



OCTOBER 2011

Brewery & Soft Drink

The Teamster Brewery and Soft Drink News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • David Laughton, Director



- ✓ Your Right,
- ✓ Your Responsibility

Teamsters have a simple way to show they care about the future of labor: They can vote in the upcoming election for the leadership of the Teamsters Union.

Teamsters are known for showing up in force on Election Day in national elections, but when it comes to determining the future course of their union, turnout is poor (a little more than 20 percent in the last two elections).

The rank-and-file members who care enough to vote in their union election realize how rare it is for union members to elect the leadership at the top of the union.

In October, Teamster members will receive a ballot for the 2011 International Election. It is the right and the responsibility of every Teamster to vote in these upcoming elections for International General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, International Vice Presidents and Trustees.

By voting, Teamsters show how involved the membership is, they show Teamsters pay attention to the issues affecting them and they show that the labor movement is still vibrant and alive.

See **VOTE!** on page 2



Sacramento Teamsters Protest DBI/Miller Beer at State Fair

Despite High Revenue, Employer Seeks Concessions

More than 125 Teamsters from Locals 150 and 439 converged on the California State Fair in August to provide information to the public about the greedy business practices of DBI Beverage, the distributor of MillerCoors products in Northern California.

DBI workers in Sacramento and Stockton, members of Locals 150 and 439, voted for Teamster representation in democratically conducted elections by the National Labor Relations Board more than a year ago. They still do not have a contract.

As the California State Fair kicked off another year of the Commercial Craft Brew Competition at Brewfest, DBI Bev-

erage workers and other members of the Sacramento community distributed information asking fairgoers to "Tell Miller Destroying California Jobs is Tasteless."

"We buy their products, and in return their longtime workers deserve a decent job with decent benefits..."

—Sam Rosas, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 439

"DBI Beverage workers and their families felt they had no choice but to educate the public about MillerCoors' distributor, DBI Beverage, and its poor record on its treatment of workers," said Rome Aloise, International Vice President and President of Joint Council 7 in San Francisco. "DBI, the exclusive dis-

See **Protest DBI/Miller Beer** on page 2

A Message From Conference Director David Laughton

Mobilizing to Fight for Contracts

This Conference's organizers and representatives have been hard at work coordinating with local unions in the Sacramento area in their fight for a contract with DBI Beverage and working with potential Teamster members in Elkton, Va. The Teamsters Union developed banners and fliers which members of Locals 150 and 439 used at the California State Fair. They got a big reaction from the public and from DBI.

Employees at the Elkton MillerCoors facility had contacted us about being part of the union and we are actively helping them organize. Creating a webpage for up-to-date information and producing fliers in order to educate workers about the advantages they will have as Teamster members are some of the ways we have assisted local unions.

This year is an important one for our union because we are holding a national election to choose our union's leaders for the next five years. I encourage each of you to read the materials about the candidates and, most importantly, to make certain that you vote. We have a great privilege in our union to directly-elect our union leaders. We all need to take advantage of this, make a wise choice and vote.

Employers often try and tell us that our elections don't matter, won't make a difference, or better yet that we should just sit it out. Let's prove them wrong and vote. Your Teamster Officer Election ballot will be arriving in your home's mail box in the next few weeks. Look for it and utilize the opportunity you have to vote!

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The only thing voting will cost is the time it takes to learn about the issues and the ink it takes to mark the ballot. Not voting, however, costs much more. It sends a message to employers, politicians and the public that as voters, Teamster members don't value democracy.

Voter turnout is critical to building a healthy democracy. A union is not a

corporation. Members are more than shareholders who are valued by their holdings.

Rank-and-file Teamsters have an unprecedented say in the future of the union that many other international union members don't have. Each Teamster has an equal voice in these elections and every vote counts.

Protest DBI/Miller Beer continued from page 1

tributor of MillerCoors products in the Bay Area, refuses to bargain a fair contract with its employees."

DBI Beverage earns more than \$350 million in annual revenue, but still wants to force its longtime drivers and warehouse workers to accept grossly standard wages and an expensive family health care plan.

"It is shameful that DBI pays such low wages that some workers are on public assistance," said Jim Tobin, President of Local 150 in Sacramento. "We are

here to tell DBI that after working a full 40 hours or more each week, workers deserve respect and a fair wage."

"MillerCoors and DBI have a responsibility to this community," said Sam Rosas, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 439 in Stockton. "We buy their products, and in return their longtime workers deserve a decent job with decent benefits. The economy in California is already in terrible shape, so this profitable company should be ashamed of itself for destroying these jobs."



MillerCoors Organizing Website

The Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Conference has worked with the Teamsters Communications Department

to build a website to facilitate organizing at the MillerCoors facility in Elkton, Va. The Conference already represents employees at three other MillerCoors facilities in the U.S. and many of the Elkton employees are eager to join. The page, found at www.teamster.org/millercoors, lists current news about MillerCoors, as well as organizing fliers. The page will serve as a resource for the employees in Elkton.

STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS



Teamsters Fight Back Nationwide

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa told a Labor Day crowd in Detroit there's a war on workers, a war the union didn't start but one it intends to fight and win.

Money-making corporations are outsourcing the jobs of longtime workers or demanding concessions as never before. Corporate-backed politicians give lip service to shared sacrifice even as they balance their budgets on the backs of working families. Public sector jobs are being cut, collective bargaining rights attacked and essential services slashed.

"We're fighting back," Hoffa said. "That's what Teamsters do. We stand up for what is right."

To show how committed they are to stopping the war on workers, Teamsters have marched in California, collected signatures in Ohio, rallied in the streets of New York, gone to court in Florida, walked picket lines around the country and even driven a copy of a Maine labor mural to an art exhibit in Maryland.

In the coming weeks, Teamsters have a much easier way to show their solidarity with the labor movement: All they have to do is vote in the upcoming union election (ballots will be mailed in early October).

In Wisconsin, Teamsters helped their brother state Sen. Dave Hansen, a member of Local 662 in Green Bay, beat back a recall effort by a huge margin. They also worked to

recall two of the six anti-worker state senators who had voted to take away bargaining rights for public sector unions. Gov. Scott Walker will be eligible for recall in January.

In Ohio, Teamsters are collecting signatures to repeal a law to restrict voting by citizens who don't support a pro-corporate agenda. Ohio Teamsters were already instrumental in collecting the 1.3 million signatures to overturn SB5, an anti-union bill that destroys collective bargaining rights for government workers. Both the voting measure and SB5 will be on the November ballot, and Teamsters are committed to repealing them. They are also fighting Gov. John Kasich's plan to privatize the Ohio Turnpike.

Indiana Teamsters have their hands full this fall with returning state lawmakers intent on weakening organized labor. They will be fighting a right-to-work bill to destroy unions as well as an effort to ban project labor agreements.

New Hampshire Teamsters are warily eyeing the state Legislature. This fall, lawmakers were expected to try to override Gov. John Lynch's veto of a right-to-work bill. But the state's GOP has suffered a backlash against its extreme anti-worker agenda, losing several special elections. It now appears an override vote may not be taken.

Teamsters in Michigan and Missouri may also be fighting right-to-work bills to destroy unions. Florida Teamsters are actively opposing Gov. Rick Scott's extreme agenda to privatize government and lower state workers' standard of living. They've gone to court to halt new requirements for public employees to make pension contributions in violation of their contracts. Teamsters have rallied, lobbied state lawmakers and mounted a postcard drive to oppose prison privatization. More actions are planned.

Perhaps nothing symbolized the war on workers so much as Maine Gov. Paul LePage's abrupt removal of a mural depicting the state's labor history. Maine Teamsters took an action symbolic of the fight back: They drove a replica of the mural to a Maryland art exhibit in the Joint Council 10 tractor trailer.

Said Local 340 President Ken Eaton, "When the opportunity arose for us to transport the murals to the art exhibition space in Maryland, we immediately signed on."

A Message from General President James P. Hoffa



On Labor Day, I gave a speech in Detroit encouraging people to vote anti-worker politicians out of office. Fox News carefully edited my remarks and then spread lies about how I had called for violence against Tea Party members.

If you need any further proof that anti-union employers and

politicians have declared an all-out war on the labor movement, look no further than what happened to me. Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, Sarah Palin and the rest of the multi-millionaires who don't want working people to have a voice will use any chance they get to make the labor movement look illegitimate.

Anti-union employers and politicians across the country are involved in a concerted effort to undermine rights it has taken working people a century to achieve. In the upcoming Teamster election, you have a very simple way of showing your support for the rights of labor: All you have to do is vote.

Voter turnout in the last two International Union elections has been low. Not voting sends a clear message to the enemies of labor. It tells them Teamster members don't care what happens to the labor movement and that they aren't involved. A strong turnout tells them you're paying attention and care about your future.

Soon, you will receive a ballot for the 2011 International Election. It is my hope that you take the ballot and cast it for the candidates of your choice.



Visit www.teamster.org

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