

Active and Retired members of UAW Region 9:

My name is Jimmy Lakeman and I have been an International Staff Representative in Region 9 for 12 years. On June 28, 2022, at the 38th UAW Constitutional Convention, I was honored to be nominated by our delegates for the position of Regional Director of UAW Region 9.

Over the past 12 years I have had the opportunity to negotiate over 75 collective bargaining agreements within all areas of the region excluding New Jersey. I have arbitrated grievances, worked with our CAP councils and elected officials on behalf of our members, and have been involved in several labor and community events throughout the region. I have accomplished all this with the help and support of all the leadership teams and members I have been fortunate enough to represent.

Prior to being appointed to International Staff, I was president of UAW Local 846 in Tonawanda, NY, during which time I was the WNY CAP Council, co-chair of the UAW/AAM 2008 National Negotiations Committee and was involved in several regional committees. While serving UAW Local 846, I was selected for the UAW Fellowship Program by then-Director Tom Fricano.

My goal in being director is to change the trajectory of Region 9. I believe we need to reenergize, educate, and communicate more transparently with our members by seeing, talking, and listening to our rank-and-file members and having open access within the office for all members to voice their concerns and opinions. We need to focus on organizing in the region, but first we need to make sure we are supporting our members by negotiating good agreements and addressing their needs. By doing all this, we can realize all our struggles, celebrate, and multiply our victories and work as one cohesive region.

I am running for Regional Director as an independent candidate. Though I am not endorsed by either of the major caucuses, I am endorsed by the several thousand active and retired members who have put their trust in me, worked with me and ultimately supported me to make this decision.

I would be humbled to have the honor to serve as our Regional Director and I would be privileged to have your support.