

In light of recent events involving our union leadership, it is incumbent that our President Alonzo West preserves the diplomacy, character and integrity of our organization COBA. As members, we should expect a dignifiable degree of inclusion from our union officials. They should provide a professional standard of conduct and enlightenment. Lastly, we should expect our union leadership to instill and promote the belief system and creed of our members as we journey toward an empowered, improved and efficient laboring body.

Unfortunately, President Alonzo West has failed to consider how he and COBA are being perceived by those surrounding him and in political arenas. Too often in the past they never thought before they spoke. It is like a fired bullet that can't be retrieved. The lack of respect that COBA has as a union is transparent and disheartening.

With recent reports of our second Vice President focusing on school board elections, coaching and other activities indicates that the hard working membership has never been the priority of the executive branch. They have been more focused on personal gains with the use of union release time received than with the integrity, respect and benefits of those they were elected to represent. My statement is not an indictment on our second Vice President alleged extra-curricular activities. Like many accused in this country, he too shall have his day in court.

As a dues paying member, it is my obligation to question President Alonzo West accountability on union release time. How could the second vice president interview with the journal news about his **personal campaign** for the local school board elections yet he has **never** met with the journal news or any other media outlet to discuss workplace issues, safety or the prevalent health hazards of the hardworking correctional officers who elected him.

Somebody, anybody, please help me to understand how it is that this one man can work multiple overtime shifts totaling over 40 grand, coach 3 athletic teams, campaign for his local school board while maintaining a 8hr day addressing membership concerns at our division headquarters. He did all this without a wink of sleep. How is that humanly possible? He should be casted in the next Ironman 3. Maybe if they all worked this hard for us we wouldn't be almost FIVE years behind in our contractual agreements; at least 2007 and 2008 would have been settled.

Let's not forget, just a few months ago how the former elected Treasurer Parsons resigned from his elected position because he disagreed with President West on how union time was being allocated. While resignations happen, the ills of the cabinet are not disclosed and we the members are subsequently left in the dark. We are never updated on **litigations** and **legislative** issues from our COBA leaders and most of us have never seen or interacted with our COBA President inside the facility

It is President West fiduciary responsibility to the members of COBA to ensure that all of the union release time is appropriately utilized for the **insurance, protection and maintenance** of the **rights** of COBA members— **not for personal affairs**. There have been many rumors that under President West leadership these standards never applied.

Maintaining the integrity of union release time is paramount. Therefore it must be preserved and protected by any means necessary. President Alonzo West must demonstrate to this membership that his actions were not obscured but transparent and accountable when pertaining to this negotiated benefit of service as a union official.

On behalf of the COBA membership I will be formally requesting an inquiry into the misappropriations of abused union release time and fully expect our president to prove his lack of involvement. Once I receive a response from President Alonzo West, I will make it available for all to read.

