



THE FACTS



- **In June**, President Simpson revealed his plan to unilaterally call for new “founding” conventions, forming new Systems whose membership would be taken from the currently organized and recognized Systems and Federations. President Simpson claimed he had authority to do so **WITH NO VOTE** from either the members themselves or the currently organized Systems and Federations.
- **Also in June**, Members Against Forced Mergers began communicating with BMWED members in opposition to these plans for forced founding conventions. One of our first messages was that “**our voices must not be ignored.**” Right at the start of our work, we advocated for our members’ right to a democratic Union, for their votes to count, and their voices to be heard.
- **In August**, the General Chairpersons from six of the current Systems and Federations filed suit against President Simpson and other National Division officers who supported his plan. This temporarily suspended the implementation of President Simpson’s plan. Later in September and October, other Systems and Federations joined the suit, bringing **12 of the 14 Systems and Federations together in opposition to President Simpson and his supporters.**
- **In October**, a federal judge worked with both parties to the lawsuit to craft an agreement to resolve the dispute. The GCs crafted an agreement that included voting rights for membership, which President Simpson agreed to. Your right to vote on these founding conventions would **NOT** have been secured without the action of the General Chairpersons opposing President Simpson’s plan.
- Immediately after the settlement was reached in court, President Simpson and his supporters alleged that the opposition had “renege” on the agreement, **then that no agreement existed.** They proceeded to craft a plan where only a select portion of our total membership would be given the chance to vote, in a manner and schedule selected by supporters of the founding conventions.
- **In December**, President Simpson announced his intentions to implement his new plan. **The federal judge called for an immediate halt to President Simpson’s scheme**, returning both parties to his court to resolve the issue.
- Through the work of Dennis Albers, on behalf of the members opposing President Simpson’s scheme, a new plan has developed which secures **BMWED MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO VOTE** regarding President Simpson’s attempt to reorganize our Union according to his own design.

The work of the Members Against Forced Mergers has helped secure your right to vote on how your Union is organized. We ask you now to **REJECT** President Simpson’s scheme, anti-democratic from the start, by voting **NO** to his plan to dissolve our current Systems and Federations. The timeline is clear on how the fight to let your voice be heard has gone, and who has fought for your rights as members.

Your voice matters. Let us stand together.
Vote “NO” to President Simpson’s scheme.
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