



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

Race to the Top

Judith Flanagan Kennedy Brings Teamster Values to Mayor's Office

In the 1990s, a marketing campaign for Lynn, Massachusetts, called it the "City of Firsts." It has taken 160 years since the city's incorporation in 1850, but the residents of Lynn have elected Judith Flanagan Kennedy, a member of Teamsters Local 42, as their first female mayor.

"I wanted to become mayor to bring openness, fairness, accessibility and a sense of belonging to everyone in the community," Kennedy said.

Kennedy, an attorney who had served on the Lynn School Committee and city council, decided to run for mayor in 2009 after the unexpected death of Patrick McManus. McManus, a former Lynn mayor, had been taking on the incumbent, Edward "Chip" Clancy, for the job.

Dark Horse Teamster

Kennedy didn't have time or money on her side. With only 35 days before the primary and \$1,200 in funds, the write-in candidate had to put together her platform quickly.

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Teamster Women on the Move



2010 Teamsters Women's Conference Held in Minneapolis

More than 750 Teamster women from throughout North America gathered in Minneapolis recently for the 2010 Teamsters Women's Conference. The three-day event, themed, "Teamster Women: Proud of the Past, Prepared for the Future," featured a variety of notable speakers, educational workshops, opportunities for networking, a march through downtown Minneapolis in support of good jobs and much more.

At the 10th annual conference Teamster women answered Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa's call to stand up, speak up and get more involved in their union.

"We are the Teamsters; we are strong and we are growing. You are making this union strong," Hoffa said. "You need to get active in the union and fight as hard as you can for worker rights."

Teamster women answered the call by leading an organized march through downtown Minneapolis, which spilled into a massive "Workers 'Yes,' Wall Street 'No'" rally. At the rally, they called for the restoration of the American middle class and an end to Wall Street greed.

"Teamster women are building power because we need power for the working people in this country," said Tom Keegel, Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer.

"Teamsters took a stand here and we need to take a stand against Wall Street and anyone who thinks that working people aren't going to be a part of an economic recovery," said Sue Mauren, Director of the Women's Conference, President of Joint Council 32 and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 320 in Minneapolis.

Mauren was referring to the historic 1934 Teamsters strike, in which workers

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Judith Flanagan Kennedy and Alice T. Riley-King

A Message from Women's Conference Director Sue Mauren

Time to Act

Teamster activists descended upon Minneapolis for three days in September. Hundreds of Teamster women and men marched through downtown streets, calling for an economic recovery that includes workers. Minneapolis will never be the same and neither will these Teamsters.



The Women's Conference is over and participants have left town, taking their newly found energy with them. Now is the time to take that energy and turn it into action. Ask yourself if you have done everything you can do to help your co-workers, your union and your community. These are extraordinary times for working people that require extraordinary action.

This means going to your union meetings, volunteering to serve on committees, asking your local union executive board what you can do to help, talking to fellow members, neighbors, your family and anyone who will listen about the need to put jobs first. Getting money into the hands of working people is what stimulates the economy. Without jobs that pay decent wages, there will be no recovery for working families.

Workers need a strong union now more than ever before. A strong union means active, involved members.

Teamster Women on the Move

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fought and died for their rights to union recognition. The strike resulted in the growth of the Teamsters Union and the passage of key pro-worker legislation. Whereas in 1934, Teamsters were killed on these streets, in 2010 police were closing off the roads to allow Teamster women to march.

"The rally was amazing. We took to the streets, we spoke for all workers and it was powerful," said Elizabeth Gonzalez, a business agent and organizer with Teamsters Local 777 in Brookfield, Illinois.



Empowered Women

Addressing the Teamster women were numerous notable speakers, including Arianna Huffington, Editor-in-Chief of the Huffington Post; Wilma Liebman, Chair of the National Labor Relations Board; Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.); and Lori Swanson, Minnesota Attorney General, among many others.

"Without the unions backing us, I think our economy would be a lot worse. We need unions to grow, especially for our young people," said Leora Davis, a 31-year Teamster with Local 1150 who builds helicopters for Sikorsky in Stratford, Connecticut.

"The fellowship with the sisters, the empowerment, the workshops, the information I didn't know before, I'm going to take it all home with me," said Valerie Jackson, a Local 822 shop steward and production line worker in Norfolk, Virginia.

"Come get a better understanding of what we're doing, rather than reading about it or just hearing about it," said Ericka Smith, a shop steward with Local 968 in Houston. "Come be a part of it next year!"

The 2011 Teamsters Women's Conference will be held in New York City.



TEAMSTER *Voices*

Teamster Women Speak Up at Annual Conference

"I love the Teamsters because we're vocal, we're taking a stand and it's not just lip service. We produce what we're saying and I'm proud to be a part of that. When I get back home, I'm going to tell all my co-workers this Women's Conference is an experience I will never forget."

—Sebrina Isom, Durham school bus driver,
Local 509, Cayce, S.C.



"The rally's focus was to take the message from Main Street to Wall Street and it was loud and proud!"

—Jaelee Treit, Extra Foods cashier, Local 213, Vancouver, British Columbia



"This conference boosts my soul and spirit. I'm proud to be a part of this organization and to meet some new sisters. Every time I come, I feel stronger about what I believe in. As an immigrant who has become a U.S. citizen, I want people in my country to have a good job and a good life. The Teamsters send a powerful voice to government to stand up for that."

—Somsong Abrahamian, United Airlines mechanic,
Local 856, San Bruno, Calif.

"I'm here to enlighten and empower myself and to regenerate. I learn something new from these conferences every time. I always bring it back to educate and share with my fellow members."

—Linda Marie Gilreath, Honeywell glass blower,
Local 1145, Blaine, Minn.



"How are we going to move our Teamster women into the future? It's going to be about communication, combining our older members and their experiences with our younger members and their ability to adapt and use technology. We need to put all that together for a strong presence in the future."

—Anita Dawson, Business Agent, Local 213, Vancouver, British Columbia

"People are really surprised to hear that I not only drive a garbage truck, I also pitch it, which is unloading the cans in the back of the truck. Being a Teamster member makes a big difference to me. I believe in what we do every day, supporting each other like we're doing at this conference."

—Angela Gwin, Republic Services driver, Local 631, Las Vegas

"We marched through the streets and it was really cool that Minneapolis was willing to shut down their streets. This was my first women's conference and it was amazing to have the Teamster women together and hear the vocalization of the Teamster movement."

—Stephanie Griffin, Secretary, Local 238, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Race to the Top

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Kennedy had strong endorsements from the labor community in Lynn, a city with 90,000 residents, and campaigned on a platform supporting equal opportunity, fair treatment and the ability of residents to prosper. Kennedy, a Republican, was understandably nervous running against an incumbent, and the race was fierce.

"I had a standard to set of not being afraid of the establishment, the men and the dirty tricks that get played in politics," she said.

Badge of Honor

One of the "tricks" that particularly bothered Kennedy was how her Teamster profession was portrayed during the campaign. Since 2006, Kennedy had been a driver for THE RIDE, a paratransit service whose drivers are members of Local 42.

"One of the ways they were attacking me during the campaign was to call me 'the bus driver,' like I had no idea how to run the city because of what they implied was the low value of driving a bus," Kennedy said. "My favorite job was driving for THE RIDE. These were people otherwise limited in their ability to get out and about, and they were able to lead active lives because of what I and other Teamsters were doing for them. I wear that as a badge of honor."

Kennedy won the general election by 30 votes to become mayor of Lynn.

"We needed someone who would listen to all of us in Lynn. She has unified the community, and I am as proud of her being a Teamster as I am of her being our mayor," said Alice T. Riley-King, President of Local 42 and also one of Lynn's "firsts." Riley-King is the first female principal officer of Local 42 in its 107-year history.

In her time as mayor, Kennedy has lived each day looking to make every Lynn resident feel a part of their community.

"We want things to be done the right way and done fairly," Kennedy said. "I think that's emblematic of how Teamsters think."

A Message from General President James P. Hoffa

Member Mobilization



Active rank-and-file involvement is one of the many things that make the Teamsters Union the most powerful union on the planet.

When we called on our members to get involved in organizing, the response was incredible. Thousands of you volunteered for orga-

nizing trainings and then assisted your local unions or Joint Councils in getting nonunion workers to join the Teamsters.

Every campaign the Teamsters Union participates in—whether for organizing, to negotiate a strong contract or to get something done on Capitol Hill—starts with a strong membership.

If you're not involved with your local union, I urge you to get out to a membership meeting. There's much to be learned at a local meeting, and connecting with your fellow members and officials at the local is a great way to take that first step.

Once you have established a relationship with your local union, there's no shortage of ways to get involved, to make your union stronger, to make your community better, to make your job safer.

There is strength in numbers, and with 1.4 million Teamster brothers and sisters out there—and much more to come—our union is about as strong as it gets. But we can always be stronger. The easiest and most effective way is for each and every Teamster to get active in his or her local.

DRIVE is a political committee that furthers labor-related goals, including making contributions to support candidates for local, state and federal offices. Individuals may refuse to join or contribute without fear of reprisal.

Take a Stand for Working Families

DRIVE

Find out more about this exciting program to build Teamster power on the web

www.teamster.org/drive

Visit **www.teamster.org**

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