

Fellow Machinists a movement is underway to bring unity, independence, and internal democracy to District 19. Hundreds of machinists have overcome the constraints of the by-laws and nominated a Challenger Slate of machinists. D19 functions as a hierarchical top down “business union” model. Where orders are given and decisions are made with minimal member involvement. The lines between railroad management and union representation are blurred. The silent majority of machinists desire a unified, independent organization. Free of corporate, government, and special interest control.

I.A.M. District 19 has distanced itself from the membership to the point that they have become a self serving private club. Interested more in maintaining their current status than fighting for what's best for the members. They fail to see that we are the most powerful when the rank and file are engaged as a “collective” front.

All of the machinists on the Challenger Slate decided to run for you, the members! We support by-laws changes that promote union democracy. D19 officers burned many bridges with their behavior in the last round of negotiations by prematurely leaving the coalition and by throwing out our yes vote to strike, multiple times. The Challengers are already making progress in mending those relationships.

The lines of communication between D19 and the membership is atrocious. How is it that D19 only has 881 members' emails out of approximately 7500 Machinists when D19 has three secretaries on the payroll? How is it possible that their membership address list is not updated to the point that thousands of machinists never received information on how to vote for the last contract or when and how to vote in this election? These issues are unacceptable and pose the question: Are they seeking to suppress the vote and make it nearly impossible for members to receive information from new machinists running for election? Waiting until the middle of an election or contract vote to update the list is a dereliction when they had 4 years (or more) to prepare. When elected we will immediately make it a priority to run an information update campaign to get every member's home address and email.

We believe in “rank and file” unionism where the members are engaged in every facet of our union. A bottom up approach, from the shop floor activism to decisions being made about national contracts and everything in between. We didn't become known as “The Fighting Machinists” by cozying up to the carriers and always using the phrase “the carriers can do that.” We earned that title by being militant activists in the railroad pits, always standing together, and by thinking outside of the box.

On June 9th, from 6am to 6pm, make history for the first time in over 40 years! Become the loud majority by voting for the Challenger Slate. When representation is voted in by the membership and not appointed they are beholden to you, the members, not the person that appointed them. Current D19 representation threw out your strike vote and now it's your turn to return the favor. Send them back to their tools!

To learn more and meet the Challengers visit: [www.dl19united.com](http://www.dl19united.com)