebration; ADA: Request to be added as ally – approved by President Williams; added to online Directory; ILCA: Request to be added as ally - approved by President Williams; added to online Directory

President Williams also reported on the following actions and recommendations taken at the March 15 meeting of the Executive Board:

- **Political endorsement timeline** with exceptions of PG County Executive and DC Mayoral races
- Recommend **per capita increase to \$0.56** per member per month, effective June 1

- **Endorse request from UNITE HERE 25 to boycott Westin hotel** on Thomas Circle

It was moved and seconded to approve the above actions. In response to a query about whether the ACLU still supports the idea of contributions as free speech, President Williams, noting that he serves on the DC chapter board, promised to look into that, but urged support based on totality of ACLU's strong support for freedom of speech, especially during the 8 years of the Bush presidency. And in response to a query on the financial justification for the per cap-

ita increase, President Williams explained background of no increase in two years, the \$35,000 deficit in 2009 and projections of an even larger deficit in 2010 without action; this increase is combined with strategic reductions in spending to balance the budget. UNITE HERE 25's Tracy Lingo & Eduardo Galarza spoke on Columbia Sussex, 4th largest owner of hotels in US, now carrying huge debt which they're trying to take out of their workers.

Galarza talked about the effect of cuts at his hotel; daily intimidation and more. Picket launch of boycott set for March 25; also asking locals to sign boycott pledges. **The above actions were approved with one abstention Union Cities**

Chris Garlock reported:
- **March 21st immigration rights rally:** Gustavo Torres, CASA de Maryland, reported on the upcoming rally in the National Mall and invited everyone to attend; 100,000 from 42 states expected to demonstrate for immigrant worker rights and economic justice for all.

- **A bank demonstration** is being planned, including DC and possible suburban actions, as part of the AFL-CIO's 2-week campaign of

actions nationwide. Date/location TBA.

- **Report on March 9 Big Insurance mass demonstration;** thanks to everyone for turning out for a terrific demonstration, one of the biggest direct actions in years, well-attended and well-covered in all major media.

- **10th annual DC Labor FilmFest** dates set for October 14-18

- **Workers Memorial Day** April 28 theme: "Good Jobs. Safe Jobs. NOW" Looking for local(s) to head up event focusing on issue of job safety

- Steven Frum of the *Washington Hospital Center Nurses United* union, along with fired nurse Geri Lee reported on the status of the nurses fired for not making it to work through the February snowstorms. "This is not about snow," said Lee, "it's about targeting a known and vocal union leader just as negotiations are about to begin." Frum thanked the Council for all its support and says he looks forward to affiliating as soon as possible.

COPE

DC Cope report: Alya Solomon

- **New DC Council Committee assignments:** in the wake of Marion Barry being stripped of committee posts,

Michael Brown is now Chair of Councilman Barry's old committee (Committee on Housing and Workforce Development); Harry Thomas has replaced Barry on the Committee on Finance and Revenue; Yvette Alexander has replaced Michael Brown on the Committee on Statehood and Self-Determination and oversight of the Taxi Cab Commission. An updated committee list will soon be available for distribution.

- *Employment Stimulus and Trade Bill*: referred to Cheh's committee and Brown's committee, which is good for labor since Brown co-sponsored the bill. Still looking for a hearing on the bill, hopefully early April
- *Office of the People's Counsel*: Bowser pushed for disapproval vote of Fenty's nominee and she was voted down by Council. Since former OPC Betty Noel has vacated the position of People's Counsel, the emergency bill the Council passed is moot, and there is a question about the legality for the mayor to appoint an interim OPC.
- *Labor Breakfast Fundraiser for CM Harry Thomas*: please make maximum \$500 contribution: fundraiser is this Friday at 8:30A.
- *Safe Communities program*: reported on this program by the District to send fingerprints of all arrestees to ICE, which ACLU, and others, including the Metro Washington Council last month, are opposing. This affects everyone, not just immigrants.

Maryland Report: Rick Powell

- passed around program from Phil Feaster's funeral; "Phil was one of the first trade unionists I met when I came into the movement and right up to the day he died he was active, like the Energizer bunny." Also noted that "I have personal experience with the nurses at the Washington Hospital Center and think they are the best nurses in the world and they have my support."
- *Maryland COPE Reports, PG and Tri- County*: PG COPE meeting 3/24, Tri-County meeting set for next Tuesday
- *Annapolis Lobby Meetings*: proving to be helpful in developing strategy and sharing information, will continue through session.
- *Building Alliance with Progressive Maryland for 2010 Elections*: meeting with them in next week or so to discuss forming alliance in Maryland campaigns
- *Reviewed highlights of the approved endorsement process and dates* (see Page 3)
- *Johnnie Walker, AFGE 383*, reported on *procurement reform bill* being considered by City Council, in response to Mayor granting millions of dollars in contracts without Council approval or oversight. "The bills are no better than what we had and a number of locals have come together around this issue to try to make it stronger." Walker asked for support at the bill's hearing on 3/23. President Williams noted that Walker was the DC COPE winner and had been targeted and fired by

the city administration, saying that "Johnny will have his job back while the Mayor will be out of a job."

Community Services Agency

- On behalf of Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy, President Williams reported that the *Labor Night at the Nats* is set for July 9; they'll be playing San Francisco.

Affiliate Reports:

- *Kendall Martin, Iron 5*: Reported on the upcoming March 29 building trades legislative rally in Annapolis, bringing together union members, labor and political leaders to facilitate better policy and enhance coordination and cooperation, with special guest speakers Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown.
- *Gwend Johnson, DC CBTU*: reminder of the ongoing membership drive; annual convention coming up. Chapters meetings resume in April
- *Gwend Johnson: 2010 census* materials here and available: hats, cups, shirts etc. "Help make sure everyone's counted!" urged President Williams.
- *Wanda Shelton-Martin, DC APR*: thanks for the donation of \$100 to annual awards dinner; set for 4371 Parliament Place 4/24, with AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Schuler as the special speaker.
- *Craig Simpson, ATU 689*: reported on proposed service reductions in both rail and bus, including later openings, earlier closings, elimination of 8-car trains, more time between trains and a number of other

things that would degrade service, including essentially eliminating Yellow Line service off peak. Bus cuts are even bigger, and the interesting thing is that many more low-income people ride the buses, while higher-income people ride the Metro, so they're hitting the folks who can least afford the cuts in service. "We're pushing for local governments to put more money in to avoid cuts," said Simpson. "Come to the hearings and/or go online and take action to let your local officials know you support us." Simpson moved a resolution of support for the campaign, which was seconded. In response to a query about cutting Metro Access, Simpson noted that the disabled are another affected group. The resolution was approved.

- *Brenda Savoy, DC CLUW*: 3/18 CLUW award dinner, \$100/ticket; 3/19, 6p Start Writing Women Back into History. 3/23 next DC CLUW meeting. President Williams extended official thanks for Savoy's great work at DC CLUW and congratulations on her election to CLUW's national board, as well as congratulations to new DC CLUW President Donna Brockington, AFGE 32
- *Larry Greenhill, IBEW 26*: bargaining with Convention Center is at impasse and going to arbitration. The Convention Center has hired notorious union-busting law-firm Venable in an unprecedented move.

President Williams reminded delegates that Congresswoman Donna Edwards is one of our strongest supporters on the Hill and that

she had recently "hired one of our own as a liaison to the labor community and will be attending our meetings" and *introduced Desmond Serrette*. Serrette said that his father is CWA's Dennis Serrette, his brother works for AFSCME on the west coast and Desmond had worked for AFSCME 1199. "I'm here as a bridge to Donna Edwards office; let us know when you need us."

Evening With Labor

Dinner Chairman Fred Allen, GCC/IBT, reported that while it's too early for final financial report the ad-book's 64 pages were the same as last year and close to 850 attended and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Chris Garlock showed a short *4-minute version of the Year In Review slide show* that he and Adam Wright culled from last year's event photos and showed at the Evening With Labor.

Meeting adjourned 8:04p

50/50 winner Tracy Lingo donated her \$29 winning back to the Council

PROPOSED TIME LINE FOR 2010 COPE INTER-VIEWS & ENDORSEMENT RECOMENDATIONS

The Candidate Filing Deadline for D.C. is July 2, 2010, and in Maryland, July 6, 2010. In order to conduct effective labor campaigns to support endorsed candidates the following time line is proposed:

Monday, April 5th – Finalize candidate questionnaire

Tuesday, April 13th – Start sending out questionnaire

Friday, April 23rd – Deadline to return candidate questionnaire

Monday, April 26th – COPE interviews begin D.C. & MD (non-legislative races)

Friday, May 7th – Interviews completed

Monday, May 10th to Saturday (if necessary) May 15th – COPEs begin meeting to make recommendations for endorsement

Monday, May 17th - Executive Board to receive COPE recommendations for candidate endorsement (D.C. & MD. Non-legislative races)

Monday, May 17th – Executive Board makes candidate endorsements and ratification by the delegates

Monday, May 24th – MD Legislative COPE interviews begin

Friday, June 11th – MD COPE interviews complete

Monday June 14th – MD COPE meets to make recommendations begin

Monday June 21st – Executive Board receives MD COPE recommendations & Delegates ratification of endorsements

DELEGATES

(thanks to everyone for signing in!)

Fred Allen GCIU 538-C

Avis Buchanan AFGE 2782

Carl Carson Cement Mason 891

Cynthia Collins SEIU 400 PG

Stephen Courtien IUPAT 51
Jo Freeman NWU/UAW 1981 2

Stephen Frum Nurses United

Riley Gaines IBEW 26

Gerald Green SEIU 400 PG

Larry Greenhill IBEW 26

David Hershfield AFGE 12

Ann Hoffman NWU/UAW 1981

George Hogan IBEW 26

Trent Holmes SEIU 400 PG

Francis Jacobberger BAC 1

Gwend Johnson CBTU DC

William Linehan IUOC 10

Kendall Martin Ironworkers5

Yvette Martin-Gross AFGE 631

Robert Mayfield AFGE 2978

Elaine Newman NCAUR

David Richardson AFGE

Council 1

Clifton Savoy Sheet Metal 100

Brenda Savoy-Bushrod

CLUW, Metro DC Chapter

Mark Sexton IUOE 99

Steve Shapiro AFGE 3331

Craig Simpson ATU 689

John Walker AFGE 383

Terrie Williams 1199 SEIU

United Healthcare Workers-East

GUESTS

Megan Honor Caine Nurses United

Ernest Cardwell WBCTC

Ruth Castel-Branco DC Jobs with Justice

Michael Hachey Unite Here

Shanique Jones UNITE

HERE

Geri Lee Nurses United

Tracy Lingo UNITE HERE

Ben Mantle UNITE HERE

Desmond Serrette Office of Congresswoman Donna Edwards

Wanda Shelton-Martin APRI

Gustavo Torres CASA de MD