



District Council 9

SECRETARY TREASURER
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Joseph Azzopardi

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WALLCOVERERS**
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~ LU 18 ~ LU 19 ~ LU 20 ~ LU 24 ~ LU 113 ~ LU 155 ~ LU 201 ~ LU 466 ~ LU 490 ~ LU 806 ~ LU 1087 ~ LU 1456 ~ LU 1486 ~ LU 1969 ~ LU 1974 ~ LU 8A-28A ~

Dear Brothers and Sisters of District Council 9

I write to you today about an issue that finds me both filled with sadness and joy. I have never been shy about sharing everything with the members of this union and see no reason to start now.

As of June 30th, 2015 I will be stepping down as your Business Manager.

This move makes me feel sad because, other than the birth of my two sons, nothing in my life has given me more pleasure. I have been so proud to lead this union. I could not have asked for better members or a more loyal staff. I offer no other reason for this decision other than that I'm getting older and a little tired; the demands of the job have become overwhelming. I am not the type of person to stay around just to collect a paycheck and not represent our great union to the level it should be. I believe it is time for a new generation to step up and carry the ball.

I feel joy when I look at what we have accomplished. Together, we survived one of the worst economic periods in our nation's history and came out the other end stronger than ever. While other unions were weakened and becoming extinct we were able to grow our membership, our hours and our work opportunities. We were able to negotiate good contracts with decent increases and hold the line against those that would be happy to see us dead. I believe that I can say without fear of contradiction, that we are the strongest District Council in the IUPAT, and the strongest union in the Building Trades.

The union is not about any one person. While I have always worked my hardest to earn your support, and can't thank you guys enough, I feel comfortable leaving at this time because of the confidence that I have in the team that will follow and the young leaders we created. I am asking everyone to please give the same support that you gave to me to Joe Azzopardi, John Drew, and their entire team. They bring with them the knowledge, work ethic and passion for the membership that will move this union forward.

While I believe that they are ready to lead, I am not going away completely. I am contemplating a few job offers that will keep me active in our industry, as well as making myself available as long as I am needed, to assist the new leadership here at DC 9.

Thank you for your support, help and friendship over the years. This Union is my family and I will forever be grateful to each and every one of you.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Ramaglia