

Challenge To Run-off Election for CAW Local 707 President

Challenge Leaflet - received Tuesday June 22, 2010

Challenge Letter - received Tuesday June 22, 2010

Dave Thomas Challenge's Run-Off Election For President

Dear, Brothers & Sisters,

In keeping with my belief an informed and educated membership is a strong one, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my reasons for challenging the run-off election results for President of Local 707. With the vast majority of the membership voting for change in the original election for President, after the results came in from the run-off election with such a swing in which the ballots were cast, my election scrutineer informed me of multiple violations and irregularities in the election process.

I will produce the list of these violations for each and everyone to see throughout the plant sometime this week. Keeping in mind the amount of violations and irregularities is four pages long with upwards to twenty (20) such violations listed.

This is not the first time an election at local 707 has been challenged. In fact our last election was challenged to the Public Review Board on loose election practices. Our local did indeed have loose practices in the election process. The Appeals Committee under CAW Staff rep Munir Khalid gave four strict recommendations to 707 president Gary Beck to ensure the "Safeguards of Democracy" remain intact in future elections at local 707. Unfortunately our local union did not follow these strict recommendations as my scrutineer and other members informed me, thus putting doubts in our election process once again.

There will be a membership meeting-taking place on June 27th, 2010 at 10:00 am, I encourage all to attend this important meeting. At this meeting all the points of my challenge regarding the election process will be presented. If the membership feels as strong as I do that this election has violated our democratic rights, I would encourage all to join me at the general membership meeting and put forth a motion for a new election to take place for the Presidents position.

In closing I would like to encourage Brother Beck to support a new election. As the current President it is imperative that he makes sure all local by-laws, practices, and the membership's democratic rights are followed. Everyone would agree democracy in our union **IS A MUST**.

In Solidarity,

Dave Thomas

Dave Thomas, Challenge To Run-off Election for President

To: Ed Norton/ Rick Daoust Election Chair Local 707

Cc: Gary Beck, President Local 707

I am demanding a new election be held for the position of President of Local 707, due to extremely loose election practices, as well as questionable actions of the election committee that would easily allow for undetectable tampering of the ballot boxes that allowed for a significant prospect that the election results were tampered.

References referred to:

Election Guidelines Section 1:

A member of the election committee who wishes to run for office in an election which that committee will supervise must, immediately subsequent to nominations for that office, resign from the Election Committee.

Election Guidelines Section 2 G(2)

Preparation For actual Voting "Shall lock and seal the boxes in a way which will insure that any tampering with the ballot boxes will break a seal"

Election Guidelines Section 2 G (7)

Challengers have a right to be present during all phases of the voting procedure as well as during the preparation of voting areas..While challengers have a right to observe all activities of the election workers..challengers have a right to accompany ballot boxes at all times during the course of the election and until the ballot boxes are emptied and counted

Election Guidelines Section 2 G (8) Ballot Boxes

When voting is about to resume, or when the votes are about to be counted, the challengers may check the lock and seal which secures the slot and box so as to make sure that they have not been tampered with in the interim.

Election Guidelines Section 2 H Counting Of the Ballots (2)

Actual Counting of Votes shall add and total the votes recorded for each candidate The Final Step shall also be performed within plain view of the challenger.

Local 707 Bylaws Section 1 Election Procedure (5):

In all elections conducted at the plants where the retirees are eligible to participate, the election committee will set up special arrangements to allow voting to take place from 9am - 11 am at the union hall during the Retirees Chapter Meeting. This will not apply to run-off elections

Local 707 Bylaws Section 10 (a)

No Candidate in any election shall be a member of the Election Committee having supervision over such election.

Local 707 Bylaws Section 11(b):

No lobbying or canvassing shall take place within 100 ft of the polling booths, or at the plant gates on days when voting takes place.

List of challenges for run-off election, supplied by Challenger Anthony Peters:

- 1) **Election Guidelines Section 1:** A member of the election committee who wishes to run for office in an election which that committee will supervise must, immediately subsequent to nominations for that office, resign from the Election Committee. **Local 707 Bylaws Section 10 (a)** No Candidate in any election shall be a member of the Election Committee having supervision over such election: Friday morning 8:45 AM, Chris Campbell was actively involved in the election process; Chris Campbell was a candidate in this election.
- 2) **Election Guidelines Section 2 G(2)** Preparation For actual Voting: **Local 707 Bylaws Article 6 Section 1 Election Procedure (2)** All ballot boxes are to be sealed with an appropriate seal, and remain sealed for the duration of the election. Letter sent from Munir Khalid dated February 16, 2010 dealing with recommendations from previous Appeal Committee's (4) ballot Boxes must be checked at the voting locations beforehand to ensure they are empty, then locked and sealed, Once sealed they shall not be opened until all voting is completed: Friday 8:45am I requested that all ballot boxes be sealed after locking with a blue tag, my request was denied by election committee.
- 3) 9 am came to know the hall called a special meeting for retirees to come in and sign a petition this was an abuse of power by the candidate Gary Beck in order to get retired members out in the Advanced Poll
- 4) **Election Guidelines Section 1:** A member of the election committee who wishes to run for office in an election which that committee will supervise must, immediately subsequent to nominations for that office, resign from the Election Committee. **Local 707 Bylaws Section 10 (a)** No Candidate in any election shall be a member of the Election Committee having supervision over such election: 9:10 am informed R. Balaz, C. Campbell is actively involved on the election process
- 5) **Election Guidelines Section 1:** A member of the election committee who wishes to run for office in an election which that committee will supervise must, immediately subsequent to nominations for that office, resign from the Election Committee. **Local 707 Bylaws Section 10 (a)** No Candidate in any election shall be a member of the Election Committee having supervision over such election: 9:15 am R. Balaz informed me that C. Campbell will not be present at the election tables or in the room during counting, however, he will be sitting in the vice president's office at all times during the election process and act as an advisor.
- 6) 9:50 am Myself and Mike Vince where informed by R. Balaz that C. Campbell has been completely removed from the election process

- 7) 4:30 pm Friday I asked for the total during the advance poll response from Rick Daoust was "I don't know, a lot"
- 8) Rick Daoust failed to give me the number of people that voted
- 9) **Election Guidelines Section 2 G(2)** Preparation For actual Voting: **Local 707 Bylaws Article 6 Section 1 Election Procedure (2)** All ballot boxes are to be sealed with an appropriate seal, and remain sealed for the duration of the election. Letter sent from Munir Khalid dated February 16, 2010 dealing with recommendations from previous Appeal Committee's (4) ballot Boxes must be checked at the voting locations beforehand to ensure they are empty, then locked and sealed, Once sealed they shall not be opened until all voting is completed.: I asked for the jail and the box for the advance polls to be sealed Ed Norton and Rick Daoust refused to do so. In the previous election the process of locking the jail with a numbered seal was adopted, this would stop anyone from gaining access, and would highlight any attempt at tampering.
- 10) 5pm informed R Balaz about the lack of cooperation I was receiving from the election committee, Ron Balaz told me to put it in writing and submit it to the election chair.
- 11) Monday 7th 9AM left ext 235 at the hall a message ???????
- 12) Approx. 3pm call from Rick Daoust who gave me a number for the advance polls which was 142
- 13) **Election Guidelines Section 2 G(2)** Preparation For actual Voting: **Local 707 Bylaws Article 6 Section 1 Election Procedure (2)** All ballot boxes are to be sealed with an appropriate seal, and remain sealed for the duration of the election Wed 9th 4:45 am all ballot boxes where checked and locked however the boxes were not sealed
- 14) 11am retirees meeting polling station closed, count from Ed Norton "around 200" Ed Norton did not give a concrete number
- 15) **Election Guidelines Section 2 G (7)** Challengers have a right to be present during all phases of the voting procedure as well as during the preparation of voting areas..While challengers have a right to observe all activities of the election workers..challengers have a right to accompany ballot boxes at all times during the course of the election and until the ballot boxes are emptied and counted: Thursday 10th 9am asked to leave until 9:30 by Rick Daoust
- 16) **Election Guidelines Section 2 H 2(a)(b)** Counting Of the Ballots: 9:30 am denied access to counting to area until the committee is ready for counting
- 17) 10 am Box from gate 12 was emptied, 2 almost perfectly stacked piles of ballots were removed along with the ballots underneath
- 18) 10:25 am gate 2 box was emptied, my visual comparison of the number of ballots from gate 12 and 2 clearly showed that gate 12 had at least double if not more ballots than gate 2

19) **Election Guidelines Section 2 H Counting Of the Ballots (2)** Actual Counting of Votes :shall add and total the votes recorded for each candidate The Final Step shall also be performed within plain view of the challenger: Rick D., Ed Norton & Phil O. left the counting room with the ticker tape to calculate results

20) **Denied access** to verify totals of master number log sheets by Ed Norton and Rick D.

As of 9:30pm Wednesday June 9 my Challenger was supplied the following count supplied by:

- Polling Station located at Gate 12: count **553** supplied by Election Committee at Gate
- Polling Station located at Gate 2: count **480** supplied by Election Committee at Gate
- Polling Station located at Body 1: count **300** supplied Election Committee at Gate
- Polling Station located at Body 2: count **103** supplied by Election Committee at Gate
- Polling Station located at Paint: count **147** supplied by Election Committee at Gate.

As of 6am Thursday June 10 the time the polling stations were to close I have the following count supplied by:

- Polling Station located at Gate 12: count **687** supplied by Tim McNaughton
- Polling Station located at Gate 2: count **500** (a little over) supplied by Mike Roundtree
- Polling Station located at Body 1: count **340** supplied by John Beattie
- Polling Station located at Body 2: count **123** supplied by Steve Brozic
- Polling Station located at Paint: count **147** supplied by Election committee at Gate
- In total **1797** ballots cast in-plant
- Retirees/ Warranty/ Advanced polls 352 as supplied by Ed Norton for a total of **2149**

Alarminglly the count given to my challenger of the electoral list does not support the election committees claim that **2705** ballots were cast.

In closing, the inconsistencies in the number of participates in the ballot casting process as well as the aforementioned questionable and loose practices, in combination with the Election Committees' failure to apply safe guards that would make it impossible for ballot box tampering not to be detected, instead they choose loose practices that allow for easy tampering of the ballot boxes which would remain undetectable. The election committee also veered without reason from protocol established in the main election that created the need for a runoff. The cumulating of the above does not instill a reasonable level of confidence that the outcome is a genuine reflection of the voters' wishes. A new Election must be ordered.

Signed,

Dave Thomas