



# The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

101 Crescent Boulevard, Collingswood, NJ 08108 856-964-2101 www.ibtlocal676.org

Bimonthly Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 2

March—April 2005



**Howard W. Wells**

## An Important Message from our President

As members of the middle class and a Union we are under constant attack by the present administration in Washington. We represent empowerment of the working class in America and they do not like us for that reason. A fair wage is a drain on profits.

Currently President Bush is trying to undermine the Social Security system that ensures older Americans of an income when they retire. This coupled with his refusal to assist multi-employer pension plans such as our Teamster Pension Plans threatens the financial stability of our retirement.

I want to assure all of you that Jim Hoffa and I are working daily in coordination with Local Union leaders across the country to protect your interests. We do need your help in having the message hit home with the legislators in D.C. It is important that your representatives and senators understand your concerns in these areas.

We are fortunate to be covered by multi-employer pension plans that cannot be disposed of or discontinued by a single company. You only have to look at the mess at United Airlines, for example, to see the pitfalls of "company" plans. President Bush has no problem with allowing these companies to dump their responsibility on the taxpayer.

All pension plans took a beating these past few years in the stock market yet Bush only wants to offer assistance to the single employer / employer run pensions. We aren't talking about a financial bailout here – that isn't what our plans need. The relief we seek is in the bookkeeping formulas and funding requirements that have resulted in cuts and adjustments in many of our plans. They are excessive and outdated.

We will continue to monitor and address all of these attempts to attack the retirement security of Union members, of all older Americans. We do not need to put the Social Security of future generations at the mercy of the stock market and/or other volatile investment options. Such risks should be assumed outside of a guaranteed basic benefit.

Fraternally,  
Howard W. Wells



## New Hazmat Rules in effect

Federal regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), in support of the USA Patriot Act, a Federal law, will soon change the application process for each Commercial Driver License (CDL) holder who is applying for an initial hazardous materials (HAZMAT) endorsement or renewing a CDL with a HAZMAT endorsement.

The new Federal requirements took effect on January 31, 2005. They require that all CDL holders who are applying for their initial HAZMAT endorsement provide proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of appropriate immigration status, complete a Federal security threat assessment application, pay additional Federal fees, have their fingerprints taken and successfully complete a Federal criminal history background check. This process must be completed each time a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement is issued or renewed.

## Recent Retirees of Local 676



Barbie Adams	CBS Records	Charles Bull	Lester Fellows Co.
Robert Cholister	RE Pierson Co.	Paul Christy	United Parcel Service
Maryann Chudzinski	CBS Records	Douglas Cramer	US Silica Co.
Richard Dougherty	Aramark Corp.	George Downing	United Parcel Service
Arne Eliassen	PATCO	Gwendolyn Freeman	PATCO
James Hall	Ragen Transport	Rufus Haney	PATCO
Alfred Nelson	Winzinger, Inc.	William O'Donnell	Vineland Transit Mix
Warren Sockwell	Camden Iron & Metal	**** <b>Best Wishes to all of you!</b> ****	

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## The Sunshine Foundation

The Original Wish Granting Organization



### Howard W. Wells Named "Man of the Year"

Our Local President will be honored by the Sunshine Foundation of Southern NJ at an awards dinner in October of this year. Howard was singled out for this honor because of his, and the Local's, efforts to reach out to the communities where our members live and work. It is hoped as many members as possible will attend the dinner to show our support for Howard and the Sunshine Foundation. More information will be provided in September.

### Refer a Child

Please note: Before referring a child to the Sunshine Foundation you must have permission from that child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). If you know of any child of a member who would benefit from this program please write to us here at the Hall or call 856—964—2101. After we receive the referral, we will have an application mailed to the child's parents.

Once You Get Your Application:

Please be sure to submit everything listed within the application, including income verification and Sunshine's medical authorization form. Sunshine Foundation will not process incomplete applications, and does not have the staff to make follow up phones to obtain complete documentation. If incomplete, Sunshine will keep your application for 6 months after which you will be asked to repeat the referral and application process.

Criteria to Refer a Child:

\*Please Note the Change - \*As of January 1, 2005 the child must be between the ages of 3-18.

-The child must be seriously ill, physically challenged or abused.

-Sunshine does not fulfill requests for children who have had a previous dream granted by any organization.

-Sunshine's sole purpose is to answer the dreams of ill children whose families cannot fulfill their requests due to the financial strain that the child's illness may cause. For this reason, families with incomes at or above \$75,000 a year cannot be considered.

### Friendly Reminders

Remember to take a Withdrawal Card when you leave the craft or will be out of work for an extended period of time

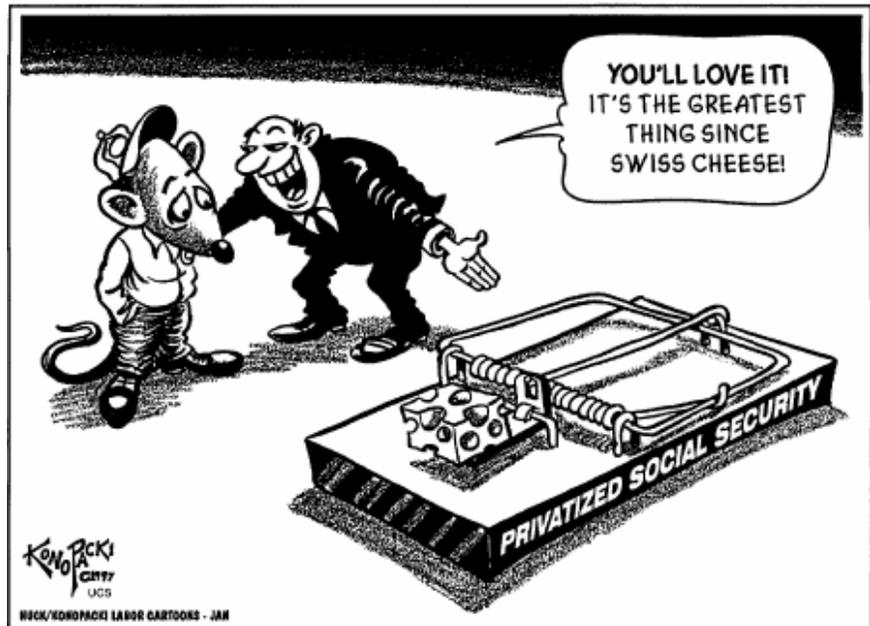
You are entitled to reduced fee Legal Services from  
Willig, Williams & Davidson  
1845 Walnut Street, 24th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-656-3600  
1-800-631-1233

Free Consultations, Conferences,  
Follow Up Calls & more

You are entitled to a free doctors consultation from the South Jersey Health & Wellness Center. They specialize in pain reduction and elimination.

Call 856-761-8100

*There will be NO General Membership Meetings held during the months of June, July, and August.  
Next Meeting: September 18, 2005*



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