

## 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.

BALLOTS MAILED OCTOBER 2011

Your Responsibility

Your Right

FOR THE ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OFFICERS

VOTE

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

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Tyson Johnson, Freight Division Director

The Teamster Freight News



# FreightNews



# FreightNews

## The Teamster Freight News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Tyson Johnson, Freight Division 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

## Cross-Border, YRCW Take Center Stage at Convention

Teamsters Freight Division Issues Spotlights

Issues of vital importance to Teamster freight members, including cross-border trucking and helping to save the YRC Worldwide, Inc. (YRC) companies, took center stage at the 28th International Convention.

Teamsters National Freight Division Director Tyson Johnson gave a no-nonsense account of the dangers in opening the border to dangerous Mexican trucks. Mario Leva, a shop steward with Local 745, described the dangers of Mexico's violent drug cartels across the border from his home in El Paso. A resolution opposing the latest pilot program to open the border to Mexican trucks won unanimous support.

Johnson implored delegates and other Convention attendees to get involved to stop the cross-border pilot program, which began in early July.

"I challenge you to go back home and motivate your members, motivate the American public," Johnson said.

"This is not just a Teamster issue. This is an issue for every person that gets on a public road with their wives, their families and their friends."

Leva recalled the Teamster Day of Action in 2001 to protest an earlier cross-border plan. Things have gotten worse since 2001, Leva said, with more Mexican trucks crossing into a 25-mile corridor where the Mexican trucks are currently allowed to go (the pilot program opens the border up entirely).

"Instead of complying with the NAFTA regulations, what [Mexico has] done is they have increased the amount of border crossings from 350,000 a year in 2001 to close to 4 million in the last year," Leva said.

Leva agreed that attendees need to help fight the pilot program.

"Everybody needs to take action. We need to write a letter to our congressman. We need to put a stop to this immediately," Leva said.

In the fight to save YRC, Ernie Soehl,

See **Center Stage** on page 2

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

## A Message from National Freight Division Director Tyson Johnson

### Taking Challenges Head On



I had the opportunity to speak about important issues that affect our freight members at the recent 28th Convention of this great union.

I discussed our struggle to save YRCW and I also talked about

our ongoing fight to keep unsafe Mexican trucks off our highways.

I was joined by rank-and-file members, who spoke eloquently (see story in this newsletter), by Assistant Freight Director Gordon Sweeton and Eastern Freight Coordinator Ernie Soehl. It was an honor and privilege for all of us.

As we enjoy our summers, please know that the Freight Division is working hard to make sure your interests are protected. We continue to work to make sure the YRC restructuring plan moves forward after its completion on July 22, and we will not let up in the fight to stop this bogus Mexican truck pilot program.

On this latter point, I urge all of you to get involved in the battle to keep our roads safe and to protect our family-wage Teamster freight jobs. Contact your member of Congress and tell them to put a halt to this ill-conceived pilot program. We will also be reaching out to you in the near future and we hope you will join us. Together, we are much stronger!

To our YRCW members, we continue to make saving your jobs our number-one priority. We will be involved with the restructuring plan every step of the way to achieve a restructuring that creates a viable entity so that you continue to have a job with good pay and benefits.

## 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.

## Center Stage continued from page 1

Eastern Region Freight Coordinator, talked about the union's long struggle to save 30,000 freight jobs through members' sacrifices and their approval of a restructuring plan aimed at making the company more competitive.

"Because of the vision and solidarity and the actions of our members and our Teamster leaders, the restructuring plan is on track to be completed," Soehl said. The plan was completed on July 22.

Carl Barelli, chief steward at Holland in Kansas City and a 31-year Teamster, talked about the courage Teamster leaders showed to help save 30,000 jobs at YRC.

"Because of the actions taken by General President Jim Hoffa, National

Freight Director Tyson Johnson and our Assistant Freight Director, Gordon Sweeton, I can stand here today and tell you that 30,000 YRC Teamsters are still on the job," said Barelli, a Local 41 member.

Sweeton, who is from Joplin, Mo., talked about the devastation to his hometown caused by an F5 tornado and about how the Teamsters have rallied to help the community. The tornado killed a Teamster, Heather Leigh Terry, a member of Local 823.

"After the tornado, the Teamsters responded to help my community," Sweeton said. "Once again, when Teamsters get the call to help, they answer. Teamsters are the most caring people in the world when it comes to helping others."



## 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.