

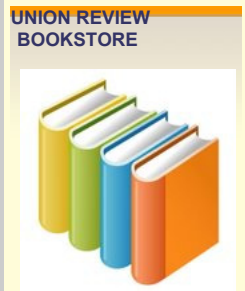


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Labor Movement News and Views

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Local Union President Seeks \$110,000 in back-pay for OT

Union news

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Have you ever read an article and thought to yourself, geez, I need to send this out to a lot of people? Well, I get that feeling about 10 or 15 times a day, but this week there was [one article that really stood out](#) for me. It is the story of an SEIU Local president who wants an extra \$110,000 from his union for, well, doing his job.



Submitted by **Richard** on Fri, 06/29/2007 - 6:49am.

Joe DiNicola is the president of 40,000-member SEIU Local 503 in Oregon; where many of the local's members are earning \$11 per hour at a psychiatric treatment facility in Portland. A few years ago, according to the article, DiNicola spent one hour on the picket line with workers of this facility (who struck and walked in bitterly cold weather for 61 days straight). For his one hour of walking in solidarity with the workers, the union president wants \$44 - huh?

That's what I said when I read the article: "HUH?" As it turns out DiNicola is a time-watcher who anticipated that he would be paid for every waking moment on the job. He allegedly kept fastidious notes regarding his time spent on union business; and with apparently no shame at all, calculated and turned in time-sheets valued at \$110K in over-time wages. The guy already earns an \$83,000 salary - all of which comes directly from union dues, I guess it is not enough. Everything from spending an hour on the line to checking email after dinner -- well, he wants pay for that "work."

While I would love to have a talk with DiNicola, I am doubtful he would give me an interview. It sure would be fantastic to ask him how he has reasoned checking email after-hours constitutes over-time, which, as mentioned, he did. Perhaps we can discuss the cold 60 minutes he spent on the picket line a few years ago - and even why he chose the line of work that he did, representing people that he does. Clearly there are a lot of questions I would like to ask a guy like this, but I would probably spend some time gathering questions that others might want to ask - and pose those to him as well.

Which brings me to my next idea: Aside from some of the obvious, what would you say to this guy ... besides wake-up. Would you tell him a little about your work? Maybe some would talk about how it feels knowing what the CEO of the company they work at earns -- and that his move in attempting overtime is terribly similar. Who knows, maybe we would just say, "Hey, thanks ... job well-done! Thanks for making it easier to spread the word of progressive trade unionism."

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02/09/2008 - 9:47pm

• **Damn Joe, a Carpenter ? nominatededucate**
02/09/2008 - 8:04pm

• **A few changes worth mentioning Richard**
02/09/2008 - 6:05pm

• **Thank you once again Joe638NYC**
02/09/2008 - 4:38pm

• **Three Point ! nominatededucate**
02/07/2008 - 10:30pm

• **Yeah, a lot of my friend Joe638NYC**
02/06/2008 - 11:57pm

• **Hello Local 3 guy or gal, I Joe638NYC**
02/06/2008 - 11:09pm

• **I feel you Chuck™**
02/06/2008 - 8:01am

• **At least the city is doing something. NYCElectrician3**
02/05/2008 - 10:19pm

• **Big Labor Too Little ?... works for me !! John A. Joslin**
02/03/2008 - 11:36am



ART ON THE LINE



TeamsiersOnline.com
Communication Is Power

SHOP UNION MADE

Lone nut

Submitted by **Dayton** on Fri, 06/29/2007 - 8:24am.

Don't mourn, organize

Ok, Let's call this what it is -- one rogue, greedy official who has decided for whatever reason to challenge the Fair Labor standard's act overtime exemption criteria for his position. I think we all can agree that it's not in the Union's best interest to pay such high wages to anyone but the highest union officials and it's a slap in the face to all those who volunteer their time for the betterment of their brothers and sisters and everyone else who works 80-hrs a week, or sixty hours a week and knows full well they'll never see an extra dime for it.

So this guy goes out and wastes his money on some lawyer who convinces him that he has more than a snowballs chance in hell of winning -- for a fee -- and he decides he wants his big payday. Obviously his personal betterment is his top priority. His legal arguments have got to be pretty weak and he will likely lose. And in the end he will be holding a big bill for legal fees and will be labeled a weasel by the labor community -- he would be a pariah in most unions, as well he should. We don't need anymore weasels -- thanks for exposing one.



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What a disgrace , to give

Submitted by **Joe638NYC** on Sat, 06/30/2007 - 3:38pm.

What a disgrace , to give the anti-union movement more ammunition in its war against the working man .

Joe DiNicola is exactly the type of guy that Walmart will show its employees to convince them to stay Non-union , i hope he goes broke .

Makes me think of all the docked time my brothers and I recieved recently when we went to a demonstration , no one complained , we all went .

and we would go again if asked

Fraternally

Joe



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Unrestrained in Oregon

Submitted by **star085** on Wed, 11/21/2007 - 2:58am.

It was pleasant indeed to read the comments posted to your site late last June. Sorry I just now came upon them while doing one of my intermittent Joe DiNicola Googles.

A lot of water has passed beneath the bridge since your posts... And that rogue president still holds the gavel, except for the times he reached his 40-hour cap (which we, the Board of Directors, placed on his paid work hours from a certain moment forward), and he literally walks out of the Board meeting.

Yes, this has happened at least two times on a Saturday. No unpaid volunteer work for this dude. And there I was along with my elected fellow District Directors giving the union my Saturday. Geesh.

Clearly the president of our union is an adverse party, and though he has been asked multiple times to step down by a lot of folks in leadership, he is resolute in his effort to get what he thinks is his due, and he will not resign. I am not at liberty to provide you with the appropriate adjectives to describe this character I and a majority on our Board must endure.

Yes, he does have a handful of supporters. Most of them are coincidentally women. I call them the OJ Cheerleaders. OJ is an acronym for Overtime Joe. As for his day in court, there will be a jury trial in the Marion County Circuit Court



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- [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#)
- [Weekly Toll](#)

in Salem, Oregon on December 20th and 21st. So, I have decided to incorporate this into my holiday vacation. I go to Salem a lot anyway, since I sit on the Board of Directors, so what the heck.

A few weeks back there was some good news for those of us called the SOLIDS (Solidly Organized to Lead and Inspire a Democratic Solution). SOLIDS are the ad hoc group seeking to get the signatures needed to generate a recall election. (We are also resolute, and we believe we are acting in the best interests of our members.)

The judge ruled against the president in regards to his request for a Temporary Restraining Order, which essentially would have interfered with our free speech under the state and federal constitution. I am proud to say I was mentioned in the document three times (kind of like making Nixon's list). My speech is still free, though I do restrain myself (as mentioned in regard to adjectives above).

It is odd indeed to find oneself in the group that represents the union as 3rd part defendant in a suit initiated by the fellow who is suppose to lead us. For all of the above and a myriad of other reasons, this guy is not fit to lead. I am guessing most readers will find this a preposterous situation.

Hey people, you are correct in your assessment. And what you just read above is like the tip of the iceberg.

»

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Star 85: Thanks for this update and background information

Submitted by [Richard](#) on Fri, 11/23/2007 - 3:04pm.

Thank you for the background information on this incident.



I went ahead and worked to fix the formatting on your comment as best I could; I hope that I got it right - let me know either way.

Also: You are welcome to write and post added stories on Union Review as you see fit, I am sure a lot of us would love to be kept up to date on this situation. -Richard

»

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