



AUGUST 2011

# Bakery & Laundry

## The Teamster Bakery & Laundry News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Dennis Raymond, Director

# VOTE!

- ✓ **Your Right**
- ✓ **Your Responsibility**

**T**here is no shortage of forces trying to stamp out the labor movement. In the last year, we have seen overzealous politicians and legislatures attempt to roll back labor rights that have taken a century for workers to earn.

Rank-and-file Teamsters have the opportunity to send a message and tell these anti-labor think tanks, media outlets and politicians that they still care about the labor movement.

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, At-Large Vice Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Trustees.

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

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.

See **VOTE!** on page 2



## Planning for the Future

### Bakery and Laundry Conference Holds 71st Annual Meeting

**T**he Teamsters Bakery and Laundry Conference recently held their 71st annual meeting prior to the start of the 28th International Convention of the Teamsters Union. In attendance were more than 120 delegates from locals and Joint Councils throughout the United States and Canada.

"We are here to discuss the issues that matter most to Teamster Bakery and Laundry members and to learn, discuss and strategize with each other in order to continue to provide the best representation," said Dennis Raymond, Director of the Conference.

Conference Chairman Dave Dudas reported that the Executive Board of the Bakery and Laundry Conference has been busy over the past year in negotiations and working with Frito Lay, Sara Lee, IBC, Bimbo Bakeries USA, Aramark Laundry, AlSCO, Cintas, Chicago Baking, Nickles and a number of other companies. Dudas reported that the Executive Board has spent a lot of time assisting locals throughout the United States and Canada and will continue to utilize the expertise and resources of the Conference to support the members.

It was announced that the 2011 fall policy meeting of the Bakery and Laundry Conference Policy Committee is tentatively scheduled for October 9-11, 2011, and the 72nd annual Teamsters Bakery and Laundry Conference will be held July 5 through July 10, 2012.

"The Bakery and Laundry Conference spans 80,000 members throughout North America in an industry that rapidly changes," Raymond said. "Bimbo

See *Planning for the Future* on page 2



## A Message From Conference Director Dennis Raymond

# Fighting the War on Workers

There is no doubt about it—there is a real, coordinated war against workers taking place across America. The middle class is under attack.

This reality was a focus of the 28th International Convention of the Teamsters Union which was held in June. Thousands of Teamster delegates, alternate delegates and guests from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico gathered at the Convention to plan for the future of our union.

Our future depends upon preserving the rights that the labor movement has worked so hard to achieve. Corporate-funded politicians who should be creating jobs are doing all they can to take away workers' rights. These same politicians have introduced so-called right-to-work laws in a number of states, and in each state, Teamsters have fought back or are fighting back.

It is crucial that each and every Teamster get involved. Teamsters helped build the middle class and we must stand up to protect and preserve it. Contact your local union and find out what you can do to stop this war on workers.

## VOTE! continued from page 1

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.

**VOTE**

FOR THE ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OFFICERS

BALLOTS MAILED OCTOBER 2011

## Unanimous Success continued from page 1

has been acquiring a number of bakeries, including Sara Lee, and it's important we talk about the issues we are faced with at the various companies where we have members. For instance, we are constantly working on controlling costs with health plans to protect Teamster benefits."

The Conference reaffirmed its commitment to utilizing a team approach to facing the challenges of the future.

A motion was made to nominate all current officers to their respected positions. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. These officers are:

- *David D. Dudas*,  
Chairman, Local 52
- *Hector Fernandez*,  
Vice Chairman, Local 63
- *Jeff Padellaro*,  
Secretary Treasurer, Local 633
- *Brian Meidel*,  
Recording Secretary, Local 734
- *Tyrone Brewster*,  
Adviser, Local 769
- *Dean Modecker*,  
Adviser, Local 455
- *Mike DeBuck*,  
Adviser, Local 289



# VISION, SOLIDARITY, ACTION

## 28th International Convention of the Teamsters Union

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters opened their 28th International Convention on June 27, 2011, with plenty of noise and a new resolve to stand up for the American dream.

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa announced the Teamsters had organized 135,000 new members in the past five years since their last convention, more than any other labor union in North America.

“This is how we fight back—we organize,” Hoffa said.

According to the Teamster Constitution, the International Convention, which is held every five years, is the supreme policy-making body of the union with the power and authority to modify the Constitution, establish programs, address fiscal issues and set priorities. During the Convention, delegates considered a number of constitutional measures and resolutions. Delegates also had the important task of nominating candidates for the International offices of General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Presidents and Trustees.

The Convention lived up to its theme of “Vision, Solidarity, Action.” Delegates and guests were treated to a powerful tribute to the union that included images and video that were both current and historic.

International Vice President At-Large and President of Joint Council 42 Randy Cammack gavelled the Convention to order on the opening day of the 28th International Convention. The theme of the convention’s first day was, “Stop the War on Workers,” from attacks by extremist politicians, bad trade deals and policies that undermine the middle class.

Delegates passed resolutions to support public workers, to oppose job-killing trade deals, to keep the border closed

to dangerous Mexican trucks; to fight against right-to-work bills to destroy unions; and to stop the war on workers.

The Teamsters, their families and their guests heard from some of the central players in the battleground states over the past six months, including Teamster leaders, rank-and-file members, politicians and entertainers.

Vice President Joe Biden addressed delegates and guests on the last day of the Convention and said that unions are the only institution protecting the middle class from assault by concentrated power and wealth. Biden said recent attacks on working people by politicians in state capitals and Congress represent “the most direct assault on labor in modern American history.”

During the five-day convention, which closed on July 1, Teamsters focused on the war being waged on workers by extremist politicians in the states and in Congress. Biden’s remarks echoed the union’s message that attacks on unions are attacks on the middle class.

“What other institution in America has the power to take on this concentration of power and wealth?” Biden said. “It’s you.”

“For workers in the middle class, we can’t lose this war,” he said.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” Hoffa said at the end of the Convention. “We’ve got to make sure we get working on the American dream.”

A number of resolutions were passed at the Convention on issues such as protecting pensions, fighting unfair trade agreements, keeping the border closed to unsafe Mexican trucks, worker misclassification, stopping the war on workers, supporting the National Labor Relations Board and preserving jobs and standards.

## A Message from General President James P. Hoffa

### Democracy In Action



I was proud to chair our 28th Convention and witness democracy in action by our delegates. Coming together as we do every five years to hear from rank-and-file members about how their lives have changed since becoming Teamsters is inspirational and fuels that fire we need to fight for all working men and women.

From the first day of our Convention, we heard from members who have been fighting back to stop the war on workers. Whether coordinating rallies in their towns, holding a banner or posting photos of the rallies, many of our members have grasped how important winning this struggle is in order to protect working families.

A Republican lawmaker from Ohio who addressed our convention, Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-OH), even apologized to the delegates for the way his party has been trying to break down working people.

Despite what the right wing says, we continue to organize. In fact, since our last Convention in 2006, we organized 135,000 new members. People working in the school bus industry, parking industry and others are now able to stand tall at work, knowing that the Teamsters Union stands with them.

Visit [www/teamster.org](http://www.teamster.org)

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Washington, DC  
Permit No. 4481