

There seems to be a lot of confusion about the meeting on Sunday. I have had many calls asking questions and of course read most of the same blogs that the membership reads. **Before the meeting Business Manager John Endicott approached me and asked if we could work together on the strategies for an Inside Campaign. I told him that I was absolutely willing to work together in the best interest of the membership. He said he would call me on Monday and we could discuss it further. In the meeting I reported our conversation in the interest of transparency. I also added that I would encourage the Rank and File Members to join in and work together.** Quite a lot of members took this to mean that I had changed my mind and was supporting authorizing the committee to call a strike. I obviously communicated poorly to have confused so many members. Later in the meeting I stated that "I'M VOTING NO". Of course the members that thought I changed my mind earlier saw this as a flip flop. Please know that my position has always been that we should not authorize the committee to call a strike. If I make statements that are confusing or unclear, please feel free to ask me to clarify them.

At the March Union Meeting I made a motion that carried and read " I move that a separate strike vote shall follow all rejected contract votes". I made this motion so that members could vote on the Proposed Contract on its merits alone and not out of the fear of a strike. Again there were members that interpreted this to mean that there would need to be a vote to strike and a different vote to authorize the committee to call a strike if needed. When asked to clarify my motion I truthfully stated that when I wrote the motion I did not consider the difference between the two. In 36 years any strike vote I was ever involved in was an authorization to the either the Business Manager or the Negotiating Committee to call a strike if needed. There are good reasons for wording it this way. Let's say that we did have just a straight up or down vote to strike and it passed on March 27. The contract is up on March 31 at Midnight. The negotiating Committee reaches an agreement that they feel comfortable recommending to the membership at 11:00 PM on March 31. However the next scheduled Contract Meeting isn't until April 3. Now what? Since the membership voted to strike at midnight should we be on strike for three days until we vote on the proposal? Wouldn't we want the option of delaying the strike until we have the opportunity to vote? I won't even go into the scenarios of combinations if they were two separate votes. Talk about confusing.

I did meet with John Endicott on March 28. We met in his office with the doors open with another 290 Rank & File member present. We talked openly about our upcoming fight and about strategies for an Inside Campaign. One of my recommendations was to schedule a Strike Committee Meeting ASAP and get input on strategies from a much larger group. The meeting will be Wednesday March 30, 2011 in Tualatin. I hope you will join us. If you have any questions please call or email me.

In Solidarity,
Al Shropshire
360-852-4006
als290@comcast.net

als290