

# FSW Function Report



**Education Committee Chair:** Khari Clarendon

## CWA Legislative & Political Conference

**Dates attended:** June 12-13, 2018

### Purpose of the function

The purpose was to connect legislation and politics to our daily struggles through informative sessions, trainings and lobbying visits with Senators and members of congress. There were workshops on running online campaigns and learning how to notice “fake” and heavily biased news.

Additionally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was offered up to a “We the People” convention of of labor and progressive movement activists. The quoted goal was to broadcast a bold vision, lift up the voices of our movement, and engage with lawmakers and other public officials on the issues that are most important to the progressive community.

The participating organizers;

- Center for Popular Democracy Action
- Demos action
- Planned Parenthood Action fund
- MoveOn
- Peoples action
- 32BJ SEIU
- Working families party

- Caring Across Generations action fund
- National Domestic Workers Alliance
- Faith in action fund
- Sierra Club
- 350 Action
- Indivisible
- United we dream action

Presenters;

- CWA president Chris Shelton
- Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.)
- Sen. Kristen Gillbrand (D-N.Y.)
- Sen. Kamala Harris (D-C.A.)
- Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-V.T.)
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-M.A.)
- Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-I.L.)
- Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-D.C.)

**What did you learn and/or what significant information was shared at the function?**

*Day 1 Highlights*

**Charlotte Councilmember Braxton Winston**



*“In November 2015, when Winston’s neighbor was beaten in a rage of domestic violence, she and her child were left for dead as the house was set on fire. Winston helped rescue them. That day, FOX 46’s David Sentendrey just happened to mention an upcoming march against domestic violence, and Winston showed up-- his first-ever march, but not his last. His voice carried past the streets to Charlotte City Council, a group he believes needs him. "Honestly, it's the most inconvenient thing in my life right now. The system is not set up for people like me to do this." In*

*September's Democratic primary election, Winston won the right to run for council at large this November."*

*Notes:*

A 2014 political organizing call that ended weirdly. Persons' entire family was Union however felt like union had not helped him so he wouldn't vote.

Arguing finer points would only stop the process rather than being able to fully reach the next person who have not fully made their minds up.

### **Sen. Sherrod Browne (D-O.H.)**



Wife life was saved because she held a shop card. Reminded us that it takes more than being involved but involving other.

### **Shane Larson CWA Legislative Director**



CWA "CWA Legislative Director Shane Larson reviewed recent legislative victories, including CWA members' success at preventing anti-worker legislation and advancing bills at the state and federal level that protect call center jobs. CWA Political Director Rafael Navar moderated a panel discussion on how to replicate last year's electoral victories in Virginia state legislative races, featuring Virginia Delegates Lee Carter and Jennifer Carroll Foy, Doris Crouse-Mays, President of Virginia AFL-CIO and Jon Liss, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority."

## **Virginia Delegate Lee Carter**



Former Marine. Dead end town in North Carolina. Moved in VA after the marines. Champion for workers compensation and working families. His claim was denied in VA Employer agreed that they owed but not in that state. Politics as usual coming to an end in Red truck state. Lived in Virginia. Company from Georgia got hurt in Illinois. Flawed systems prompted his calling. Discontent democrat. Thought we could have done better than mitt Romney's plan after Obama's continually spoke of getting everyone health insurance. Was prepared for the socialist Anecdote

## **Virginia Delegate Jennifer Carol Foy**



Former Magistrate turned public defender passionately working for proper use of laws she had seen misused by law enforcement. Working on families as a way to keep people out of the prison system in the first place. Won through door knocking and volunteer from working families' groups and unions. Pregnant with twins during campaign. Won with mobilized help.

### **How is what you learned relevant to FSW?**

- Many of the views expressed and political demands made during the CWA Legislative and Political Conference are much aligned with our community.
- The movement can represent the majority regardless of not having full support on every topic.
- Organizing is key
- Lobbying is not only our right but it is welcomed by most representatives
- Your degree of involvement is an absolute choice
- If you don't appeal to representative and voters, no one else will