

Vice-President Sahr,

By unanimous vote at our regular May meeting Sterling Heights Fire Fighters, Local 1557 resolved to give \$1557 out of our general fund to support the Brothers of Local 5023. They can put the money in their war chest or divide it up between Brother Nowak and Brother Gierman. That we left entirely up to them.

We encourage all of the 6th to consider doing something similar as a gesture of solidarity. Furthermore, we respectfully ask you to ask our MPFFU to send out an email suggesting this to the entire state. While passing the hat at the convention was great we need to pass the hat around all of the MPFFU to support these Brothers.

We all fight for better wages, hours and working conditions but we too often take for granted the right to wage these battles without personal repercussions. This small, new Local is under attack and we must make it plain that they are not an isolated small Local. They are part of a Brotherhood that is 300,000 strong. I believe there is no greater calling as a Unionist. We must support them financially and emotionally during these troubling times.

Fraternally,

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**John Farah, President**  
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On Sun, May 15, 2016 at 2:17 PM, Matt Sahr <[vpiaff1737@gmail.com](mailto:vpiaff1737@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Brothers and Sisters,

### **Macomb Twp L5023**

Many of you have head of the unfortunate situation that is unfolding in Macomb Twp. If you have not the President and Vice president have now been terminated. The IAFF has stepped in to cover the President under the guardian policy, and now that the VP has also been fired we anticipate him also being covered. IAFF DVP Paul Hufnagel and the GP have given us the support, and the IAFF resources for us to fight against the blatant union busting that Macomb Twp and its Fire Chief are trying to do.

This union has been under attack on every imaginable front. When they left MAFF(a rival organization to the IAFF) for the IAFF the paid on call MAFF members immediately began to work against them by trying to under cut us in negotiations. They followed that up with back door deals with the Fire Chief trying to cause discipline on our members. Some of our Detroit IAFF brothers began scabbing as paid on call and unfortunately one to this day remains. He (Jerry Apel) was trial boarded (thank you John Farah L1557 and John McCoy L1338) and if any

other IAFF member chooses to work in Macomb we will follow the proper channels in the constitution and bylaws to relieve them of their membership in the IAFF if they are found guilty.

### **What can you do to help?**

I have begun an aggressive social media campaign with the Local 5023. It has gotten off to a good start and we plan on ramping it up further. We will do so respectfully and with facts. **I would ask that all of our members to share Macomb Twp Local 5023 Facebook post.**

Remember we must uphold our professionalism. The paid on call members and other volunteers will undoubtedly try to troll us into debate. If we bite we could cause more harm to our members, so please keep your comments to the facts. The facts are stifling enough. Feel free to share them on their page. I will add some comments to the bottom of the email. As for rallies and attending board meetings, we will keep you up to date. We are still trying to determine the best course of action. I am in constant contact with Paul, Terry, and Mark on this issue. When a rally or packing a board meeting is necessary we will contact you ASAP. When the time comes it is not only the responsibility of the hundreds of members and their families living in Macomb to show up. It is up to all of us to stand up for our union and our trade that is under attack, so **please be sure to share this email with your members** and make sure we have a good showing if needed.

Our two wrongfully terminated brothers (David Nowak, Ryan Gierman) are standing strong and wanted me to pass along the appreciation of support they have received. If you have any questions or concerns please email or call me.

Fraternally,

Matthew Sahr  
Vice President, 6th District  
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Macomb Twp

- Nearly 100k residents
- 5 full time FF
- No 24 hour shifts
- 5-6k Department runs a year
- 45 POC
- Deputy Chief is a Former IAFF member (now he's a union buster)
- 3 if not all 4 stations are not staffed at night
- Twp is extremely financially stable

