

January 9th, 2012

Brothers and Sisters:

As you are aware, you recently received a ballot in the mail. While conducting my election campaign last year, I heard from many of you that our union (TCRC) at its highest level was disconnected from you and not responsive to you. I committed to try to do something about that and I was elected by you, to (I believe) follow through on that commitment.

The ballot you now have is part of my commitment to you. The current by-laws are outdated, vague and in need of change. The current mechanism to change these is neither practical nor timely. This is the opinion of many of our brothers and sisters. In spite of the allegations you may have heard, I do not propose to change them alone but plan to have a draft of proposed changes collaboratively developed with a committee and then to send those changes to you, the membership, so that each and every one of you may vote on them.

There are those who oppose this initiative and are against the members having such a vote. It is their right to do so. This is, after all, a democracy. I have not only encouraged debate, I have offered to attend meetings with the "opposition" to engage in debate on this issue so that you, the members can hear both sides of the issue directly from the parties. This offer has never been accepted by any one of the executive board members.

This initiative is for you, the membership; it is not for me. I tell you this truth - it would be far easier for me to simply leave things as they are. But, that is not what you asked of me and not what I committed to you. You told me you wanted a greater say in how our union operates. I know of no better way than to give you a mechanism which will ensure that you do, in fact, have a meaningful say in our union. That is what this is about.

Brothers and sisters, if you do want a meaningful mechanism to vote on what the by-laws will be in the future - you should vote, YES. If you do not, that is also fine.

When I ran for my position, I did so out of a desire to serve the membership. That has always been the basis of my union work and I commit to you that it always will be. That is who I am.

Thank you for participating in this vote and in this debate. It is what democracy and unionism is all about.

Fraternally yours

Rex