

**Full Text of  
Recent Email  
from the  
Concerned Musicians Party**

Concerned Musicians - Local 802

Local 802's Democratic Traditions and the  
June 10th Membership Meeting

Concerned Musicians of Local 802 would like to thank all of those who attended the June 10th membership meeting. It was encouraging to see that so many remain concerned about the future of our union.

Two new bylaws were presented and passed. The first reduces the number needed for a quorum at a membership meeting. We hope this will result in more, not less, participation by the membership in future meetings. The second, which prohibits union staff members from serving on the Executive Board, is a break with the past. We believe our local should continue to allow its members to choose whomever they think would best represent them on the board. The new bylaw revokes that right. Those who wish to keep staff members off the board have always been able to vote their preference. Whenever members' rights are restricted, our union becomes less democratic.

The members attending the meeting then voted not to dismiss charges filed by a member against the Executive Board. We believe the charges are without merit and will ultimately be rejected. We are very disturbed that the Executive Board members are accused of malfeasance for deeming it within their authority to determine whether prior charges complied technically with the local's bylaws.

The board members' actions were consistent with past precedent, followed the advice of 802 legal counsel and were undertaken in the belief that the board was meeting its obligations under 802 bylaws. This is not malfeasance. Under these circumstances, charging the Executive Board with malfeasance appears to be an attempt to punish current board members and intimidate those who may serve in the future. We do not want our union to become embroiled in interpersonal fights that keep us from focusing on the important issues we face: jobs, the economic health of our industry, affordable health care and our pension fund.

Although we were disappointed with the outcome of the voting, it was the lack of courtesy, decorum and civility that we found most disheartening. Some speakers had to contend with members shouting comments and insults from the floor, one former board member commandeered a microphone for his exclusive use, and efforts were made to limit or halt debate despite members waiting their turn at the microphones. The loss of decency was a loss for our union; we are reduced, not strengthened by it.

All members of Local 802 deserve the freedom to speak and act without restriction or intimidation, whether at meetings or elections. Those who do not tolerate opinions other than their own are undermining Local 802's proud tradition of democracy. Using the unions' time and resources to settle personal grievances with disciplinary procedures injures us all.

Concerned Musicians of Local 802 believes the best use of the talents and energies of all our members is the advancement of union jobs, union benefits and union solidarity.

These remain our priorities for the future of Local 802.

Russ Anixter, Tony Cecere, James Chirillo, Bill Dennison, Armen Donelian, Ethan Fein, Tony Finno, Maura Giannini, Lucy Goeres, Mark Johansen, Mary Landolfi, Arun Luthra, Sean Lyons, Steve Norrell, Jimmy Owens, Ken Rizzo, Maxine Roach, Jay Schaffner, Rosanne Soifer, Richard Sortomme, Wally Usiatynski, and Masako Yanagita (for the Concerned Musicians Steering Committee)

To add your name to the growing list of Concerned Musicians simply reply to this e-mail with the message "Yes, add my name."

Concerned Musicians of Local 802

P.O. Box 606

Times Square Station

New York, NY 10108

e-mail [info@concernedmusicians.org](mailto:info@concernedmusicians.org)

<http://www.concernedmusicians.org>