
LOCAL AGITATOR

“Agitating for the Rank-and-File”

November, 2015

The Elections

Running a local union is a huge undertaking. It takes hard work; it is not for everyone. It certainly is not a “cushy office job.” Running a local requires unique qualities and skills such as **competence** and a real **commitment** to the members. It means long hours, a devotion to “**putting members first**” and the ability to think on your feet whether it’s for 6500 members or just one member. Leading a local involves dealing with a ruthless company on a daily basis on contract violations, grievances and discipline as well as negotiating across the table with upper management on big ticket issues such as contract bargaining, Health/Welfare and Pension sessions. It demands discussions and votes on union **finances** about who to trust with our Pension Funds’ **investments** and which H/care provider to choose.

Moreover, it takes real, proven experience. Eddie Vxxx’s slate **wrongly** states that when Members United was first elected in 2009, “they had no experience.” Well, that is **a lie**. Tim Sxxxxxx was not just a former UPS driver and janitor when he was elected President. Tim was **hand-picked** by Ron Carey to be an International Organizer; for several years Tim travelled the country on the Overnite campaign. Pete Mxxxxxxx, our VP, was not just a Feeder in 2009. He too was **hand-picked** by Ron Carey to be a trustee in charge of monitoring the finances of several “trusteed” (corrupt) locals. Jim Rxxxxx, our Secretary Treasurer, and Neil Xxxxxx, a Trustee and BA, worked with Ron in Washington as rank-and-file contract committee members.

Furthermore, when they came back to Local 804, those leaders continued to **devote** themselves to making our local stronger. In 2007, Tim and Jim lead the campaign that informed and mobilized the membership to vote down the concessionary “**fair for the times**” contract (which gave up the 15 minute “coffee” bonus for new hires) backed by Angelo Gxxxxx and Bill Bxxxxx. I distinctly remember Pete standing before our Old Board at our Oct 2007 Union Meeting saying: “Howie, it’s not a good agreement, it’s not a fair agreement, **it’s a bad agreement!** ...Don’t sell out the new guy!”- to a loud ovation of the members.

I also recall Tim pleading with our old board that “**we can’t sellout the unborn**...it’ll be this member can retire after 25 years, but that member can’t...this member can get ‘coffee’ but that member can’t...we’ll have second-class members...don’t do it, **Howie, you know this contract sucks!**”

In 2008, they collected over **2000 signatures** in order to force a vote to change the Local’s **Bylaws** which mandated a Health and Welfare Report and a Pension Report at every union meeting and the creation of a rank-and-file contract committee. Both passed **overwhelmingly** (218-12). In other words, these guys (soon to be Members United) made noise and stood up at meetings and asked questions and made suggestions. They, over time, made a **name** for themselves and gained lots of respect. In the past 6 years, though, what has each opposing slate (804 Strong and Leaders United) done for the betterment of our union besides attack our E/B and hand out shirts and lies? **Nothing!**

Why 804 “Strong” is Wrong for Local 804

First, Not-Ready-Eddie leads the **most unqualified** slate. Neither he nor anyone else on his slate has any real experience running a local or anything for that matter. It’s made up of some

weak and some good shop stewards. That would be adequate if you are running just for a BA slot. But it certainly is not enough if you are running for President or Secretary Treasurer or Trustee. More importantly, **Eddie** himself is an **empty suit**. Really, talk to the guy one-on-one. Ask him an important question. See if he can actually answer it. He has no clue. As I’ve written before, he is a nice guy but is totally **out of his league** here.

He must know this himself because, it has been confirmed by both slates, Eddie offered Guarella and Buhlert jobs as **\$100,000 consultants** if Eddie’s slate won the election- which they laughed at and rejected. They had so little confidence in **Eddie’s abilities** that they ran their own slate. Now I’m hearing that Eddie is so desperate that he would bring in **Tony Dxxxxx** to help run the union. In case you might not remember, Vallalta has some **inconvenient** baggage here. Not only was Eddie’s mentor Tony Dxxxxx, but he also ran with Tony in 2012 under the name Members’ Voice. Donato’s legacy is planted solidly with Eddie’s slate. A matter of fact Guarella also was on that slate but this time rejected Eddie’s overtures (seeing him as **weak**) and started his own slate. It seems each slate thinks the other is **unworthy** of leading our local. On this one issue I agree with them both.

Another reason **Eddie-is-not-ready** to lead our local is due to his support for and from **Hoffa**. Our local has voted against Hoffa since 1996. But Eddie is so **out of touch** and **desperate** to appear “presidential” that he is **colluding** behind closed doors with Hoffa and Hall. Who do you think is paying for new 804 Strong shirts and flyers and mailers? Could it be their **Sugar Daddy** Jimmy Xxxxx Jr? Eddie has been caught handing Hoffa’s boy Ken Hxxx a plague for coming to NYC to bash our E/B for getting back the Maspeth 250. Brothers and sister, Eddie would be a **Hoffa puppet!**

A third reason Eddie-isn’t-ready to lead is because he **lies**. He is lying mostly to part-timers to fool them into thinking Members United sold them out on **Teamcare**. Fact is part-time wages and healthcare is negotiated by the International (Hoffa/Hall), not Local 804. Hoffa/Hall, Eddie’s buddies, pushed Teamcare and Members United opposed it. If I were a part-timer, I too would be pissed off but at UPS and Hoffa, not our E/B. A matter of fact Tim and Members United are **taking the lead** in the **Fight for \$15** campaign that is spreading nationwide to raise wages and decrease inequality. Also, Eddie **refused to sign** the original petition months ago that Local 804 leaders were passing around. He said “it wasn’t our fight.” **Clueless.**

Part-timers: you might get **exploited** and **harassed** by UPS management and **screwed** by Hoffa/Hall but Local 804’s E/B has your back and best intentions at heart. In 2013, our E/B (Members United), for the first time ever in our local’s history, put part-timers and inside workers on our negotiating committee. Tim has vowed to expand that empowerment **nationally** if he is elected International president next year.

Finally, **Eddie** is wrong for Local 804 because he has proven himself that he **cannot lead**. On that fateful February morning, when rogue BA Russertt was leading his members (which included Eddie) off a cliff, Eddie just followed along. (Did you know that the original guy who was fired was from **Eddie’s center?**) Instead of thinking on his feet and maybe confirming whether Liam was authorized to pull the building,

Eddie just went along. He did not call Tim to ask if this was legit or not. He had the **responsibility** to inquire and investigate further but **he froze**. He was **no leader** on that day; he was a clueless follower who was tested and **failed** that test big time!

Why Leaders United is Wrong for Local 804

You might like and admire several members on this slate. That is natural. But this group is lead by 3 Old Board members (Guarella, Buhlert and Medina) that we **threw out** of office 6 years ago. Yes they have more experience than Eddie's crew, but it is mostly **bad experience** for us. In 1998, Ron Carey left them a strong and admired local. We were the home of 25 and out and Teamster reform. In 11 years all that was **gone**.

It began with the **whitewashing** of Ron Carey (our President from 1968-1998) from Local 804's official history. He was mysteriously **omitted** from the 804 Timeline history in the Old Board's 804 Magazine. **Why?** Then when Ron was accused (wrongly) of things, they turned their backs on Ron. **Why?** They didn't attend his trials nor show up at his funeral. **Why?** Was it because they **feared** pissing off Hoffa? Is that leadership? And what did that "close relationship" with Hoffa get us in Local 804? **-weak contracts and higher dues.**

Since we are talking about the past, let's talk about how "Leaders United" like to **glorify the past**. They have convinced themselves that harassment and dishonesty discharges began on Jan 2010. Here is some inconvenient history: when Members United took office there was a backlog of 300 discharges and suspensions. **300!** The thing that has changed since 2010 is that instead of only 2 buildings having "telematics", now **all 14 buildings have that system**. And with that system comes the inevitable increase in dishonesty charges. Telematics was allowed by Hoffa yet Leaders United blames our E/B. **Shameful!**

A third reason Leaders United is wrong is their ability to get things **wrong**. They **backed Hoffa** all those years against the wishes of the membership. They stated that "we lost Election Day". That was **false**. We still get a floating triple time day but now we get to pick which day we want. They were **wrong** about whether the pension could go up. It was **frozen under them** at \$3600; it is currently \$4000. They were **wrong** on cutting a **secret deal** with UPS to increase co-pays, cut benefits and end 25 and out retiree healthcare to be announced after the 2009 election. Not to mention their **complicity** in the irresponsible actions to the files, notes and hard drives following their loss in the 2009 election. That was **disgraceful** as well as the classy behavior of Buhlert yelling at Tim and **grabbing his balls** before storming out of a union meeting.

The last reason they are wrong is their talk of "**unity**". Where was the unity when Members United took over in 2010? The old board and some of their stewards **refused** to cooperate with the new board. Tim reached out to the old board members through certified letters to ask them for any notes, files or relevant information. But the remaining former board members **ignored** them and worked to **undermine Members United**. Also Tim did make attempts at solidarity and unity. When they decided to expand the number of BAs, Members United hired shop stewards who were **not** connected with the E/B. They brought in **Anthony xxxxxx**, a strong Row A supporter, in mid-2010. Members United brought in FT Insider and once Tim's enemy **Chris Wxxxxxxx** in 2011 as well as **Scott Dxxxxx**, another Row A guy, in 2015. Leaders United talk about unity. **Members United display unity.**

Why is 804 Fights Back is Wrong for Local 804

It's all about the Liam. Let's look at the history. He was hired by UPS; he was fired by UPS. Tim hired him in 2010 as a union representative. Then on that February morning, Liam

disobeys Tim's order and stages an illegal, **unsanctioned** walkout which lead to his banishment from UPS facilities. Liam responded to Tim's settlement to get the Maspeth 250 back by **pre-meditatively** and **secretly** taping he and Tim's conversations as well as **hacking** into Tim's **private** email account. He then broadcasted those conversations and emails on you tube. To this day he denies any responsibility for the suspensions of the 250 members whose careers he jeopardized. The man is "**incorrigible**", irresponsible and untrustworthy.

Let's face it: if it weren't for Liam xxxxxx on a pole in Maspeth, there would be **no** real challenge to the board. But there is an election and the **implications** of that result are enormous. The stakes are so high that even **Hoffa** has gotten personally involved. He seems to want our local **divided**. At first he tried to get both opposition groups to combine slates; but it didn't work. Now he seems to be backing 804 Strong with money and campaign help. The plan is to defeat or weaken Tim so that he can't challenge Hoffa next year. Brothers and sisters, do not allow Hoffa to **dictate** who our local leaders should be!

Members are **angry** and **frustrated**. They are pissed about the daily shit that UPS mats out. But that is a **nationwide** frustration. At a recent rank-and-file convention, I spoke with UPS members from **all over the country** discussing the same problems with UPS: harassment, ORION, dishonesty. They **admire** the reforms our E/B has implemented here: cut their salaries, hired more BAs, fixed H/W Fund, increased the pension, guaranteed 150 FT jobs and upgraded the grievance procedure.

Granted **more needs to be done** like lowering retiree H/care costs, better harassment and technology language and stronger seniority rights for inside workers. But with their **on-the-job experience** and a **record of accomplishment**, not just irresponsible and vague promises, we need to keep moving **forward** with Members United. The opposition slates are trying to direct that anger we all feel toward UPS and Hoffa and blame our E/B. **Don't be fooled!**

There are some good people running on these slates. But **do not be blinded** to who will be "leading" those slates. They are people who **do not** deserve or qualify to run our great local. You might like your shop steward who is running for a BA slot, great. After the election he can still be your steward (remember it is a **secret ballot**).

A **perfect storm** is brewing next year for the anti-Hoffa forces: UPS members are pissed off over the **Teamcare** debacle, the **Vote No campaign** on Facebook grows every day, tens of thousands of members of **Central States** are really pissed off. Recently, the **Carhauleders** rejected Hoffa's contract by 85%...pissed off. **YRC**, our public employees...pissed off. That anger combined with the merged forces that ran separately against Hoffa in 2011 means **big trouble** for Hoffa/Hall. They understand that perfect storm which is why they are **secretly intervening** in our elections to knock off or weaken Tim. We **cannot** allow them to do that. Not here in the Home of Teamster Reform. Not in the **Home of Ron Carey!**

Before you mark off your ballot ask yourself these questions: Are the funds (H/W, Pension) in better shape than 6 years ago? **YES!** Does my BA show up at my building? **YES!** Does he have my back? **YES!** Do they keep us informed? **YES!** Did they deliver on the contract? **YES!** Do they deserve re-election? **YES!** You know their names: **Tim xxxxxx, Jim Rxxxxxx, Pete Mxxxxxx, Dave xxxxxx, Neil x'xxx, Chris Sxxxxxxx, Mark Hxxxxx, Dave Oxxxxx, Steve Axx, Anthony Cxxxxx, Chris Wxxxxxxx, Vinnie Pxxxxx, and Scott xxxxx.** They are **804 Members United!**
