



June 20, 2018

Mr. Michael Witt, Treasurer  
Carpenters Local 971  
1150 Terminal Way  
Reno, NV 89502

Case Number: 530-6012885  
LM Number: 034860

Dear Mr. Witt:

This office has recently completed an audit of Carpenters Local 971 under the Compliance Audit Program (CAP) to determine your organization's compliance with the provisions of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA). As discussed during the exit interview with you and bookkeeper [REDACTED] on May 29, 2018, the following problems were disclosed during the CAP. The matters listed below are not an exhaustive list of all possible problem areas since the audit conducted was limited in scope.

#### Recordkeeping Violations

Title II of the LMRDA establishes certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Section 206 requires, among other things, that labor organizations maintain adequate records for at least five years by which each receipt and disbursement of funds, as well as all account balances, can be verified, explained, and clarified. As a general rule, labor organizations must maintain all records used or received in the course of union business.

For disbursements, this includes not only original bills, invoices, receipts, vouchers, and applicable resolutions, but also documentation showing the nature of the union business requiring the disbursement, the goods or services received, and the identity of the recipient(s) of the goods or services. In most instances, this documentation requirement can be satisfied with a sufficiently descriptive expense receipt or invoice. If an expense receipt is not sufficiently descriptive, a union officer or employee should write a note on it providing the additional information. For money it receives, the labor organization must keep at least one record showing the date, amount, purpose, and source of that money. The labor organization must also retain bank records for all accounts.

The audit of Local 971's 2017 records revealed the following recordkeeping violation:

#### 1. Retention of Records

Line 23 on Statement A of the LM-2 reported accounts receivable as \$15,379 and \$7,373 in the beginning and end of the reporting period, but these amounts could not be verified during the audit. The officers required to file Form LM-2 are responsible for maintaining records which will provide in sufficient detail the information and data necessary to verify the accuracy and completeness of the report. The records must be kept for at least 5 years after the date the report is filed. Any record necessary to verify, explain, or clarify the report must be retained, including, but not limited to, vouchers, worksheets, receipts, and applicable resolutions, and any electronic documents, including recordkeeping software, used to complete, read, and file the report.

The audit of Local 971's 2017 records revealed the following reporting violations:

Reporting Violations

The audit disclosed a violation of LMRDA Section 201(b), which requires labor organizations to file annual financial reports accurately disclosing their financial condition and operations. The Labor Organization Annual Report (Form LM-2) filed by Local 971 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, was deficient in the following areas:

1. Acquire/Dispose of Property

Item 15 [LM-2 (During the reporting period did your organization acquire or dispose of any assets in any manner other than by purchase or sale?) should have been answered, "Yes," because the union gave away tshirts and gift cards totaling more than \$1,000 during the year. The union must identify the type and value of any property received or given away in the additional information section of the LM report along with the identity of the recipient(s) or donor(s) of such property. The union does not have to itemize every recipient of such giveaways by name. The union can describe the recipients by broad categories if appropriate such as "members" or "new retirees."

2. Receipts are Incorrect

Line 48 on Statement B (Other Receipts) are reported to be \$5,581. However, that includes a transfer of \$2,350 in December 2017 which is not considered a reportable receipt. The purpose of Statement B is to report the flow of cash in and out of your organization during the reporting period. Transfers between separate bank accounts or between special funds of your organization, such as vacation or strike funds, do not represent the flow of cash in and out of your organization. Therefore, these transfers should not be reported as receipts and disbursements of your organization.

3. Failure to File Bylaws


The audit disclosed a violation of LMRDA Section 201(a), which requires that a union submit a copy of its revised constitution and bylaws with its LM report when it makes changes to its constitution or bylaws. Local 971 amended its constitution and bylaws in 2017, but did not file a copy with its LM report for that year.

As agreed, Local 971 will file a copy of its current constitution and bylaws with OLMS as soon as possible but not later than September 30, 2018.

I am not requiring that Local 971 file an amended LM report for 2017 to correct the deficient items, but Local 971 has agreed to properly report the deficient items on all future reports it files with OLMS.

I want to extend my personal appreciation to Carpenters Local 971 for the cooperation and courtesy extended during this compliance audit. I strongly recommend that you make sure this letter and the compliance assistance materials provided to you are passed on to future officers. If we can provide any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Senior Investigator