**UNITE HERE Local 7 General Membership Meeting**

March 18, 2021 at 11:00am and 6:00pm

Meeting took place on Zoom Video Conference Call

President Herbekian opened both meetings.

She reported on the American Rescue Plan that was passed by the US congress on March 11, 2021 and signed into law by President Biden on March 12, 2021. UNITE HERE had worked hard for passage of the bill and the inclusion of 100% government paid COBRA for laid off workers. The new law also provides for another round of stimulus checks in the amount of $1,400.00, an extension on Unemployment benefits with an additional $300.00 to be paid out on a weekly basis. In addition, there will be no Federal taxes for 2020 on the unemployment that was paid out in the amount of 10,200.00.

President Roxie informed the members, that Congressman Kweisi Mcfume will be joining our morning meeting.

She reported that shops that are in contract negotiations are Sky Chef (nationally), HMSHost, and Baltimore Convention Center.

There will be a Relief Distribution Event for the laid off Camden and Arena workers at the UNITE HERE Local 7 office on Saturday, March 20, 2021 from 10:00am to 1:00 pm.

Local 7 Lead Organizer Alberta Palmer is organizing a zoom meeting session to answer questions about the COVID19 vaccines. A community health nurse from John Hopkins will be the guest speaker. The zoom event will take place on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 5:00pm.

Local 7 member Konica Rice shared her experience working on the “Take Back 2020” Program. UNITE HERE had hundreds of members on the ground in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Philadelphia, and Nevada. We succeeded in turning the election around as we “Dumped Trump,” continued to hold the House and leveled the Senate to once again bring Democracy that had been eroded over the past four years. Thanks to those victories the American Rescue Plan has become law.

President Herbeking stated that Local 7 and UNITE HERE continue to play a huge role in the political arena of our city, state and country for those candidates that we have endorsed. One of them is Kweisi Mfume, who won the congressional seat that he held years ago, in a 2020 special and then regular election after the death of Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Morning Meeting: Congressman Mfume said that he was happy to be here and grateful for Local 7’s endorsement during his campaign. He invited us to join his website where he has laid out his priorities during his term, as he keeps us updated. Meanwhile, the work that needs to be resolved is getting as many vaccines into the arms of the people, getting our schools, businesses, open safely, as well as getting people back to work, their homes, utilities secured and food on the table through financial assistance with stimulus checks, tax credits, extended unemployment till September 6, 2021 as jobs become more available, and during our time of crisis a raging pandemic that medical financial assistant is there when it is needed that our President Biden signed into office on March 12, 2021.

Congressman Mfume took questions from a number of members on evictions, Unemployment benefits issues and the Pandemic. He closed by saying to please invite him again and that his office was always accessible to us.

President Herbekian asked If members wanted to waive the Minutes of the Dec. 17, 2020 membership meeting or to be read by Recording Secretary Schueler.

10:0am

Member Tony Cooper motioned to waive the reading of the General Membership Meeting from December 17, 2020.

Board Member Kim Randall seconded.

All were in favor.

6:00pm

Union Organizer Alberta Palmer motioned to waive the reading of the General Membership Minutes from December 17, 2020.

Vice-President Step Bethea seconded.

All were in favor.

10:00am

Member Novella Gardner motioned for approval on the Minutes from the General membership Meeting on December 17, 2020.

Member George Hancock seconded.

All were in favor.

6:00pm

Member Angele Featherstone motioned for approval on the General Membership Minutes from December 17, 2020.

Efram Evans seconded.

All were in favor.

President Roxie presented to the members the Financial Report from both November and December 2020 on Income & Expenses and Balance Sheets.

10:00am

Member Novella Gardner motioned for approval on the Financial Report from November and December of 2020.

Board Member Kim Randall seconded.

All were in favor.

6:00pm

Member Angele Featherstone motioned for approval on the Financial report form November and December of 2020.

Member Steve Spidey seconded.

All were in favor.

President Herbekian reported to members that the recently enacted American Rescue Plan made PPP loans available to 501(c) (5) organizations. This includes labor unions. She explained that if the money is spent within the guidelines, the loan can be forgiven. At least 60% of the loan money must be spent on employee salaries and benefits. She said that Local 7 could apply for a PPP loan if the members authorize the officers to apply for the loan.

11am Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned that the officers apply for a PPP loan

Vice-President Stephen Bethea seconded.

The Majority were in favor.

6pmRecording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned that the officers apply for a PPP loan

Deborah Green seconded.

There were some questions and discussion. Member Charles Duley said that since Local 7 had money in the bank, perhaps it was better not to apply and leave the money for businesses that do need the money. Several members disagreed. Alberta Palmer expressed that Unions are rarely are offered financial assistance and we should take advantage of the program.

Krista Strothmann called the question

The Majority were in favor of the motion. One “Nay” vote.

11am and 6pm Staff Director Tracy Lingo shared with the members the status of our Recall Rights both in our Union contracts and under the Baltimore City Law that we helped to pass last Fall.

Union Organizers Birdie Palmer, and Craig Carter updated the members on several of our shops.

Member Andre Eldridge from Marriott Waterfront reported that he and his co-workers are celebrating their first Union Contract which provides raises, recall rights and job security.

Grievance Victories:

Board Member Deborah Green from Coppin was successful with her Grievance for her Culinary Coworkers because management was doing bargaining unit work. The settlement is a total of $2,500.00 for 4 workers.

Horseshoes EVS employee Wayne was given a Write-up that was thrown out when a Grievance was filed by Shop Steward Chaunte Logan.

Lisa Brown reported a grievance victory at JHU. The Union won back pay for workers because the management was using temporary agency workers instead of scheduling our members to work.

Up Coming Events:

* March 24th: Event Workers and members from the Sheraton Columbia to receive Safeway Gift Card in the amount of $70.00.
* March 25th: Discussion on Vaccinations on Zoom at 5:00pm with Union Organizer Birdie Palmer and Health Professional.
* April 6th: Leadership Training at 10:00am and 5:00pm on zoom.
* May of 2021: Nominations for Officers and Executive Board Members on zoom.
* June of 2021: Our second General Membership Meeting (Date to be forthcoming)

President Herbekian asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

10:00am

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned to adjourn the morning general membership meeting.

Member Nina Baker seconded.

All were in favor.

6:00pm

Financial Secretary Krista Strothmann motioned to adjourn the evening general membership meeting.

Member Nedra East-Miji seconded.

All were in favor.

 Recording Secretary

 Betty Schueler