

Will the Real Spokesperson for COBA Please Stand Up!

The President is the head of the union. When there is a crisis the membership expects him to stand up for them. The Presidents response to any crisis has to bear the feelings and impressions of the members in mind.

When the President of a Union speaks, the political elite in Westchester are always watching to see how skillfully or clumsy he handles a crisis situation. They will make judgments about the effectiveness of COBA and our leadership. The politically connected community is small and incestuous— everyone knows everyone else's business. How our COBA leaderships responds to a crisis will greatly influence their impression of the power and effectiveness of our union.

More often our leadership has not relayed our perspectives on the issues that affect our lives on the record to the media of Westchester. Our union leadership has routinely handed the public microphone to the representatives of management to have their say while our union leadership remained on the sidelines.

In the Journal News article dated June 19, 2010, written by Brian Howard. Our union leadership took an all time low in fiduciary responsibility. The article quoted a Michael Skelly as the COBA Spokesperson. When in the history of COBA have we needed a spokesperson other than our elected executive branch, who receives a salary, union time off to fight for the rights of the members that elected them in office? Who is Michael Skelly? Is he from the X Files? Where did he come from?

According to the Journal News reporters, a call was made to the COBA office to get a statement from President Alonzo West about the allegations of our Second Vice President. President West didn't return the call to the Journal News. The call was returned by Michael Skelly and is quoted in the article as the spokesperson of COBA.

President Alonzo West must explain why and how COBA came about having a civilian spokesperson!

As dues paying members we have the right to know who made the decision to hire him, what he's being paid, and why the COBA President Alonzo West feels that he is no longer capable as serving as the spokesperson for the largest law enforcement agency in Westchester County.

On behalf of COBA members I will formally request this information from President Alonzo West.

Once I receive a response from President Alonzo West, I will make it available for all to read.