

**Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
Executive Board Meeting: June 28, 2022
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Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO Delegate's Meeting

June 28, 2022

5pm-7pm



5:00 pm	Call to Order- President Forester
5:05 pm	Code of Conduct – Gina Walton
5:10 pm	Approval of Minutes- Lisa Wilsonia Blackwell-Brown, Secretary
5:20pm	President's Report
5:30pm	Treasurer's Report
5:30pm	Election Committee - Gina Walton & Ann Hoffman
	Swearing in of new officers
5:40pm	Program Area Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COPE• CSA• CAP• Union City
6:00pm	Affiliate Reports
6:15pm	New Business
6:30pm	Adjournment

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 is urged to contact a designee if you have any concerns.

For this meeting, Gina Walton is the designee. Please get in touch with her to express concerns.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT JUNE 28, 2022

Over the past month, the focus has been to work with our COPEs Chairs and Political & Legislative Director to develop and implement a plan to engage our union members in the upcoming Primary Elections in DC & MD.

In the area of Legislation, we have supported the following Executive Committees formed by Mayor Bowser. Unions representing specific areas of workers were appointed to serve on the committees by the President.

- Build Back Better
- Health Committee

Supporting our organizational oversight, we have finalized our 2020 Audit, convened a mid-year assessment, and developed a work plan for the remainder of 2022.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO 2022 MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT

MISSION

Serving as a unified voice for workers’ rights in the Metropolitan area by representing and promoting the interest of Labor unions and, ultimately, all workers. Committed to providing resources and capacity to strengthen our affiliated union’s ability to collectively bargain, represent their members, and grow the labor movement.

VISION

Our local economy creates employment opportunities that provide workers with fair and just wages, benefits, the ability to retire, and a voice on the job through collective bargaining, ultimately allowing our community to work and thrive without further displacement and disfranchisement.

CURRENT STATE

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO has a history that evolved around long-serving leadership and staff. In 2015, decisions were made that shifted the organizational structure, and since then, there have been three different Presidents, after decades of just one. In addition, due to the changes in organizational structure and fluxes in leadership, program areas have operated independently and with little strategic oversight. It is essential that our program areas remain focused on the mission of the organization.

In 2020, when we returned to a full-time President, the immediate priority was to stabilize the organizational structure and finances and provide direction to program areas.

Now two years later, we have accomplished our goal of stabilizing the organization and successfully positioned the Metropolitan Washington Council at the center of regional politics, putting us in position to be a valuable resource to all our affiliates.

WHAT'S NEXT.....

- To grow, we need to evaluate our work and ensure our program areas and organizational structure are meeting the needs of all affiliates. We will need committees to evaluate and recommend changes to our finance and governance.
- We need to develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide our work. The entire board and other stakeholders will need to undertake the work of establishing a long-term strategic plan. This will take additional capacity and specific expertise; all board members and stakeholders must invest time and resources to accomplish this goal.
- We are making some immediate and necessary shifts to focus our program work on the council's mission

This year we will:

- Create synergy between all our program areas to ensure we fulfill our mission of supporting our affiliates and growing the labor movement.
- Update our means of communication- website, database, and social media
- Build a comprehensive political program that demonstrates the power of our unions
- Develop a Long-Term Strategic Plan focused on our mission and vision

Key Organization Events & Activities

JULY

- Board & Delegate's Meeting Summer Recess
- MD Primary Election
- Convene Committees- COPEs, EWL, Personnel, and Financial
- Updating Website and Directory
- DC Executive Committees

AUGUST

- MD & DC General Election
- Continuation of committee's work
- Preparation for returning to In-Person Work
- Board Training & Social

- Continuation of DC's Executive Committees
- MACO

SEPTEMBER

- Launch of DC/MD GOTV
- DC City Council Reconvenes- Recommendations from Committees to Council
- Office Reopening
- Board & Delegate Meetings reconvene
- CSA Golf Tournament

OCTOBER

- GOTV
- MD State AFL-CIO Convention
- EWL
- Strategic Planning for 2023

NOVEMBER

- GOTV & EWL Continue
- Strategic Planning continued

DECEMBER

- Planning for 2023- Strategic Planning and Budget Prep
- Training of Newly Elected Officials
- Developing MD Leg Agenda

Political & Legislative

On Saturday, labor showed up in full force at the Poor People’s Campaign Moral March on Washington. Members from 1199SEIU and SEIU VA 512 marched in solidarity with the millions of working people across the United States that are fighting for a better future. Ricarra Jones, Political Director of 1199SEIU, spoke with us at the march, saying: “Working people are the ones who keep this country moving forward. The things we fight for -- living wages, full benefits, safe working conditions -- should not be for a privileged few. It should be the standard.”

Election Wrap Up

After a comprehensive endorsement process led by our DC COPE and Political & Legislative Director, we worked swiftly to pull together a mobilization plan to help get our labor-endorsed candidates elected. With our affiliate unions’ support, we reached nearly 4,000 union households through mailers, phone banks, and canvassing. We worked to ensure Labor’s presence was felt in the election.

We are excited to share that candidates endorsed by the Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO won their respective races.

June 11th Labor GOTV Door Knock



Election Day



Members of UNITE HERE Local 25 worked the polls on election day with President Forester and COPE Co-Chair Sam Epps.



President Dyana Forester and Metro Washington Council endorsed candidates are all smiles across the District on Election Day. June 27, 2022

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

COPE Six Month Plan and 2022 Election Plan

Prepared By: Dejah Desiree Williams

Mission Statement: Serving as a unified voice for workers' rights in the Metropolitan area by representing and promoting the interest of Labor unions and, ultimately, all workers. Committed to providing resources and capacity to strengthen our affiliated union's ability to collectively bargain, represent their members, and grow the labor movement.

July

- Maryland Primary Election
 - Date: July 19, 2022
 - (See detailed plan below)

August

- MACO Convention
 - Dates: August 17 - 18, 2022
 - Attendees: Dyana Forester and Dejah Williams
- General Election Endorsement Process
 - General Election Planning
 - Dates: September - November
 - M - Political and Legislative Director
 - O - Political and Legislative Director
 - C - Chris Garlock (Council Communications)
 - H - Sam Epps (Prince George's and Montgomery County COPE Co-Chair) and possible relief staff from council affiliates.
 - A - President Dyana Forester

September

- General Election Labor to Labor Campaign Launch
- COPE Meetings
 - D.C.- Third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
 - Tri-County - Third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
 - Prince George's County - Third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- District of Columbia City Council resumes

October

- Maryland State and District of Columbia, AFL-CIO Biennial Convention
 - Date: October 13 - 15, 2022
 - Location: Baltimore
- Evening with Labor Gala
 - Date: TBD
 - Location: TBD
- General Election Labor to Labor Campaign (Continued)
- COPE Meetings
 - D.C.- Third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
 - Tri-County - Third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

- Prince George's County - Third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

November

- General Election Labor to Labor Campaign GOTV
- COPE Meetings
 - D.C.- Third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
 - Tri-County - Third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
 - Prince George's County - Third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Political and Legislative Planning for 2023

December

- Political and Legislative Planning for 2023

2022 Primary Election Plan

To consolidate resources and maximize resources the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO will join the Maryland State and District of Columbia in their Labor to Labor Program. The Maryland Primary Election Labor 2 Labor program will focus on statewide candidates and the down ballot on running for county office.

High Stake Races:

Prince George's County

- District 2: Wanika Fisher
- District 6: Wala Blegay
- District 7: Krystal Oriadha

Montgomery County

- County Executive Marc Elrich
- District 5: Daniel Koroma

Phonebank

- **Monday, July 11** - Wanika Fisher
- **Wednesday, July 13** - TBD (Charles County?)

Canvassing

- **Saturday, July 9** - Wala Blegay
 - UFCW Local 400 and ATU 689 canvassing for Wanika Fisher.
- **Saturday, July 16** - Krystal Oriadha

Many of the County Council Candidates are seeking people who would like to volunteer as poll watchers during early voting and on election day. More information will be available via notice to the council.

CSA Executive Director Report

During this reporting period, in partnership with the community volunteers/nonprofits, board members have accomplished the following in support of CSA's goals.

Accomplishments: April 2022 – June 27, 2022

On June 23, 2022, Community Services Agency received the 2022 United Planning Organization (UPO) Partnership Recognition Award. It was an honor to be presented with this award and the opportunity to meet community members. UPO is one of CSA's significant funders for the Building Futures Program.

Administrative:

- 1) Meeting scheduled with President Forester to discuss CSA's outstanding balance owed to MWC
- 2) CSA recently hired a full-time equivalent, Program Manager, Erika Miner, and a Part-Time Case Manager (contract position) Supna Zaidi for the Building Futures Program.
- 3) Pension Audit is Complete
- 4) 2020 Exempt Organization Return, 2020 FORM 990 Complete

Upcoming:

- 1) MC3 Curriculum Training; NABTU will facilitate training on June 27-28, 2022.
- 2) President Stephen Courtien Baltimore-D.C. Building Trades (BDCBT) is scheduled to meet with the executive director to discuss the Building Futures Program and improvements that will help increase placement and retention in the programs.
- 3) Nicholas Cummings, Director of Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades, was assigned to CSA, Building Futures program to provide program support and resources.
- 4) Stephen Courtien recommended Wallace Beal to identify a math teacher, for the Building Futures Program. In progress

Spring Cohort 2022 - Building Future Pre-Apprenticeship Program Graduation Ceremony

- On May 26, 2022, thirty-nine (39) students successfully graduated from the CSA's Building Future, Pre-Apprenticeship Program (2). The Building Futures Graduation Ceremony was held at the DC Dream Center, 2826 Q Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020, at 11:00 a.m. The Department of Employment Services (DOES) directors, United Planning Organization (UPO) COO, and UPO Program Manager attended the graduation program.
- To measure our program's success and identify areas of improvement we conducted a pre-post evaluation and a mid-year program review with our students and staff.
- Summer Cohort 2022 – Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program, scheduled for July 11, 2022. Student recruitment is in progress.

Fundraising Events

September 12, 2022 – CSA Enterprise Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Mitchellville, MD If you require additional information please get in touch with Letycia Pastranana, mobile at 678-429-8174

- Golf Tournament event fliers and registration forms were mailed and electronically distributed to local unions (please let me know if you did not receive the forms)
- Banquet only is available - \$75.00 per guest
- Currently accepting prize items for the tournament.

June 10, 2022 – Labor Day at the Washington Nationals vs. Milwaukee Game Tickets! Cost- \$17.00 per ticket/ CSA received \$2.00 per ticket sold.

Total Tickets Sold: 1113 Ticket ATU led the ticket purchase, 750 tickets!

Ticket Sales Recognition: The Washington Nationals recognized and celebrated CSA and ATU 689 on the field during the pre-game ceremonies.

Resource Development:

- WANTO Grant – in review

Spring Cohort 2022 - Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program





Spring Cohort 2022, Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program with guest speaker Dr. Walton (above)



Spring Cohort 2022 Graduation Ceremony, photo gathering of Building Futures Program funders and community partners. Department of Employment Services, United Planning Organization, & Howard University, School of Social Worker.

Claimant Advocacy Program Report – June 27, 2022

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

Monthly tasks:

- We represented, advised or assisted several former members of MWC affiliates, that includes SEIU 722, Unite HERE Local 25, and 32BJ.
- We continue to assist claimants with their initial filings, weekly claim reporting, and re-opening of claims. We also mediated and advised claimants regarding lingering issues under the expired federal pandemic programs, fraudulent claims, and overpayments.
- We continued our regular check-ins with stakeholders, including DOL, to assist in resolving UI issues on a broader level.
- CAP participated in the weekly stakeholder's meeting with the Office of Administrative Hearings, advocacy groups, and others concerning unemployment issues and case management.

Summary:

1. CAP continued meeting our responsibilities under the current contract with DOES and invoicing for services performed.
2. CAP continues to assist claimants in accessing the UI system in DC with multiple emails, calls, and texts to POCs at DOES. We also continue to help individuals with interstate claims (MD/VA) and extension of claims issues.
3. The Claimant Advocacy Program, CAP, is an extension of union affiliation with the Metropolitan Washington Council, MWC. CAP works with shop stewards to understand and prevent wrongful termination of union members. CAP and affiliated unions have the advantage of sharing factual information that otherwise would not have been revealed but for the Unemployment Compensation Appeals Process. Facts and information gathered and discovered by CAP attorneys have been instrumental in reinstating union members' employment and receiving back pay. Union members whose unions are affiliated with MWC have the extra added security of knowing that they have access to attorneys with over 45 years of combined legal experience who will fight to ensure they receive income while grieving their termination, unpaid suspension, and/or seeking other employment. Whether or not a termination or unpaid suspension is grieved, affiliated union members may still avail themselves of the legal services provided by CAP. CAP also represents and educates non-union members on the advantages of being part of a union by representing them in their struggle to receive unemployment benefits and providing resources and information about joining or starting a union. CAP's high success rate leaves an indelible impression on non-union members. CAP knows this because, more often than not, non-union members represented by CAP attorneys often ask how they can join a union, start a union or donate to a union. CAP is committed to upholding the mission of MWC by continuing to provide quality legal services to union and non-union members.

UNION CITIES

Chris Garlock, Coordinator

The Union Cities program supports all Metro Labor Council affiliates in an ongoing and campaign-specific capacity. One highlight this month was featuring **WTU president Jacqueline Pogue Lyons** (*center in photo, with AFT president Randi Weingarten at right and teacher Becky Pringle*) on the **Your Rights At Work radio show** (WPFW) as well as in **Union City** and **Union City Radio**, discussing the June 18 March for Our Lives against gun violence. Much of Union Cities affiliate support is through keeping the DMV labor movement informed about MWC affiliate activities, and campaigns via the network of communication tools developed over the last two decades, including: **Union City newsletter** (20,000+) **MWC's [Twitter](#)** (4,776 followers) and **[Facebook](#)** feed. **Union City Radio** (WPFW 89.3FM, weekdays 7:15a) **Your Rights At Work** (WPFW, Thursdays 1-2p)



[MWC website](#) promotes the DMV activities and campaigns of our affiliates, as well as the AFL-CIO and other national unions.

The website also provides information about the MWC's programs: **[COPE](#)**, **[CAP](#)**, and **[CSA](#)**. Other vital resources on the website include

* **MWC Directory of Affiliates**, enabling users, including area media, to quickly and easily contact the appropriate local when needed.



* **Affiliate social media links**, providing a valuable single source for those looking for the latest information on the DMV labor movement.

* **Hiring Hall**: weekly union staff job postings enable our affiliates (and area internationals) to match open positions with qualified candidates. This is easily our most popular page, as is the Wednesday Hiring Hall edition of Union City.

* **Labor event calendar**: latest area labor events by MWC locals, internationals, the AFL-CIO, and our allies.