

Sisters and Brothers,

Hello to all our Essential Sisters and Brothers!! At the October Monthly Membership Meeting, recently retired member and former Executive Board Vice-President Terry Kelly was at the meeting. Terry was recognized, this time in-person, for his tenure with Local 701. The membership congratulated Terry on his retirement.

Also in attendance and recognized was former Directing Business Representative Bob Keppler. I informed the membership that, although Bob retired in 2012, he has remained on the Health & Welfare and Pension Funds as a Trustee fighting on behalf of our participants and members in both Plans. Bob's goal, along with mine, was to fix our Pension Plan and also to enhance our Retiree insurance Plan for our members. Bob remained on both Funds as a Trustee and was instrumental along with Mark Grasseschi and I in now getting that enhanced retiree insurance benefit as well as continue to work hard getting our Pension Plan back to being fully funded on behalf of our members. It's members like Bob that nobly do what's right for our members – not for monetary reasons for themselves, but because he truly believes in the cause.

As a reminder, there will not be an Interactive Health Clinic this year. It has been cancelled for this year as the provider went bankrupt due to the pandemic. We will continue to search for a replacement provider and will hopefully have a clinic for next year.

The last few weeks have been favorable for a few of our outstanding residual items still looming from the Standard Automobile Agreement (SAA) strike. The Napleton's Libertyville Cadillac appeal that went up to the D. C. Court of Appeals, has been denied and the court ruled in Local 701's favor. A few weeks prior, Napleton signed the Agreement they were also appealing in a different case, and we've begun to pursue collections on Health & Welfare and 401(k) contributions on behalf of our members. We will also continue to pursue back-pay owed as well as dues and initiation fees owed to the Union.

Another residual item that remained from the SAA strike was the second to the last remaining item from Cadillac of Naperville. There were several other grievances filed here, all of which were resolved in the Union's favor. This grievance was for "Unfair Work Distribution" where the company agreed to pay the affected employees what was rightfully owed, in lieu of going to arbitration (and ultimately losing in addition to paying more legal fees). The only other outstanding matter that remains is the termination of our Steward which is being appealed and now in the D C Circuit Court. We anticipate this too will be remedied in favor of the Union and our Steward.

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. It's sad how this administration is more concerned with the appointment of the Supreme Court vacancy than the stimulus for those still adversely affected by the pandemic. With the airline industry not receiving any assistance, this will attribute to up to 35,000 of our IAM sisters and brothers being laid off.

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, please consider voting 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.

Elections have consequences!! As you recall back in 2016, we all knew what was at stake. At that time though, there was only one seat to fill on the Supreme Court. Now, having this administration get into office, we've seen two appointments with the potential for three. Having three right-wing appointments on our Supreme Court will assuredly tilt the balance harshly on the side of big business for the next several decades. Working men and women, and certainly Unions and our pursuance, doesn't stand a chance. Should this happen, you can certainly expect to see a National Right to Work case and adverse decision which will cripple organized labor to the point of non-existence. We simply cannot afford four more years of these attacks. We are asking that you please vote for pro-labor candidates this election cycle. Please choose wisely when you vote.

In regards to local politics, we are in support of the statewide referendum known as the "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. There are the top 1% wealthy people, like Ken Griffin, that is flooding the airways with distorted messaging. They are pumping millions to fight this for obvious reasons – their taxes will go up. They make billions and pay the same rate as you and I. 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.

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. We recently lost one of our own, a former UPS Steward who retired a few years ago, to this deadly virus. Take it seriously!

Keep up the great work. Stay safe and healthy.

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