

August 23, 2017

Via e mail and US mail

Dear Brother Hoffa,

I wish to reiterate and reaffirm the IBT constitution's clearly stated language concerning regular quarterly meetings as established by article IX section 5. This year to date, we, the newly elected members of this GEB, have participated in one full GEB meeting, on May 8, 2017.

On March 20, 2017, a teleconference swearing in of the newly elected GEB took less than fifteen minutes and covered absolutely nothing of our union's business. No one in their right mind would consider this an appropriate quarterly meeting of our union's highest body. I have a phone record of the duration of this telephonic swearing-in starting at 4:00 pm; and at 4:18 pm, I received an email from Raquel Joseph after the call had ended.

Yet the IBT press release of August 18 claims that this was an official GEB meeting.

On August 9, 2017, a pension crisis meeting was held at the IBT headquarters only after you received communications from Vice President Avral Thompson dated July 19, 2017, questioning the lack of quarterly meetings and citing the seriousness of the pension debacle. This gathering lasted for only four hours, including the lunch break, and nothing of remarkable value or substance was accomplished. This hastily called meeting was devoid of ordinary union business, and once again fails to meet the standard of responsibility to our membership.

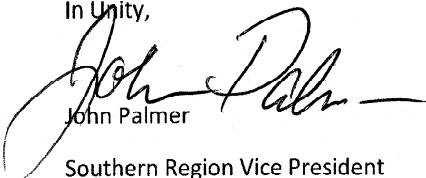
With all the many problems facing our union, including the indictment of Mr. Coli, a former GEB member; the pending legal outcomes of Vice President Rome Aloise, your Executive Assistant W.C. Smith; and investigations into your personal staffers e-mails and other activities, we have yet to be briefed on the status of these ongoing legal entanglements. Neither have we received reports from the divisions regarding any of their activities or financials since May 8, 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th and 6th, 2017, as stated in your July 14, 2017, memo, a full seven months without any discussion on these important and vital matters.

These actions do not comply with the language or intent of the constitution nor does any such claim to past practice exist. Our members elected a GEB responsible to conduct the full business of our union. The ongoing attempts to cut elected officers and their members out of the picture is unacceptable behavior and is disrespectful of both the constitution and our members.

The bizarre picture on the cover of the current *Teamster* magazine makes clear your refusal to accept the fact that six members of the GEB were elected from the Teamsters United Slate. While the magazine headlines "Unity," the picture was carefully cropped to show something visibly different.

I formally request that you abide by the constitution and serve the members' needs going forward.

In Unity,

  
John Palmer  
Southern Region Vice President