

June 20, 2013

To: All Fellow TCRC members

Re: 2013 President Initiative to change the TCRC Bylaws

Sisters and Brothers;

Recognizing there will soon be a membership vote to dramatically change the TCRC Bylaws, I have been asked by rank and file members to explain how the Bylaws are normally improved, versus the process that is being used this time to change numerous clauses within the present TCRC Bylaws.

The TCRC Bylaws have been improved at Convention by the elected Delegates in 2006 and again in 2010. The creation of Craft Autonomy, the Education Fund, and the ability for a General Committee to purchase an office are a few examples of the improvements made by the Delegates at Convention.

Normal Process for changing Bylaws

Beginning months ahead of each Convention, the rank and file members may submit their proposals through their Division to the National Office. Each proposal is reviewed by a Convention Bylaws Committee, whose report and recommendations include every proposal submitted. Their report is published and delivered to each Convention Delegate prior to Convention so they can read and familiarize themselves with each proposal. At Convention, the Bylaws Committee presents their report and the discussions and debate by the elected delegates take place on each issue. The delegates vote on each recommendation. These open discussions are recorded and published daily and then posted on the TCRC website following convention. There are no secrets and this open forum reveals the tremendous value of open discussion and various viewpoints and debates on the merits or pitfalls of each proposal. There are no secret talks and no secret submissions, just lots of open discussion in a democratic forum by elected delegates, who then vote to make an informed decision on each proposal individually.

2013 President Initiative

The present 2013 Bylaws proposals is being advanced by a President Initiative, through the expanded power and authority obtained in a previous 2012 President Initiative. The ballots for the 2013 President Initiative is an all encompassing package, where the membership must vote to either accept everything or nothing. There is no ability to accept or reject individual changes, there has been no open debate on the individual changes that I am aware of, and there is no forum for open debate and open discussion for the general membership that I am aware of.

To my knowledge, the General Membership has not received a copy of the existing Bylaws which were last updated at the 2010 Convention. I have no knowledge if the 2013 ballot package will even include the exiting Bylaws for membership transparency about what is presently in place.

The present 2013 Bylaw proposals for change are a product of a President appointed Committee which has apparently met several times over the past year. From what I understand, the committee of 7 includes four retired people, two of whom continue to hold office. I have requested minutes from these meetings and my requests have not received a response.

I was informed one month ago by President Beatty that he would distribute a synopsis of the significant changes made and where they can be found. In turn, I advised Brother Beatty that I believe it is inherently necessary to respect the rights of TCRC active membership to know the details of every change, not someone's opinion of what is significant or not. Presently, I do not know what the ballot package documents will include, and I don't have any synopsis or list of changes.

At this time I only have a draft copy of proposed Bylaws, so when I receive the final product and there is transparency about what has been added, removed, and changed from the existing Bylaws; I will make an assessment and will be able to speak with more certainty about what is being proposed.

I hope this has clarified the situation for as many of you as possible.

Sincerely and in Solidarity,



Douglas Finnon

Vice President TCRC

CC: Mr. R. Beatty, TCRC President
Mr. R. Smith, TCRC National Legislative Director
Mr. H. Makoski, TCRC Secretary Treasurer
Mr. B. Pitts, TCRC Recording Secretary
Mr. R. Hackl, TCRC Trustee
Mr. D. Able, TCRC Trustee
Ms. S. Brownlee, TCRC Trustee
TCRC Provincial Legislative Board Chairmen
TCRC General Chairmen