

ELECT FOR “CHANGE”

LARRY WELLS

“PRESIDENT”

Sisters and Brothers;

I've always believed in order to advocate for us, you have to come from us. Our representatives must be our equals, not something better than us, or removed from us. I have noticed, from time to time, a false judgement made against some worthy potential leadership hopefuls in our past. This idea, held almost solely by existing leadership, denies the worth of anyone putting themselves forward. If you haven't done this, if you haven't done that, you dare not crash 'OUR' party. We know what is best for the membership.

Basically, this uppity elite view disrespects all of us. You see, it matters very little to those that believe they know so much better, how much you've actually done or for how long you've done it. I see this view as foolishness that our members cannot afford. The cost is too great. We can never separate ourselves from one another if we hope to secure and build our future together. There are many paths open to us in seeking greater success, and these paths are never limited.

My Union involvement both within our Local Union Executive and at the Labour Council spans over a decade. My strong disagreement with Corporate Globalization has also led me to work intently on International Campaigns supporting folks just like us, but, in less favourable parts of the world. One of my favourite slogans is, 'An Injury to One is an Injury to All'. The best representative among us, will always be someone who truly believes in what we are all about; what we stand for.

We need to tell it like it is, raise our voice on the matters that plague us today, and be courageous!!! This is the true spirit of our members---I admire this personal nature, but, I don't see it reflected near enough among our present leadership. Case and point, in the most recent 'Message from the Plant Manager' the aim is to obligate us, on our own time, to set-up our work station. Does this offend you? I believe our leadership is perfectly within our rights to forcefully object to this overbearing expectation of us.

Needed change must occur in pushing-back against our present defeated role at the bargaining table. We need to take the bull's-eye off the back of our membership in direct negotiations with the company. We need to stop the out sourcing of our jobs and place squarely on the table our demands, and have them addressed adequately. But, how are we going to do that? Turning us around and finding our futures again requires electing someone that genuinely demonstrates the real ingredient necessary. That ingredient is the consistent argument made against this defeated 'trend' from its beginning and through the course of the life of this current contract. My position has never abandoned or wavered from the support necessary in hard times for my peers. I am the sole; the only candidate that represents needed change, returning us to our proud justified role in service of our needs, our standards of living, our conditions of employment, and ultimately our self-respect.

This election for President of our Local Union, is the great opportunity for us all to halt the march against us, and it is the challenge of our generation. Make no mistake about that Sisters and Brothers. Winning this election is only the beginning of our present day struggle. A struggle defining our work-lives, and one that we were born to fight, in equality and solidarity. A struggle we can WIN!!!

In solidarity,

Larry Wells