

In recent days our President Alonzo West has sent out a request for COBA members to submit a letter of interest to be on a Political Action Committee (**PAC**). That may be a bold move from our President, but unfortunately it is simply a token of Symbolism without any Substance.

The question we must asked ourselves as dues paying members and still we are waiting for a raise that no one is a 100% sure when we will get it. How can we have a **PAC** now when President Alonzo West is in his **55 months** of decision making first as the **First Vice President** and then as our **President** of COBA and he has never ever been **Politically Active**? That is a complete and pure **Oxymoron**!

How can you have a **PAC** and **NO Lobbyist**?

A lobbyist is a person acting as an agent for a group seeking to bring about the passage or defeat of legislative bills, to influence the content of the bill. Lobbying (also Lobby) is a form of advocacy with the intention of influencing decisions made by legislators and officials in the government by individuals, other legislators, constituents, or advocacy groups.

This is truly putting the “**Wagon in front of the Horse**”. We haven’t secured a Lobbyist in almost **SIX** years. We have missed out on critical legislation like enhancing the **Heart Bill**, **3/4 Disability Bill**, and also spear heading the charge for the **20 Year Retirement Bill**, **Saliva Bill** and **Securing Retirement Benefits** when the economy was stable in New York State. President Alonzo West has and continues to move monies that would have been budgeted for a lobbyist, to other so-called needs while COBA has remained in a legislative agenda limbo year after year after year.

Now after **55 months**, President Alonzo West wants to be Politically Active! Give us a break! Being Politically Active is not creating a PAC. Being Politically Active is speaking out in defense of hard working COBA members on issues that affect us and our families. He has not said ANYTHING! Look at our COBA website and see for yourself. **NO** statement! **NO** Press Release! **NO** Press Conference! **NOTHING!**

President Alonzo West did not even publicly support any candidate for elective office, not even for County Executive. He doesn’t attend any important political events. Probably he was not even invited! In President Alonzo West **THREE** years as President **he has never had a Legislative Agenda**. COBA has been embarrassingly absent in the Political seen in Albany and in Westchester. The COBA car was purchased with the sole intent for the President to go to Albany and White Plains to fight for legislation for COBA not to drive from home to the union office and back home again!

Those may say that President Alonzo West is trying. Yes he is trying now because his job is on the line in a few months! His back is against the wall. A desperate man will do desperate things!

Let’s not be lulled to sleep by any feeble attempts to try to be proactive. After **55** woeful and painful months of President Alonzo West presidency he is too late in being **Politically Proactive**. President Alonzo West lack of political astuteness has made hard working COBA members fall **55 months** behind the proverbial 8 ball. That is time we will **NEVER** get back.

President Alonzo West, we have not seen from you a comprehensive **Progress Report** in the **55 months** since you have been the First Vice and the President of COBA. Therefore we demand that you give us a comprehensive **Progress Report** on all matters relating to all COBA issues i.e. (**Legislation, Litigation, Grievance, P.E.R.B., etc.**) **55 months is Dammed** long.

I asked COBA members to visit my website www.dkjones4cobaprez.com or facebook @DK Jones and see for yourselves the articles that I have been interviewed on and/or written defending Correction Officers at large.

