

# THE GRAPEVINE

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## Why is Voting in Union Elections So Important?

By Louie Key, National Director

**Dear Members,**

**In this issue of the Grapevine we announce the candidates running for National Office and provide additional notice of the ongoing National Officer Election. Historically, member participation in our officer elections has been low, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain why it is important that you participate in union elections.**

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# Vote

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Fundamentally, voting is an inherent element of democracy and AMFA prides itself on being one of the most democratic unions available. In AMFA, members, not convention delegates or appointed cronies, have the right to vote for their union officers. This right is protected in the AMFA Constitution and it gives our members a broader range of power in electing, and holding accountable, their union officials. Therefore, voting in union elections should be regarded as a privilege, one which involves a certain degree of responsibility and should be considered a duty of being a union member. By voting we are making our voices heard and expressing our opinion on how we think the union should operate.

I understand that some members may feel that they do not know

enough about the candidates, and therefore, they should not vote. To provide our members information about candidates, we have posted a candidate profile page on the AMFA National Web site at [www.amfanational.org](http://www.amfanational.org).

The truth is that every vote counts! In order to make democracy effective we must be an active group of participants, not simply observers. Voting is always a better form of expression than not voting and constantly criticizing the current state of affairs. One who does not vote does not have the right to complain.

I will say it again, "every vote counts." I have seen several important union elections that were decided by a single vote. Don't let someone else make the decision for you. The first step is to learn about the candidates, and **then VOTE!**

## Election Notice

AMFA National is conducting an election in accordance with Article VII of the AMFA Constitution to fill the following positions: National Director, Assistant National Director, National Secretary/ Treasurer, National Safety and Standards Director, Region I Director, and Region II Director. The term of office for these positions will commence on October 3, 2016, and the duties for these positions may be found in Article VI of the AMFA Constitution.

The Election Notice and Voting Instructions will be mailed to eligible voters at the address on file with AMFA National by July 1, 2016. The vote tally will be on August 8, 2016, and the results will be released by August 9, 2016. Votes for this election will be cast using the TrueBallot WebVote® and TeleVote® systems. All Active and Active Associate members in good standing are eligible to vote in this election. Note: Any member whose membership dues, fees, and/or assessment obligations have not been reconciled is a member in bad standing, and therefore, is ineligible to vote.

In an effort to provide AMFA members with basic information about candidates for union office, AMFA National has offered all candidates in this election an opportunity to submit a candidate profile along with their picture. Candidate Profiles may be viewed on the AMFA National Web site at: [www.amfanational.org](http://www.amfanational.org)



# 2016 AMFA NATIONAL OFFICER ELECTION

## NOMINEES

### **National Director**

Bob Cramer *Local 4*  
Aaron Hansen *Local 32*  
Louie Key *Local 14\**  
Bret Oestreich *Local 11*

### **Assistant National Director**

Brian Easter *Local 32\**  
Aaron Hansen *Local 32\**  
Louie Key *Local 14*  
Gene Painter *Local 11*

### **National Secretary/Treasurer**

Terry Arnold *Local 4\**  
Jay Johnson *Local 11*  
Justin Madden *Local 4*

### **Safety & Standards Director**

David Brooks *Local 32*  
Scott King *Local 11*

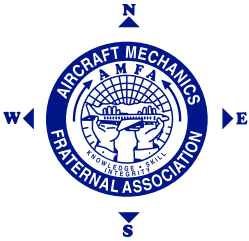
### **Region I Director**

Earl Clark *Local 32*  
Keith R. Jenkins *Local 14*

### **Region II Director**

Chris Bates *Local 11*  
Dan Burgess *Local 4\**  
Joel Behnken *Local 18*

**\*Indicates that the nominee declined the nomination for this position.**



## AMFA National

14001 East Iliff Avenue, Suite 217  
Aurora, CO 80014

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# July Labor History

## July 14, 1921

Italian immigrants, labor activists, and anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are convicted in Massachusetts of murder and payroll robbery after a two-month trial, and are eventually executed, despite the efforts of the IWW and other unions to save them. Fifty years after their deaths the state's governor issued a proclamation saying they had been treated unjustly and that "any disgrace should be forever removed from their names."

## July 1, 1929

Streetcar workers go on strike in New Orleans. "We are with you until h--l freezes over," wrote brothers Bennie and Clovis Martin, former streetcar work-

ers turned restaurateurs. Their restaurant offered free meals to the striking workers and a new sandwich was born: the po' boy. "We fed those men free of charge until the strike ended," Bennie recalled. "Whenever we saw one of the striking men coming, one of us would say, 'Here comes another poor boy.'"

## July 18, 1969

A 113-day strike by hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina ends. In March, after two years of local organizing efforts, the workers established the first hospital union branch in the country, Local 1199B of the National Health Care Workers' Union, and went on strike over discriminatory practices, unequal pay, institutional harassment, and widespread racism.

## July 21, 1978

A wildcat strike begins by postal workers at the New Jersey Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in an attempt to nullify the tentative national contract agreement between the postal unions and the United States Postal Service. The conflict spread until eventually 4,750 postal workers were on strike nationwide.

## July 13, 1995

Newspaper workers employed by the Detroit News and Free Press, owned by media giants Gannett and Knight-Ridder, go on strike. The strike lasted for 19 months and hundreds of workers were locked out for four years after the strike ended.