

2017 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Hello Brother and Sisters, it is hard to believe that a whole year has passed, and we are here again discussing how to move our local forward. Well a great deal has been accomplished, so let's get started.

FINANCES

One year ago, I spoke about retooling the way we conduct business financially in order to benefit our membership. I pictured us moving away from addressing our bills in the same way that past administrations had. I believe this was important because I wanted to see a difference, so I knew I must look at the way I approached our finances in a different manner.

A year ago I set several goals, and one the goals was to reduce our deficit. In January 2016 we inherited over \$120,000.00 of debt, today we have chopped that debt in half, all this in 1 year. I also wanted to pay off the balance owed to our Attorneys, to date the Attorneys have received from us over \$30,000.00 again staying on task to completely paying off the balance by April of 2017.

We have stopped the robbing Peter to pay Paul routine of the past, and now we are looking at ways to address the retirees getting paid up to \$300.00 per the Constitution when they retire. This will at least eliminate one half of the now \$60,000.00 deficit. This reducing the deficit was a promise from the **TEAM COMBS** members, and now we believe that the **APWU-DDAL** will be great again.

GOALS TO THE NEW CHANGES

The Constitution Committee has met several times to accomplish the mission of reconstructing a Constitution this will make the Constitution clearer to read and this will address the unmentioned items in the Constitution that could allow an individual to conduct himself/herself in an unacceptable manner.

We will begin the well overdue payments to be made to **RETIREES** upon retirement. We must show them how much we appreciate them.

DEFICIT OF THE UNION

Our Union has worked extremely hard to reduce our deficit that is currently only \$60,000.00. I say only \$60,000.00 because for about 8 or 9 years our local has passed from one administration to another a deficit of \$100,000.00 or more. My goal is to make sure that **TEAM**

COMBS administration doesn't continue this when we pass the baton. We have done well however the mission is not complete. In the past our leaders tried to dump trash into our minds by withholding from us how much debt we were in. However I intent to be very clear with you, we must pay off our debt thereby removing their trash.

I was recently told that someone said we have not done much regarding the deficit, clearly this statement is incorrect. I will simple say this about that statement. Plato was quoted this way, Wise men talk because they have something to say. Fools talk because they have to say something.

BUILDING UPGRADES/REPAIRS

Our building is no longer being neglected, to date we have a new Furnace and Air Conditioner, the Roof has been temporarily repaired, we still must look into a new Roof. We have painted some of the building, and the City of Detroit ordered us to remove all water fountains due to possibility of lead, thistoo was completed.

I think we should ask the prior administrations to show us the **MONEY**. In the next 2 years we will look at a new front door, install new windows, repair the roof, redo the lobby and continue with the painting. When we took over last year we move into the building that had been regarded as a house, we are slowing converting it into a luxury home.

IN SOLIDARITY

My friends, we have accomplished a great deal together. It could not have been done without the donations of salaries from John Merritt, Matt Abdilla, Danny Sawicky and the countless donations from the membership as well as Pat Chronoby, Tamika Johnson-Smith and me.

I would like to say how grateful I am to the seasoned Advocates we have at the DDAL. Recently John Merritt, Tony Friday and Keith Mosley have won major wins for our local, and our National Business Agent James Stevenson won for our local an award for the excessing case that many of our retreat employees received.

In 2016 we set several **GOALS, all of which we achieved**. The Attorneys were estimated to be paid off in early 2017 and that goal is in sight. We wanted to reduce the deficit; mission accomplished with the deficit being half of what it was in January 2016. The MVS Director Rico Cameron and I wanted to make sure that the last 6 MVS Drivers that were excessed retreated back in August of 2016. I wanted to reduce the cost of the Locals Newspaper; we have spent on average about \$2,000.00 less on each edition then the last administration. I set out to have more training, we accomplished that as well, having more training and seminars including a OWCP training class put on by the state that I requested, our local hasn't had this much training

in years. My friends, I think we are on the correct path so stay tuned for this year's achievements.

Until next year Brother and Sister, remember that the world would be a better place if we'd learn to talk more about what's right than about what's wrong.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keith Combs".

Keith Combs
President APWU-DDAL