



GAME OVER

LAWRENCE SAPP, SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT



The phrase has come to have several meanings of uses. From a basic historical context, it is used to suggest that something has or will come to an end and usually in an unsatisfactory or unusual manner. In another vernacular the “Game Over” phrase is used to describe an event that has caused harm, injury or even death.

I was reminded of this as we concluded our 2024 National Convention which was themed “Betting On The Future, We’re All In.” The Convention body set the agenda for this Union for the next four years. While the convention may be over, we know that new work has just begun and old work and work in progress continues.

From a Union official’s perspective, we are all in as we should be. We took an oath of office swearing that we would “honestly and faithfully perform our duties for and on behalf of the membership of this Union.” And Shop Stewards, although not sworn to an oath to uphold the officer’s standards, should nevertheless aspire to live by it. My lengthy experience (all forty years) has shown me that those representatives that do live by this standard are the most successful and more importantly, the most respected.

As for my Union Brothers and Sisters, we ask that you not just “talk about” being a Union member, but “be about” being a Union member. Being a member has its obligations. Of course we applaud, appreciate and love that you are a member of this great organization, but we need you just as you need us. We are all in this together for the betterment of us all. Many times we

may hear non-members (SCABs), talking about how they are never in trouble or how they are always at work. They don’t realize that the Union is much more than defending against discipline. And even for those persons that are always at work and not getting into trouble, the Union is working hard making sure they have somewhere to work. The Union is ensuring that they have a decent working wage, reasonable and affordable healthcare, retirement and many other benefits for their families, and a voice on the job for them.

The Union has 1,700 officers and representatives nationwide for over 50,000 Mail Handlers or one rep for every 29 Mail Handlers. We, the reps, can’t be everywhere at once or see everything around us. We need YOU, the members, to help protect your jobs and the Union will as well, along with protecting your rights. Getting involved and being involved will only make us stronger. Brothers and Sisters, make no mistake about it, we’re not just all in but we’re all in it to win it!

This Union always has and always will meet any and all challenges head-on and will never back down. Our record shows this.

So whether it be Congressional legislation that threatens us, management decisions that threatens us, or any other Union that dares to threaten us, none of them will ever be able to tell this Union “Game Over.”

Lawrence Sapp
Vice-President, Southern Region