



# THE RABBLE



OCTOBER 2024

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 33 SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AFSCME District Council 33 has called for a **SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** this coming **Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 5:00 PM at City Hall.**

This meeting will be to provide members with an update on contract negotiations and for a **strike authorization vote**, according to President Greg Boulware. The flyer for this meeting is attached.

### SHOULD YOU VOTE TO STRIKE?

The choice of whether or not to strike is a deeply personal issue. Some Union members are fired up and ready to do. Others have hesitations.

A strike vote in District Council 33 can *only* be conducted anonymously on **written paper ballots**. That means that your vote is your voice, and your voice alone. Whether you ratify the strike is a private. Nobody will know how you voted, and you should feel comfortable and safe to vote your heart at the meeting.

Do not let anyone coerce you. No one- no President, Steward, or coworker can decide this issue for you. This choice belongs to you and to you alone.

### SEPTEMBER LOCAL 696 MEETING RECAP

The September Local 696 meeting was on the 19<sup>th</sup> of last month. It came in two parts:

- A presentation from **Greg Boulware**
  - A contract proposal has been sent to the City
  - Any contract will be backdated to July 1<sup>st</sup>, meaning workers will receive backpay
- A presentation from **Anthony Dinkins**
  - (215) 895-3330 is the point of contact for 696
  - Local 696 is launching a newsletter

Full unofficial meeting notes, plus the documents distributed at the meeting, are available on our website at the QR code below.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT IS NOVEMBER 4 – 15

Call 844-431-3081 to change your healthcare plan during the above dates. More details available at the QR code below!

### A RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT DINKINS

By: J. Matthew Catron

At the September General Membership Meeting, Local 696 President Anthony Dinkins expressed his negative opinions on my article in our first issue, "What Should Your Union Look Like?" There were a few points he made that I'd like to respond to.

Firstly, he claimed that the article complained of stewards never training. I never said that, and you may read the article yourself. I mentioned that with more stewards, there would be time for additional training. I am profoundly disappointed that the President would misrepresent the text of the article so egregiously.

Secondly, he complained that I didn't print anything positive about Local 696. This is true! The reason for that is that most members aren't privy to the goings-on of the Local. We are simply unaware of the work that 696 is doing.

I want to respond positively to fair criticism, and so here I will speak well of President Dinkins. The rumors I'm hearing of the upcoming projects of the Communications Committee are very promising. They are exactly what Local 696 needs. If the coming Local 696 newsletter does the job I hope it will, perhaps we won't even need to circulate The Rabble anymore. An official newsletter would render most of what we aim to do here obsolete, and I for one welcome that prospect. For my entire career in the City, the work of the Union has been opaque to the rank-and-file worker, and under President Dinkins, we are witnessing a shift in the right direction.

