



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector

OFFICE OF
Daniel F. Wasser
PRESIDENT

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Sisters and Brothers:

It is with profound sadness that I write to you today and furnish you an update on our ongoing differences with CWA President Christopher Shelton. I encourage everyone to not only visit the Printing Sector's website as often as possible, but to also share the site with all the CWA locals and friends that you know. We have created a page dedicated to this discussion and will have all documents and information relating to our differences, on the site, for you to read and disseminate at will. The address is: www.cwa-ppmws.org

The merger of the ITU with CWA, over 30 years ago, was a monumental accomplishment by very able and respected individuals, and just possibly, played a small role for other merger discussions to take place with other unions after 1987.

At the 2006 CWA Convention, when President Shelton was Vice-president of District 1, it was proudly proclaimed by the CWA Executive Board, "IUE-CWA, NABET-CWA, PPMWS, TNG-CWA, AFA-CWA and District 13 all have proud and valued histories as independent unions. CWA signed affiliation agreements with each one establishing them as [a] sector/district and guaranteeing a board seat. All the affiliation agreements have been posted on the Ready for the Future website (since March 2006). CWA does not break its agreements – we're not that kind of union."

Keeping with that proud proclamation and under former CWA President Larry Cohen, CWA and the PPMWS entered discussions and reached its first merger amendment in 2011, and it was ratified by the members of the 25th Conference of the PPMWS. Subsequently, a second amendment was reached and ratified in 2015.

These amendments kept in place the original merger agreement, scaled back the overall expenses of the PPMWS, and just as important, laid out the minimum structure of the Printing Sector. The parties knew that the overall objective, providing effective representation to the members, was paramount and could not be hindered by an unworkable amendment or structure of the PPMWS.

In December 2017, President Shelton abruptly announced to me his plot to shutter the PPMWS, and discussions on the Printing Sector began shortly thereafter between his Committee, the Laws and Finance Committee and myself.

The Laws Committee and I remained cautiously optimistic that the basic principles of what organized labor stands for would let the parties reach an agreement, on our differences, throughout our discussions over the last year and a half. However, it was made abundantly



clear throughout such time and discussions, that Shelton's egocentric thinking would dominate our deliberations.

There are indisputable rights in the Merger Agreement and, the directive to secure such rights when needed. These rights are further guaranteed under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, As Amended (the "LMRDA"). Whereas, it has been long established that the overriding objective of the LMRDA, to promote union democracy, would be thwarted if at any time the union members concluded they could not challenge the union's hierarchy.

As stated, many times over, your rights will be defended from both external and internal attacks, and this is an unwavering commitment. Resolution is always preferred over discord, and we have worked to that end. Unfortunately, it has been one sided.

Effective March 15, 2019, the PPMWS filed a lawsuit in federal court against CWA to enforce the Merger Agreement, all of its amendments, and the rights guaranteed under such documents. Please continue to visit the PPMWS website: www.cwa-ppmws.org for updated information as we head into the 29th Sector Conference in Las Vegas.

I truly wish that our deliberations would have been more productive, but we are reactionary to the very conditions we are presented with. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In Unity,



Dan Wasser
PPMWS President

cc: Laws and Finance Committee