

ELECT FOR “CHANGE”

LARRY WELLS

“PRESIDENT”

Sisters and Brothers;

Wednesday May 19th each one of us, as members of our Local Union, will be voting for a Candidate that will represent us for the next 3 years. In this period ahead, we will once again negotiate our Collective Agreement. Most of us realize, here and now, that we are at a critical point in time. Will we see more of the same back-stepping, relenting to continual company concessions, or will we find a way past this bleak time in our history?

Sometimes the worst mistake that anyone can make, is made replacing someone with just someone else, that delivers more of the same.

As a challenger to the present occupant of the position as President of our Local I do so, on a real record basis. Meanwhile, my fellow two challengers portray themselves, today, ever so conveniently as contrasted characters to the present condition we find ourselves in. Again, the hard facts, when we view the past record of these two Brothers, we find personal agreement and support for the back-stepping, the company concessions, placing us where we really are today. How genuine is it then, for anyone seeking the position as President of our Local Union, to do so, claiming they are a candidate for ‘change’ while in full support of past measures that sought to demoralize us? That fanned our fears, and found internal manipulation from our worries, as we faced ruthless company threats like never before.

Needed Change is only found when we sift through the claims made more for the hopes of each and everyone of us rather than the personal election hopes of an individual!!! The recent past is very helpful in knowing who truly represents needed change and who makes hallow claims. I would say that voting for a challenger, delivering virtually the same defeated logic and outcome pressured by the Company and swallowed by the National Union defeats us all the more. The substance of an alternative advanced by my efforts through the past, I would argue, is the vital ingredient moving us away from more concessions and into a new period of improved standards of living that we earn everyday and justly deserve. That’s Change----that’s the Needed Change we require today!!!

We must begin to define the needed change through efforts developing continual education of the next generation of leadership, regular full communication with our membership, and exploring the requirement of building union power through Work-to-Rule initiatives. This along with ‘Bear Pit’, open, bi-weekly sessions, complimenting our functions, and seeking greater attendance for our monthly meetings. An informed engaged membership is a force to be reckoned with. Knowing and learning the terms of our Collective Agreement, our local Union By-Laws, and encouraging the active input of our membership in the life of their Union. These are real needed changes I seek, in applying, as a newly elected President of our Local Union.

In solidarity,

Larry Wells

P.S. Voting is by **Union Card only**, if you don’t have a union card contact your Committee-Person ASAP