



Public Services

The Teamster Public Services News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Michael Filler, 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.

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Pennsylvania Correctional Officers Win Award

Teamsters Local 429 Members Applaud Wage Increases

Correctional officers and members of Local 429 in Reading, Pa. will receive a retroactive 2.5 percent pay increase in January 2011, plus a 3 percent increase each January of the three-year contract for a total of 12 percent by January 2014 thanks to an award issued by an arbitrator. The correctional officers are employees of Schuylkill County Prison in Pennsylvania.

“The award and the new contract will make our life easier,” said Jaymee Kruss, a 13-year employee and member of Local 429. “Part of the contract says that we will have an additional personal day, plus the number of hours that management can order us to stay after our regular shift has been shortened to four hours, instead of eight.”

Another positive part of the new contract is that the medical benefits will

remain the same, with just a small, monthly increase.

“This is the first time in 26 years that we have some rewards for longevity in the contract,” said Sandy Mendinsky, a 26-year employee and member of Local 429. “Now, instead of a flat rate when you reach certain years of service, after 20 you begin to get 2 percent of your base salary added on.”

In addition to the across-the-board salary improvements for county prison employees, the new contract provides for monetary longevity bonuses of \$500 after three years of service. It also provides for a 1 percent increase after the fourth year of service and a 2 percent increase to base pay after 10 years on the job.

Correctional officers will also receive 2.5 times their hourly rate for

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A Message From Division Director Michael Filler

Who Can You Count On?

The summer of 2011 will go down in the history books as a time of challenge as many of us battled the forces of nature: hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes; earthquakes and fires.

In all of these situations, public service members were at the forefront saving citizens and safeguarding property.

Isn't it ironic, though, when certain politicians, who have engaged in ongoing criticism of the government and public employees, are seen rushing to state and federal agencies for disaster relief? For a short period of time, the disparaged "faceless bureaucrats" get temporary reprieve from public ostracism long enough to issue checks to impacted communities, as the people we serve begin the process of recovering from the aftereffects of mother nature.

But focusing on relief and recovery activities, valiantly performed by heroic men and women in the public as well as private sector, is insufficient to generate the sensationalism sought after in our ever-expanding information age. Some elected ideologues need to grandstand in a time of crisis with demands that the distribution of relief funds be delayed until certain corresponding adjustments or "offsets" are made in the budget. In fact, one zany zealot from Congress even went so far as to recommend that the emergency management agency be abolished.

It is our challenge to engage the thousands of Teamster public service members to communicate the real story. People need to be reminded of who they can count on, in good and bad times. Let the events of this summer put into motion a national "You Can Count on Us" campaign. Isn't it time to set the record straight?



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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.

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holiday overtime pay. The agreement includes additional personal days, more time for funeral leave and a strict procedure on approving vacation requests.

"The union's team was well prepared to make the case for significant gains even during very difficult economic times," said Bill Shappell, President of Local 429. "The chief economist from our International Union

office in Washington, D.C. played an important role in persuading the arbitrator about the need for a package that included fair wage increases. I am very pleased that the Teamsters have made a positive contribution in the lives of our correctional officers."

"I know we are secure here with this contract," Mendinsky said.



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.

**Watch the Candidate Forum
at www.ibtvote.org**



Visit www.teamster.org

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