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Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO Honors Local Union Leaders

Transit union head Jackie Jeter receives top award leading Metro workers during tough times

WASHINGTON, DC – The Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO, representing nearly 200 union locals and community, religious, student and political organizations, will pay tribute to the labor movement and local labor leaders at its annual Evening With Labor Awards Dinner on March 12th starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 President Jackie Jeter will receive the *JC Turner Outstanding Trade Unionist of the Year Award*. Beginning as a part-time bus operator, Jeter has worked in virtually every division of Metro. She was elected president of ATU Local 689 in December 2007 and re-elected for a second three-year term in December 2009. With nearly 11,000 members, ATU Local 689 represents the majority of Metro workers and is the third largest ATU affiliate in the country. Jeter has led the union during a run of challenging years for the aging system, including the June 2009 fatal Red Line crash, the instability in leadership with the resignation of General Manager John Cato in April 2010, and a soaring increase in ridership of Metro, the second busiest transit system in the U.S.

“In addition to giving transit workers higher visibility and an articulate advocacy voice during very tough times, Jackie has been a strong supporter of the political, legislative and community services activities of the Central Labor Council,” says Metro Council President Joslyn N. Williams.

Other honorees include:

Carl Carson, Cement Masons 891

DC COPE Award

This award is for voter registration and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities. Carson was consistently available to lobby, testify, door knock, collect post cards, and attend rallies. In addition, he helped to turn out support for the Employment Stimulus Bill and he attended all the DC COPE meetings.

AFSCME Council 26

Organizing Award

Visitors to our nation's Capitol are now guided by union members, who organized in 2010 for the first time in the 134 years since Congress' Capitol Guide Service was created and just two years after the new Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) opened. The guides overwhelmingly voted to join AFSCME Council 26. The successful drive inspired the CVC Gift Shop employees to also seek union representation.

Teamsters 639 and National Nurses United, WHC Local

Golden Picket Sign Award

This award goes to the local which has turned out the most members for Street Heat activities in the previous year, or conducted unique and creative mobilization campaigns.

Striking workers at Daycon Products not only maintained their picket line against the Upper Marlboro cleaning company for months, through the heat and rain, but also conducted an effective roving picket that tracked scab drivers to the company's customers. Like the Mott's strikers in upstate New York, the Daycon strikers became a powerful symbol of worker resistance to unmitigated corporate greed, drawing support from the local labor, religious, community and political community, which turned out to walk the line to demonstrate their solidarity.

The nurses at the Washington Hospital Center (WHC) were an inspiration throughout the year as they battled their employer, first for firing nurses who hadn't been able to make it to work through blizzards that shut down the city, and then to win a fair contract. Throughout their struggles, the WHC nurses showed fortitude and creativity, working with the local labor community to stage several major demonstrations outside WHC as well as mobilizing extensively and effectively within the hospital, culminating in several dramatic "marches on the boss" that saw hundreds of nurses in red scrubs and their supporters wending their way through the hospital.

Stan Gordon, AFGE 65

Thomas M. Bradley Community Services Award

The award is for demonstrated commitment to the community through volunteer activities, participation in the Community Services Agency, participation in the labor United Way/CFC or Union Community Fund Campaigns, and/or participation in their local union-sponsored community services programs.

For more information about the annual Evening With Labor Awards recipients or to make arrangements to attend the event, contact Kathleen McKirchy at kmckirch@dclabor.org.

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