



TradeShow

The Teamster Trade Show & Convention Center News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary–Treasurer • Denis Taylor, 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.

See *VOTE!* on page 2



Teamsters Carry the Load to Stop Great Lakes Expo

Labor Coalition Protects Trade Show Jobs in Ohio

Teamsters Locals 407 and 507 in Cleveland knew they would have a problem on their hands when the Great Lakes Expo Center in Euclid, Ohio opened its doors in January 2010. The convention center, a repurposed Super K-Mart, had all the makings of a fly-by-night, shoestring operation.

Their worries would prove to be founded, as the Great Lakes Expo Center would attempt to re-invent the way convention work is handled and undercut good-paying union jobs in the process.

“Great Lakes wanted to change the whole traditional model for convention and expo center work by allowing exhibitors to do all the trade work,” said Frank Burdell, President of Local

407. “They were allowing exhibitors to do the loading, unloading, setup, take-down and electrical with the sole purpose of eliminating union workers completely.”

Locals 407 and 507 represent trade show workers at the Cleveland Convention Center and the Cleveland International Exposition Center. This can mean hundreds of Teamster and other trade union jobs between to two facilities whenever a show hits town. Consequently, every time a show chose to run at the Great Lakes Expo Center, it was a direct threat to the livelihood of the union workers and their families.

“We knew we had to take a stand to protect industry standards in the

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A Message From Division Director Denis Taylor

Your Vote, Your Right

On October 6, ballot will be mailed to you to vote in the upcoming election that will decide our union's leadership for the next five years.

As a truly democratic union, it is our responsibility to exercise our right to vote. Many members in other unions do not share this right.



Our role in this democratic process should not be taken lightly. Whatever your political leaning when it comes to the Teamsters, this is a responsibility every member should take seriously.

Our union is one of very few that actually give a voice to each member in the choosing of our leadership. It is not only our right to vote, it is our responsibility to vote in this election.

Your vote is not only an important part of this election, it sends a message to anti-union politicians and companies that the labor movement is strong and engaged. It tells them that the attacks they have waged on the middle class will not divide the labor movement – it will only make us stronger as we stand together in solidarity. Together we will make a difference.

So when that ballot arrives at your home, make sure you take a few minutes to cast your vote. You owe it to yourself, your family and your Teamster brothers and sisters.

One member, one 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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Cleveland area," Burdell said. "Working with Al Mixon at Local 507, we reached out to all the trade unions that work at the convention centers, the International, Jobs With Justice and the Cleveland AFL-CIO. Together we took action."

The coalition kept the pressure on the Great Lakes Expo Center, handing out leaflets to show attendees to educate them about the dangerous conditions at the convention hall due to untrained workers handling the setup for the show. The leaflets also brought the expo center's anti-union practices to light and

called for a boycott.

After six months of constant pressure by the coalition and a groundswell of community support for the workers, the Great Lakes Expo Center closed its doors for good.

"Labor came together for this fight, and won," Mixon said. "We were all going to be affected by this group coming in and undercutting prevailing wage for our trade show workers so we knew we couldn't sit on the sidelines and watch. All of labor stood with one another to help shut this place down."

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



Your Right, Your Responsibility

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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