

Update from the Emergency Mutual Respect Committee (EMRC)

June 26, 2023

Dear CWA Family,

Thank you for the tremendous support we have received in response to [the statement we released last week](#). We came together as an unofficial, ad-hoc committee precisely to make sure that these issues would get the attention they deserve and to protect those who shared their experience with us. We appreciate President Shelton's swift decision to appoint a committee to perform an independent investigation of VP Mooney's concerning conduct.

The investigation is being led by Jeff Rechenbach, retired CWA Secretary Treasurer. The people we heard from are in touch with the investigation committee. We have learned that additional people have come forward as well. We encourage anyone with relevant personal experience to contact the committee immediately. They can be reached at jeffcwa@aol.com, JVeny@murphypllc.com, and cathycreighton65@gmail.com.

We know that there are many of you who are deeply disappointed that action to ensure mutual respect in CWA was not taken sooner -- and others who think that this is nothing more than an unsubstantiated political attack orchestrated by one of VP Mooney's opponents.

As we said before, we are neither coordinating with any other candidate nor are we, as a committee, endorsing any other candidate. Regardless of who becomes our next President, we hope that this long overdue conversation, combined with rank-and-file efforts for mutual respect at convention and beyond, will transform our union for the better. You can support this important effort by filling out the [Mutual Respect pledge form](#).

We intend to bring a resolution on mutual respect to the CWA Convention. It will call for changes to better uphold our mutual respect policy and CWA Constitution. The current situation has drawn attention to the urgent need for structural change, cultural change, policy change, and even constitutional change. If you or someone you know would be well-suited to help draft the resolution, please get in touch with us.

We stand firm that we will not tolerate harassing, discriminatory or disrespectful conduct at any level: our national executive board, local leaders, workplace stewards or members. We do not accept it in the workplace and we will not accept it in our union. Top elected leaders (who are paid by our dues) are in positions of trust, power and privilege and must set the highest standard.

In Unity,
Members of the Emergency Mutual Respect Committee

Belinda Aguilar, Vice President, CWA 6222*, member since 2014
Alex Brown, Retired President, IUE-CWA 81201*, member since 1978
Gwen Ivey, Former President, CWA 13301*, member since 2012 (APWU since 1986)
Kieran Knutson, President, CWA 7250*, member since 2004
Ken McNamara, President, CWA 1037*, member since 1993
Delores Phillips, President, CWA 1089*, member since 1999
LaNell Piercy, President, CWA 4252*, member since 1975
Dan Russell, President, UPTC/CWA 9119*, member since 2013
Pam Wynn, Retired President, CWA 4309*, member since 1977

* Signed as individuals. Office and locals listed for identification purposes only.