



GOVERNMENT SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA  
OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 100, AFL-CIO

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Re: Now Is The Time To Save Your Union

Dear GSAF/OPEIU Bargaining Unit Member,

This correspondence is designed to sound the alarm that the Florida Legislature is working hard to kill public sector unions in our state. This mean spirited anti-government employee effort has already started with recently passed legislation pertaining to teacher bargaining units. The new law mandates that a majority (50%+1) of the eligible bargaining unit members must be dues paying members of the Union or the unit will be automatically decertified.

The good news for the teachers is that the passage of this regressive legislation has mobilized the teachers' union into action to increase membership in each of their bargaining units across the state. Furthermore, the teachers' union is in the process of filing a lawsuit questioning the Constitutionality of the legislation.

Similar laws have been considered during the past three legislative sessions – laws that would negatively impact all public sector unions in this state including your own GSAF/OPEIU Local 100. If the law aimed at destroying teachers' unions is upheld by the courts, you can be assured that we will be on the firing line next year.

At the present time, dues paying membership in our local is around 35% in the Miami-Dade and Broward County bargaining units. [Proudly, we have a 70% dues paying participation in Miami Beach.]

Thus in order to continue the job protections of your labor contract, we have to make "50%+1" our immediate membership goal. In 1982, after a six year battle with Metro Dade County, we finally won the right to have a union for supervisors and professionals. On March 29, 1982, the then MDC County Manager, Merrett Stierheim wrote a letter to the supervisory employees which said, in part "It is my sincere hope that you will cast your ballot against unionization in this most crucial union election and choose instead to continue as a loyal member of our management team". Luckily, the supervisory employees understood the ultimate benefits of union representation, and rejected the Manager's plea. If the "proof is in the pudding", you need only reflect on the way the unrepresented employees

were treated by the Mayor and Commission during and after the “great recession” of recent years.

Our future success depends on your decision to make our Union stronger by submitting your membership application. We must be willing to fight for our Union’s existence in order to preserve your rights to job protections, the arbitration of grievances and benefits that cannot be discontinued or reduced without negotiating changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Our fight begins NOW because the Legislature convenes for session again March 5, 2019, and new proposed law will begin to be filed this fall. GSAF/OPEIU will continue its lobbying and legal efforts simultaneously with this 50%+1 membership drive. We must be proactive and realize our best defense is to increase our membership in anticipation of this legislation because once it becomes law we will have little time to effectively react.

We realize that in the past you have chosen not to be a dues-paying member, and we respect your right to make that choice. However, the time has come to reconsider that decision – losing the Collective Bargaining Agreement will have a negative impact on your future employment circumstances with Miami-Dade County or Broward County. You cannot afford to let that happen.

Consider joining your fellow supervisors and professionals in standing tall for our “cause” – preserving our benefits, strengthening our job protections and fighting for the rights of our members!

Sincerely,



Greg Blackman

President

cc: Richard Lanigan, President, OPEIU  
GSAF/OPEIU Board of Directors  
Don Slesnick, General Counsel