



Women's News

The Teamster Women's Newsletter

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Sue Mauren, Women's Conference Director

VOTE!

✓ **Your Right**

✓ **Your Responsibility**

There 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.

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TEAMSTER WOMAN POWER

Members Speak at 28th International Convention

Thousands of Teamsters from throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico recently gathered in Las Vegas for the 28th International Convention. Teamster women leaders from the International Union, Joint Councils, local unions and the membership addressed the crowd.

The Teamster members who spoke at this massive gathering showed their passion, determination and ability to command an audience. These women told of the courageous journeys they and their co-workers took to become Teamsters, working in industries as diverse as airline, county corrections and school bus.

Paula Webber, a clerk for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill., has been a Teamster with Local 700 in Park Ridge

since 2008. Webber traveled from the Windy City to Las Vegas to express gratitude to her fellow Teamsters.

"Since becoming a Teamster, my life and the lives of my co-workers have changed drastically because with the Teamsters we know we have someone backing us. We have job security and we know that anything is possible," Webber said.

In August 2010, Rayma Sagapolu and more than 600 of her co-workers at CVS joined Local 386 in Modesto, Calif.

"I will remember that day for the rest of my life because it meant we no longer had to put up with harassment, intimidation and favoritism," Sagapolu said.

Sagapolu told the audience that before becoming Teamsters she and her co-workers were "treated like dirt." She described

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A Message from Women's Conference Director Sue Mauren

Teamster Women Speak Up

Every five years, we look forward to the International Convention of the Teamsters Union. This event allows us to reflect on the progress of our union and make plans to build our union even stronger for the future. The 28th International Convention took place this June and I am proud that we had the opportunity to hear from a number of impressive Teamster women at this event.

A highlight of the Convention for me was hearing from the members because that is what our great union is all about—serving the membership. It is members like you that make our union strong. In this issue of the newsletter, you'll read more about the rank-and-file Teamster women at the Convention.

The 2011 Teamsters Women's Conference is fast approaching. This year's conference will be held in New York City, August 26-28. I look forward to seeing all of you there, and for those who are not able to attend, we will be sharing all of the highlights in a future issue.



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.

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how workers were not allowed to use the bathroom without being questioned or intimidated by managers at work.

"Now that we have strong representation from Local 386, there is no more hiding and management doesn't fire people because they feel like it. I and my 630 co-workers at CVS are living proof that a Teamster contract is respect."

Strong Contracts

Amanda Kamara, a fleet service worker and shop steward with Continental Airlines in Newark, N.J., and a member of Local 210 in New York, is enjoying the protections and wage increases provided by her recently ratified contract, which covers the 7,500 fleet service workers at Continental.

Since Continental Airlines and United Airlines have recently merged into one company, there needs to be another representation election for Continental fleet service workers and United fleet service workers, who are currently represented by the International Association of Machinists. Voting will conclude on August 11.

"We have seen first hand already what Teamster power is all about," Kamara said. "We have been reaching out to our United brothers and sisters to educate them about the Teamsters. On August 11, when the voting is all over, the 14,300 fleet service and ramp workers at the new United will become Teamster members."

In addition to an update on the Continental-United campaign, Convention participants also heard about organizing in

the school bus industry from Lorraine Nowak, a Durham School Services driver with Local 952 in Orange, Calif. Nowak and more than 300 of her co-workers at three Durham locations braved a tough anti-union campaign by the company to join the Teamsters in March.

Nowak's energetic speech reflected the passion with which she and her co-workers, many of whom are female, led their campaign to organize.

"Durham was making huge profits. They cleared millions and told us that we could do nothing much to help ourselves. You don't tell a bunch of experienced bus drivers they can't do anything to help themselves," Nowak said. "Durham made every effort to divide and conquer, but we stuck together. We are currently negotiating our first Teamster contract. I am confident that one day all of Durham will be union."

Nancy Aleccia, a 33-year UPS member of Local 396 in Covina, Calif., talked about the value of Teamster representation in the workplace, thanking the Teamsters for "preserving and upholding our contracts and keeping them strong."

Looking to the future, a major announcement was made by Ken Hall, International Vice President and Package Division Director, that UPS Freight has signed a letter of agreement on card-check for UPS Freight clerks.

Erica Chavez, one of the newest UPS Freight clerks to join Local 63 in Covina, Calif., shared her excitement over this news.

"I am happy that other clerks will have the opportunity to organize," Chavez said.



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

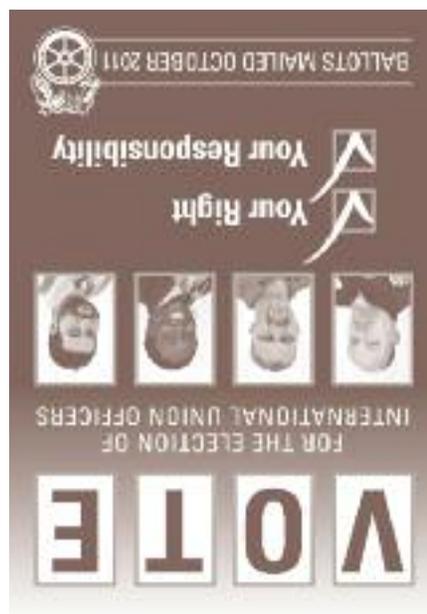


I was proud to chair our 28th Convention and witness democracy in action by our delegates. Coming together as we do every five years to hear from rank-and-file members about how their lives have changed since becoming Teamsters is inspirational and fuels that fire we need to fight for all working men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



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