

[Here's the email Tyrone Freeman began sending to UHW members 3/6/07.]

From: Tyrone Freeman <secretdocs@seiu-ultcw.org>

To: XXXX XXXXXX <XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Thu Mar 06 19:51:29 2008

Subject: UHW-W Negotiates Behind Your Back

SEIU

Dear XXXX XXXXX,

I wanted you to be aware that your local union president, Sal Rosselli, is secretly negotiating your next contract behind the backs of SEIU United Healthcare Workers – West (UHW-W) members and the members of United Long Term Care Workers.

Rosselli has gone so far as to sign an agreement with 11 nursing home owners agreeing to the secret meetings. He was so determined to hide these talks, that the secrecy agreement signed by UHW-W states, "No party shall disclose either the existence of such discussions, or the contents thereof, to any individual or organization that is not a party to the meetings."

No workers were at the first secret meeting, and only a small group of hand-selected workers were at subsequent meetings, leaving you and thousands of members of UHW-W completely in the dark and without information about what is being negotiated on your behalf – or even that negotiations were happening at all! This outrageous attempt by Rosselli to cut his own members and ULTCW members out of bargaining violates the basic principles of union democracy and solidarity.

The meetings also are part of an attempt by Rosselli to permanently divide nursing home and homecare workers in California. In spite of the fact that in many cases the contracts jointly cover UHW-W members and members of my local, ULTCW, Rosselli tried to hijack the negotiations and completely cut our members out of the bargaining. Dividing workers this way would only serve to weaken all of our voices and threatens our ability to win contracts with high standards for all long-term care workers.

If you want to let Sal Rosselli know how you feel about his decision to go behind your back on such an important matter as your future contract, I would recommend you talk with your steward and contact Rosselli at 510-773-8871 and/or srosselli@seiu-uhw.org <<mailto:srosselli@seiu-uhw.org>> . If you would like more information, or a copy of the secrecy agreement, please respond to this email.