



# The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

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Bimonthly Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 1

January—February 2009



Howard W. Wells

## An Important Message from our President

Hope everyone is in good spirits during these uncertain times. January and February are good months for ones spirit. January is a time for new beginnings. As my Dad once said “Learn from the past, have faith in the future, and today can be the beginning of your life.” What better month to follow that up with than February, the birthday of Lincoln right after the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Think about the challenges of President Lincoln keeping this country as one even as the country was in the midst of the Civil War. Dr. King faced the challenges of keeping people as one with dignity, respect and equal treatment. James R. Hoffa’s birthday is also celebrated in February and he marched with Dr. King for these same reasons. This is why we organize ... to give workers the respect and dignity they deserve.

What greater hope can we ask for with Barack Obama as our new President? Think about the many challenges he faces in bringing the country back to its’ roots. A time and place where working families matter, when unions matter. Upon creating the White House Office on Middle Class Working Families chaired by Vice President Joe Biden he said “I don’t view the Labor Movement as part of the problem, to me, Unions are part of the solution. You cannot have a strong middle class without strong Labor Unions.”

Let’s not forget the great sacrifices our great grandparents, grandparents, and mother and fathers made for us paving the way to today’s opportunities. We must pay attention to what goes on in Trenton and Washington, D.C. Our voices must be heard as working families and union members. We cannot be blind to the attacks upon our way of life. We must support our new President whose plate is full with major decisions that will affect unions, working class families, and our country.

This International Union under the leadership of James P. Hoffa, with its talented staff and officers and Local Union support, will keep the D.C. politicians feet to the fire. Issues like EFCA, Healthcare reform, Retirement security, Mexican Cross Border Trucking, Hours of Service, Trade Pacts, Globalization, Economic Stimulus, misclassification of workers, are just the tip of the iceberg. As Teamsters we care about helping others and making a difference. We have always been at the forefront for working families, equality and Civil Rights.

It is going to take more than hope and more than votes to protect our interests. It will take money to ensure our agenda is heard and to keep it on the front burner. More than 50 years ago James R. Hoffa created D.R.I.V.E. (Democrat-Republican-Independent-Voter-Education) to give our members a way to contribute to this effort. Ask your Shop Steward or Business Agent how you can participate in this nonpartisan effort.

I’m, once again, looking forward to seeing everyone at the Members & Family Picnic in June. This is a special time for me when I get to talk to so many members and discuss how far we’ve come and where we need to go in the future.

Fraternally Yours,  
Howard W. Wells President / Principal Officer Local 676

## Upcoming Meeting March 15th

**There will be a Legal Fair  
from 9 AM to 11 AM  
Prior to the Monthly  
Membership Meeting**



**The following lawyers from the  
Law Firm of  
Willig, Williams, & Davidson  
will be available for questions  
and consultations.**

**Kristine Phillips — real estate,  
traffic disputes, civil litigation**

**Scott Orloff & Aneesah El-  
Amin-Jaamia —  
domestic relations**

**Ruth Ann DiDonato — wills,  
estates, consumer disputes**

**Jon Krinick — bankruptcy,  
criminal matters**

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## UPS Article 22.3 Worker Layoffs

The current situation with Article 22.3 workers being laid off on Friday nights is not an acceptable way for UPS to treat their dedicated, hardworking employees.

Secretary-Treasurer / Business Agent Roy Kaiser has filed grievances for any of our members losing all or any CBA benefits. This is a quality of life issue for members trying to raise a family pay check to pay check in these uncertain times.

The poor economy has directly affected all parts of the business world. However to take a member's work week from 40 hours to 32 hours with only a couple of days notice is cruel and not within the terms of the contract.

The situation is not directly addressed in the contract but I feel there are several arguments in our favor. Howard and I will pursue the grievance procedure to correct what we feel is wrong and harmful to our members.

This has happened before, unknown to us until recently, and the arbitration decision at that time did not rule for either party. Of course a positive change in the economy would be the best and quickest way to return these workers to a 40 hour week.

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**“ Protect Your License — No Drugs! “**

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## Construction News

The unprecedented downturn of the last six months has affected all industries. The Local 676 Construction and Building Supply and materials Divisions has arguably been impacted the most.

In an effort to spur more use of union supply houses, letters have been sent and personal visits made to various contractors urging them to “Buy Union”.

In addition Business Agent Ed Pearce attends all possible pre-job meetings. Recent examples include the Salem Power Plant Outage, Virtua Hospital Phase II, Morgan Village Middle School, Valero Coker Job, and a separate meeting with the School Development Authority regarding upcoming school projects.

Also meetings have been held with the Cumberland county Freeholders regarding \$150 million in proposed projects. These Freeholders are Union friendly and concerned about working people. This is another reason it is important to get involved politically, vote and get the right people elected!

In closing, better days are ahead.

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**“ Keep Your Certifications Up to Date! ”**

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## School Bus Drivers National Campaign

Around the country, school bus workers are joining together and working to make real improvements in our jobs and our lives. We are standing up for good jobs and safe, reliable school bus services in our communities. We are making sure we have a voice at work, we are bargaining as equals with our employers, and we are working to ensure that we are all treated fairly and with respect.

School Bus Workers United & Drive Up Standards is being conducted by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Over 14,000 drivers and helpers have joined the Union in the past two years.

Throughout the country, school bus workers who have chosen to stand together in a union are making improvements in wages, working conditions and benefits at the bargaining table. Every contract that we sign with our employers is an-

other milestone in gaining the respect and rewards that we deserve for our hard and important work.

Every school bus yard has different priorities, so the contracts are not always the same, but they are always an improvement over the indifferent, insulting and sometimes mean policies and working conditions that so many of us have endured for so long.

Locally, First Student Lawnside is operating under its first contract which has re-opener language for health care (which is not paid for by the company) and a “me-too” clause for enhanced wages if higher wages are negotiated for the Willingboro or Berlin/Burlington Yards. We are educating both the workers and the management on the proper way to interpret and function under this first contract. For National Information visit this website.

<http://www.schoolbusworkersunited.org/>

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## Scholarship Application Deadlines



**James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship**  
Applications must be received by  
**March 31, 2009**

**Local 676 Scholarship Fund**  
Applications must be received by  
**April 15, 2009**



## Recent Retirees



*l to r: Adrian Desrosiers-DuBell Lumber 5 yrs., Howard W. Wells-President Local 676, James Walters-Inergy Gas 38 yrs., Scott Greer Inergy Shop Steward accepting for James Diamond -Inergy Gas 28 yrs.  
background—James Bennett, Pat Bello, Ernie Clements.*

Lawrence Agar	UPS	Ernest Crescenzi	LoBiondo
Robert Campbell	Patco	James Diamond	Inergy Gas
John Delladio	UPS	Henry Durham	South State
Leroy Grace	Rio Grande Bldg	Lorenzo Hainey	UPS
John Keenan	Crowley	John Norris	NFF
Richard St Aubyn Jr	UPS	George Rutherford	Lo Biondo
James Walter	Inergy Gas	Charles Taylor Jr	US Silica



**2009**  
**Members & Family**  
**Picnic**  
**June 7, 2009**

**Important!**  
**Please Read!**

Maximum 5 tickets per member—immediate family only.  
Additional tickets available for \$23 each.

Please call Shirley to reserve your tickets (including extras you wish to purchase) by **05/15/2009**.  
We must give the Park our Final total by this date!  
**No exceptions — Thanks!**

**Q: What type of programs will the Recovery Act fund?**

**A:** The Recovery Act specifies appropriations for a wide range of Federal programs and will increase or extend certain benefits. The legislation also reduces individual and corporate income tax collections. The package provides funds that will:

- Create a framework for clean, efficient, American energy;
- Transform our economy with science & technology;
- **Modernize roads, bridges, transit and waterways;**
- Overhaul education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
- Dispense tax cuts to make work pay and create jobs;
- **Expand access to healthcare and lower costs;**
- Provide assistance to workers hurt by the economy;
- **Save public sector jobs and protect vital services;**

## Deceased Members

Lorenzo Holly	Patco	Active
Bernard Konczyk	Business Agent	Retired
Raymond Londer	Sysco	Retired



Howard Wells Local 676 President congratulates 40 year active member Smitty Brewster. Business Agent Ed Pearce presented him with a 40 Year Service Pin earlier in the monthly meeting.

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## General Membership Meeting Recaps

### January 2009



During the breakfast hour Felicia Wright of C. M. Chiropractic in Voorhees provided free therapeutic massages to all interested members.



Also Ray Ocejo of Family Tax Service in Westville was available for consultation and offers reduced rate services to members of Local 676 and their families.

Ray was with us once again at the February meeting and you can contact him at:

Family Tax Services  
15 Pine St.—Westville, NJ 08093  
(856) - 456—5551

### February 2009



Felicia was back at it again at the February meeting accompanied by Dr. Michael W. Birdsall of C. M. Chiropractic who was offering computerized spinal analysis. The office is located at:

C. M. Chiropractic  
1 Britton Place—Suite 10  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
(856)- 772—6300



Business Agent Jim Bennett shown with the free Obama “Change is Here” Commemorative shirts given to every member at the meeting.