

NOTICE

BUTTERFIELD, TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CHALLENGE UNION ELECTION

On April 27, 2018 the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) filed a civil suit against Local 369 seeking to void last October's election. The suit alleges that the Local violated the LMRDA in the manner in which it conducted the election by not crosschecking dues checkoff lists against employee name and address lists provided by employers. The suit followed a DOL complaint by Dan Butterfield, a candidate for the District 2 Business Agent position. The DOL suit seeks to rerun, not only the District 2 Business Agent race, but each of the (4) contested Executive Board/Vice President races and the fifth Trustee position.

On May 15, 2018 the Executive Board met and considered how to respond to the DOL suit. The Executive Board was concerned that the real reason for the suit was that the District 2 Business Agent race was so close. Business agent Heidi Danforth narrowly defeated Brother Butterfield in that race. The Executive Board was also concerned that the democratic process would be subverted if a close election became justification for re-running not only the close elections but other elections as well. The Executive Board noted that the DOL met with the Election Committee, at the Local's invitation, prior to the election. Election rules and procedures were reviewed at the August 30, 2017 meeting and scrupulously followed. The crosschecking of dues lists was not discussed, and it had never been part of the Local's election process before. In addition, notices were sent and posted to members advising anyone who wished to vote and who did not receive a ballot to call the union hall. Some members did not request or receive a ballot.

Members can receive information on the progress of this matter by contacting our Braintree office at (781) 848-3740.

The Executive Board unanimously voted to defend the DOL lawsuit.