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AFFILIATE UPDATE

Note from the MWC Election and Credentials Committees: Elections for the Metro Washington Labor Council's Executive Board for the 2022-2025 term will be conducted at the Regular Delegates' Meeting on Tuesday, March 22 (5PM via Zoom; you must be a delegate and must [register here](#)).

All positions except for the "at large" seats are uncontested, so a motion to elect the uncontested seats by acclamation will be accepted at the March 22 MWC Delegate Meeting.

There are 17 candidates for the 16 "at large" seats; an **online election conducted by ElectionBuddy will be conducted March 22-25** and the 16 nominees receiving the most votes will be declared the winners. Today's email is the first of two opportunities "at large" candidates will have to communicate with MWC delegates prior to the election; the second and final email will be sent March 15 and candidates will have an opportunity to address delegates at the March 22 meeting. All candidates have been invited to participate by submitting a statement of no more than 250 words, and may include a photo of themselves. The order of the candidates in this update were determined by random selection.

Please be sure to **carefully review your local's information** on the [MWC AFFILIATE VOTING STRENGTH AND DELEGATES](#) list: the voting strength, per the MWC Constitution, is based on the average per capita paid for the first 12 of the prior 13 months preceding the election, which means that your local must be paid through January 31, 2022 in order to have full voting strength.

Also be sure to **check your local's delegate names** on the [MWC AFFILIATE VOTING STRENGTH AND DELEGATES](#) list and be sure that we have the correct list of delegates; **updates are due by COB Friday, March 18 at 12 noon ET**: please email updates to mwc-per-cap@dclabor.org

"AT LARGE" MWC BOARD CANDIDATES

[Tom Clark](#)
[Dena Briscoe](#)
[Roxana Mejia](#)
[Jacqueline Pogue-Lyons](#)
[Daniel Fields, Jr.](#)
[Stephen Frum](#)
[Ottis Johnson, Jr.](#)
[Michael Spiller](#)
[Barbara Churchill](#)
[Greg Bowen](#)
[George Farenthold](#)
[Robin Burns](#)
[William Davis](#)
[Louis Davis](#)
[Thomas Killeen](#)

[Donald Havard](#)

Wanda Shelton-Martin

TOM CLARK (IBEW 26)

My name is **Tom Clark** and I have been lucky enough to serve on your Board for 2 years. When first elected, I was eager to share the concerns of the Building Trades and specifically IBEW Local 26. I was soon intrigued with the ideas and opinions of the service, professional, transit and healthcare unions. It's the variety of needs and opinions that has impressed me the most from The Metropolitan Washington Council. Anxious to continue our work, I ask for your support in the upcoming Board Election.



As a MWC board member, I have marched for DC Statehood, canvassed for labor friendly candidates, and made friends with delegates, board members and officers that will continue regardless of any election. Recently, I was recruited and accepted the position of Co-Chair to the Montgomery/Prince Georges County COPE. I am anxious to work in this political tsunami we call DC, Maryland politics of 2022: Redistricting, State Senators and Delegates, County and City Councils, Comptroller, Attorney General, Governor and Mayor races. We may never see a confluence of local political races like this again. As Co-Chair and Board Member, I do not shy away from these challenges, I welcome them. More importantly, after the pandemic and years of stagnant wages, I believe that 2022 is the year of the worker. It is our time to organize, represent and lead working men and women in the DMV. I ask for your help in this mission and your support in the upcoming MWC Board election.

DENA BRISCOE (APWU 140)

Good day delegates. I am Dena Briscoe, President of the American Postal Workers Union local 140, with 6 terms in office. I have been on the Metropolitan Washington Council board since around 2008 in various positions. I was a Trustee, secretary, and currently board member. It has been an honor to serve on this board in each capacity.



I see the council as a safe place for labor leaders to unite, support each other, strategize, and discuss common and unique labor concerns. I have enjoyed holding different roles to assist the council in various ways. I have been known to speak up about issues that may not be in the best interest of our collective unions, protecting the monies that we are stewards over, and being a voice of reason when our views may cause us to disagree.

I love the fact that we have such a great thing as a council of unions and want to continue to help instill honor and integrity to it, for as long as you will have me. I

believe that we have a great board, and hardworking staff employees. We work hard to make sure that labor is not overshadowed by corporations, privatization, the attempts to negatively impact workers who we continue to let know that the council belongs to them. They must be at the forefront of our work. I ask that you vote for me for the board member position this year. Your vote, is greatly appreciated.

ROXANA MEJIA (IUPAT DC 51)

My name is Roxana Mejia. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Board of the Metro Washington Council. I am a 20-year member of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades DC51. Throughout my career as the Government Affairs Liaison for DC51, I have worked with allies to create equitable, safe workplaces and to develop strategies that uplift workers from all walks of life and support working families in the community and political arena. I mobilize volunteers in labor and the community for Federal, State and Local races to help elected labor advocate candidates in the DMV area. I work every day helping build power for workers through strengthening networks among members, other unions, government entities and allies. In 2008 I was the Coordinator for NOVA zone to elect president Obama. I met many union activists and built friendships that continue teaching me everyday about our labor goals. Currently, I'm an executive board member of the VA State AFL-CIO, the NOVA and the MWC Labor Council Federation. Board members of NOVA Workforce Board and the VA State Adult education and literary board. I have lived in the DMV area since 1985, when I arrived from El Salvador, not speaking a word of English. I am very blessed to be a member of the IUPAT and have the opportunities this position gives me to help workers, whether it is working on legislation, work on electing labor advocates or assisting with translating to spanish speaking workers.



JACQUELINE POGUE LYONS (WTU 6)

Born and raised in New York City, Jacqueline Pogue Lyons earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Smith College in Massachusetts and a Masters Degree in bilingual special education from George Washington University. She has been a teacher in the District of Columbia for 28 years. Ms. Lyons taught in public schools throughout Washington, D.C., including Plummer Elementary, J.C. Nalle Elementary, Thomson Elementary, and Hyde Elementary.

Ms. Lyons served as the General Vice President of the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) for five years. She subsequently accepted the position of President of the WTU, where she offers and provides leadership and support to her teaching colleagues. She is fearless, tenacious, and an unconditional advocate for teachers' rights and working conditions. She works tirelessly to



support the certification and professional development of the needs of D.C. Public School teachers. Ms. Lyons has one son, and he is a recent graduate of Howard University.

DANIEL FIELDS, JR. (SEIU 722)

Daniel Fields Jr. For Executive Board

Hello My Sisters and Brothers: My name is Daniel Fields, Jr. and I am running for an Executive Board position with the Metropolitan Washington Council of the AFL-CIO. I am sending you this letter to ask for your support. I currently hold the position of Executive Board Member and I wish to continue in this position. I have held the position for over four (4) years. Prior to holding this position, I held the position of Trustee.

I have been a long time devoted President of SEIU, Local 722 for over 25 years. I also spent time as the Vice President of Local 722. This year I stepped down from my role as President of SEIU Local 722, but will continue as a member of Local 722 mentoring and assisting the new leadership.

During my tenure as President of Local 722 I have been a strong supporter of the Council and a willing participant in its activities. We have attended rallies; supported Council endorsed politicians and passing of laws; been active in COPE meetings and have financially supported the Council in its fundraising.

I am running again because Local 722 intends to retain our strong relationship with the Council and back it as Labor's powerful and unified voice in the Metropolitan Washington area.

I humbly ask for and appreciate your support.



STEPHEN FRUM (NNU)

Stephen Frum, National Nurses United, asks for your vote for reelection to the Executive Board:

- Since my election to Executive Board in 2019, I worked to build a stronger, more unified Labor Council.
- During the COVID pandemic, I worked in coalition with union allies to make sure workers were safe and patients got needed care.
- Politically active in the region, I have **mobilized workers to support**
- I have **marched and rallied for labor solidarity** with workers during the pandemic, federal workers during the shutdown, against attacks on immigrant workers, and on picket lines with CWA at Verizon, DCNA at Howard, 1199 SEIU at GW, and many others in my 30 years with labor. I was born and raised in D.C.
- My work experience includes 29 years as an RN (14 years on the burn/trauma unit at Medstar Washington Hospital Center) and 12 years as an elected chief shop steward.



- As a labor representative for MWHC, Providence Hospital, and the VA Medical Center, I have **fought for good contracts**, including leading two strikes.

I ask for your vote for reelection to the Executive Board so that I can continue my work for union members – I am passionate about DC and the Metro area, and eager to **work to ensure that working people win!**

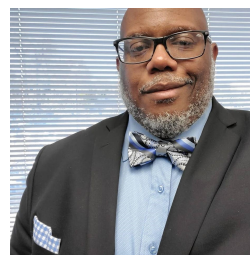
OTTIS JOHNSON, JR. (AFGE DISTRICT 14)

I am Ottis Johnson, Jr., National Vice President of the 14th District of the American Federation of Government Employees. District 14 represents D.C. and federal government workers in the D.C. Metropolitan area and Europe. I have been a unionist for more than 28 years. Most recently, I was the three-term president, and now treasurer, of AFGE Local 1831 (National Gallery of Art). I am also the past president (two terms) of AFGE Council 1, an informational council representing more than 18,000 government employees in the D.C. metropolitan area and surrounding counties. Although I have worked primarily with government workers, my passion for labor stretches far beyond AFGE. I was a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (at the beginning of my career), and I was the 2021 Co-Chief Negotiator for Comp 1 & 2, successfully negotiating safe and improved working conditions and a 12% collective pay raise, over the next 4 years, for all public sector workers under that pay band. As an U.S. Army Veteran, I serve on AFGE's Veteran's Council. I am also the pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church (Baltimore, MD), and the W.M. of Prince Edward Lodge #1. Other affiliations include Maryland Democrats; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Coalition of Labor Union Women; A. Philip Randolph Institute; and presidential-level AFGE PAC contributor. I look forward to working alongside my union Brothers and Sisters of the Metropolitan Washington Central Labor Council as we continue to improve the lives of union labor workers and their families.



MICHAEL SPILLER (OPEIU 2)

I currently represent OPEIU Local 2 in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. I serve as 1st Vice President and I'm a business agent. I have been employed here since July 2015 but have been a member since 2000. I have worked with this council as a delegate since 2015. During that time, I have served on the election committee and on the COPE committee during previous election cycles, participating in the endorsement interviews. I currently serve as the interim president of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the COPE Committee there. I have also served as the Sergeant of Arms at the last three MD/DC AFLCIO State Federation Conventions, working closely with President Edwards to ensure the



success of the convention. Before joining the staff of OPEIU, I was employed at American Federation of Teachers Maryland State Federation for 18 plus years and was the shop steward for our OPEIU local. I served as the shop steward for 15 years and negotiated the staff contract during that duration. I served as a staff representative at AFTMD. Prior to that position, I was the Vice President and Secretary Treasurer of the Maryland Correction Union for 6 years.

BARBARA CHURCHILL (IATSE LOCAL 868)

My name is Barbara Churchill and I have been nominated for a position on the Executive Board of the Metro Washington Council in the upcoming election. I have been a member of IATSE Local 868 for Treasurers and Ticketsellers since 1979 and have served as president of my Local since I was elected in 2013. I have also served in the positions of Vice President and Secretary.

I have enjoyed being a delegate for my local at the MWC meetings. I am so grateful for the support of this council during my local's struggle getting a contract with Strathmore Music Center.

Thank you for your consideration.



GREG BOWEN (ATU 689)

My name is Greg Bowen. I am sitting executive board member on the MWC, I am also a sitting E-Board member in my Local ATU689 where we represent over 15k members. I prided myself on trying to be the voice of the voiceless. Being a political coordinator for ATU689 allows me to be very active in the community, setting up meetings with political leaders, fund raising, supporting and testifying on labor friendly bills and policies to better serve working people. I also am currently active in the MD state fed, trying to push bills into laws while supporting other labor unions with their bills and efforts as well. I also was on the PGC Labor Relations Board helping serve the Prince Georges county community. My goal is to make it where all working people have a fair and equitable opportunity to live and work in an environment where they have a chance to pursue the American dream. I ask that you help support me in that effort by re-electing me to the Metro Washington Council Executive Board.



GEORGE FARENTHOLD (OPEIU 277)

I will celebrate my 43rd year as a union member on April 23. I was first initiated as a member of the AFL-CIO through the United Steelworkers of America in April 1979 and served until 1982 as a production worker at the original Sylvania engineering plant in Seneca Falls, NY, training as a second shift EMT, Utility Operator and elected as a Grievance and Negotiations committee member. In 1982 I left NYS after my Sylvania plant laid off my shift and later the whole plant.



At a friend's urging I joined American Income Life and the OPEIU 277 in Albuquerque, NM and have spent the last forty years working in almost every home office and field position AIL offered in Texas, New Mexico, New York and now the D/M/V. I have been continually active in Organized Labor in every area, including serving as President of the Cayuga Central Labor Council for 2 terms.

In 2013 I was offered the position of Marketing Specialist in the D/M/V. After asking my wife, I have been happily working in the DC/Baltimore area for 9 years. Lisa joined me later and we have both been serving in the DC area ever since. I have been active in both area Labor Councils especially in DC, where I was elected to the MWC AFL-CIO Executive Board. This last year I proudly served as Chairman of the Evening With Labor Committee from 2019 until our successful event in Nov. 2021.

Thanks in advance for your vote.

ROBIN BURNS (DCNA)

I was destined to become a nurse. I followed in the footsteps of my mother, an LPN who spent her career at Saint Elizabeth Hospital, in Washington, DC. A career path in health care was a natural choice that began with patient care and advocacy. Representing nurses and advocating for safe working conditions, fair wages, and legislative improvement for nurses has been a career long passion. My ambition is learned from my father, a past union leader at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

As the Chair for Children's School Services (CSS) history was made when the City Council passed our nursing legislation for 40 hours of coverage by a Health Professional for every school. I am Chairperson for CSS

I have also been actively involved in DCNA's decisions to endorse or support the campaigns of individuals running for elected offices in DC and MD.

We must continue to build coalitions among labor, clergy, and the community to fight corporate greed and entrenched government officials. DCNA became heavily invested in building such a coalition in our fight for health justice East of the River and advocating for labor rights in the operations of a new hospital on the St. Elizabeth's campus. If elected to the MWC Board I will continue to pursue this philosophy not just on behalf of health care workers, but for all workers, even those who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by a union.

WILLIAM DAVIS (TEAMSTERS LOCAL 639)

Brothers and Sisters:

It is truly a privilege to be considered for a Board position on the Metro Washington Council. I've been a proud Union member since I started working as a tractor-trailer driver in the metro area when I was 21 and immediately became aware of the power of being a Union member and working under a Union contract. In my first year as a Teamster, I earned more money annually than my father in addition to fully paid benefits. My father said to never leave the Union as it was an organization that fought for workers and employers feared the Teamsters. I've



followed his advice and remained a Teamster for 37 years.

During those 37 years, I've served in many positions within Local 639, rank-and-file member, Shop Steward, Business Agent and now Secretary-Treasurer. As a Union official, I witnessed the growth of our Local by approximately 2000 members. I've negotiated over 60 different contracts with a variety of employers and I'm proud to say Local 639 is the standard for Teamster Collective Bargaining Agreements not only in the metro area but throughout the Mid-Atlantic as well. We operate as a team at Local 639 and I have had the benefit of learning my craft from great leaders like President John Gibson and former President Tommy Ratliff.

I look forward to working with the leaders of the Council to continue our collective struggle to advance and improve our members' lives and bring Union Power to every worker in our area.

LOUIS DAVIS (SEIU 32BJ)

Louis Davis currently serves as the Capital Area District Chair for SEIU Local 32BJ. Local 32BJ is a property service union with 20k members in DC and Baltimore Metro areas. Louis works as the lead union representative for the security chapter. He has helped bargain and organize thousands of members to win strong contracts. Before becoming a member and employee of 32BJ, Louis worked as a non-union security officer in DC. Louis takes pride in representing many of his former security officer colleagues. As an executive board member Louis hopes to contribute to building political power for working people in the DC metro region. In his free time, he has volunteered with national and local criminal justice reform campaigns. He believes a strong labor movement leads to stronger communities.



THOMAS KILLEEN (SMART LOCAL UNION 100)

Brothers and Sisters,

I was raised in Prince George's Maryland and I've been a Union Sheet Metal Worker with Local 102/100 for 42 years. While working in my Local union with many different Brothers and Sisters in all conditions of weather I've had the opportunity to work in every discipline of my trade, Architectural/Metal Roofing, HVAC duct Fabrication & Installation, CAD Draftsperson, Project Manager when working with my tools. While working for Local 100 I've been Business

Representative, Political Director, Pension & Health Trustee and the Director for SMART Army (a Local 100 Charitable organization) for 3,000 members of Local 100. In addition to being an Executive Board member of the D.C. Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO I am on the AA County Workforce Development Board, I represent Labor on the Maryland State Department of the Environment Air Quality Commission and Received the 2020 Suburban Maryland COPE Award for Political



Action. Because of my experiences in and with my Union and I've enjoy working with the current Board and President, I ask for your vote for another term on the Executive Board.

DONALD HAVARD (IUOE 99)

I am Donald Havard, Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 99. I have been a member of Local 99 for over 44 years and have been very involved with the Metro Washington Council and Community Service Agency for approximately 12 years and on the Executive Board for the last several years. Supporting Union Sisters and Brothers and their families throughout our community is the main reason I stay involved. Because Trade Unionism and giving back should be important to all of us. I will be honored to serve on the Executive Board for another term and I thank you in advance for your support.

