

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting: April 21, 2020**



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**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting Agenda  
April 21, 2010 (via Zoom)**

- 1P: Call to Order**
- Minutes**
- Financial Report** (statement of financial position as of 3/31)
- President's Report**
- Election Committee Report**
- Evening with Labor Report**
- Board Member Reports**
- Committee Reports**
- Organizational Reports:**
  - Community Services Agency*
  - COPE/Political and Legislative Campaigns*
  - Claimant Advocacy Program*
  - Union Cities*

**3:00P: Adjourn**

## **MWC Delegate Meeting**

Called to order 6:30p by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Griffin.

New delegates sworn in.

Election Committee introduced. Chair David Fernandez-Barrial reviewed rules and plans for nominations and rules for the elections.

Committee member Kathleen Moors opened the floor for Board vacancy nominations:  
Michael Spiller, OPEIU 2 (Nominated by George Farenthold, OPEIU, seconded by Eric Bunn, AFGE)

George Hogan, IBEW 26 (Richard Murphy IBEW 26; Tom Myers, IBEW 26)

Greg Bowen, ATU 689 (Jackie Jeter; Roland Jeter, both ATU 689)

Motion to close nominations (George Farenthold, OPEIU; Chuck Clay, IATSE 22)

President

Dyanna Forester, UFCW 400 (Steven Frum, NNU; Djawa Hall, SEIU 1199)

Cynthia Collins, SEIU 400 (Doris Reed, ASASP; Mark Harris, SEIU)

Eric Bunn, AFGE District 14 (Herbert Harris, BLET; Elizabeth Davis, WTU 6)

Motion to close nominations (Ann Hoffman, NWU; Robert Hollingsworth)

Q&A session: Main question regarded when a roll call can be made; it must be requested prior to the vote. Many other questions, including the need for a larger room (Gompers) for the March meeting, due to the larger turnout expected for the election.

Minutes (January): approved.

Financial Report: Financial Secretary Bunn reviewed the January report. Motion to approve, seconded; approved. Bunn also reported that the Board has approved the 2020 budget (at the February Board meeting earlier today).

IBEW 1900: Jim Griffin reported on pending contract with Dyncorp; also worried about possible plans to close coal plants.

AFGE: Eric Bunn reported the FRA Board decision that due to Janus decision federal employees will have to rejoin.

Alan Hanson, UFCW 400: At the bargaining table with Giant and Safeway for nearly 6 months and despite record profits they're continuing to refuse to fund pension benefits, health benefits, good wages and set a 24-hour limit on party-time workers so they'll never qualify for healthcare. Leaving us few options and we may be forced to strike; press conf tomorrow at 11a at Waterfront Giant to announce next steps.

Liz Davis, WTU 6: Still asking the city to adequately fund the city's schools; 42 public schools have closed in recent years. Circulated resolution that she'd like the Council to pass at some date in the future.

Djawa Hall, 1199 SEIU: note that there is a Committee on Health Oversight at DC City Council, need public input. Big issue in DC over hospital closures and opening new hospitals run by anti-

union United HealthCare. Please sign up to testify or just show up to support. There's also an online petition (re-circulate). Dchealthjustice.com has the petition.

Kathleen Moors, IUOE 99; volunteering with FLOC on the April 2019 Vuse electronic cigarettes boycott to support Reynolds tobacco workers. Have been canvassing 7-11 stores in DC; will do another one this Friday 2/21 at 2pm demanding removal of Vuse cigarettes from their stores.

President's Report: First VP Jim Griffin: since November 2016 it's been all bad news; attacks on consumers, workers, which has emboldened corporations to attack us like you've just heard. want to remind everybody that there are bright spots just across the river in VA where things are happening that no-one ever would have thought, including the possibility of the repeal of RTW. We've got an election this year, and this should energize us all, regardless of the results in the White House; get people to vote and get them to vote the right way. We need to support our families and need to be working hard toward that end; there's a great glow of light coming from Richmond and it's truly inspirational.

#### Committee Reports

Transportation: Herb Harris (BLET) reported on bi-annual mtg 2/11 featured an excellent presentation from 689 on successful campaigns at Cinderbed Road.

Evening with Labor: George Farenthold (OPEIU) reported on the status of this year's EWL. Urged everyone-- especially all the new delegates -- to make sure their locals are getting tickets and/or ads.

Union City: Don Havard reported. Garlock reported on labor-media breakfast, reminded delegates to keep us posted on all labor news so we can get the word out.

CSA: Sonte DuCote thanked locals for supporting the annual bowling tournament. Labor Night at the Nights details; get your tickets now. She also, for the benefit of the new delegates, explained what CSA is and does.

#### COPE

Legislative Director David Stephen welcomed the new delegates, noting that they're coming in at an exciting time since we're just beginning our endorsement process in the DC City Council. Just approved the questionnaire earlier tonight; will be interviewing candidates all day March 11; want to have a full house then too. Last month we had 34 candidates here in the President's Room, educating them on our issues. It changed the balance of the conversation; instead of them talking to us, they sat and heard what our concerns are and what we expect from them.

Motion to adjourn; approved. 7:42pm

Submitted by Cynthia Collins

## **ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair*

Highlights of activities since our last report in February:

- Cynthia Collins withdrew her candidacy for President of the MWC (3/11/20)
- The March 16 election was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Election Committee, after consulting with the AFL-CIO, recommended that we begin to spread the word about the necessity of conducting business via video and web conferencing, so that the election committee can begin to obtain additional information from delegates, including updated email addresses and Zoom handles and IDs to verify delegates and ensure the widest possible participation.
- The Committee also recommended that the election be conducted via Zoom, which allow us to record the proceedings and allow for the election of MWC officers without the inordinate delays that the ever-changing circumstances could throw at us. The Committee felt that the use of this technology (given that many of our delegates who are in vulnerable population might not participate otherwise) makes sense and allows for a transparency in the process that wasn't possible before.
- Following last week's Board vote to request permission from AFL-CIO president Trumka to hold the election in June, the Committee is now in the process of preparing for the vote by requesting additional contact info from delegates, requesting delegate updates from affiliates, as well as evaluating the various options (i.e. Zoom, mail, in-person) for the vote in June. We expect to present that evaluation and a recommendation soon.

## **EVENING WITH LABOR REPORT**

*George Farenthold, Chair*

Highlights of activities since our last report in February:

- The 2020 Evening with Labor was rescheduled to Friday, October 16
- Latest status report: 648 tickets sold (118% of 550 minimum guarantee); 55 tables; 59 pages of ads.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY (CSA)  
of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO**

*Sonte DuCote, Executive Director*

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The Executive Director has been working to raise funds to support workers who are impacted by the COVID 19 economic crisis. CSA is deeply grateful for the union, ally and foundation support it has received. The following is a list of contributors.

AFGE District Council 14	\$3,700	
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust	\$10,000	
Baltimore DC Building Trades Council	\$5,000	
Greater Washington Community Foundation	\$70,000	Pending Receipt -- For union and community members
Individual Donors	\$2,085	Pending Receipt of \$1,485
IUOE Local 99	\$1,000	
LIUNA Local 11	\$1,000	
Ullico	\$10,000	
United Way National Capital Area	\$20,000	
Unite Here Local 25	\$5,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$127,785</b>	

Affiliates may make a tax deductible contribution payable to Community Services Agency, 815 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006 or by visiting [www.communityservicesagency.org](http://www.communityservicesagency.org).

The Executive Director also reached out to locals largely impacted by COVID-19 layoffs: UNITEHERE, Locals 23 and 25, SEIU 32BJ, IBT 639, IATSE 22, Musicians 161-710. COVID-19 Emergency Assistance requests are trickling. It's anticipated that there will be a drastic uptake in applications as locals/members figure out their needs and as the Executive Director follows up with impacted affiliates.



Emergency assistance for COVID-19 will follow the same guidelines stipulated for the Emergency Assistance Fund.

CSA produced a list of COVID-19 resources posted on [dclabor.org](http://dclabor.org) and on [communityservicesagency.org](http://communityservicesagency.org). New resources are posted as they become available. Resource information is also posted in Spanish thanks to Sylvia Casaro-Dietert, CSA's Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Client Services Coordinator.

The Executive Director with the approval of the Community Services Agency Executive Board has applied for the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program which provides a forgivable loan to cover two months of salary and a portion of rent.

### **BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

The Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program recently graduated two cohorts:

1. Thirteen (13) District of Columbia youth and veterans
2. Twenty-three (23) District of Columbia residents



### **Grants Awarded**

CSA was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Joshua Community Foundation to add a reading literacy component to Building Futures participants who live in Census Tract 47 as well as a \$15,000 grant from the

SHARE Foundation to provide general operating support and supplies for Building Futures.

## **Labor Night at the Nats**

### **Please Continue to Hold Friday, July 24, 2020, 7:05 PM**

*Washington Nats vs. Atlanta Braves. Ticket price same as last year -- \$16 each.*

Additional questions? Contact Sonté DuCote, Executive Director at: [sducote@dclabor.org](mailto:sducote@dclabor.org) / Mobile: 202-679-2991 / Office: 202-974-8226

## **COPE/Legislative Monthly Summary for April 2020**

*David Stephen, Political Director*

### **DC Council Endorsements**



Endorsement Recommendations  
from DC COPE committee:

**At Large: Robert White  
(incumbent)**

**Ward 2: Jordan Grossman**

**Ward 4: Janeese Lewis George**

**Ward 7: Anthony Lorenzo Green**

**Ward 8: Trayon White  
(incumbent)**

### **State/Congressional Updates**

The Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) met today on Monday, March 9 to act on recommendations for US Congress in our area.

The COPE voted unanimously to endorse the following candidates for US Congress in the Metropolitan Washington Council's jurisdiction:

- District 3 – John Sarbanes / Website: <https://www.johnsarbanes.com/>
- District 4 – Anthony Brown / Website: <https://anthonybrown.com/>
- District 5 – Steny Hoyer / Website: <https://www.hoyerforcongress.com/>
- District 8 – Jamie Raskin / <https://jamieraskin.com/>
- DC At-Large – Eleanor Holmes Norton

### **Hearings**

DC Committee on Health Hearing, March 5, 2020 at 10 am. Dozens of labor and community allies showed up **to demand that the city ensure world-class healthcare East of the River.**

### **MEETINGS**

- Following March meeting with Mike Battle, Legislative Director to Chairman Phil Mendelsen, coordinated and participated in a conference call directly with DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelsen with IFPTE rep Chris Langford, Judge Bill England, President of IFPTE Judicial Council, Judge Elizabeth Figueroa and Judge Bennett Rushkoff around residency requirement issue for administrative law judges
- Participated in a conference call with health committee on strategy for healthcare furloughs with Medstar and assisted in drafting letter Mayor Bowser
- Weekly participating on COVID-19 efforts from AFL-CIO with Pres. Trumka

- Participated in 2 strategy calls with Jobs with Justice on measures to address “excluded” and undocumented workers with cash assistance.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND REPORT FOR GREATER WASHINGTON DC REGION**

*All updates (including Virginia) can be found on the [legislative update page](#) at DCLabor.org*

### **Federal: Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

- Free testing for coronavirus for all, including the uninsured.
- Emergency paid leave for employees taking unpaid leave due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- Paid leave for those who take leave to quarantine or who are sick.
- Unemployment benefits for laid-off and furloughed workers, and those who have exhausted paid leave.

### **District of Columbia**

- Rents are frozen across the District, meaning the cost of rent cannot increase during the crisis, this applies across the board and not only in rent-controlled homes;
- No evictions or disconnection of electricity, gas, water, cable and telecommunications service
- Unemployment definition expanded to include those who are temporarily unemployed due to this public health emergency
- Expansion of paid medical leave to anyone under quarantine
- Mortgage companies are required to offer payment deferrals of up to 90 days;
- Debt-collection lawsuits and the seizures of cars and other property are prohibited;
- The definition of employment has expanded to include self-employment, gig workers, and those seeking part-time work
- A \$25 million grant program has been established for D.C. hospitals to buy equipment, hire staff and build temporary hospitals (Council Chairman Phil Mendelson said the District expects to get that money back from federal relief efforts);
- Every voter in the June 2 primary and the Ward 2 special election on June 16 will get an application for an absentee ballot in the mail, with return postage paid.

### **Maryland**

- Unemployment benefits extended to workers quarantined, who leave their jobs due to the risk of exposure, whose employers temporarily close, or to care for an infected family member.
- No disconnections or late fees for electric, gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and Internet service provider companies.
- All housing evictions prohibited.
- Maryland schools can now provide up to three free meals a day for students across the state during the school closure.

## **CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

*Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney*

Took part in consulting, counseling, advising and representing claimants in unemployment compensation matters.

In addition to this the CAP attorneys:

1. Invoiced for the month of February and March for a total of \$69,062.50.
2. Assisted hundreds of union and non-union members in accessing the UI system in DC, with multiple emails, calls and texts to POC at DOES.
3. Took part in conference calls with agency leadership and a host of legal service providers throughout the end of March into April. Established an on-going caucus with legal service providers on recent and upcoming changes.
4. Assisted and reviewed the D.C. Counsel Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on policy recommendations for amending the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Law and Regulations regarding COVID19 and expand assistance beyond UI.
5. Monitored hearings with the DC City Council on the bill affecting UI. Monitored and made recommendations for procedural changes with Office of Administrative Hearings and DOES as it relates to claimants and access to information.

## UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

In the weeks leading up to the declaration of COVID-19 emergency orders, I worked closely with Acting President Washington, MWC staff and the AFL-CIO to coordinate our response, including the shut-down of the Metro Washington Council's offices and the establishment of remote work for all staff, effective March 16.

Since then, I have continued to coordinate closely with everyone involved to ensure continuity of the Metro Council's ability to carry out our responsibilities to our affiliates and the local labor movement.

A major component of that work has involved establishing and maintaining the MWC professional Zoom account via the AFL-CIO, to facilitate remote meetings for MWC staff, the Board, Election Committee and even a LaborFest virtual screening.



Here are highlights of my other work:

### Union City, Union City Radio, MWC social media

Produced, published and distributed latest local labor news on the MWC's Union City daily, Union City Radio (WPFW 89.3FM) and Facebook/Twitter feeds, including extensive coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts of DC-area unions and workers.

NOTE: Union City has appeared every weekday since March 16; Union City Radio is now on 7 days a week (formerly was on weekdays only); Your Rights At Work has broadcast every Thursday as usual, with an additional hour of coverage on April 2.

**METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO**  
Bringing DC Labor Together since 1896

**LABOR CALENDAR**  
4/16/2020

**Union City Radio: 7:15am daily**  
WPFW-FM 89.3 FM; [click here to hear today's report](#)

**Union City Radio: Your Rights at Work: Thursday, April 16-1:00 - 2:00pm**  
WPFW 89.3 FM or [listen online](#)

*This week's guests: JOHN BOARDMAN, UNITE HERE LOCAL 25: Update on hotel workers; KATIE BARROWS, NPEU: Why we're still organizing; TONI GILPIN, "The Long Deep Grudge: A*

**REAL SUPERHEROES**

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[UNEMPLOYMENT HELP](#)  
[LEGISLATIVE UPDATES](#)  
[MWC STAFF](#)

**CALENDAR**  
[UNION CITY RADIO](#)

I have worked with all MWC staff to keep the labor community informed about news and resources on the local response to the pandemic, including keeping our website and social media up-to-date, with the website – including the COPE, CAP and CSA pages – often updated multiple times each day as updates come in. I set up links on the

front page to our COVID RESOURCES (left): Community Services; En Espanol; Unemployment Help; Legislative Updates, MWC Staff.

Here are the sites:

dclabor website:

<https://www.dclabor.org/>

<https://www.dclabor.org/community-services.html>

<https://www.dclabor.org/espanol>

<https://www.dclabor.org/unemployment-help.html>

<https://www.dclabor.org/legislative-updates>

<https://www.dclabor.org/leaders--staff.html>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DCLabor>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dclabor>

## Evening With Labor: Rescheduled for October 16.

**MWC meetings:** Coordinated with AP Washington and the Board to hold emergency meetings via conference call and Zoom; also to set up ability to hold the Delegate Meetings via Zoom; including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc.

**MWC Election Committee:** Provided staff support to the 2020 MWC Election Committee.

**MWC check log-in:** Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks; worked with staff to implement LaborKey system.

## Your Rights At Work

Focus on shows since March 3 has been the COVID-19 pandemic. Guests have included: **LIZ SHULER** (AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer); Labor takes on Coronavirus; DC Councilmember **ELISSA SILVERMAN**: What DC is doing to help workers; **HEIDI BURAKIEWICZ**, partner at the lawfirm of KCNF DC; Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch: American Federation of Government Employees Sues Government on Behalf of Federal Employees Exposed to Coronavirus. Click here for details: <http://www.dclabor.org/union-city-radio/category/your-rights-at-work>

## Union City highlights:

April: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/04-2020>

March: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/03-2020>

February: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/02-2020>

**LaborFest/Bread and Roses Series:** The Bread and Roses series was on hiatus in February; the plans for a March women's history event were canceled due to the lock-down, and future events are on indefinite hold. In collaboration with AFI Silver, we successfully hosted an online screening of Ken Loach's new film "Sorry We Missed You" on April 14 (introduced by Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday), and will be hosting more such online screenings in the weeks ahead. Academy Award winners Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar will introduce Reichert's classic film "Union Maids" on April 21.

