

Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting: October 26, 2021



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Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Delegate Meeting Agenda
October 26, 2021 (via Zoom)

<https://aflcio.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudeGgqjloH9xwCJ6ljM1K-72Ag5tTbWVK>

5:00pm	Call to Order – President Forester
5:05pm	Code of Conduct – Gina Walton
5:10pm	Approval of Minutes – Lisa Wilsonia Blackwell-Brown, Secretary
5:15pm	Treasurer’s Report – Eric Bunn, Treasurer
5:20pm	President’s Report – Dyana Forester
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: October 26, 2021

This month my work was focused in the following areas:

Preparing for 2021 Evening with Labor:

- Updated our annual program outreach materials and added an online registration process using google forms and Eventbrite
- Secured commitments from major sponsors including new sponsors
- Finalized logistics to offer a virtual and in-person program

Participation with Community Organization

- Joined the Utility Consumer Advocacy Network (UCAN) board and participated in the Office of the People's Council Climate Justice forum
- Participated in Employee Prince's George's quarterly board meeting and attended the opening of the 1st American Job Center at the National Harbor
- Attended community events with Prince George's County Council Chair Calvin Hawkins and State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy

Supporting our affiliates:

- Met with DC and PGC government officials applying for Build Back Better grant to ensure labor is included in the planning and implementation
- Joined NOVA Labor's GOTV efforts and ensure we were supporting VA GOTV efforts
- Continuing to organize and supporting our affiliates to address concerns around vaccination mandates
- Monitored redistricting efforts in DC and MD by participating in community meetings in Ward 7/8 and observing hearings in PGC and DC

Other Highlights:

- Planned and hosted our 1st Courageous Conversation event 10/22
- Presented at the MD State NAACP Conference
- Met with a number of candidates running for Ward 5 (DC), MD AG and Congress
- Organized a letter of support for Build Back Better legislation which included quotes from our Congressional representatives

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.
- We are working with the DOL task force regarding new updates and issues regarding UI.
- Working with OAG and DOES regarding invalid/fraud claims and identity theft.

Summary:

1. CAP has consulted with, advised, and represented many individuals with claims and UI cases in the District of Columbia. All matters were invoiced per the contract with the DC government.
2. 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 related to unemployment claims in those states.
3. We have continued to work effectively with the DOES to resolve matters via mediation.
4. We are still working with individuals with interstate claims and extension of claims issues.
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.

November 29th, 2021 - DC Labor Day at the Fed Ex Stadium: Washington Football Team vs. Seattle Seahawks



Fundraiser - The Washington Football Team will host the DC Labor Day at the Fed Ex Stadium. The Washington Football will donate \$10.00 per ticket sold. The cost per ticket ranges from \$35.00 - \$225.00 (only four tickets left at this price). If you purchase ten tickets or more, you will receive an additional discount. To purchase game tickets, [click here](#) or check out the Union City [story/link here](#).

Please contact Chris Carter directly at (301) 276-6713, or email Christopher.Carter@washingtonfootball.com or Letycia Pastrana, lpastrana@dclabor.org if you have any questions or require special seating arrangements.

**The Community Services Agency 2021
Holiday Gift Program**

CSA needs you! 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, Giant Food Cards to maintain distance and adhere to safety measures in the AFL-CIO building. To date, CSA has received ten (10) family referrals that need assistance. We currently have two (2) - family holiday adoptions and three (3)- financial contributions).



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: Thursday, November 4th for Thanksgiving or Friday, December 3rd for Christmas

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

Building Futures, Apprenticeship Readiness Program Updates

In September 2021, CSA conducted the following classes: a three- day certifications, two days for OSHA, and one day for flagging to a class of eight job-ready candidates with work experience. The unique class format design was implemented to increase employment placement by attracting drug-free students with significant work experience, who did not require the 5-week apprenticeship readiness program. Four of the students immediately hired - including two as apprentices at the Local 891, two students accepted flagging positions for Positive Construction Solutions, and a fifth (Temesha) is currently interviewing for a position.



Program Manager Position: On Thursday, October 21, 2021, two interviews scheduled for the Building Futures Program Manager position. The Building Futures consultants, Gajdosik and Keith Willis will participate in the interview process. Also, Jennifer and Keith's responsibilities have temporarily increased due to the absence of a program manager and in preparation for the upcoming class. We contacted area nonprofits, community partners, and grantors to promote the class, scheduled to begin October 25, 2021. Actively recruiting students.



Partnerships in the Works

A partnership with **Howard University** to support the Building Futures, Apprenticeship Readiness Program is in progress. Currently, CSA is finalizing an agreement with Howard University to offer Substance Prevention/ Education Classes (2) during the 5-week, Building Futures program.

A Partnership with the **Bank of Labor** to offer basic financial literacy workshop/s to students participating in the Building Futures Program is in progress.

A partnership with **The Dream Center** located in Ward 7 offered to assist CSA recruit students for the Building Futures program, mentoring and other support services.

COPE

David Stephen, Political &
Legislative Director

District of Columbia – COPE

Meeting held: October 19, 2021 -
2:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Next meeting: November 9, 2021 –
2:00 pm (via Zoom)

[Register here.](#)



Legislative Updates:

Ranked Choice Voting
subcommittee meeting – Wed. Oct 20 – 2:00

- Recommendation: Council take no public position
- [B24-0372](#), THE “VOTER OWNERSHIP, INTEGRITY, CHOICE, AND EQUITY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021”
- Hearing date: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 09:30 am

Redistricting: Hearings being held throughout the month of October, for schedule [visit here](#):

- Recommendation: continue observation role and follow principles as outlined in statement drafted by the COPE committee

Upcoming DC Council hearings

[B24-0170](#) – “NEW STUDENT LOAN BORROWER BILL OF RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2021”

Hearing: October 25

DDOT Director confirmation hearing: Oct 26

- Everett Lott bio: <https://ddot.dc.gov/node/1374496>

Legislative updates

- COVID vaccination leave extension (pulled by CM Silverman) – See text here: <https://dccouncil.us/legislative-requests-for-october-5-2021-legislative-meeting/covid-vaccination-leave-fmla-sick-extension-eme-draft-for-circ/>
- Protecting Our Children Emergency Bill [see text here](#).
- **DC Statehood:** Joined in sign on letter with more than 30 co-signors asking Sen. Gary Peters (MI) to hold a mark-up for S.51

DC Statehood

Joined in sign on letter with more than 30 co-signors asking Sen. Gary Peters (MI) to hold a mark-up for S.51

Endorsement Calendar: Draft of endorsement calendar was discussed and agreed to be guiding document as we move into 2022.

[Link here.](#)



Prince George's/Montgomery COPE

Meeting held - October 14, 2021 - 2:00 pm (via Zoom)

Next meeting: November 11, 2021 – 2:00 pm (via Zoom)

[Register here.](#)

Political Update:

Election calendar reviewed; [Link here.](#)

The “Labor Education” Forum for Prince George’s and Montgomery County was discussed and speakers are beginning to be assigned. If your affiliate would like to participate in the program, please contact David Stephen at dstephen@dclabor.org

Legislative update

Montgomery County COVID Mandate held October 19 at 1:30 pm with testimony from UFCW 1994 MCGEO. Article appeared in Union City and testimony to be submitted.

Redistricting:

Montgomery County: vote on committee report, November 15

Prince George’s County: vote on proposed map, November 30

Tri-County COPE

Next meeting October 26; [Link here.](#)

Political and Legislative director has been meeting with affiliate political points of contact throughout October. Please contact David Stephen at dstephen@dclabor.org if you have not yet scheduled your meeting.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

Evening with Labor

Supported EWL Committee in carrying out/implementing plans for the [2021 event](#), coming up 11/12. **Ad deadline this Friday!**

MWC: Worked with the president to carry out the affiliate arrears project and 2021 Evening with Labor.

Union City e-newsletter

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



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

Major topics/guests included Working in DC: The musical! (9/2); On the line with striking bakers and barbers (9/9); Bad bosses, TSA worker rights & affordable housing (9/16); Sneak attack on worker rights; Oreo's OK again; Womxn's Labor Leadership Symposium (9/23); Striking Hollywood, more DC paid leave & boycotting the Merriweather Lakehouse (9/30).

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 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 nearly **150** 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.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL

DELEGATES MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2021

Scheduled: 5-7PM (**Actual meeting time:** 5:11PM – 6:24PM)

Call to Order and Welcome: President Forester

Moment of Silence: President Forester – to honor the life of George Farenthold’s mother who passed away

Code of Conduct: Chris Garlock

Approval of Minutes: Lisa Blackwell-Brown

Motion – Motion Seconded – No Discussion. Call the Question – Motions Passes –

Holding the Minutes to see if Lisa Blackwell-Brown can join the meeting.

Holding presentation of the Financial Report until the October 2021 meeting as Treasurer Eric Bunn is not able to be present.

President’s Report: President Forester

- Over the summer was able to meet with various Union leaders; heard a lot from Union leaders about having hard conversations with their membership
- Starting a Courageous Conversation series to include: COVID vaccination mandate and the state of work coming out of COVID; Legalization of Cannabis; and Criminal Justice & Increased Violence in our Communities
- Evening with Labor – folks wanted an in-person event, planned for November 12th; with the new variant and the increase in cases, the staff is reaching out to see if folks wanted to attend virtually; requiring proof of COVID vaccination or a negative test within 72-hours of the event; masks will be required

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

CAP: Tony Love, Program Director

- Handle the unemployment appeal cases at the Office of Administrative Hearings in DC
- Have been assisting all that have been having issues with a claim for benefits or filing a claim for benefits; individuals that have not received payments

- CAP has been invoicing fairly well over the summer; continuing to reach out to MD and VA for those matters that cannot be addressed in DC
- Engaged in discussions with various Council members in DC to determine next steps now that the federal programs have ended
- President Forrester – a budget amendment passed that will give a payment to folks that were delayed an unemployment payment in DC; should start October 1st and will be coming from DOES; will share information as MWC gets it

COPE: David Stephen

- **Two Action Pieces:**

1. IATSE Local 22 Letter – Chuck Clay – issue arose at a Voting Rights Rally in DC; Unions were affiliated with the rally and a non-Union crew was hired to do the sound and presentation at the rally; IATSE does this type of work; the letter makes a point to state that before anything is done which falls under the purview of IATSE Local 22, contact IATSE Local 22 to do the work as their contracts are scalable; end of the letter shows client list (affiliations), which is extensive
2. Student Borrow Protection Center – advocacy organization around student debt; it's a Debt Protection Bill – during COVID student loan repayments have been suspended which will end in December; a number of service providers are selling their loans to other companies; five protections that the bill will include are: will ensure affirmative actions from inquiries that are submitted to the new service providers; will prohibit debt collectors from any kind of misleading information to consumers; will move the student loan ombudsman under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General; adds a private of action so that borrowers can independently bring complaints forward; this is a way to support borrowers; letter is to ask outgoing Council member McDuffie to hold a hearing about moving the student loan ombudsman under the Attorney General

Motion to Support the Letter re: Debt Protection Bill – Chuck Clay

Motion Seconded – Dave Richardson

No Discussion

Calling the Question

Motion Passes – unanimously

- Monthly COPE meetings are happening starting in October
- President Forester – will be finalizing GOVT plans in the next meeting; want to make meaningful endorsements to candidates that share our values; will also be discussing member-to-member program

Community Service Agency (CSA): Letycia Pastrana, Executive Director

- Has close to 20-years of experience in working in the non-profit field in Virginia and Georgia; uses best practices in working with youth in underserved communities and their families; a grant writer and a resource development officer (a little over 10-years)
- Have launched the holiday gift baskets; have a list of ten families
- Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program is currently recruiting

- Bowling tournament at the Crofton Bowling Center

Union Cities: Chris Garlock

- Nabisco workers won their national strike
- **IATSE Local 22 – Chuck Clay** – possible national strike upcoming; asking for livable wages; reasonable rest during meal breaks; enhancements in safety while at the workplace; projects that are paid less; sister Unions that have signed on in support DGA, SAG AFTRA, Teamsters and Writers Guild of America East; will be circulating a petition and this will be covered on the radio show
 - ✓ AFM issued a statement in support of IATSE members
- **Barbara Churchill** – IATSE Local 868 –
 - ✓ continue to struggle to get a contract for the employees, it's been a 2-year battle; 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; will be meeting with a mediator on October 5th and 6th
 - ✓ big win because the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra moved two of their September concerts from Strathmore to Baltimore because they were unwilling to cross another Union's picket line and work with replacement workers; have since moved three more concerts
 - ✓ trying an organizing campaign at CapitalOne Hall box office getting some Strathmore workers hired there, three employees have been hired thus far
- **Mike Wilson** – Local 400 – Kaiser situation, been in bargaining all year and it has been difficult; elective surgeries are down; are trying to force a two-tier wage system and the Union is resisting this
- **Clayton** – Unite Here – the Sheraton Columbia, Columbia, MD, Union hotel where a number of events were held; shut down for the pandemic and the owners re-opened under a different name and tried to hire non-Union employees; Catholic Labor Network and the NAACP are supporting a boycott over this matter
- **Michael Spiller** – OPIU Local 2 – organized using Zoom; Wildlife Defenders were organized as well as the ACCT and the DC Safe, all non-profit institutions; also organized Planned Parenthood and almost complete with the ACLU of Baltimore; having great success with non-profits

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Affiliate Updates

1. **Ed** – wanted to appreciate the notice in Union Cities regarding the MOU between the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center; were difficult negotiations and had to take some concessions; thanks to David McIntyre, IATSE Local 22 President and Barbara Churchill; were prepared to strike on September 15th
2. Booster shots are available for active, frontline workers

Adjournment: Motion – Motion Seconded – Chuck Clay

Meeting adjourned @ 6:24PM