

March 1, 2025

RE: Election Flyer

To All Members:

I was just provided a copy of a flyer with the title of "Meet Your 2025 Local 591 Team" from a slate of candidates that includes my name on it. I am already receiving calls from Members on the flyer, and it could definitely lead some Members into believing that this is some sort of an endorsement.

Let me be perfectly clear: That flyer was made without my permission and without my knowledge. In no way should that flyer be considered my endorsement of these candidates. From my view, the unknown author of that flyer seems to be attempting to put together a dysfunctional Executive Board that will not meet the standard of representation that you, the Members, demand.

As one of two candidates who have been elected by acclamation, due to no other candidate being nominated, I need a functional and professional board to deliver the kind of representation that you deserve from your Union. I realize that this election is not typical compared to our Local elections of the past with the number of candidates running for office; however, after reading this ill-advised and misleading flyer, it is now my opinion that as your President I need to make you aware of who I believe would serve your best interests on the board, that also includes our upcoming contract negotiations

To date, I have tried to not involve myself with your choice in this election except for three candidates that I know are critical to our Local and your wellbeing. Each of them does an extraordinary amount of work each day, and as a Local we are lucky to have them in the positions that they are in. Those candidates I endorsed in a previous letter, and I asked you to vote for are:

- Russell Dittmer - Administrative Executive Board Member (ORD)
- Mark Erler - AMT Executive Board Member (DFW)
- Mike Jezierski - MLS (Stores) Executive Board Member (ORD)

With that non-sanctioned and deceptive flyer, and after seeing some of the names who have joined that slate, along with a deliberate effort by some on that flyers slate to try and remove incumbents who both the Membership, and myself, rely on to do a lot of the work that many are either unwilling, or incapable of doing, crosses the line, and forces me to respond with additional endorsements. It is tough for me because some who have joined this slate I have considered friends for a long time, but they made the choice and are supporting candidates that were nominated and/or influenced into running by others on their slate, with the sole purpose to remove two current Executive Board Members, Russell Dittmer and Mark Erler, even while having full knowledge of how much work they do for the Members. I want the Membership to be perfectly clear that what has taken place over the past few months leading into this election season is not the standard of professionalism that our Members pay for and demand.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis advocated for transparency and openness when he said that "Sunlight is the best disinfectant."

In that same spirit as Justice Brandeis, I as well believe that transparency and democracy have been and should always be the hallmark of our Local, and both were broken recently.

So, after careful consideration of some of the incumbents and the new candidates, I now also endorse the following additional candidates who are not afraid of hard work, and will help to make our Board function like it should, and they will restore your trust in your leadership:

- Brian Coyne – Vice President (ORD)
- Troy Rhoads – Financial Treasurer (DFW)
- Johnnie Benyard – Record Secretary (DFW)
- Chris Horvath - Executive Board Member at Large (DFW)
- Brian Friedman - Executive Board Member at Large (ORD)
- Eddie Suarez - GSE/FAC Executive Board Member (MIA)

In addition, while I typically do not like to venture into the Regional Vice President political arena, and I will not at this time for most; however, there is one region where nearly all the strife that has recently occurred has originated from, and that is the Southeast Region. That said, I am endorsing someone that I have known for a long time and is a solid unionist with a lot of experience. That candidate is:

- Jimmy Knapp - Southeast Regional Vice President (MIA)

The candidates I endorse today, and I ask you to vote for, will deliver on my promise of being the most professional, transparent, and democratic Local that never stops fighting to advance our respective crafts. We have led the fights against our company since the inception of our Local, and I am very proud to have led that fight as your President. By voting for the candidates I am endorsing, who believe in the same fighting philosophy that I subscribe to, we can quickly get back to the business of beating the company. We are a quick two years away from negotiations, and we need unity and not the division that some have driven into this Executive Board. **If you are like me and believe in fighting for the best contract in the industry, then I ask you to vote for the candidates I listed above.**

Fraternally,



Gary Schaible  
President- TWU Local 591