



# The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

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Bimonthly Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 2

March—April 2006



Howard W. Wells

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Forget all the talk about how great our economy is doing. A close look at the daily lives of workers across the country tells a much different story. The truth of the matter is that working families are struggling to keep up with the cost of living. They're being subjected to increasing stress as good paying jobs disappear, in large part, because of the policy choices being made by our Nation's leaders.

Workers across America are being squeezed and working much longer hours today, than they had to twenty-five years ago, to pay for a middle class lifestyle. This is the result of a combination of stagnant incomes, staggering and rising costs for health care and education, and the high cost of gasoline.

Who is not feeling the pinch these days? The wealthiest Americans and corporations have received big tax cuts. They're doing just fine in the current economy. Corporate profits are increasing faster now than during any previous business cycle.

Social Security and pensions are under attack. At the same time private companies are cutting retiree benefits, the President wants to privatize Social Security and eliminate that safety net. In addition he refuses to assist multi-employer pension plans.

Health care costs are rising and coverage is shrinking. This problem must be addressed now before families are left to choose between food and medical care. The President tells us good paying jobs will require a higher education and then cuts funding to this critical area. NAFTA and CAFTA have seen manufacturing job migration to low wage countries.

Currently a full time minimum wage worker will earn \$10,712 a year. The poverty threshold for a family of three in 2004 was \$15,067. In order for this worker to reach the poverty level he or she would have to earn \$7.25 an hour. The current minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour, a shortfall of \$2.10 an hour! This is one reason why good paying union jobs find it difficult to compete for the available work. The Officers of Local 676 have worked very hard to negotiate good contracts during these less than ideal times. Is there any hope? Is there a chance things might change for the better? If we use our power of the vote to change the people making policy decisions in Washington we can improve our chances

## We welcome your suggestions!

Let us know what you think of your Local Union. Send your ideas to the Local c/o President Howard W. Wells

and our lives. 2006 is an election year. It is our opportunity to do something about the present and change the future.

If you are not registered to vote I encourage you to do it now! Unless we all get involved and elect people who care about workers we will continue to pay a heavy price. Those in Washington today are making laws to benefit the rich and powerful.

There is too much at stake and we must all be involved and informed. The only way they will listen to us, to you, is if you are registered to vote. Most importantly, you must exercise your right to vote! Local 676 is involved with the election process and we will continue to keep you informed on the issues affecting working families.

On a much lighter note ....

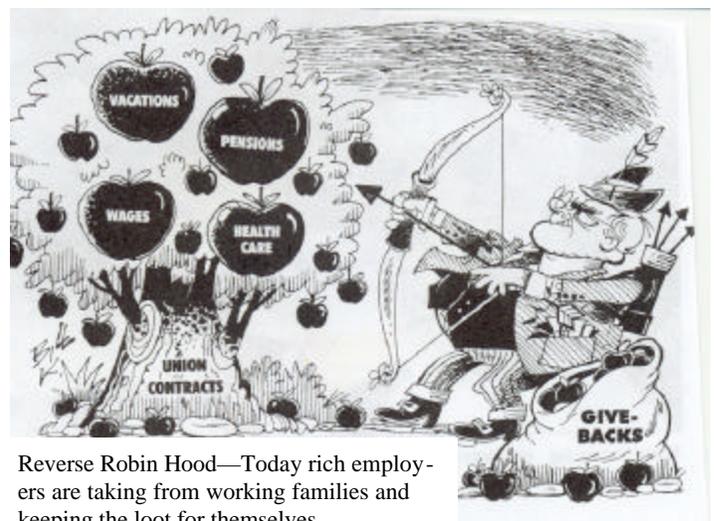
I'm looking forward to spending a relaxing and exciting time together at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Picnic. This year's event will be at Clementon Lake Park. I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the day with their family. Share some good times with them and your brother and sister members of Local 676.

Have a healthy and happy summer and I'll see ya at the Picnic! My door is always open to all of you.

Howard W. Wells, President Local 676

**There will be no Membership Meetings during the months of June, July and August.**

**Next meeting date is  
September 17, 2006**



Reverse Robin Hood—Today rich employers are taking from working families and keeping the loot for themselves.

*Protect Your License*

*Buy American*

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# HELP

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**Save the Date!**

**Local 676  
2nd Annual Picnic**

**Sunday June 11,  
2006**

**You must call Shirley at the Hall to reserve  
your tickets! Time is running short.**

## More Help for Members!

### “Hot Line” for Legal Services

Local 676 provides Legal Services for members in these areas — Personal Injury, Product Liability, Personal Legal matters other than divorce at reduced rates call:

**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

For Worker Compensation call:

**David B. Fox, Esq.**  
116 White Horse Pike  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035  
609-546-8822

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**First Choice Lending Corp.**  
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Reetz & Lincoln Aves.  
Hulmeville, PA 19047

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215-750-6190 FAX 215-752-3574

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& their Families

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## A Letter From the Editor

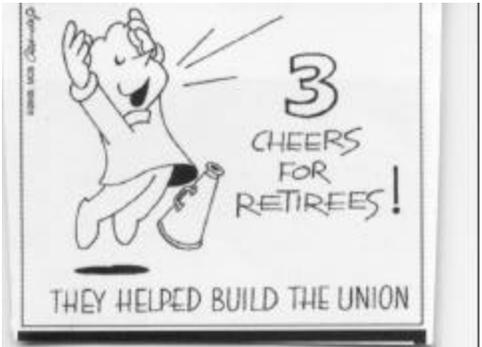
I know most newsletters have letters to the editor not from him or her. It continues to be my pleasure to work with Howard and the Officers of our Local. One of my perks ..... I get to see it first and have a heads up on what is going on in our Local. It is because I believe in all of them and the extremely capable office staff that I am happy to be of service.

Next month we are having our Second Annual Members Picnic at Clementon Lake Park. This outing is possible in large part because the members saw no reason to mount any opposition for the Teamster Convention Delegates Election. Those savings will cover almost the entire cost of our day in the sun together.

I also want to give honorable mention to one of the many services Howard has lined up for us as members. I made an offer on a property the beginning of April. The offer was accepted contingent on my obtaining a mortgage by or before the end of the month. First Choice Lending Corp. not only came through with flying colors, the Title Co. and Realty Co. both said they were an amazing and professional crew.

Thank you Jim Cunane and Jean Chambers for making the improbable possible.

Don Howell Jr



Join the

## Retirees Club

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month.

Call Shirley at the Hall for details.

## Recent Retirees

Edward Battis	PATCO
Emily Geroe	CBS Records
Adam Grasser	Cumberland Whse
George Johnson	Safeway Freezer
James Milbourne	PATCO
Ronnie Miller	Di Medio Lime
Lynwood Phillips	Sysco
Leslie Pierce	Glasgow Inc.
Vincent Raffa	UPS

Charles Ryan, Jr

William Schellhas	Statewide Asphalt
Elwood Webster	Lo Biondo Bros.
Vladimir Zivkovic	Phila. Park



## Local 676 & Joint Council 53 Answer the Call! Howard and Hoffa on the front lines in CT

When Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa put out the call for members to support the striking Sikorsky workers in CT three busloads of Local 676 members headed north to help. President Hoffa explained that this major manufacturer had made health care a battleground. They were joined by many JC 53 members on this call to action.

A loss for these workers would be felt across the nation and used as a precedent by other large companies. Several thousand members from New England, the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic region joined Jim Hoffa in a huge rally and show of Teamster strength. Howard has been telling us about the battle on this front in negotiations and he and our members walked the walk when the call came in.

### UPS Members

Please be sure to mail your contract survey back to the IBT Before May 31, 2006

### First Reminder!

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Hall Monday Sept. 25, 2006

## Deceased Members

Daniel Brennan UPS

Robert Bullock PATCO

William Hughes UPS

Rudolph (Rudy) Bocchetti  
Tri-State Transportation