

Thanks Dale! Keep up the good work!

Dale Cannon, Business Manager of Laborers Local 242 in Seattle, Washington recently addressed his membership in their Locals newsletter and called upon its members to rally against the Carpenters, the Operating Engineers and our trade organization, the National Construction Alliance (NCA). Mr. Cannon asserts that the sole purpose of the NCA is to “raid” other construction unions and exert domination over the industry.

Meanwhile, under his leadership his local is following the advice of their International Associate General Counsel Steve Cuddy who advises Laborers locals **“Don’t kid yourself...there are too many construction unions in North America....a consolidation is necessary and will happen”**. Local 242 recently took the unprecedented move of interfering with an active labor dispute between concrete pump truck companies and the Operating Engineers Union by stepping in and signing them to a Laborers agreement. So much for solidarity!

Local 242 is currently asking its members to sign bargaining cards to force their contractors to go through unnecessary elections. **Members are being told that unless the elections are held and are successful, they will be non-union immediately**. This is not true, but it sounds good and is meant to stir up jobsite hate and discontent. No doubt many LIUNA members will look back years hence and recall the moment when their relationship with their contractors began to deteriorate beyond repair. By that time Dale Cannon will be a dim memory, but his toxic legacy will still live on.

It is worth stating that the Carpenters and the Operators departed the Building Trades precisely because of these kinds of antics. Perhaps Dale should spend a little more time reading the business pages and skip the comics. He would read of legacy contractors barely hanging on, of decent hardworking craft people who are at risk of losing everything. **Now is a good time to remember that our contractors are our partners and we are in a life and death struggle to survive...together.**

Whatever Dale Cannon’s motivations, he owes it to his members to level with them. They are smart enough to know that we are not a threat to their livelihood or for that matter whatever labor union they want to belong to. It would be indeed be ironic if by his choice of tactic he only succeeded in eroding the contractor base that he currently has and that his members take for granted. Given the response by the contracting community that appears increasingly likely. No one needs to “raid” you Dale. You are going to drive away the contractors that you already have.