

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting: May 20, 2019**



<b>Agenda</b> .....	page 2
<b>Minutes</b> (April 2019).....	page 3
<b>Correspondence</b> .....	page 5
<b>Union Cities</b> .....	page 6
<b>Claimant Advocacy Program</b> .....	page 8
<b>Community Services Agency</b> .....	page 9
<b>COPE</b> .....	page 10

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO  
Delegate Meeting  
May 20, 2019**

**6:30P: Call to Order**

**Board Election (final seat)**

**Minutes**

**Correspondence**

**Financial Reports**

**Affiliate Reports**

**President's Report**

**Organizational Reports:**

***Union Cities***

***Community Services Agency***

***COPE/Political and Legislative Campaigns***

**8:00P: Adjourn**

## Delegate Meeting MINUTES: April 15, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

President Jeter welcomed AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Shuler, who told the leaders and delegates that “You’re at the forefront, whether it’s national issues like the government shutdown or local struggles.” Shuler was at the Council to officially swear in the 2019-2022 MWC Executive Board, elected last month. She welcomed the returning Board members and asked new members to introduce themselves. “You all were there, you pushed and stood in solidarity and I just want to say Thank You!” said Shuler. “You’re all leaders, not just of your local unions, but of the labor movement and we appreciate and thank you for your passion and commitment.” Council president Jackie Jeter thanked Shuler, saying that she and the entire Board look forward to continuing to play a key leadership role in the metro-area labor movement.

Shuler then swore in the Executive Board.

Election Committee: Mike Spiller, on behalf of chair Ann Hoffman, reviewed the rules for nominations for the open seat. After nominations were opened, Jesse Bennett nominated Denise Yorkshire, AFSCME 2250. Eric Bunn nominated Gina Walton from AFGE 1975. Kimberly Mitchell from UFCW 400 nominated Donna Brockington from AFGE local 32. Nominations were then closed. Nominees will be checked to be sure they’re delegates from their locals; acceptance forms must be returned by Thursday 4/18 COB and the election will be held at the May meeting. President Jeter thanked the Election Committee for all their diligent hard work, working with MWC staffer Chris Garlock, to ensure a correct and smooth election process.

Minutes: moved and seconded to accept as circulated. Approved.

Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC): Rick Ehrmann (NewsGuild) described the ongoing struggle by FLOC in the south and noted that the resolution supporting the Vuse boycott has been passed by the Newspaper Guild. Ehrmann moved and Farenthold seconded that the Council adopt the resolution. Robin Burns (DCNA) said that healthcare professionals are also concerned about the health implications of e-cigarettes. Approved.

Washington Teachers Union: Liz Davis said that the city is slowly but surely starving and privatizing the city school district; there were 153 schools when I started and just 103 now. More than half the city education budget now goes to charter schools. Public schools must accept and educate all students while charter schools cherry-pick. Rally set for 4/25; please come. Moved (Davis) seconded (Bunn) to approve the resolution.

Financial Reports: Eric Bunn reviewed the (2) reports distributed to delegates. Moved (Harris) seconded (Farenthold) to accept. Approved.

Claimant Advocacy Program (CAP): Lolita Martin explained what CAP does in fighting for folks who have unemployment comp cases, plus dealing with overpayment cases. She provided her cell number -- 202-257-7610 -- and said text her anytime. Saul Schniderman (AFSCME 2910-ret) and Dan Fields (SEIU 722) spoke highly of the program.

## Union Cities

Mark Federici, UFCW 400, reported on the Stop and Shop strike by 31,000 UFCW members and updated on the situation on Shoppers Food Warehouse now SuperValue, now UNFI.

Jim Griffin, IBEW 1900, ongoing negotiations at PEPCO; not going well, may be calling on Council for assistance.

Garlock reported on the upcoming DC LaborFest, noting that a number of the films this year raise the issue of women and power. Pres. Jeter emphasized that the LaborFest is a key way that the Metro Council organizes and mobilizes, not just among our own members, but to the broader community. "It's where the labor movement becomes art." Liz Davis (WTU) suggested showing "Backpack Full of Cash." *See the 4/15 Executive Board minutes for the complete written UC report.*

Community Services Agency: Sonte DuCote reported on capacity building, fundraising -- Labor Night at the Nats is Saturday, June 22 at 7:15 pm -- plans to raise general operating funds, government shutdown update, the Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program and Building Futures Grant Funding. *See the 4/15 Executive Board minutes for the complete written CSA report.*

COPE: David Dzidzienyo reviewed the important upcoming COPE dates. *See the 4/15 Executive Board minutes for the complete written COPE report.*

Chuck Clay (IATSE 22): Committee for Business and Economic Development to testify about partnership with city video dept; very successful program and budget has now been doubled. NLRB certified the election at PSAV, 15-1. Have started negotiations with them but it's going to be a hard slog.

Dena Briscoe (APWU): reported on today's "US Mail is not for Sale" Tax Day rallies; flyers to be sent around.

Herb Harris (BLET) reported that the Transportation Committee will meet May 14.

Meeting adjourned 8:14pm

50/50 raffle won by Cynthia Collins

**CORRESPONDENCE**

<b>MONTH: May 2019</b>			
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Event Date</b>	<b>Request/Purpose</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Insulators 24	8/9	Golf Outing	Raises funds for mesothelioma and cancer research
MD/DC AFL-CIO	6/21	Salute to Leadership	Tickets \$150; ads \$175-500
Labor Against Cancer	6/5	Benefits Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	\$175/person
UFCW 1994/MCGEO	5/4	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Gala	4 tix, FP ad (\$1,100 total approved by Board via online vote 4/22)
Jobs with Justice Education Fund	6/27	Awards Celebration	\$600-15,000
<i>Fire Fighters 36</i>	<i>5/29</i>	<i>Firefighter Memorial Day</i>	<i>Invite to attend</i>
<i>Chesapeake Bay CLUW</i>		<i>Affiliating with MWC</i>	
<i>Mid-Atlantic Regional Joint Board</i>		<i>Affiliating with MWC</i>	
<b>Total YTD 2019</b>			<b>\$ 2,100</b>
<i>January</i>			<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>February</i>			<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>March</i>			<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>April</i>			<i>\$1,100</i>

## UNION CITIES

May 2019

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

In addition to my usual responsibilities, the bulk of my work over the last month has focused on the annual **DC LaborFest**. The line-up of events this year is just under 40 – details here <http://www.dclabor.org/dc-laborfest.html> -- including 17 film screenings, as well as music, history and other events. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and Maryland Assembly rep Gabe Acevero were our guest speakers at the May 1 launch at AFI and both spoke out strongly in support of workers, unions, the Metro Council and the LaborFest.

Some notable additions since the initial line-up was announced include the Chesapeake CLUW Non-Traditional Trades Fashion Show Luncheon (*photo*); Ghost Work: How To Stop Silicon Valley From Building A New Global Underclass; Zero Weeks: America's Leave Crisis and the Cost of Doing Nothing and Building The American Dream, which is being co-sponsored by LiUNA Local 11 and CSA's Building Futures/Women in the Trades. In fact, I'm pleased to report that we increased our partnerships



significantly this year, which has helped build solidarity with our affiliates as well as communities allies, and has helped boost turnout.

The LaborFest program guide brought in \$40,000 in sponsorships; we'll have a full report on income/expenses next month.

**See below for the remaining LaborFest event line-up.**

### **AFL-CIO District meeting, Providence, RI, May 7-9**

Attended the communications and data workshops, which were excellent; working with AFL-CIO to develop locals version for MWC affiliates later this year. The overall program was very useful, and I covered it on the MWC's

social media in real time and in a post-event report in Union City.

### **UNION CITY NEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA, RADIO**

Union City highlights (April 2019): <http://www.dclabor.org/home/archives/04-2019>

This week's Labor Calendar: <http://www.dclabor.org/calendar.html>

**Your Rights At Work Guests** (April 2019): Especially note **Kassahun Follo**, President, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions and **David Bayne**, partner, Ashcraft & Gerel (longtime EWL sponsor).

Liz Davis, President, Washington Teachers Union, on the campaign to fully fund DC public schools; 4p rally today on Freedom Plaza.

Roberta Lenoir, president, DCNA/UMC bargaining unit, on the East End Hospital.

Clayton Rosenberg, Chief of Staff, Alliance of Concerned Men, on the East End Hospital.

David Bayne, partner, Ashcraft & Gerel, on personal injury cases and the differences between Virginia and DC.

Dr. Katie Wells and Katui Attoh, co-authors of "The Uber Workplace in DC: Who's in the Driver's Seat?" Georgetown study showing that ride-hail platform drivers in the metro DC region face financial debt, threats from customers, constantly changing rules that make calculating their earnings nearly

impossible, and work hours that may make them a public safety hazard.

Gabe Acevero, Maryland Assembly Delegate (39th District) & UFCW 1994/MCGEO organizer the Fight for \$15 and other worker issues during the recently-concluded MD Assembly session; plus an update on the ongoing strike by 31,000 UFCW members in New England.



Kassahun Follo (*left*), President, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) on the role of the Ethiopian trade union movement as Ethiopia -- the second most populous country in Sub Saharan Africa -- is going through a unprecedented democratic transition freeing all political prisoners and allowing opposition groups (including groups in exile) to peacefully operate within the country for the first time.

Hassan Kanu, Legal Editor/Reporter, Bloomberg Law (& Newspaper Guild member)

Harold Meyerson, executive editor of The American Prospect; NALISHHA MEHTA, Program Officer at Solidarity Center, AFL-CIO, on labor and meditation, and VASU REDDY, Senior policy counsel for workplace programs at the National

Partnership for Women & Families on Equal Pay Day (April 2, 2019) & Fair Pay.

Mark Gruenberg, editor, Press Associates Union News Service

## **DATABASE/DIRECTORY**

Note that work on both database updates and the 2019 Directory will be a priority in June.

### **2019 DC LABORFEST/DC LABORFILMFEST LINE-UP (REMAINING)**

#### **TAKOMA TRIVIA: THE LABOR**

**EDITION:** Mon, May 20, 7:39p;

Busboys and Poets Takoma

#### **BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM**

**(Film):** Tue, May 21, 6:30pm –

8:00pm

#### **LABOR AT THE NATIONAL**

#### **MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY:**

Wed, May 22, 12:00pm-2pm

**Call Me Intern (film):** Tue, May 28,

7pm – 9pm

**HIGH FLYING BIRD:** Tue, May 28,

7:15pm

#### **5/40: 2019 Labor 411 DC release**

**party/Norma Rae Reception:** Thu, May 30, 5:30pm – 6:45pm

**NORMA RAE (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!):** Thu, May 30, 7:00pm

**CALL ME INTERN (film):** Fri, May 31, 12pm – 1pm

**GRAVESITE OF IBEW FOUNDER HENRY MILLER (NEW!):** Sat, June 1, 11 am

*photo: The Daryl Davis Quintet rocks the house at May 16 concert at Busboys and Poets*



## **Claimant Advocacy Program Report**

Amount invoiced for the first Quarter of 2019: **\$95,375.00**

Amount invoiced for the month of April: **\$39,812.00**

In addition to consulting, counseling, advising and representing claimants (52 clients, resulting in 39 cases) in unemployment compensation matters and hearings the CAP attorneys:

1. Assisted the D.C. Counsel Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on policy recommendations for amending the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Law and Regulations.
2. Attended the roundtable on the implementation by the Department of Employment Services of the District of Columbia Paid Family Leave Act and made policy recommendations.
3. Spoke at the Washington Teachers Union Representative Assembly Meeting in relation to how and why teachers are qualified or disqualified from receipt of unemployment compensation benefits between school terms.

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

*Sonte DuCote, Executive Director*

The Community Services Agency's is working on the following initiatives:

**CAPACITY BUILDING:** CSA has recruited two volunteers to assist the Executive Director: an OPEIU retiree who will volunteer four hours per week and a senior from Thurgood Marshall Academy who will volunteer two hours for a limited time. The Executive Director is also working with a pro bono marketing specialist on improving the CSA website and social media outreach.

**FUNDRAISING:** Nineteen (19) unions have purchased 50 or more tickets totaling 2,175 and 41 tickets purchased online.



Please continue to promote Labor Night at the Nats Saturday, June 22 at 7:15 pm. Place your 50 or more ticket order by completing the order form to be distributed or by contacting the Executive Director: [sducote@dclabor.org](mailto:sducote@dclabor.org). Forty-nine (49) tickets or less can be purchased on line (fees apply).

Locals can customize Labor Night flyers with its name and contact info or distribute the flyer with CSA's contact info. Visit [www.communityservicesagency.org](http://www.communityservicesagency.org) for the flyers or contact [sducote@dclabor.org](mailto:sducote@dclabor.org) or 202-974-8226.

Hold the date for the CSA Golf Tournament – Monday, September 23, 2019. The CSA Golf Committee had its first meeting on Wednesday, May 15. Please look for the Golf Tournament Registration Form and Information in your mailboxes early June.

**OUTREACH:** On May 3, CSA joined the Metro Washington Council to present at the IUOE Local 99 Shop Steward meeting (*above*). Approximately 100 shop stewards were present.

**BUILDING FUTURES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM:** The District of Columbia cohort currently has 24 students five of whom are women. The Prince Georges County Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (WANTO) cohort is in partnership with the Carpenters and has five women.

The WANTO Project Manager facilitated an Advisory Committee meeting that focused on mentoring. The Project Manager also spoke on a congressional briefing panel to provide context around future of workforce development for non-traditional workers. The panel was part of Infrastructure Week.



Building Futures also participated in the Chesapeake Coalition for Union Women Non-Traditional Trades Fashion Show Luncheon.

Building Futures Graduations are set for June 10 (DC) and June 14 (Prince Georges County).

## **COPE Report**

*David Dzidzienyo, Director of Political/Legislative Affairs*

2019 Committee on Political Education Calendar Important Dates:

Thursday, May 23, Prince George's/Montgomery County (COPE) Mtg – 10am

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - DC Council/United Medical Center Funding Final Vote – 10am

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - TriCounty Committee on Political Education (COPE) 7pm

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - District of Columbia Committee on Political Education (COPE) Mtg – 6pm

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - Prince George's County Labor Advisory Committee Meeting – 10:30am

MWC Education Committee Mtg – TBA

MWC Health Committee Mtg – TBA

District of Columbia Committee on Political Education (COPE):

On Thursday, May 16, 2019 the District of Columbia Committee on Political Education convened a conference call to discuss the District of Columbia Healthcare crisis concerning the funding for United Medical Center and the potential East End Hospital. We were also provided an update by Elizabeth Davis (WTU) regarding the District of Columbia Public School Budget.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, the DC Council voted to cut \$25 million from United Medical Center budget and permanently close the hospital by January 2023. This action will cause mass layoffs for brothers and sisters represented by DCNA, SEIU 1199 and CWA. It will also cause a drastic cut in patient care services provided to the community. This will put the community at a greater risk. The final vote on this measure will take place Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 10am.

In addition, the District of Columbia City Council added an additional seven plus million to the DCPS education fund. That being said, we still are in need of additional funding. The schools that will be impacted the most by the lack of funding are located in some communities that need it most.

### **Affiliate Meetings**

IUOE Local 99: On Friday, May 3, 2019, I was invited by International Union of Operating Engineers Local 99 Business Agent, Don Havard to provide a political presentation to some of their membership. We discussed the importance of voting their interests on issues that are affecting them and their family's everyday plight. We also discussed "Staying Woke" the importance of staying engaged in their community, becoming more active in community and strategically how to do it. In addition, we discussed the need to position ourselves to take on more leadership roles in the communities in which we live and how this can be a benefit to the overall labor movement.

AFSCME District Council 20: On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, AFSCME Council 20 Executive Director, Andrew Washington and I convened a conference call with Councilmember Silverman office to discuss restoring the five hundred thousand dollars that was recommended by the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development to be re-appropriated. Our concern is the re-appropriation of these funds will have a serious impact when labor unions are at the table negotiating their Collective Bargaining Agreements with the city. We are concerned that these re-appropriations of funds will give the Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining the opportunity to use this action as a tool and tactic in negotiations to proclaim that there will be less money to be used for raises. Silverman's office suggested we also express our concerns to the Chairman of the District of Columbia City Council, Phil Mendelson. As a result, Executive Director Andrew Washington sent an email to Chairman Mendelson conveying our concerns and asked for the funds to be restored. Currently, we are awaiting his response.

IATSE Local 22: Over the next month, IATSE Local 22 president, Chuck Clay and I will continue to reconvene meetings with DC Councilmembers to further educate our political officials and galvanize support for Special Event Safety Certification Act of 2019. This legislation would ensure that all sponsors and promoters for Special Events within the District of Columbia would use both: (a) Responsible, qualified staging companies to provide staging and

event support services; and (b) Properly trained technical and craft personnel used for erecting, maintaining and dismantling stages and other equipment and systems needed for Special Events.

OPEIU Local 2: Over the next month OPEIU Local 2 representative Michael Spiller and I will continue to convene meetings with DC Councilmembers to discuss the public safety issues concerning the District of Columbia Circulator system. Currently, the DC Circulator is in the process of trying to reduce their road supervisors from 15 to 8. This reduction will create a situation where supervisors will have to work additional shifts and longer hours; which would cause undue stress and ultimately put residents at risk. . This management company has not fulfilled the promises it made to the District of Columbia when they obtained the contract.

Constituency Committee: On Saturday, April 27, 2019, I attended the A. Phillip Randolph (APRI) Luncheon to provide a brief update on the Education and Healthcare issues that is having a negative impact on our region. Also, I spoke about the importance of becoming more engaged in your community and how truly understanding the issues that's affecting its everyday plight can be a benefit in moving our labor movement forward.

#### Committee Meetings

Healthcare Committee : On April 27, 2019, I also attended the DC Healthcare Justice Coalition Ward 8 community Townhall meeting. The purpose of my attendance was an to support the coalition's efforts in galvanizing additional support from residents, and educating them on the lack of services this potential new East End hospital will provide their community. We still have a lot of work to do in order to educate and galvanize the support we need from the communities that will be most impacted.

Education Committee: The Metropolitan Washington Education Committee meeting met on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. We had an in-depth discussion concerning the lack of public school funding and the impact it's having on our most neglected communities. We also discussed, the lack of oversight and accountability there are for charter schools, and the impact its having on the public school systems within the region. In some cases, when a transfer student transfers to a charter school from a public school the funding for that student is transfers as well. But, if the student transfers back to a public school in that same year the funding stay at the charter school which creates a hardship and lack of resources for that public school.

Currently, we are looking to identify what they have done in other areas to bring a resolution to some of these injustices through legislation and other initiatives. We will keep you posted.

District of Columbia CTE Program: The Metropolitan Washington Council is continuing to work with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and some of the Labor Council affiliates to identify opportunities for Labor to participate in the District of Columbia Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. If your local has an interest in participating, please let me know as soon as possible.

#### Legislative Update

Amalgamated Transit Union 689 – Better safety for Transit Workers/

On April 17, 2019, I attended a meeting with Councilmember Anita Bonds office to discuss an initiative concerning better safety laws for transit workers. We also discussed the possibilities of incorporating some of our other union workers represented by AFSCME and AFGE under this same initiative. Currently, we are in the process of scheduling additional meetings to have further discussions.

Prince George's County - Committee on Political Education (COPE):

The Committee will be convening a conference call on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 10am. We will be discussing issues and legislative initiatives affiliates may need assistance within Prince George's and Montgomery County. We will also be discussing initiatives and campaigns that may be on affiliates radar for the upcoming fall. In addition, we will provide an update on some of the potential trainings that we are contemplating offering and hear about trainings you would like to have provided.

TriCounty - Committee on Political Education (COPE): The TriCounty Committee on Political Education next meeting will be convened on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. We ask all affiliates who have members that live or work in the TriCounty area to come out and participate in the meetings. The TriCounty area is one of the fast growing areas in the United States and the COPE meeting provides you with a great opportunity to learn why you should be vested.

Office of Attorney General District of Columbia's Labor Advisory Committee: On Thursday, April 18, 2019, I attended the Office of Attorney General Labor Advisory Committee. The focus of the meeting discussion concerned:

Construction Companies – Wage /Hour and Worker Misclassification

Restaurants – Wage/Hour and Tipping Issues

Delayed Arbitration Awards after Ruling

Concern of one hearing officer overseeing four unions within the District of Columbia Public School System

Washington Teachers Union (DC): On Monday, April 29, 2019, I attended the Washington Teachers Union press conference. The press conference shed light on the countless arbitration rulings that the District of Columbia government has failed to adhere to. WTU and MPD did an excellent job outlining the hardship that many of members endure due to the District government's blatant attempt to not comply with judgments of the arbitrator. The District government continuously appealing these rulings as a stall tactic which only further causes financial harm to our members. In some cases our members have lost their families, homes and even died before they ever received their just compensation.

AFL-CIO 2019 Northeast District Meeting/Growing Our Movement Empowering Our Communities:

On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, I attended the 2019 - AFL-CIO Northeast District meeting on Providence, Rhode Island. The focus of the meeting outlined how investing more in our communities, internal organizing and effective communication provides an overall benefit for the labor movement. It also better prepares us for ongoing challenges that we have to endure.

Listed below are a few of the following programmatic workshops that were offered: State and Local Legislation: Take Charge of your Capitol and Win for Workers; Electing Union Members – Building our Power; Reverse the Decline in Union Density – Goals that Matter; Power to Win – Worksite Organizing Programs that Deliver; Communicating About Labor in 2019; Technology and Data Tools; Holding the 116th Congress Accountable Here are a few of the following Union Economy Workshops that were offered: Membership Has Its Benefits: Maximizing the Union's Value with Union Plus, American Income Life and Bank of Labor; Investing in Ourselves: The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust and ULLICO—Harnessing Pension Capital for Real Estate Development and Union Job Creation; Working America: The Labor Movement's Bridge to Community; Workforce Issues and Stronger Unions (WISU) The AFL-CIO and United Way Partnership: Making It Stronger for Greater Impact in Our Communities; Common Sense Economics—Engaging Members: Tools for Local Unions, State Federations and Central Labor Councils; Look Outdoors to Engage, Organize and Win!