

# **Mike Nodine's National APWU Election Picks**

You should be receiving your National APWU ballot by the middle of September.

Whatever you do, **YOU MUST VOTE!!!**

Ballots need to be mailed back in before the end of September to be counted in time.

You cannot complain about anything if you don't **VOTE!**

Our Atlanta Local is one of the largest 9 APWU Locals in the nation. But we are consistently have among the lowest percentages of votes cast in our National APWU elections. Out of our more than 2,500 Members, we cast less than 700 votes in the last National APWU election in 2013.

## **TO MAKE OUR LOCAL STRONGER, YOU MUST VOTE!**

By VOTING in large percentages and numbers, we will get the attention of our National APWU Officers. They analyze the numbers of votes cast by every Local for years to come. Let's take our place as one of those Locals recognized and respected as a prominent Local by our National APWU Officers!

One reason many Members don't vote in our National APWU Elections is because they don't know the politics, issues, or candidates and therefore don't know who to vote for. Those who know I follow our National APWU politics closely often ask me who I support. So I have compiled this list of my own opinions of who the best viable candidates are. It may differ from other opinions so I will call the winners for you to look back after this election to compare my predictions. I enjoy discussing our elections, my email is [apwunodine@gmail.com](mailto:apwunodine@gmail.com). Below is my short list and my reasons are on two following pages:

*President - **Mark Dimondstein** (I) ut \*w*

*Executive VP - **Jeff Kehlert** \*CW*

*Industrial Relations Dir - **Vance Zimmerman** ut \*w*

*Legislative/Political Dir - **Judy Beard** (I) ut \*w*

*Health Plan Dir - **Robert Furbush** \*CW*

*Research and Education Dir - **Charles Smith** \*CW*

*Southern Regional Dir - **Kennith L. Beasley** (I) ut \*w*

*Clerk Dir - **Clint Burelson** (I) ut \*w*

*Clerk Assistant Director (B) - **Lynn Pallas-Barber** (I) ut \*w*

*Maintenance Division Dir - **Robert (Bob) Hock** \*CW*

*Maintenance Assistant Director (B) - **Michael "Mike" Burris** \*CW*

*NBA Maintenance Southern Region, (A) - **John Gearhard** (I) \*w*

(I) = incumbent    ut = Unity Team    \*w = will win    \*CW = can win if we get out the **VOTE!**

## **President**

**Mark Dimondstein** (I) - Wins by a landslide, fought for and won us a better contract. It's as simple as that.

*Jerry Stidman* - A Clerk Steward I appreciate running just in case Dimondstein had failed with our contract.

## **Executive Vice President** - **Our Atlanta Local could be pivotal in deciding this race if we ALL VOTE!!!**

*Debby Szeredy* (I) – I have nothing bad to say about Debbie. But nothing noteworthy or exceptional to say either.

**Jeff Kehlert** – Jeff can win because he is the single greatest Force-Multiplier the APWU has ever seen. One of the greatest winning Clerk NBA's, the greatest instructor who has trained more Stewards in more APWU Steward College training courses and who has written more Steward grievance filing strategy guides than anyone. He is supported by all those Stewards and Local Officers across the nation he trained and a majority of his fellow NBA's. Our greatest and most respected APWU President ever, Bill Burrus praises him. Jeff is giving up his NBA position to run for VP. He has proven himself to be the most capable VP. Meet Jeff for yourself when he comes to Atlanta around 9/19 or 9/20. If elected, we can count on Jeff to do everything President Dimondstein allows him to do for our Atlanta Local's training needs that our Local Officers request of him. [www.jeffkehlertvp2016.com](http://www.jeffkehlertvp2016.com)

*Greg Bell* - Greg will come in last because we already voted him out as our VP in 2013 because of the 2010-2015 "Watershed" contract that he supported and still supports. We can't go backwards ever again. Also our greatest and most respected APWU President ever, former APWU President William Burrus openly harshly criticizes Greg: [www.tinyurl.com/ho6pqct](http://www.tinyurl.com/ho6pqct)

## **Industrial Relations Director**

*Tony D. McKinnon Sr.* (I) – Tony faces impossible odds and has no chance of winning for several reasons. The very popular and well-respected Salt Lake City Area APWU President, Charlie Cash, withdrew from this race to support and endorse Vance Zimmerman, thus delivering the majority of the West and Southwest vote to Vance. Vance owns the Central Region and is endorsed by a majority of his fellow NBA's who are giving endorsements. But the death nail is that President Dimondstein and several other top incumbent national officers dropped Tony from the Unity Team and replaced him with Vance. But we haven't seen the last of our friend, Brother Tony McKinnon Sr. I hope to convince him to run for Organization Director in the next election, the perfect job for him.

**Vance Zimmerman** – Vance will easily win. He was a Clerk for 8 years and Local officer before becoming the senior maintenance craft NBA. He is one of maybe four national officers who has represented/negotiated for all four APWU Crafts. He was placed on our contract negotiation team for five months and played a significant role in winning our new contract. The majority of our NBA's support him. Vance is ready to go on day one having been assigned to assist Tony in transitioning into office when he was first elected. Vance campaigned in Atlanta on 9/2 and 9/3 and we can call on him if we need his help. <http://www.zimmermanfordir.com>

## **Legislative/Political Director**

**Judy Beard** (I) – Judy will easily win reelection.

*Thomas R. Benson* – Thomas has not run a strong enough campaign and lacks the momentum to win.

## **Health Plan Director** - **Our Atlanta Local has the power to decide this race if we ALL VOTE!!!**

*John L. Marcotte* (I)- I like John but I can't support him for this position because it isn't the best fit for him. John was selected for the Health Plan Dir and for the Unity Team in a backroom HQ political deal to get him out of the Legislative Dir position where there were problems. This will offset some of the advantages of his being on the Unity Team. John may still win only because it is a 4-way race. But I expect it to be close with Robert Furbush.

**Robert Furbush** – Brother Furbush has my unwavering support because of his unquestionable ethics, knowledge of our APWU Health Plan and his dedication to representing our Members with Health Plan issues. He was President Dimondstein's pick for Health Plan Dir in the last election and narrowly lost the election to longtime popular incumbent Bill Kaczor who recently retired. Robert has a good chance of winning with our support that he earned in the last election and still deserves.

*Sarah J. Rodriguez* – Sarah has not run a strong enough campaign and lacks the momentum to win

*Lisa A. Norwood* – Lisa has not run a strong enough campaign and lacks the momentum to win

**Research and Education Director - Another close race and our Atlanta Local can decide it if we **VOTE!****

*Joyce B. Robinson (I)* – Joyce has served well for many terms but she has not made the transition to the computer age and the Steward and Member information you can get on the APWU website is lacking. She has the advantage of being on the Unity Team.

**Charles P. Smith** – Charles is the President of Washington State and founded and for 10 years has run one of the best APWU Steward Colleges in the nation. He compiled the best online collection of APWU Member and Steward information for his Local that far surpasses the APWU website. Charles will dominate the vote out West. 4 of the largest 9 locals in the Country have endorsed him and only 1 has endorsed Joyce. Another of the largest 9 Locals, 480-481 in Michigan is expected to endorse Charles before the ballots are mailed. Charles is one of the most accessible candidates online via email and social media. He could win with our help and promises to work with our Atlanta Local Officers and Stewards for our training needs if he wins. <http://vote4charlessmith.com>

**Southern Region Coordinator**

**Kennith L. Beasley (I)** – Beasley will win and we will benefit more if we support him with a large number of votes because he is the highest ranking National APWU officer from our Atlanta Local. The greatest testament to the job he is doing in this position that President Dimondstein selected him for in the last election is that all of the NBA's who work for him that opposed him for the last election now support and/or endorse him.

*Kim Guy* - Kim will place a respectable second to Beasley and we will see Kim again in future APWU elections.

*Princella J. Vogel* – She will come in last because we already voted Princella out of this office in the last election.

**Clerk Director**

**Clint Burelson (I)** – Clint will easily win reelection from the advantage of being on the Unity Team.

*Ross Baker* – Ross has not run a strong enough campaign and lacks the momentum to win.

**Clerk Assistant Director (B)**

**Lynn Pallas-Barber (I)** - Lynn will easily win reelection from the advantage of being on the Unity Team.

*Reneé Breeden* - Reneé has not run a strong enough campaign and lacks the momentum to win.

**Maintenance Director**

*Steven G. "Steve" Raymer (I)* – Steve **AGREED** to TL5 and the MOS deal resulting 30% reductions in Custodian and MOS Staffing. Do I really have to tell you to not vote for him unless you want to see even more reductions?

**Robert (Bob) Hock** – Bob is the President and former Maintenance Craft Dir of APWU Local 266 and has the endorsement and support of the maintenance craft's most respect officer ever, Gary Kloepfer. Bob will fight hard to get our staffing levels back and Bob can win if we **ALL VOTE** for him! [www.change4maint2016.com](http://www.change4maint2016.com)

**Assistant Director (B)**

*Terry B. Martinez (I)* – Terry is just not a strong fighter for us and was picked by Steve Raymer for this position.

**Michael "Mike" Burris** – "Big Mike" Burris will fight for us and has won every one of the grievances I filed that he advocated in arbitration, difficult grievances no one else would touch. Big Mike and Bob Hock are a winning team that will **FIGHT HARD** for our Maintenance Craft.

**National Business Agents, Maintenance Division Southern Region, (A)**

**John Gearhard (I)** – John is the most knowledgeable and most experienced workhorse Maintenance NBA of our Region. We have an arbitration backlog because John fights every grievance all the way; he doesn't withdraw them or settle the short in pre-arb. You can't have it both ways, I prefer to wait for arbitration than be sold short or see my grievance withdrawn just to reduce the backlog or because my advocate or NBA was too lazy to put it on.

*Kyle Powell* – Kyle is the Maintenance Craft Director in Houston and is a trained arbitration advocate. Yet he has not been scheduling many grievances for arbitration. Houston discourages our NBA's from arbitrating their grievances because they have advocates like Kyle to do them there. The Houston grievance backlog Kyle is campaigning to reduce is already **HIS OWN** responsibility that he is failing to address. Our own MCD Dawud Ali is much harder working, more skilled and qualified with far more arbitration experience than Kyle. Like me, Ali knows the deal and supports Gearhard. Kyle will fail to get even the majority of votes from his own Houston Local.