

August 1, 2007

Joe DiNicola, President
SEIU Local 503
Headquarters Office
1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97309-0159

President DiNicola:

At the July 11, 2007 meeting of the statewide Local 001 it was moved and seconded to request you not attend any further official Local 001 gatherings. The motion passed unanimously. This action stems from the adverse position to SEIU Local 503 taken by you to sue our union for payment of overtime claimed to have been worked for the nearly two and a half years of your presidency. We believe your position is unsupportable. Furthermore, this obstinate position has embarrassed, divided, and polarized our membership exactly at a time of crucial bargaining. In spite of a divided leadership, the bargaining teams pulled off good contracts for DAS and OUS.

Now, let me be perfectly clear. This request of you is not a form of retribution or retaliation. We simply are so disappointed in your behavior in this matter, it is too painful to share space with you. There are two former occupants of your position who spent all or parts of two terms in an all volunteer relationship with the union. They might ask of you, "What part of volunteer don't you understand?" Another long time member stated that he was all the more angry because he had liked and supported you so much.

Clearly, as a member of our union you have the right to attend any meeting. We recognize that all official meetings are open to all members. Again, we are just saying we do not want your presence at our gatherings. Because we are retired, all of the time we spend on union business is volunteer. Being in the final third of our lives, we do not want to spend significant periods of time in uncomfortable, tense situations. Every time you enter our presence, the tension increases. Consequently, out of respect to our members and their volunteer contributions, please avoid attending any of our official meetings.

Sincerely,

John Hawkins
President Local 001

cc: Leslie Frane, Dawn Morgan, Robert Gourley

