

Brothers and Sisters,

Hello to all our Essential Sisters and Brothers!! While I sit here composing my report to bring our membership up to speed on the state of our Union, I would highlight how these times are anything but typical. Regardless of the adversities we have faced, our Union has answered the call with our membership continuing to perform the necessary functions to avoid financial hardship - thankfully. And we've mostly accomplished this in a safe manner. There are others who are unfortunately still laid off in some professions and industries. A few of our members tested positive for COVID-19 and thankfully overcame the virus. I cannot stress enough the need to continue to take this virus seriously despite the controversial and defiant approach our federal government leadership has chosen to take in direct contrast to what science has determined. Everyone needs to take every safety measure possible as this is a real threat. Hopefully you won't have to find out the severity of this virus by having you or someone close to you contracting it to finally making a believer out of you. It is real!!

The September Membership Meeting will be the first in-person meeting we've had since the onset of the pandemic in March. With the Governor's restrictions of gathering sizes it presented a challenge in this effort, but we will begin to have meetings in a safe and methodical manner until things return to normal. Please be patient and understanding while we work through this, remain in compliance and most of all remain safe and healthy.

In regards to what has been happening in our great Union:

On behalf of the Executive Board, the Business Representatives and the full-time Staff, we would all like to congratulate Terry Kelly on his recent retirement. Terry is a 32 year Local 701 member who was deeply involved in the Union. Terry served on the Local 701 Executive Board in many positions during his tenure as well as assisting in several other capacities throughout his career. Congratulations Terry on your retirement. Enjoy it!! You definitely earned it Brother.

Some changes were made to our Executive Board as a result of Brother Kelly retiring. Replacing Brother Kelly as the Vice-President on the Executive Board is Greg Costenaro who previously served in the capacity as Conductor-Sentinel. Marvin Belin will now serve as Conductor-Sentinel. Brother Belin previously served as a Trustee on the Board. Filling the vacancy as a Trustee, the Board has appointed Brother Ken Markham. Congratulations to Ken on your appointment. We all look forward to working with you.

Congratulations to Brother Ron Gonzalez in his appointment as a Business Representative. Brother Gonzalez is a twenty-six-year member of Local 701. Brother Gonzalez has volunteered for various activities within the Union and served as a Shop Steward. He previously worked for Equipment Depot and Cadillac of Naperville. Welcome aboard Ron! We all look forward to working with you. Congratulations!

I'd like to thank all those that assisted in the recent delegate to the IAM Convention election. Specifically, Head-Teller Ken Markham, Assistant Head-Teller Jeff Niwa, Tellers Bob Elgar and Mike Jenkins as well as Rick Brown, John Buttney, Don Frey, Joe Glazier Jr., Brian Ilic, Terry Kelly, Christian Walker and Joe Schaffer. It's members like you that are continuously involved and helping which make our Union the success that it is. Thank you.

On the benefit side, with the markets' free fall in March, we are hopeful that the returns continue to go up with a good return for the year to allow our Pension Plan to remain in the Green Zone. When the markets dropped in early March, it appeared that we were going to return to the Orange or Yellow Zone, depending on how bad the downturn went. We've made some unpopular changes

during the worst of times in an effort to keep the Fund solvent. We've worked very hard over the years and will continue to work hard to protect the Pension Fund. We will keep you posted on the Plan's status moving forward.

With the upcoming election, we are hopeful that each of our members votes in the best interests of themselves, their family, their Union and working men and women. As we have been reporting, organized labor has been under attack over the last almost four years with this administration. We have reported each adversarial change this administration has taken blatantly against Unions. Each change affects all of us. Keep in mind, although you may not be a fan of Biden, we must vote for him so that he has the ability to appoint people into positions which will help working men and women in our country. Appointments such as who will run the Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board - which directly affects any Union's survival, continue with the existence of OSHA, allow Social Security to survive and continue Medicare without cuts.

Another important reason to vote for Biden is an expected vacancy on the Supreme Court as Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's health has been declining. With another conservative appointment, this country will lean heavily in favor of corporate America instead of the working class for decades to come. If you watched the Republican National Convention, it didn't take long to hear this administration's agenda should they get re-elected for another term. They touted within minutes of the opening by unequivocally stating how "unions subvert the Republic." They want nothing more than our country to be union free. They attack labor rights and labor standards constantly. We simply cannot afford four more years of these attacks. We are asking that you please vote for pro-labor candidates this election cycle.

In regards to local politics, there is a statewide referendum on a "Fair Tax" system. Unless you make more than \$250,000 per year, this will not affect you. This will rightfully tier a higher tax rate for those that can afford it the most – the top 1%. This Fair Tax will assist in balancing the State's budget, investing in affordable health care, education and training for the next generation of workers without raising taxes on the vast majority of Illinois residents, and is even forecasted to lower the taxes on the middle class. If this does not get passed, the State would eventually be forced to increase taxes on all Illinoisans regardless of your income. Nobody likes to hear the word "tax" – especially those living in Illinois. This, however, is a fair resolution taxing only those that are able to afford the tax increase. We are asking that you join the labor supported Fair Tax system.

While entering the Labor Day Holiday, as Unionists we know that whether we stand up for a stronger collective voice, protecting our healthcare and pensions or fighting for better working conditions, our collective power and solidarity we hold is critical, now more than ever, in making life better for working families.

We must ensure that working families come first taking home a fair share of the profits we help create. This starts with all of us. We need a strong, vibrant labor movement. One that progressively gets out in front of change, is not afraid to stand up to support our Union and support our members. A Union that assists in growing its ranks, and stands in solidarity with each member we represent.

Labor Day is a day dedicated to each of us to celebrate the struggles and accomplishments of the American labor movement. It's our day! I'd like to encourage each and every one of you to reignite the call for solidarity and come together to continue the fight for workers everywhere. When we stand as one, they can't break us.

United we stand, divided we fall. In Solidarity! Happy Labor Day to all!

In closing, and most importantly, I ask you to remain vigilant about your safety and that of your families. This deadly virus is still here and is real. Should you start to get careless, or are in disbelief, it will certainly remind us at some point that it's still here. With everyone doing their part we can continue this trend of working our way out of this safely without any avoidable relapses. Again, we've only had a few that contracted the virus which is a testament to your dedication to protecting yourselves, your families, and your Union Sisters and Brothers. Keep up the great work. Stay safe and healthy.

**In Solidarity,
Sam Cicinelli – Directing Business Representative**