

Board of Governors Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2010

Meeting location: Offices of BlueCross BlueShield Association, National Labor Office, Washington, D.C.

Present: Fred Stahl (President) chaired the meeting. Participating were: Revae Moran, Bonnie Summers, Jim Kimball, David Schlein, Mindy Reiser, Bill Scott, Ed Hilz, Steve Silvia, Markus Franz.

Fred called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of Last Month's Board Meeting

Board approved minutes as submitted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Enclosed Treasurer's report showed a Dec 31 cash balance of \$4,271.30, with a couple of relatively minor 2009 bills yet to be received.

3. Election of Officers for 2010

The 2009 Officers offered the following slate for the election of 2010 officers:

President-Elect: Jim Kimball
Treasurer: Bonnie Summers
Secretary: David C. Jacobs
Membership Secretary: Revae Moran

Nominations were solicited. None were offered. The Board approved the slate by unanimous acclamation.

4. Programming Monthly Events for 2010

We discussed programs, speakers, and venues for our monthly meetings.

- Fred said that our luncheon programs were a central feature of the value we deliver to members. Our strategy should be to program speakers who are good draws speaking on hot topics:
Hot topics + appealing speakers = more value = bigger turnouts + more members
- Fred passed out the following table summarizing discussions from past Board meetings:

Economy	Fiscal delusions and realities More crashes? Double dip? Stagflation?
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	Will jobs return?
2010 Election	Implications for labor & employment relations
Education	Legislation – No Child Left Behind Re-authorization – “Race to the Top” Revae follows.
Unions	Turn-around long-term decline? What is success for the labor movement?
Immigration Reform	Congressional action coming up – prospects?
International	Future of the Labor Movement – US, Europe, Japan, China, 3rd world – Steve Silvia?
Pensions Reform	See below
Trade	Free Trade, Off-shoring, and American Jobs: Protecting US jobs vs. International competitiveness – industrial policy
Workforce Development	Panel - Workforce Investment Act – workforce training programs National and Regional views – Potomac Job Corps Workforce Bill introduced

- We talked about pension reform. Revae said that there was some work going on to broaden availability of meaningful pension programs to workers. She volunteered to follow up. (Since the Board met, she identified two people who are key authors of reform policies: one at Treasury and one in Brookings. She has a commitment from David John and Mark Iwry for our April 28 meeting. David is head of the Retirement Security Project at Brookings and Mark is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Retirement and Health Policy at the Dept of Treasury. David says that he expects legislation this spring.)
- We talked about the economy as a hot topic. There was general agreement that we should try to get Jared Bernstein, formerly of EPI and now on Biden’s economic council. Possible topic, the view from the White house on how to get people back to work. Fred sent an email to Bernstein soliciting his interest. Haven’t heard back. He’s probably too busy trying to figure out how to get people back to work.
- Ed Hilz suggested that Larry Mishel, president of EPI, might be a good speaker on jobs in light of the jobs program proposed in an EPI report. (Subsequent to the meeting, Fred followed up with Larry. The upshot is that he agreed to speak to us Feb 24 along the lines of a talk he give in September: “What the Economy Needs Now,” delivered at the Momentum Conference in San Francisco.
- February – Gompers Room at AFL-CIO – Fred reserved. Cost is \$500 for luncheon event. Plus light lunch – wraps and sodas – would cost an additional \$15 or more person. Since we used the room for events two years ago, the AFL-CIO changed its policy to charge for all outside users. Our plan is to go ahead with the February event at the venue and cover shortfalls from our treasury. Fred will check to see if they offer a lower rate to non-profits.
- We have reserved the WNDU for the April luncheon. (As a side note, we should be aware that the Club gives us a nice break on food prices, compared to their menus published online.)
- Bonnie said that she saw a great program at a meeting of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE see www.laane.org). (Bonnie: was the occasion the organization’s 2009 Awards Dinner?) Iain Gold was one of the speakers. Bonnie suggested that Iain might be a good draw for a luncheon for us. Jim said he would follow up with Iain.

Breakfast Events

- Jim checked with Teamsters about breakfast meetings. Conclusion: it won't work out. Cannot meet in cafeteria – not private. Cannot carry food up to executive conf room.
- David suggested union facilities. He said that he would check with NEA. It has in-house catering.
- Bonnie mentioned the impressive facilities at Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America and on the top floor at BlueCross BlueShield in her building. She said she would check out both and get back to us.
- Bonnie also suggested that hotels might be good facilities for breakfast events. Following people will check out hotels:
 - Jim – Washington Court, Liaison. (Feedback from Jim: both are prohibitively expensive. For 30-35 people, prices range from \$30 to \$40 per person)
 - Bonnie – Capital Hilton
 - Revae – Marriott
- Revae suggested we checkout local restaurants. Jim suggested an electronic survey of members for suggestions, including restaurants. Fred will follow up.

Field Trips

- Mindy suggested that we consider field trips. Bonnie said that our members might like to visit the National Labor College. It is a new facility offering a variety of educational programs—both degree and non-degree, resident and non-resident—to people associated with labor organizations. It is located on a big campus just outside the Beltway at the New Hampshire Avenue interchange. The upshot was that we should consider it for the spring when the weather is milder. Bonnie agreed to research more information for us—like what kind of orientation programs its leadership might present to us, options for transportation, and best times for a visit.
- Following is a summary of our current plans. Fred will cancel our reservation of the Gompers Room at the AFL-CIO for May unless they have a lower rate for non-profits.

January 27	Luncheon	WNDC – Reserved	Scott Nova Worker Rights Consortium (confirmed)
February 24	Luncheon	AFL-CIO – Confirmed	"What the Economy Needs Now." Larry Mishel (Confirmed)
March 24	Breakfast	TBD	"New Directions at the Department of Labor" Mary Beth Maxwell DOL (invited)
April 28	Luncheon	WNDC– Reserved	"Pension Reform" – David John & Mark Iwry (confirmed)
May 26	Luncheon	Cancel AFL-CIO	
June 23	Networking/Social event		
July no meeting			–
August no meetings			–
September	Luncheon	WNDC	

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October 27	Breakfast	TBD	
November 17 (Note: <i>Third</i> Wednesday)	Luncheon	AFL-CIO	International Program
December 15 (Note: <i>Third</i> Wednesday)	Networking/Social event		

5. Membership and Recruiting

Organizational Members

- Response from December Invoices: 3 renewals from 6 invoices. (Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America membership continues from late 2009)
- Bonnie said that she would send out another round of invoices to those organizations that have not yet renewed. Jim asked her to send Teamsters invoice to him and he would handle.
- Fred plans to visits to current Organizational Members – accompanied by appropriate Board member.

Personal memberships

- Response from December emails and paper letters
 - 11 renewals + 3 new memberships
- We discussed the problems in sustaining membership. Revae said we have to keep after members. People have natural tendency to put off renewing. As a practical matter, organizations like ours need to be vigilant about urging members to renew. Further, we need to put emphasis on renewing at our meetings. She will take that action as Membership Chair.
- Jim suggested that we send out another round of email solicitations in the near future. We will send out another emailing on Thursday, Jan. 14, and plan to send another in the first week of February. We will continue to solicit new memberships from non-members.
- International Members – Jim checked with his contacts and found that Australia has no officials in the local embassy responsible for labor issues. Jim volunteered to check with the UK Embassy for potential representative on DC LERA Board.

Reenergizing our efforts to attract new members/attendance in early 2010

- We did not have time to take up recruiting in detail. Briefly, we have moved to page 3 of Revae's recruiting plan: organizations to contact. Fred said that he planned to speak with each Board member about taking on a specific organization and arranging a meeting with an appropriate official. Goals: Introduce DC LERA, see which members in the organization might benefit from involvement in DC LERA events, establish email channels for keeping them informed about our program plans, and promote organizational membership in DC LERA. An updated copy of the organizational list is attached.

6. Other Business

Outreach to Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor

Revae met Joe McCartin, the executive director of this new organization at Georgetown University, and Jennifer Luff, its research director, at the launch of the ILWP on Nov 10. She said that ILWP is looking for ways to involve students in the outside world. Revae sees DC LERA–ILWP as a opportunity for students to hear ideas and issues and to contact working professionals in the Washington labor & employment relations’ community. Students could also use our DC LERA network to find intern opportunities, such as those at GAO. At the same time we could, through our Chapter, let our members know about this important new organization and perspectives and insights from its projects. Revae set up a meeting for us with McCartin and Luff for Wednesday, Jan 27.

See <http://lwp.georgetown.edu/>

7. Next Board meeting

Noon, Wednesday, Feb 10, 2010

BlueCross-BlueShield Association
1310 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Go to 12th floor

We offer our appreciation to our host Bonnie Summers and to our point of contact Bobbi Williams (202-626-4815) for hosting our meetings.

Fred adjourned the Board at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Stahl, on behalf of David Jacobs, Secretary
Jan 13, 2009

Our Organizational Members:

American Rights at Work • BlueCross BlueShield Association International Brotherhood of Boilermakers • International Brotherhood of Teamsters Ironworkers International • Laborers’ Health and Safety Fund of North America • National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems

LERA – Washington, DC Chapter
Treasurer's Report

December, 2009

Sun Trust Balance

Balance as of, December 21, 2009 **\$3,829.71**

Excludes PayPal trsfr 554.12

Revenue included above:

Membership

Renewal (10)

New (2)

Organizational Memberships

BlueCross BlueShield

Association-NLO 200.00

International Brotherhood of
Boilermakers 200.00

Expenses included in Final balance:

WNDC 0

Mallari 0

Tressler Group 0

*Information Solutions & Mgmt Inc. 70.00

*Summers 112.53

Final Balance December 30, 2009 **\$4,271.30**

* check(s) have not cleared bank account


Submitted by: _____
Bonnie Summers

December 30, 2009

ORGANIZATION	KEY CONTACT(S)	CONTACT INFO
Unions:		
AFL-CIO	Gordan Pavy/ Nancy Mills (per Julie Martinez Ortega)	
Change to Win (CTW)	Debbie Charles/ Pat Szymanski (per Julie Martinez Ortega)	
Center for American Progress	Michael Ettinger (per Julie)	
UFCW	George Wyzinski (legal) (Julie)	
Machinists	Owen Hernstadt (per Julie)	
National Education Association (NEA)		
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)	Judy Scott, General Counsel (per Julie Martinez Ortega)	
Communications Workers of America (CWA)	Ed Sabor (per Julie)	
Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)		
International Firefighters Union		
Government Agencies:		
National Mediation Board (NMB)	Dan Rainey, Director, Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution (per Kaori)	
National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)	Wilma Lieberman; Joseph Banisweski	
Dept of Labor – Wage and Hour Division		
Dept of Labor - OSHA		
Dept of Labor – MSHA (Mine Safety)		
Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)		
Dept of Labor – Policy Types	Bill Spriggs, Ph.D. (Asst Sec for Policy) (per Julie)	
Dept of Labor - Office of the Inspector General		
Colleges/ Universities:		
Georgetown University	Lamar Billups (per Julie)	
Georgetown Law School		
Kalmonovitz Institute for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University	Jennifer Luff, Research Director Joseph McCartin,	202.687.2141 202.687.2293

	Exec Dir (See business cards following)	
Howard University	Bill Spriggs (per Julie)	
National Labor College	Dr. Thomas Kriger, VP for Academic Affairs and Provost (per Kaori)	
Research Orgs/Nonprofits/Advocacy Groups		
Economic Policy Institute (EPI)	Larry Mishel	
National Employment Law Project (NELP)	Chris Owens (per Julie)	
Natl Immigration Law Center (NILC)	Marielena Hincapié, Exec Dir (per Julie) – Los Angeles office Adey Fisseha, Interim Federal Policy Director, DC office.	
DC Employment Justice Center (EJC)	Melvina Ford, Exec Director	
Jobs with Justice (JWJ) DC	Mackenzie Baris (per Julie)	
United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS)	Rod ? (per Julie)	
WFC ??	Scott Nora (per Julie)	
Employer Orgs:		
American Alliance for Manufacturing (AAM)		
Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)		
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)		
Employment Law Firms:		
James and Hoffman	Ed James/ Kathy Krieger (Julie)	
Morrison & Foerster LLP (referred to as "MoFo") Good rep, does a lot of pro bono work	2000 Pennsylvania, NW	(202) 887-8743
Baker & Hostetler LLP Looks like a good fit.	1050 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1100	(202) 861-1500
Press/ Publications:		
Bureau of National Affairs (BNA)	Ken May	
Hill Staff:		
Senate – Health, Education, Labor and	Portia Wu, Chief Labor Counsel/ Deputy Staff Director	202-224-0767

Pensions (HELP) Committee	(Revae)	
Senate – Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, HELP Committee	Michael Waske, Research Asst (Revae)	202-224-2621
House – Education and Labor Committee	Michele Varnhagen, Labor Policy Director Richard Miller, Senior Labor Policy Advisor (Revae)	202-226-2068
House –Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, Ed and Labor Committee	Lynn Dondis, Labor Counsel (Revae)	202-226-1881



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Joseph A. McCartin
Executive Director
Associate Professor of History

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Visit DC LERA at www.DCLERA.org

DCLERA BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Jan 13, 2009

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
1310 G Street, NW**

(1½ blocks west of Metro Center)

**Call-in number: (877) 455-8688 passcode: 146183
(host code: 129072)**

AGENDA

News and Gossip (5 min)

Review and Approval of the Minutes of Last Month's Board Meeting (enclosed)

Treasurer's Report

Election of Officers for 2010. Proposed slate:

President-Elect: Jim Kimball

Treasurer: Bonnie Summers

Secretary: David C. Jacobs

Membership Secretary: Revae Moran

Programming Monthly Events for 2010

Please see discussion paper to be provided

Membership and Recruiting

Organizational Members

- Response from December Invoices 3/6 (Labors continues)
- President (+?) visits to Organizational Members –

Personal memberships

- Response from December emails and paper letters
 - 11 renewals + 3 new
- Send another round of email solicitations this week

Reenergizing our efforts to attract new members/attendance in early 2010

- **Please see discussion paper to be provided**

Other Business

Fee for no-meal attendance at luncheon event: \$10