

Greetings Council 28 Siblings.

This is a bittersweet report for me to write as it is the last one I will be writing as your Council 28 Secretary. Though I have thoroughly enjoyed my time the last six years as Council 28 Secretary, I have decided not to run for re-election, stepping back so others may have the honor to serve.

I say honor, because it has truly been a honor to serve our members in this role. It has been thrilling, challenging, heartwarming, educational, frustrating and pure joy all rolled into to one amazing experience that I am humbled and grateful to have had.

Serving the last two years has been an interesting experience to say the least. We have seen many changes, to not only our working conditions and the environments in which we must work, but also to our Council. As I write the report we have many of our contract bargaining teams back at the table, either bargaining the impacts of the Governor's Vaccination Mandate, or negotiating a wage reopener as the result of improved economic conditions in our state revenue.

The issues we have faced in the last two years range from basic respect in the workplace for our members, to racial justice, to social justice, socio-economic justice, gender equality, and the fight for the freedom to live one's own truth without fear, and with equality under the law.

Fighting for equality for all and breaking down the barriers that divide us is a continual process as our membership is so diverse, but when it comes down to it we are so alike. We want to be able to work a good job, with a living wage and benefits that allow us a healthy work life balance for our families and ourselves.

My wish for us all is that we find that work life balance, we maintain our benefits, we continue to successfully gain wage increases, and we find peace, equality and justice for all of our members.

Please do not consider this a goodbye, I am still a member, a chief shop steward, president of Local 1400 and a fierce fighter for all of our members. I have no intention of fading away. I am, and have always been, dedicated to our members, our Council and the fight for workers everywhere. Please join me in continuing the fight, fighting for ALL working people, those that hold the same beliefs, and those that do not, as we are all in this together, the fight for working people everywhere.

So, to quote a legend and the "grandmother of all agitators" Mary G. Harris Jones when we have lost so many; please, *"Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."*

*In Solidarity,  
Your Council 28 Secretary,  
Tracy Stanley*