

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



Agenda.....	page 2
Code of Conduct.....	page 3
President’s Report.....	page 4
Financial reports.....	page xx
Community Services Agency.....	page 5
Election Committee Report.....	page 7
Finance 2020.....	page 7
COPE/Legislative.....	page 8
Claimant Advocacy Program.....	page 10
Union Cities.....	page 11

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting Agenda
December 21, 2020 (via Zoom)**

<https://aflcio.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEuf-6prz4uGtMfb1MST9p03xiwUJp3A662>

- 2:00pm Call to order, welcome and ground rules: President Dyana Forester
2:05pm Code of Conduct- Gina Walton
2:07pm Approval of Minutes (November Delegate meeting)
2:15pm Financial Reports: Treasurer Eric Bunn
2:25pm President's Report: Dyana Forester
2:35pm Election Committee- Election for 2nd Vice President
Review of how election will be conducted
Candidate speeches (3 minutes each)
2:55pm Evening w/Labor Poll: virtual vs in-person (George Farenthold)
3:00pm COPE Report: Request for endorsement: David Stephens
MD Essential Workers Protection Act
PRO Act
3:20pm Organizational Reports: 2020 Highlights
CAP, CSA, COPE
3:40pm Old/New Business
3:55pm Union holiday sing-along-Saul Schniderman

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment.

We ask all meeting participants to embrace our values of equity and equality, and conduct themselves in this meeting consistent with those values.

Anyone who thinks they have experienced discriminatory, harassing or otherwise unacceptable behavior are urged to contact a designee if you have any concerns.

For this meeting, Gina Walton is the designee. Please contact her to express concerns.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: 2020 OVERVIEW

Dyana Forester

2020 is sure to be a year we won’t forget, though I’m certain many of us wish we could. Life as we knew it came to a halt early in the year due to COVID-19. This year we experienced some major setbacks as a result of the pandemic but we also experienced some notable victories despite the challenges.

Challenges	Successes
Due to the pandemic the council’s staff lost access to their office and resources needed to fully perform their responsibilities. In addition, the election for a fulltime president was delayed, leaving the temporary president in-place.	We have updated our ability to work remotely and effectively by updating internal systems and adapting to virtual space. Virtually hosted a contested election for President of the MWC.
Our membership has declined due to job loss and board members have left the board, necessitating a number of additional elections.	We brought in new affiliates and increased per capita payments from inactive locals. In addition, we successfully transitioned over to Labor Key, an updated and more efficient system of managing per capita.
Though we raised money for Evening with Labor, we can count it towards our net revenue until we have an event.	We received a 50,000 Solidarity Grant from the national AFL-CIO.
	Moved a political and legislative program to support our affiliates priorities and national days of action.

Highlights

DC COPE

Led phone banks to support labor-endorsed candidates. Organized lobby visits and online mobilization around affiliates’ legislative priorities contributing to the passage of two key bills to protect union jobs.

MWC Education Committee

All unions representing workers in DC Public School worked together to influence the plans to reopen schools. In early fall, union leaders collectively met with the Mayor and Chancellor of DCPS requesting to be included in the planning process and asking for transparency. Council Member Silverman introduced Emergency Legislation to response to our concerns. Though the Legislation did not move forward due to the financial impact, the Chancellor has begun meeting bi-weekly with union leaders collectively.

Montgomery County & Prince George’s County COPE

Hosted monthly meetings with a number of key legislators including Chairman Dereck E Davis (D) Economic Matters, new-elected Prince George’s County Council Chairman Calvin Hawkins (D) new-elected President of the Montgomery County Council, Tom Hucker. In addition, we endorsed and supported Prince George’s County School Board Candidates and Ballot Measures.

Community Services Agency (CSA) of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO

Sonte DuCote, Executive Director

HOLIDAY BASKET 2020 – CHRISTMASTIME ASSISTANCE

This year's Holiday Basket Program is making a difference in the lives of families recently rehoused from homeless shelters, victims of domestic violence and people who do not qualify for unemployment. There are 26 referrals for family adoptions. These referrals consist of two (2) union families: AFGE and IUOE (one of whom was referred to Emergency Assistance), 14 families referred by community-based organizations: United Planning Organization, Housing Up, Children's Law Center, Community of Hope, Carecen DC, a Central American Resource Center and the remaining families found out about the program from case managers and googling "holiday assistance."

Thanks to the AFGE OPEIU Local 2, AFL-CIO, DC Chapter of Epicureans, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and President Dyana Forester eleven (11) of those families have been adopted. This doubles the adoptions from last year!

CSA also wants to thank IBEW Local 26 for its generous contribution of \$2,500 toward holiday basket which will be used to provide Giant Food Gift Cards to families not adopted.



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) – Show Some Love

The Combined Federal Campaign is going on now through January 15th. Funding from the CFC provides much needed unrestricted funds to help CSA keep its virtual lights to continue to provide union members with assistance and services.

This year's theme is, "Show Some Love" and CSA is asking **affiliates representing federal employees** to encourage their members to visit <https://givecfc.org> to make a contribution to CSA using **CFC number 19579**.

BUILDING FUTURES CONSTRUCTION PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program DC City Council Testimony: Sylvia Casaro Dietert, CSA's Client Services Coordinator testified before the District of Columbia Committee on Labor and Workforce Development chaired by Councilwoman Elissa Silverman in support of updating the City's 1984 First Source Law B23-0436 First Source Community Accountability Amendment Act of 2019 and B23-0570 First Source Resident Employment Amendment Act of 2019.

Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training:

Building Futures graduated 24 students on November 6, with an additional student earning an OSHA 10 certification only. One graduate was accepted into SMART Local 100 this month and is scheduled to start its apprenticeship in January. Others are preparing to apply to Steamfitters Local 602, the Piledrivers and the Carpenters. Building Futures prepares DC residents to join the workforce with the AFL-CIO sponsored MC3 curriculum which includes an orientation to the construction industry, apprenticeships and jobs, rights and responsibilities in the workplace, blueprint reading, math, job readiness, case management, discrimination, and harassment at work, as well as industry-recognized certifications such as OSHA 10, Flagger Safety, CPR, First Aid and AED, and Scaffold User.

Graduates are vetted, ready for work, drug-free, conscious about safety and reliable. The apprenticeship programs participating in the last cohort are: Sheet Metal Workers Local 100, LiUNA Training Fund, Cement Masons Local 81, Insulators Local 24, Carpenters MACTC and Piledrivers.

Bus Operators Pilot:

In partnership with the Transportation Learning Center, staff is developing a pre-apprenticeship curriculum modeled after the MC3 and adapted for transit bus operators. Despite WMATA's current budget shortfalls, our first pilot is tentatively scheduled for June 2021.



CSA BOWLING TOURNAMENT CANCELED

Due to COVID-19 the Crofton Bowling Centre is not hosting tournaments. Currently the Centre is operating at 25% capacity and requires masks worn at all times. The need for COVID-19 Emergency Assistance is still great! Please consider contributing to CSA in lieu of participating in the Bowling Tournament. Checks can be mailed to CSA, 815 16th Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006 or online at www.communityservicesagency.org.

CSA 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Raised over \$220k to help workers impacted by the COVID 19 economic crisis.
- Helped close to 1,000 workers stay in their homes, keep the lights on and food on the table before COVID and during.
- With the support of IBEW, produced one-minute videos to help promote CSA in federal, District of Columbia and union workplace giving campaigns.
- Through the initiative and work of Saul Schneiderman, conducted outreach to federal and District government locals to encourage participation in the Combined Federal and DC One Fund workplace giving campaigns.
- Doubled the number of families adopted in the Holiday Basket Program and engaged the AFL-CIO and Northern Virginia Labor Federation the family adoption process.
- Quickly adapted the Building Futures Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program to an online and hybrid platform.
- 110 District residents graduated from Building Futures.
- 85% residents have been placed in apprenticeships and/or construction jobs

ELECTION COMMITTEE Report

The election to fill the vacant seat on the Metro Washington Council Executive Board will be held following the [December 22 meeting](#) of the Council via Zoom (2p EDT). The election will be conducted by ElectionBuddy and eligible delegates will be emailed ballots on that date; deadline for voting is December 24.

WE MUST HAVE ALL DELEGATE'S CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS AND/OR CEL PHONE # IN ORDER FOR THEM TO RECEIVE BALLOTS

Any questions or concerns during the voting period should be directed to cgarlock@dclabor.org.

The candidates for the position of 2nd Vice President are Michele Clarke (PGCEA), Tom Clark (IBEW 26) and Chuck Clay (IATSE 22)

Please see the [2020 MWC Election page](#) for latest lists of eligible delegates and current affiliate voting strength. Delegate updates and/or questions about voting strength should be sent to cgarlock@dclabor.org. Deadline to update delegates is 5p on Thursday, December 17.

Candidates will be provided an opportunity to briefly address delegates at the December 22 meeting before ballots are sent out.

David Fernandez-Barrial, Chair, MWC Election Committee
Members: Chuck Clay, Jeff Guido, Amy Millar, Gina Walton

FINANCE

Jo Combs – Finance and Operations Manager

2020- Successes/Challenges

2020 has been a challenging year for the Council, we dealt with Covid-19, had 3 presidents and several elections. I don't think we will be able to top the obstacles of 2020 again. Thankfully I work with some phenomenal individuals that are as devoted as I am to make sure the council survived during this climate. We were not able to have our annual Evening with Labor, but we were able to maintain the best financial stability we have had in over 10 years.

Currently we are in the middle of our annual audit, it was started later than usual because of Covid, but we were able to get the 2019 annual report submitted to the AFL-CIO and now we just need the audit findings to complete it at 100%. The 2019 audit should be completed by mid-January 2021.

COPE/Legislative Monthly Summary

David Stephen, Political Director

DC COPE:

DC Council legislative outreach: As the DC legislative calendar reaches a close, COPE members have been coordinated to do lobbying outreach meetings with councilmembers and reps from the offices of : McDuffie, Cheh, Pinto, Allen, Nadeau and Mendelson.

Issues of discussion:

- Right to Return to Work bill
- DCPS reopening
- The breakup of DCRA department and collective bargaining issues over breakup.

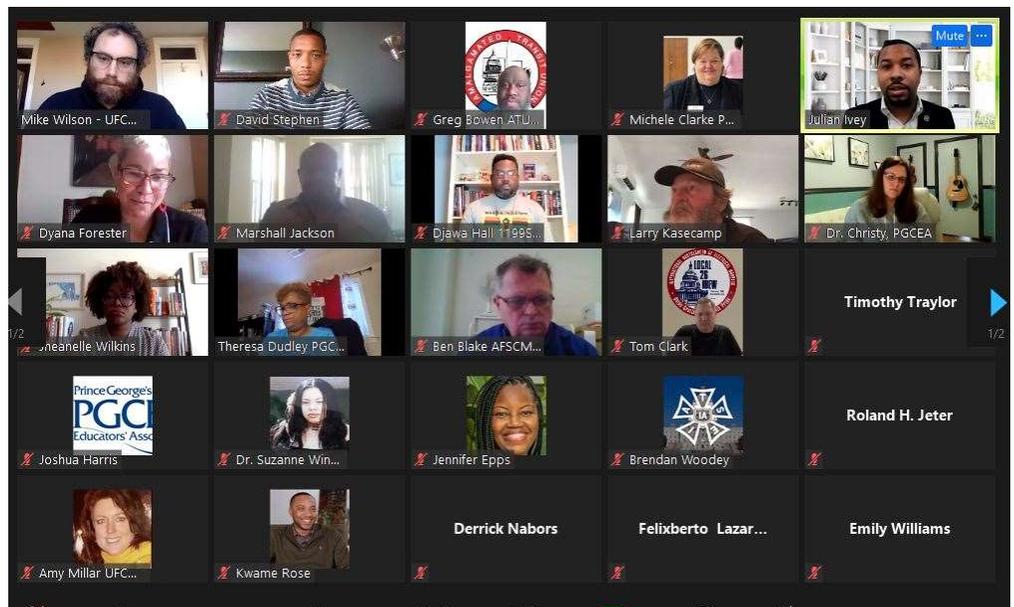
Legislative Updates

Final vote December 15, 2020

- **Bill 23-965 Displaced Workers Rights to Reinstatement and Retention Act of 2020**
- **B23-309, the medical marijuana employment protection bill.**

PRINCE GEORGE'S/MONTGOMERY COUNTY COPE

November 19: COPE committee was joined by Special Guest: **Eva Lewis, Executive Director of the MD Democratic Party, Delegate Jhanelle Wilkerson, Chair of the Montgomery County Caucus and Delegate Julian Ivey, Vice-Chair, Prince George's County Delegation.** Guests briefed us on what is on their legislative agenda and then **participated in a discussion on what our priorities are.**



TRI-COUNTY

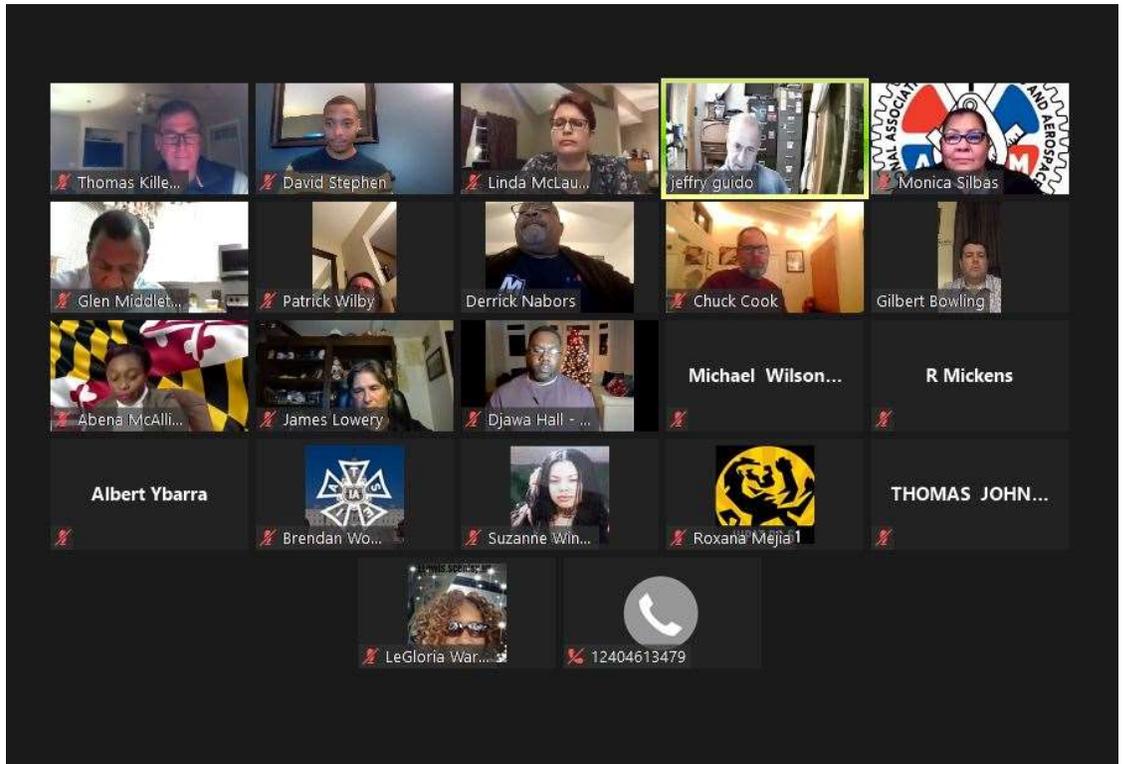
COPE: December 1

- Held discussion on legislative priorities for 2021 and was joined Charles County Commissioner BJ Bowling for a 20-minute Q&A

GA SENATE RUN-OFF PHONE BANKING:

Beginning the first week in December the DC Labor Council will volunteer with the AFL-CIO to phone

bank for the Georgia special election. This is a Labor-to-Labor Program focuses on calling Union Members and Household Members in Georgia for the Senate Runoff election in support of Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock. The control of the US Senate will be determined by these runoffs, and this is our opportunity to make our voices heard in the Metro DC region.



MWC/DC voting victories for 2020

Washington D.C. District of Columbia Council

Council At-Large (Dem) - Robert White; Ward 4 - Janeese Lewis-George; Ward 8 - Trayon White

DC State Board of Education

Ward 4 - Frazier O'Leary; Ward 7 - Eboni Rose Thompson; Ward 8 - Carlene Reid

U.S. House of Representatives

DC – Eleanor Holmes Norton

Montgomery County

Question B defeated

Calvert County

Court Judge - Patrick Devine

U.S. House of Representatives (Maryland)

District 2 – Dutch Ruppersberger; District 3 – John Sarbanes; District 4 – Anthony Brown; District 5 – Steny Hoyer; District 6 – David Trone; District 7 – Kweisi Mfume; District 8 – Jamie Raskin

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Tonya Love, Program Director; Lolita Martin, Attorney

The Claimant Advocacy Program's overall objective is to advise and represent claimants who have Unemployment Compensation Appeals Hearing before the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings.

Additional tasks:

- Discussed existing issues with DOES regarding regular UI, PUA, PUEC, FPUC, and Extended Benefits (EB)
- Developed an escalation process for CAP in an effort to address union members' issues.
- Assisted claimants in filing initial claims, weekly claim reporting and re-opening claims
- Shared and Promoted the opportunity for claimants to create video clips sponsored by CM Silverman, in order to magnify their issues with claiming and receiving unemployment benefits.
- Check-ins with other stakeholders on issues on a broader level that affect unemployment benefits, including but not limited to the sunset of many of the current UI benefits. Worked with the DC City Council staff to review an additional extended benefits program of seven weeks.
- Suggest and connect UI claimants with other short-term monetary and social services resources, when/if needed
- Participated in the weekly stakeholder's meeting with the Office of Administrative Hearings

Summary:

1. Invoiced for the month of November in the amount of \$47,375.00.
2. CAP continues to engage in gaining media exposure, providing legislative and programmatic suggestions in addition to providing its primary function of assisting claimants in accessing the UI system in DC.
3. Assisted and/or represented 3 UFCW 400 members, 16 IATSE 22 members, and 20 UNITE HERE25 members in the month of November.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

2020 Overview: *First and foremost I want to acknowledge with deep appreciation the hard work and dedication of my colleagues at the Metro Washington Council and the Community Services Agency, as well as the incredible leadership of our Executive Board and every single affiliated local. Over the course of this year unlike any we have ever seen before, they have answered the call each and every time, and nothing I accomplished this year would have been possible without that support. It has been a daily reminder to me of the generosity and solidarity of the labor movement. I feel privileged to get the opportunity to work with all of you and I know that our work has made a difference, not just to the members of our own unions, but to all workers.*

Although this was obviously an extremely challenging year, the systems and tools I either created or maintain through the Union Cities program helped tremendously to support the work of the Metro Council and our affiliates.

Union City and our social media – website, Facebook and Twitter -- Union City Radio and Your Rights At Work were all critical to keeping both the labor and general public informed about the issues facing working people and the battles our affiliates and allies were engaged with amidst the pandemic. I am especially proud that the Labor Radio Podcast Network I created in 2019 has grown so much this year, now linking nearly 80 shows and providing a national platform for our struggles.

Our online database and LaborKey enabled us to seamlessly transition to remote work without missing a beat, which was especially important in being able to maintain per capita billing and effectively run this year's elections.

The DC LaborFest's weekly film screenings began right after the shutdown in late March and not only provided our own local community with much-needed relief from the steady onslaught of bad news about the pandemic, but reached people across the country and indeed around the world, building our audience for the future as well.

While much has been accomplished this year, much still remains to be done, and I look forward not just to the end of the pandemic in 2021, but to continuing the Council's work to helping our affiliates build an even more effective labor movement to meet the challenges ahead.

November Report

MWC affiliate support

Provided as needed, including responding to questions about affiliate voting strength, updating delegates for the upcoming election and coordinating solidarity/mobilization efforts.

MWC meetings

Coordinated prep, including preparing reports, notifying affiliates/delegates, etc.

MWC check log-in: Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks.

Database updates: Updated MWC and LaborKey databases as necessary.



Election Committee
Supported committee's work, kept affiliate per cap and delegate info updated, election page updated

Evening with Labor
Supported EWL Committee work, maintained contact with venue re schedule updates; website page [here](#)



MWC staff support

Coordinated weekly staff check-ins, supported staff as necessary, including keeping program pages on website updated, including the [COPE](#), [CAP](#) and [CSA](#) pages

Union City e-newsletter

Produced, published and distributed latest local labor news on the MWC's Union City daily; reports posted [here](#)

Union City Radio

Produced daily report for Union City Radio reports, 7:15a on WPFW and on the [UCR podcast](#)
NOTE: UCR has been underwritten in 2019 and 2020 by a \$5,000 annual contribution from UnionPlus, which is split 50/50 with WPFW.

[Your Rights At Work](#) (WPFW 89.3FM, Thursdays from 1-2p)

November guests included: **Sara Nelson**, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO; DC City Councilmember **Elissa Silverman**; Metro Washington Council president **Dyana Forester**; Sam Epps, Unite Here Local 25 Political Director; **Bill Fletcher, Jr.**



MWC social media

Posted labor news/updates to MWC [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds

MWC website

Posted affiliate news/updates on our [website](#).
Latest website traffic report: XK users
Highest traffic pages:

Labor Radio Podcast Network

Coordinated network of nearly 80 labor radio and podcast programs, including weekly meetings; produced/hosted Labor

Radio Podcast Weekly; launched new weekly livestream show with election coverage featuring guests from AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Liz Schuler to local organizers.

