

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Based on the number of calls and notes I have received in the last few days I know that most of you have heard that I was required to resign my elected position as Assistant General Chairman of District Lodge 141 if I chose to remain a candidate for President of District 141. I have made a commitment to the membership and the other candidates on the New Direction team that I would be a candidate for that office and let the members decide, by their votes, who will be the next President of District 141. Although I took no joy in leaving a job I loved for the past 18 years the options given me by the IAM were clear and I feel good about the decision. I am looking forward to returning to my original classification and reconnecting with the day to day effects of negotiated changes in our contract. I am also eager to continue the campaign to change our Union and take it in A New Direction.

Many people have asked why we would put up with the political dirty tricks and power plays of those in charge of the District and question whether it would not be better to just walk away, give up on the election process, and maybe find another union. I don't want to give up on the IAM now. I believe the IAM is still the best available union to represent the future of employees of carriers who are under District 141. We just need new leadership.

I, along with my fellow candidates on the New Direction team, have always had a single goal in mind – return our Union to its owners, the members. We need to focus on the members' needs, not ours; worry about their job security more than our own. If that means I had to resign in order to keep the fight going I accept that. Our team knows that forcing resignations is not the last trick up the sleeve of the incumbent and we expect more outrageous attacks on us, both personal and professional. We want you to know we are ready to face them head on and not back down. We are ready to take all the punches, no matter how low, that are thrown at us and keep fighting on your behalf.

We ask only one thing from you – stick with us. Help us get a full, fair election in June and support our commitment to change District 141. We promise to stay in the fight regardless of phony policy changes, trumped up charges, or baseless attacks on our character. If we stay together during the next 2 months we can have the union we all want, the union we thought we joined. The Union that exists to serve its members, that has confidence in letting its members determine the future, and that rejects a leadership group that is corrupted by its need to remain in power at all costs.

I may have been required to resign but I am not going to quit. Don't let your right to vote be denied or delayed. Insist that the District 141 Officers election be held as scheduled in the month of June. Support the New Direction and we will all win.

Rich Delaney