

**St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Official Minutes  
March 21, 2006  
I.B.E.W., Local #1 Hall**

The meeting of the St. Louis Labor Council was called to order by President Robert Soutier at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2006.

President Soutier led the delegates in the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance to our country's flag.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call of officers disclosed the following:  
PRESENT: Robert Soutier, John Ebeling, Mary Armstrong, Vergil Belfi, Barbara Black, Nancy Cross, Tony Ellebracht, Gerald Feldhaus, Tom George, Chico Humes, Earline Jones, Terry Loehrer, Kevin McNatt, Tom McNeil, Kevin Patterson, Perri Pryor, Gary Reay, Dick Renna, and Rick Smith, and David Zimmermann.

**EXCUSED BUT RECORDED AS**

PRESENT: Herb Dill, Jim Dougherty, Michael O'Mara, Roger Poole, Joe Schonlau, and Mark Selby.

**AFFILIATIONS**

**SEATING OF DELEGATES**

President Soutier called Nicholas Obermark, IBEW, Local #1; William Watkins, Projectionists & Video Technicians IATSE, Local #143; and Al Arno and Joe Pollack, St. Louis Newspaper Guild – CWA, Local #36047 to the podium and gave them the oath of office to represent their local unions as delegates to the St. Louis Labor Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the February 21, 2006 meeting minutes as printed, with copies available in the rear of the room.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

President Soutier reported on the meetings he attended with the Red Cross and the possible involvement organized labor could have in moving the Red Cross to level three disaster readiness.

President Soutier read the Missouri AFL-CIO legislative update to the delegates and praised the work being done at the state level.

Soutier reported that he attended meetings at the United Way and spoke about the influence labor liaisons have there (United Way).

Soutier reminded the delegates of an arbitration seminar to be held May 2, 2006 at SEIU.

**C.O.P.E. RECOMMENDATIONS**

\*See Executive Board Report

President Soutier read the COPE report and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report as given.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

President Soutier introduced First Vice President John Ebeling to read the Executive Board Report as stated:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Location: Machinist's District No. 9  
March 16, 2006

The meeting of the St. Louis Labor Council AFL-CIO Executive Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Robert A. Soutier.

A roll call of officers disclosed the following: **Present:** Robert A. Soutier, John Ebeling, Nancy Cross, Jim Dougherty, Tony Ellebracht, Chico Humes, Earline Jones, Kevin McNatt, Michael O'Mara, Kevin Patterson, Gary Reay, Dick Renna, Joe Schonlau, and David Zimmermann.

**Excused but recorded as present:** Mary Armstrong, Vergil Belfi, Barbara Black, Herb Dill, Gerald Feldhaus, Tom George, Terry Loehrer, Tom McNeil, Roger Poole, Perri Pryor, Mark Selby, and Rick Smith.

Also in attendance were Ed Finkelstein, St. Louis Labor Tribune and Lenny Jones, Legislative Director, SEIU State Council.

President Soutier gave the oath of office to become a Board member of the St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO to Chico Humes, President of GCC/IBT, Local #6-505.

Soutier introduced Morris Johnson, President St. Louis Community College at Forest Park for an explanation of the proposed twelve-cent tax increase for the school. Mr. Johnson stated that the college has 50 buildings all over 40 years old that were in need of repair and the college has not had an increase in over 20 years. A motion was made, seconded and passed to endorse the proposed tax increase.

Paul Winslow from American Income Life presented to the Board a list of services he would be offering the affiliated member unions and stated that he would make follow-up calls.

President Soutier spoke to the Board about a proposed joint venture with the Red Cross. He then introduced Mark Turken and Joseph White from the Red Cross for a presentation on how organized labor can help the Red Cross move to level three disaster relief readiness. A discussion ensued and the Board was in agreement that we would

continue discussions to see if we can help with this effort. The issue will be taken up at next month's Board meeting.

Jim Kottmeyer presented a proposal to the Board on the Minimum Wage Initiative that will be on the ballot in November. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the effort. A vote was taken and passed to endorse.

Board members were given a copy of a member survey that was developed by our Coro Fellow this year after interviews with rank-and-file members.

President Soutier stated that we will discuss the survey and next month's meeting and Roz Sherman Voellinger and Marcia Cline would assist with the data collected.

President Soutier proposed a re-affiliation request by Transport Workers Union #529. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the request.

President Soutier presented a flyer from Lohr drivers sent to the Labor Council by IBEW, Local #1429 requesting that we do not buy Anheuser Busch products in the city of St. Louis. There was much discussion on the ramifications of a city-wide boycott due to the fact that there are many building trades, industrial, and service unions that have contracts with Anheuser Busch or work for a company that will require them to either handle or serve the product. A motion was made, seconded and approved to table this issue.

Soutier offered tickets to the Gateway Classic Luncheon to any Board member that could attend.

Soutier reminded MO AFL-CIO Board members of a conference call on Monday March 20, at 10:00 a.m.

The Board members were given copies of Labor Club COPE endorsements and President Soutier read the South County endorsements as follows:

Note: \* Denotes Incumbent:

**1) Tri-County Labor Legislative Club:**

County Council District #2  
Cheryl

Hibbeler  
St. Charles Community College  
Board of Trustees  
Jean Poggemeier Ehlmann

Fort Zumwalt – Board of Directors  
Open

Francis Howell – Board of Directors  
Marty

Hodits  
Steve

Papin

Wentzville – Board of Directors  
Sheryl

Cox

City of St. Charles – Board of Directors  
Gary E. Spearman

D. Shelton  
Gary

City of O’Fallon – Alderman Ward #1  
Bob  
Patek

Open

City of O’Fallon – Alderman Ward #3  
Jimmy  
Mitchell

City of O’Fallon – Alderman Ward #4  
Jeff  
Schwentker

City of Wentzville – Mayor  
Vickie

Boedeker

City of Wentzville – Alderman Ward #1  
Patrick  
Moody

City of Wentzville – Alderman Ward #2  
Bill  
Schuette

City of Lake St. Louis – Alderman Ward #1  
Ralph Sidebottom

Cottleville Community Fire District – Board of Directors  
Richard L. Roderique  
(4-year term)

Cottleville Community Fire District – Board of Directors  
Teresa  
Reynolds  
(5-year term)

**2) Jefferson County Labor Club:**

Hillsboro School Board

Michael Mesmer

**3) South County Labor Club:**

Lindbergh School District  
Ken  
Fey\*

Janine  
Fabick

Bayless School District  
Eileen  
Heath\*

*Ebeler*

*Jessica*

*Mehlville School District*

*Mike*

*Heins\**

*Bill*

*Schornheuser\**

- 4) **Approve Proposition EJ - .12 cent tax increase for St. Louis Community College**
- 5) **Give Missourians a Raise, ballot initiative**

Randy introduced Jay Gurtseman the new political desk for the AFL-CIO in Missouri.

Kiser spoke on the Photo I.D. bill and the need to contact senators about this bill because it will stop thousands of voters from voting.

Gerard Burke, AFT, Local #420 spoke on the St. Louis City School Board elections and the Thomas Jefferson Days to be held on May 19 and 20, 2006.

Ed Finkelstein, Labor Tribune advised the delegates about delivery problems with the paper.

Bob Kortkamp, MO ARA President, spoke on the Labor Mass and asked all to attend on May 7, 2006.

Yvette Goods, IBEW, Local #1 gave a legislative update and invited all to attend a rally in Jefferson City on March 28, 2006.

Dave Cook, UFCW, Local #655 reported on the Wal-Mart campaign and thanked the Council for the letters sent out to members.

Shannon Duffy, Newspaper Guild advised the delegation that they now have a contract with KSDK Channel 5. Duffy thanked President Soutier for the letter he sent to the management of KSDK in support of his members.

William Trendley, Ironworkers, Local #396 asked on behalf of Tri-County Labor Club to add to the COPE endorsements the Fort Zumwalt bond issue. A motion was made, seconded and approved to add the issue to the list of endorsements.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to endorse the above candidates.

With nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Fraternally,  
Robert A. Soutier

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### **COMMUNICATIONS**

President Soutier reported the BLS index at 593.3 for January 2006.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Randy Kiser, AFL-CIO spoke on the Give Missourians a Raise ballot initiative. Kiser reminded the delegates of the Labor 2006 meeting to be held at the IAM District No. 9 Hall on Thursday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

President Soutier asked Jim Bates and Otis Thomas, UAW members at Mallinckrodt to

discuss the work stoppage with the Labor Council delegates.

Thomas stated that they were locked out and asked the Council's affiliates to support them and not cross the lines.

Leo Beishir, IBEW, Local #1439 asked everyone to support all unions who may be in a strike situation.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The community services' drawing was held.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing else to come before the delegates, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Fraternally,

Robert A. Soutier, President  
St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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