



James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Ed Jacobson, Director BMCT Division



- ✓ 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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Building Beauty Out of Tragedy

The Honor of Working at the World Trade Center Site

It began with a blast and ended with a deafening torrent of thuds. The sound of the initial plane crash into the World Trade Center buildings on Sept. 11, 2001 and the towers' fall to the ground was part of the devastation of that day. Ten years later, the same site is filled with the roar of dump trucks, cranes and cement trucks, as hundreds of Teamsters work to rebuild the site in lower Manhattan.

The four-square blocks that comprise the site are alive with activity, all of which is being coordinated by Teamster members. As the traffic managers for the site, Teamsters from Local 282 are positioned at strategic locations across the building, park and museum site. In

some ways the site activity is a great foil to the devastation that followed the attacks. Here, thousands of construction workers have found work on what many of them describe as the most important building site in history.

What's attracting the most attention, and the most traffic, is gate 1C at the base of Freedom Tower, or Tower 1, and that's where Teamsters are standing guard. "I'd estimate that we've had 55,000 deliveries so far, and all of them have been Teamster drivers making those deliveries," said Bob Bozza, a 26-year member of Local 282. Bozza is the chief union on-site steward at the World Trade Center site. Coordinating deliveries for Tower 1 has been a major part of

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A Message From Division Director Ed Jacobson

Rebuilding Ground Zero

It's an honor for our members to be working on the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site in New York. Many of our members from Local 282 have been present at the site from the day after the attacks in 2001. Whether they worked on the clean up, excavation or the structural building taking place now, our members know the heavy burden they carry in making this site a testament to America's fight against terrorism.

As I have traveled to different local unions for meetings with Teamster leaders about construction contracts I am always impressed by how dedicated our members are to their jobs. So many of you have stuck with your craft for many years, during the boom times and the lean times.

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 days. 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.

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his job since he began working on the site in April 2006.

"When I started work here it was just one big hole in ground," Bozza said. "The amount and frequency of deliveries is going to increase as soon as more of the buildings go up. Right now we have about 50 stories erected on the Freedom Tower, out of the 106 it will be when it's topped off. And that should happen in the next 8-9 months."

a 28-year Teamster who worked as a crane driver himself for 16 years. "I started work here two days after the towers came down," said Montoux. "I am out in Brooklyn every day because that's where our crane yards are. We work on the whole job site. The construction here is a tribute back to New York. Bringing back the glory of what it once was."

Tower 2 has more than 30 stories

"This project is bittersweet for me. I would have preferred that this had never happened, but it is an honor for me to work here."

—Larry Brady, a 31-year Teamster member

Getting the Job Done

For some workers, like John Mazzola, it's been 12 years of work on the site. "I worked on the cleanup, the excavation, of this site," Mazzola said. "Before my work here I was a concrete driver for 20 years. On 9/11 I was working on a Turner construction site nearby." Mazzola is an on-site steward for Local 282 and coordinates the deliveries to towers 2, 3 and 4.

Along with deliveries of materials, Teamsters also bring in equipment, such as mobile or crawler cranes. One of those Teamsters is Kenny Montoux,

framed, and the concrete floors poured, but there are 40 more stories to go until it reaches its final height. "We are pouring floor 30 today," said Larry Brady, a 31-year Teamster member. "It takes 38 loads of concrete per floor. We pour half one day and half another."

Many workers lost friends and family members in the attacks. Brady was one who remembered the half-dozen friends and family members he lost. "This project is bittersweet for me. I would have preferred that this had never happened, but it is an honor for me to work here."

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.



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