



International
LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE
UNION

August 23, 2011

LOCAL 500 - BULLETIN

NO QUORUM AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

We have not established a quorum at a General Membership Meeting since March of this year. There have been important issues for the Union to deal with on the Agenda.

Article V, section 2 of the Local Constitution states under "Duties of the President" subsection (b) The President "shall do all things necessary to coordinate and manage the affairs of the Local." Under this Constitutional authority, with the cooperation of the Officers and Executive, we have dealt with those things that had to be taken care of.

However, the basic structure of the Local is to make possible the widest representation of all legitimate Membership interests. The Constitution, Article IV Structure says, "It shall reflect the determination of the Membership to achieve the democratic organization affirmed in the Preamble and Declaration of Principles to this Constitution." The principle of participation by the rank and file is hijacked when we do not get a quorum.

Participation in the affairs of the Local is essential. Democracy means more than simply voting for the Officers and Executive and having them make decisions for you. The monthly Membership Meeting is the vehicle for effective channels of communication to encourage maximum rank and file participation in the affairs of the Union.

Without a quorum the Local's business will continue to be dealt with by the Officers and the Executive as it has been since March 9, 2011.

In solidarity,

Mark Keserich
President