A Call to Acknowledge Shared Concerns

The Importance of Solidarity and Representation

We have consistently reached out to you to share some critical matters that deeply impact not only our future but also the legacy of our collective representation. These are not abstract issues; they are real, pressing, and deserve earnest attention.

Over time, we have voiced our concerns, presented our knowledge, and revealed the truths as we see them about the challenges posed within the framework of the current leadership of Brother Rabinowitz. Our intention has never been to divide but to shed light on the aspects we believe hinder progress, fairness, and the spirit of collaboration.

Today, we take this dialogue a step further by presenting to you a letter from a dedicated board member of our Local. This letter reflects shared experiences and a testament to the validity of the concerns we have raised. Her personal perspective is an example of collective voices that demand to be heard.

Our concerns are not merely grievances; they are rooted in a vision for a better and more equitable future—one where every voice matters, where leadership is accountable, and where the principles of true representation are upheld. These are values we believe are not just ours but shared by everyone who values fairness and integrity.

We urge you to read this letter with an open mind and a commitment to understanding. The challenges we face are not insurmountable, but they require a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue and to prioritize the greater good over individual interests.

Let us work together to ensure that the future we are building is one we can all take pride in—a future where representation is not dictated but truly reflective of the diverse voices that make up our community.

Our concerns are not just valid; they are necessary to address for the well-being of us all. We stand firm in our belief that through unity, transparency, and mutual respect, we can overcome any challenge that lies ahead.

We hope you will join us in this pursuit.

On Apr 29, 2025, at 9:00 AM, Laura Newman <laura.teamsters2010@gmail.com> wrote:

All,

As a native West Virginian, I was raised on stories of coal miners uniting against exploitative companies, which instilled in me a strong commitment to unionism. In 2007, I joined my first union as an operating engineer at UCLA, becoming a member of the State Employees Trade Council. After our union decertified and joined the Teamsters in 2016, I took on various roles, including steward, Bargaining Team member, Skilled Trades Board member, and Executive Board Trustee and Delegate. However, I soon discovered that our leadership prioritized growing membership over serving existing members, leading to internal conflicts and power struggles. I found myself fighting the union staff as much as the university administration to protect my coworkers' rights. Our Local's Principle Officer's obsession with loyalty and control created a toxic environment, where staff members fear retaliation for questioning his decisions or directives. I witnessed the firing of dedicated staff members, the cutting off of stewards and leaders, and the manipulation of truth at all levels to suit his narrative. Despite my efforts to address these issues at all levels, I realized that my values and approach to unionism are incompatible with that of our Local under this leader. I have decided that, as of the end of this year, I am stepping down from my roles and will focus, instead, on my well-being and family. To my coworkers, I am willing to remain a shop steward until you choose and vote on another to fill this role. I am honored and grateful for the experiences gained in serving my fellow union members

Very Respectfully,

Laura W. Newman