

Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting: September 28, 2021



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Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting Agenda
June 29, 2021 (via Zoom)

<https://aflcio.zoom.us/join/91234567890>

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 5:00pm | Call to Order: President Forester
<i>Moment of Silence</i> |
| 5:05pm | Code of Conduct – Gina Walton |
| 5:10pm | Approval of Minutes- Lisa Wilsonia Blackwell-Brown, Secretary |
| 5:15pm | President’s Report- Dyana Forester

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evening with Labor - Sharing plans for the 2020 postpone event
• Courageous Conversations Series - As Labor struggles to take positions on key social justice issue, we are planning a series of discussion on the following topics to help inform the MWC council future positions:
COVID-Vaccination Mandate & State of Work
Criminal Justice & Increased Violence in our Community
Legalization of Cannabis
Climate Justice & Worker’s Right
<i>These conversations will engage a panel of advocates, experts and union leaders discuss each topic, policy solutions and how some unions are responding within their own union</i> |
| 5:30pm | Program Area Reports

Political/Legislative – David Stephen
Union City – Chris Garlock
CAP – Tonya Love
CSA – Letycia Pastrana |
| 6:00pm | Affiliate Reports |
| 6:30pm | New Business-Motions to be considered |
| 7:00pm | Adjourn |

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: June 2021

Continued mobilization around the DC Budget and supported the passage of legislation impacting our affiliates. Key victories: stopped plans to delay the development of a new bus lot for AFSCME District 20 bus drivers. Supported the expansion of Paid Family Leave and the redirection of funds for unemployment payment for workers who had delayed payments and other items highlighted in the Political and Legislative report.

Worked with our Communication team to update our logo and increase on online visibility on Facebook and Twitter.

Over the summer we worked to finalize the Bank of Labor Lockbox system and support the orientation of CSA new Executive Director.

Meet with union leaders and elected officials to better understand our affiliates and the political landscape.

Convened meetings with our public sector unions and DC public school unions to support labor's collective response to the vaccination mandate and DCPS return to in-person learning

Participated in the following speaking engagements to represent the MWC:



Paid Leave for All Press Conference with fellow advocates (left)

Mayor's Press

Conference to announce new COVID-19 Policies (right)



Unite Here 23 Rally to Support Workers Rights to Return to Work at the Sheraton (below left)



Participated in 2021 MACO (bottom right)





Spoke at rallies to support our efforts for DC Statehood and the protection of voter rights (left)

Claimant Advocacy Program Report

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

Additional tasks:

- In addition to the escalation process for CAP/DOES to address union members' issues with wage credits issues, CAP continues to work with points of contact in MD and VA to help escalate claim issues.
- CAP followed up with DOES to discuss the end of federal programs, system constraints affecting many claimants, and significant claims backlog.
- CAP met with DOES regarding the computer upgrades to gain information regarding expectations in the future.
- CAP worked with MWC, DOES, OCP and OTR to provide updates and corrections for the MWC.

Summary:

1. CAP continues to assist union and non-union members in accessing the UI system in DC, with multiple emails, calls, and texts to POCs at DOES. Additionally, we have continued to avail ourselves to POC in MD and VA for all matters related to claims in those states.
2. We have invoiced consistently well over the summer months.
3. We have continued to work effectively with the DOES General Counsel's office to resolve claims.
4. We are still working with individuals with interstate claims and extension of claims issues. These are issues affecting/impacting members of IASTE 22, UNITE HERE 25, and 32BJ members.
5. We are working with Council members, legal service providers, and others regarding sharing updates on the end of the federal UI programs, OAH deadlines, and rule changes.

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

Letycia Pastrana, Executive Director

2021 Emergency Assistance Contributions

Thank you to the below affiliates who have made contributions to date. The MWC affiliate support for the CSA Emergency Assistance Fund is important. According to Emergency Assistance policy, affiliates who do not contribute are not eligible to refer members who need assistance.

The minimum contribution is \$300. Please work with your boards to provide your best contribution.

AFGE Local 32 \$500	IUOE Local 99 \$500
AFGE Local 476 \$600	IUPAT District Council No. 51 \$300
AFGE Local 2798 \$2500.	LiUNA! Baltimore Washington \$300
AFSCME Council 20 \$7,300	National Nurses United \$1,410
ATU Local 689 \$10,000	SEIU Local 32BJ \$500
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen DC \$1,000	SEIU Local 722 \$1,000
Dan Fields \$500	SEIU MD/DC State Council \$1,000
Susan Flashman/Richard Bissell IBEW \$100 (In Memory of Liz Davis)	SMART Local 100 \$300
District of Columbia Nurses Association \$300	Staff Professional & Clerical Association \$1,000
IATSE Local 22 \$1,000	Teamsters Local 639 \$5,000
IUOE Local 77 \$500	UNITE HERE Local 25 \$1,000

The Community Services Agency has Launched the 2021 Holiday Gift Basket Program



The need for holiday assistance is great this year, especially considering the economic hardship that COVID-19 is causing for so many working families. We currently have a list of families requesting holiday assistance. Each year, you as leaders in the Metropolitan Washington Council, step up to help asset limited union and community working families to put food on their tables and purchase necessities for the holidays, like coats, hats, and gloves. This year, CSA will be providing our families in need, Food Cards to maintain distance and adhere to safety measures in the AFL-CIO building.

Last year, with your help, we provided holiday support (union grocery and discount store cards) to 52 needy families. Your generosity also helped to adopt five (5) families! Please contact Letycia Pastrana at lpastrana@dclabor.org or 678-429-8174.

Three ways to help:

1. Make financial contributions to CSA earmarked for "Holiday Gift Baskets"
2. Contribute grocery store gift cards from area union grocers or discount store (except Walmart)
3. Adopt a Family – Provide gift cards, toys, clothes, etc.

Contribution deadlines are:

- **Thursday, November 12th for Thanksgiving**
- **Friday, December 10th for Christmas**

Please mail contributions and gift cards to Community Services Agency, 815 Black Lives Matters Plaza, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006.

If you have members who are seriously in need and have not received help in the past, please **complete and email the attached referral form** Letycia at lpastrana@dclabor.org .

Referral deadlines are:

- **Thursday, November 4th for Thanksgiving**
- **Friday, December 3rd for Christmas**

If your affiliate would like to adopt a family, please email lpastrana@dclabor.org or call 202-679-2991.

CSA Launches Holiday Gift Basket Program - We need your support!

[CSA launches Holiday Basket Program - Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO \(dclabor.org\)](#)

CSA - Union Bowling Tournament - January 30, 2022

Scheduled for January 30, 2022

Crofton Bowling Center,

2115 Priest Bridge Drive, Crofton, Maryland

Registration will begin October 11, 2021

Contact: Letycia Pastrana, lpastrana@dclabor.org

Washington Football Team - Labor Union Day at FedEx, November 29, 2021

The Washington Football Team will provide a discount ticket code for the November 29th, game (Washington Football vs. Seahawks) with a portion of the proceeds going to CSA from the sales.

Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program Activities

CSA's Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program recruited, pre-screened, provided pre-apprenticeship training to 15 District of Columbia residents between 18 to 24 years of age and graduated a total of 12 in the DOES FY21 sponsored cycle. All the participants expressed an interest in exploring building and construction trades careers. In collaboration with DOES Office of Apprenticeship, Information and Training (OAIT), CSA plans to reach quarterly program outcomes in partnership with union Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) registered apprenticeship programs, which are apprenticeship programs registered with the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland, seeking to enter program graduates into the full registered apprenticeship program and construction jobs upon graduation.

The Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program is conducted out of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 891 in Washington DC. CSA administered the Test in Adult Basic Education for identification of grade level equivalency in reading comprehension and math, conducted drug-testing of all applicants and provided all



students with a case management assessment and case management services to assist in elimination of barriers to employment, and job development and placement with post-placement retention assistance to ensure successful entry into apprenticeship and employment upon program completion. CSA provided comprehensive job readiness preparation including rights and responsibilities on the job, cultural diversity and awareness, conflict resolution, orientation to the trades and similar topics during the first two-weeks of the class. The JAC provided the industry-specific

occupational skills which will prepare youth (18- 24) and women for immediate acceptance into registered apprenticeship and ability to start work with signatory contractors. Industry-recognized certifications provided during this youth cycle included OSHA 10, CPR, First Aid and AED, Scaffold User, Flagger Safety Training and Traffic Control. The 3-week construction pre-apprenticeship program met projected outcomes on schedule. Just coming out from the pandemic, with months of social inactivity, lack of employment and plenty of unknowns, young adults in the program needed time to adjust to a regular in-person schedule, classroom, and hands-on activities. The group thrived during teamwork and hands-on practice where they learned about construction, the different trades, tools, and materials as well as preparing surfaces for concrete, mixing, pouring, and finishing concrete, all useful work skills when hired to work at a construction site.

Some of the students faced family issues and others discovered that this type of work was not what they were looking for but by the end of the program those who chose to follow through were engaged and clearly focused on their short and long-term career goals.

Success Story: Part of the program success can be attributed to a client-centered approach we use with group and individualized career guidance, case management and financial support strategies. Our “speaker series”, for example, used as a forum for former graduates who are now working and in registered apprenticeship programs, showcases their career success and newly acquired economic self-sufficiency in front of their peers. Graduates feel empowered, and students get to see themselves reflected on the speakers’ experiences. One of them, Anthony, began our program when he was 22 yrs. old and had just come back from several years of incarceration in a federal prison. He did well in the program, enjoyed doing concrete and bonded with the cement masons’ instructor. Jobs were slow at the time of graduation, but he kept in contact with us. One day, I heard that the cement masons had sent a new apprentice to a job at a nuclear plant in southern Maryland and that their candidate had tested positive for illegal substances. Not good. I asked if we could call another candidate to replace him. Yes, I was told, but under one condition: that person should report to the local in less than an hour. I



called Anthony, and it only took him 20 min to arrive to the local and be dispatched to the construction site. The rest is history, Anthony is now 26 and works as a foreman for Clark Concrete. The apprenticeship opportunity and the work experience he is having as a result has helped him mature and gain confidence in himself. He now mentor's other workers who are young and seek guidance from him. We are proud of his achievements and hope that many more can follow his tracks.

Photo: Ricky Gassaway, JCM Contractors, Greenleaf Family Enhancement Center meeting, Panelist and Graduate of Building Futures through the Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO.

COPE

David Stephen, Political & Legislative Director

Activism:

June 28 American Jobs Plan rally

August 21 Fighting for Our Vote Rally

August 28 March On for Voting Rights DC

DC Statehood:

Sign on Your Support with Sen Tom Carper for DC Statehood and share with your members: <https://t.co/uZ6hQhM7qp>



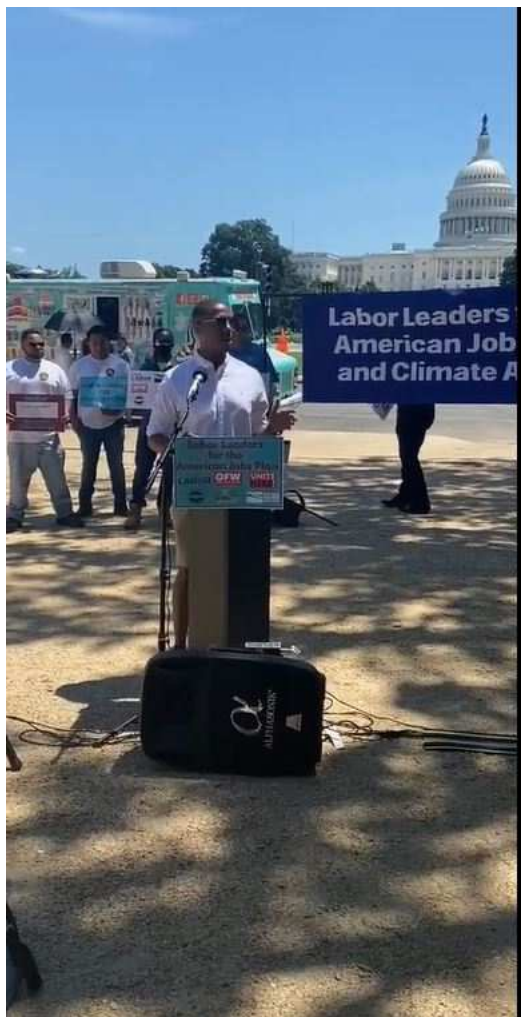
Montgomery/Prince George's & Tri-County COPE:

Finalizing planning on 2022 election calendars and candidate education forums for the fall.

Oct 6 Montgomery/Prince George's COPE meeting register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrcuGgpzsrGdZ0AFwiWdo2phnJspLzF8MO>

Tri-County COPE Date/Location TBD



DC COPE:

Action Items

- New Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights (B24-0170).
See sign-on letter: [here](#)
- Letter in support of IATSE to use union workers at civil rights marches and rallies

Upcoming DC Council hearings

Sept 29: Redistricting: B24-0371, the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021

See announcement for hearing [here](#)

Budget Highlights

[B24-0275 - Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021](#)

[B24-0285 - Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021](#)

- Homes and Hearts Amendment Act of 2021
Status: passed
- Funding for DCPS full-time librarians
Status: passed
- Release of survey on impact of teacher evaluation tool
Status: passed
- Hero Pay:
Status: failed

- W Street Project
Status: failed
- Paid Family Leave Expansion
- Excluded Worker Payment Amendment Act of 2021 (additional \$41 million in funding for excluded workers)

Next DC COPE meeting October 12. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMIcuurrzooGtbzEX5qYIXLMdkCQoMndW9z> [Copy](#)
[Invit](#)

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

Union City e-newsletter

Produced, published and distributed latest local and national labor news on the MWC's Union City newsletter throughout June, July and August; all reports posted [here](#)

Your Rights At Work

**(WPFW 89.3FM,
Thursdays from 1-2p)**

Major topics included "Remembering Richard Trumka" (8/12), "No contracts, no snacks!" Nabisco strike (8/26); "On the line with striking bakers and barbers" (9/9) and many more.



Union City Radio

Produced Union City Radio reports airing 7:15a weekdays on WPFW 89.3FM and on the [UCR podcast](#).



MWC affiliate support

Provided as needed, including updating affiliate info and delegates, coordinating solidarity/mobilization efforts and publicizing through Union City, UC Radio, Your Rights At Work and social media.

MWC: Worked with the president to update the MWC logo, carry out the affiliate arrears project and implement the Bank of Labor Lockbox system.

MWC check log-in: Opened, sorted, logged in MWC mail and checks. Coordinated mail pick-up/drop-off with MWC staff.

Database updates: Updated MWC and LaborKey databases as necessary.

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

MWC social media

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



MWC website

Posted affiliate news/updates on our [website](#). Latest website traffic report: 4.3K users in May.



Labor Radio Podcast Network

Coordinated network that now includes **130+** labor radio and podcast programs, including weekly meetings; produced/hosted Labor Radio Podcast Weekly.

2020-21 MWC Directory

Maintained updates to the database, [online directory](#), and LaborKey.

Evening with Labor

Supported EWL Committee in updating plans for the 2021 event.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO

DELEGATE MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2021

Scheduled: 5-7PM (**Actual meeting time:** 5:11PM – 6:47PM)

Call to Order and Welcome: President Forester

Code of Conduct: Chris Garlock

Approval of Minutes: Lisa Blackwell-Brown

Motion – Ann Hoffman

Motion Seconded – Tom Clark

No Discussion

Call the Question – to accept the minutes as presented

Motions Passes – unanimously

President's Report: President Forester

- Deep into the DC budget fight; surprising victory; Council member Silverman will be joining today's meeting to discuss her budget report coming out of committee
- Presentation done by the AFL-CIO to the Executive Board on coms support available to local affiliates
- Address has changed for per capita payments only
- Staff were not able to take vacation, so the ability to take vacation was extended to July
- When endorsing campaigns, want to ensure that doing everything thing to move it forward; worked with Ann Hoffman regarding DC statehood
- Attended discussions about voter suppressions laws
- Governor Hogan decided to not continue the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program; working with affiliates to coordinate a collective response to the Governors decision to end those benefits; looking at efforts that were put in place to protect workers during COVD, these same things need to stay in place as moving through the recovery; Donna Edwards will be joining
- Support the education community that is experiencing RIFs; meeting with the Chancellor to address this matter; need to look at the process at how certain positions are slated to be RIFed
- Evening with Labor (EWL) – rescheduled to November 2021; will meet in person; discussions at the Board meeting on how to put together the program; important to acknowledge the 2019 recipients; also acknowledge the loss of labor leaders in Andrew Washington and Liz Davis
- Put out an invitation to do site visits for different industries as a part of a listening project; inviting everyone that wants to do so join one of the different committees i.e., hospitality, education

Financial Report: President Forester

Eric Bunn, Treasurer, is away at a conference and the financial report will be held until the September meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

COPE: David Stephen

- Budgeting efforts around DC budget; working on Hero Pay (hazard pay) and the protection and expansion of the paid family leave program; Chuck Clay and others lobbied nine Council members and actually spoke with seven Council members about the Hero pay and the paid family leave program as well as federal funding to re-open entertainment venues; labor was well represented during these lobby efforts; many of the Council members seemed receptive; it was very well done
- Debrief meeting will be scheduled
- Ann Hoffman – DC Statehood – rally where President Forester spoke and people from Alaska attended to lobby Sen. Murkowski; a hearing in the Senate; Republicans claim that DC is too rich and prominent to be a state
- *Council member Silverman* – budget process was delayed; preview of what is going to be in the Labor Committee’s recommendations to the full Council:
 1. Hero’s Pay – has recommended and found funding for \$5 million for hero’s pay through the American Plan Act funds which are within the purview of the Labor Committee
 2. Recommend to the Council that both individual workers and businesses need to be assisted, i.e., for unemployed workers - a \$1500 stimulus payment, complete the application for rental housing assistance (\$500), make UI not subject to the income tax
 3. Assistance to the business that employ the workers - \$20 million in grants to help with back rent to small, local, minority businesses
 4. \$10 million to hospitality and travel industry – need to make sure that the money goes to workers; is keeping the entertainment industry in mind going forward
 5. Paid leave – triple medical leave for workers in the private sector – increase to six weeks; so, will have eight weeks of parental leave, six weeks of medical leave, six week of family leave; writing into law a “turn on” that if there is any extra money available, this will turn on extra benefits; hoping to get to twelve, twelve and twelve
 - Starting tomorrow, the Committees will mark-up their budgets and their purview- a recommendation to Chairman Mendelson what to do with the Mayor’s proposal; the Chairman Mendelson has two+ weeks before bringing the budget to the full Council; Chairman Mendelson was cool to the idea of Hero’s Pay
 - Going to need help from MWC

President Donna Edwards – there are those that want to use Unemployment Insurance (UI) as a hammer to get employees back into certain jobs; pulled together the Unions concerned about UI and all that has happened with that; speaker Adrienne Jones has led Policing and COVID workgroups; want to propose broad issue areas that deserve deeper dives with the ability to testify in front of the workgroup; UFCW 400 and AFSCME 3 have sent in comments; UI

oversight committee meeting; House Bill 10-02 took effect June 1st but it was obvious that the intent was misunderstood; want to raise the minimum weekly

Community Service Agency (CSA): President Forester

- Hired a new Executive Director

QUESTION –

Saul S. – does the CSA have a separate board? Possible interest in being on the board

- President Forester – yes

Union Cities: Chris Garlock

- Will have a story on the new CSA Executive Director in tomorrow's Union Cities
- Strathmore update – **Barbara Churchill** – IATSE Local 868 – continue to struggle to get a contract for the employees; grateful to the support received at the demonstration that was held; want to do away with all the full-time positions and make everyone part-time permanently; willing to negotiate temporary economic concessions but will not give up full-time positions; management declared impasse at the last meeting and gave a deadline before giving LBAFO; Union argued not at impasse and management has decided to come back to the table
- Scabby the Rat, Fatty the Cat – song compliments of a musicians local from Cleveland
- 2021 DC Labor Film Fest wrapped up June 6th.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Affiliate Updates

1. **Dan Fields** – SEIU Local 722 – just finished negotiating with Washington Hospital Center and increases and ratification bonuses were included; other pertinent, important language was negotiated and the contract is for four years
2. **Ann Hoffman** – kid in college, fantastic internship for the summer at Planned Parenthood in Metropolitan of Washington; email Ann if you want more info.
3. **Saul S.** – Great Labor Arts Exchange – four Joe Hill award winners; program was online; folks that believe that at this time in our labor movement, it is important to inspire people, specifically employees

Adjournment

Motion – Dan Fields

Motion Seconded – Robert Hollingsworth

Meeting adjourned @ 6:47PM