



# 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



- Your Right,
- Your Responsibility

**T**eamsters 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



## 2011 TEAMSTERS Women's Conference

### Fighting the War on Workers

**T**eamster women from throughout North America gathered in New York City recently for the 2011 Teamsters Women's Conference. The three-day event featured an impressive lineup of speakers, workshops and an action in support of Teamster brothers and sisters in the Big Apple.

Hurricane Irene was no match for the force of Teamster women who came to New York to stand up for workers' rights at the 11th annual conference themed, "Teamster Women: Fighting the War on Workers."

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa called on the more than 800 Teamster women in attendance to stand up to anti-worker politicians and their corporate funders who are waging war on workers.

"Teamsters know how to fight, how to organize and how to win. We're facing a war on workers, but Teamster women are going to take back America for the middle class. I'm calling on each and every one of you to get involved," Hoffa said.

"As we convene this conference, we

find ourselves in an unprecedented battle for our jobs, communities and way of life. This is a war on workers and on our union," said Sue Mauren, Director of the Teamsters Women's Conference, President of Joint Council 32 and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 320 in Minneapolis. "Teamsters coming together to unite and fight the war on workers—this is what democracy looks like."

During the conference, Teamsters rallied outside Sotheby's Manhattan showroom in support of Teamsters Local 814 art handlers who were locked out by the company in the middle of contract negotiations. They handle artwork and antiques valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Protesters held banners and signs that read, "Sotheby's: Bad for Art" and "Sotheby's: Stop the War on Art Workers," while distributing leaflets.

"We were there to stand in solidarity. It was an emotional experience for them because they were so happy to have our support," said Margarita Sumano-Rangel, an eight-year Teamster with Local 315 in Martinez, Calif.

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## A Message from Women's Conference Director Sue Mauren

### Let's Exercise Our Right to Vote!

The annual Teamsters Women's Conference was held in New York City recently. I want to thank all the Teamster sisters who attended.

Despite the arrival of Hurricane Irene, we carried on and had a successful conference. You'll read more about our event in this issue of the newsletter and I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco for next year's conference.



The first day of our conference appropriately coincided with the 91st anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Women worked hard to gain this right. Many women suffered, were arrested and harassed when they spoke up about the injustices they were facing, but they persevered.

Teamsters will receive a ballot in the mail this October to vote in the upcoming International Election. Rank-and-file Teamsters will have the opportunity to vote for International General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, At-Large Vice Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Trustees.

The women that came before us fought hard for this right, so let's exercise our right 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.

## 2011 Teamsters Women's Conference continued from page 1

### Dynamic Speakers

The conference also featured a number of dynamic guest speakers, including Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY, 11), who commended the Teamster women on the important role they play in standing up for workers' rights.

"I recognize now more than ever the importance and necessity of unions in today's political discourse. You are the women who move a nation. You are the 'now' and the future of organized labor," Clarke said.

A panel of women from school bus workers to correctional officers spoke about the importance of organizing with the Teamsters.

"I work hard every day and put my life on the line. We need real representation. We're waiting now on our vote date so we can be Teamsters," said Penny Reeder, a correctional officer with the Florida Department of Corrections

(FDOC). About 20,000 correctional, probation and parole officers with the FDOC are currently organizing to join the Teamsters.

The conference also focused on how Teamsters are giving back to their communities, from painting houses for the needy in Florida to leading tornado relief efforts in Joplin, Mo.

Dozens of workshops offered at the conference included topics such as managing workplace stress, preparing for grievances and arbitrations, organizing for power and using social media.

"Teamster women are strong and gaining power in the workforce. I am very grateful and appreciative to have the opportunity to be here with all my fellow Teamsters," said Nikko Hashimoto, a shop steward with Local 848 and a forklift driver.

The 2012 Teamsters Women's Conference will be held in San Francisco.



# STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS



## *Teamsters Fight Back Nationwide*

**T**eamsters 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



**O**n 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](http://www.ibtvote.org)**



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

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