



The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

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March—April 2008



Howard W. Wells

An Important Message from our President

In this Presidential election year our resolve is stronger than ever. We must right the wrongs of a Republican administration that continues to erode the welfare and security of Americas' working families.

You've heard me talk about the importance of D.R.I.V.E. in the past. Our only chance of defeating the special interests is through grass roots political action combined with aggressive lobbying efforts funded by D.R.I.V.E. (**D**emocrat, **R**epublican, **I**ndependent **V**oter **E**ducation). As we have done before, BA's and IBT Reps will be visiting your work place to explain the importance of joining and contributing to D.R.I.V.E.

This is a powerful way for us to get politicians to listen to our concerns, as Union members as hard working taxpaying Americans. Please consider a contribution (one time or payday deduction). The time is now to take a stand in preserving the rights of the American worker. Your future and the future of your family are at stake.

At our last meeting it was gratifying to see Senator Stephen Sweeney and Senator Fred Madden stop by to thank our members for their support. They also shared their views on the challenges they face in New Jersey and the Nation.

Congressman Rob Andrews also stopped by asking for our support as he runs for a seat in the U.S. Senate. A motion was made and passed to endorse his candidacy. Rob has been addressing the needs of Americas' working families for many years in the House of Representatives.

At our next meeting (May 18th) we will be awarding seven (7) Local 676 Scholarships. As a Local, as a Union, we recognize that knowledge is power. Higher Education is the wave of the future for Teamster families. We take great pleasure in honoring these young men and women from Teamster homes for their dedication and tireless effort.

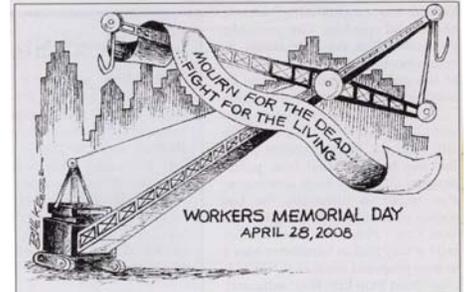
Isn't it nice to see the Employee Free Choice Act at work even though it's not yet law? EFCA is one of the Unions priorities come November. We as a union were able to organize 10,000+ new members at UPS Freight. Local 676 is happy to welcome over 60 of them who benefitted from card check recognition.

I hope to see everyone at our Fourth Annual Picnic on June 8th. The event will be held at Clementon Lake Park from 11:00 AM till 9:00 PM. Amusements, Splashworld, many new attractions ... plus food (served between Noon and 5 PM) are all free to members and their families.

This is a great opportunity to meet other Local 676 members and relax! Have a Safe and enjoyable Summer!

Fraternally Yours,

Howard W. Wells
President & Principal Office Local #676



Over the years there has been much discussion and documentation on the need for better Health and Safety laws. We have made significant progress over the years in reducing the number of deaths and injuries on the job. A key factor in this has been the ability of labor unions to effectively lobby for needed reforms.

Despite these historic accomplishments there are some in Congress who want to "turn back the clock" on worker safety. In my opinion as President of Local 676 "Health and Safety are critical areas where we cannot afford to cut corners." Ask your BA about setting up a Health & Safety Committee at your work site.



**Fourth Annual Local #676
Members Picnic
June 8th, 2008**

**Please call Shirley 856-964-2101
to reserve your tickets
Cutoff date is May 30, 2008**

Next Meeting May 18th—Breakfast will be served 9 - 11 AM

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Business Agents Jim Bennett (far left) and Roy Kaiser (far right) together with our new members celebrate the ratification of the first UPS Freight Contract in our Local.



**Meeting of the employees of Crowley — American Marine Transport
A presentation on the affairs of the company.
Knowledge is Power!**



Recent Retirees

Maurice Anderson	Eljay Poultry
Dominick Angeline Jr.	United Parcel
Gabriel Coll Jr	PATCO
Leslie Gambrell	Geo F Pettinos
Daniel Gendaszek	Ply Gems Mfg
John Gwillim	R&R Mktg.
George Morrell	Crowley Liner Ser
Otto Schoonover	Mt. Holly Concrete
Joseph Vickery	Crowley Liner Ser



Agreement Boosts Wages, Benefits, Is Second National Pact in a Month May 2, 2008

(Washington, D.C.)—In votes counted late yesterday, more than 7,000 Teamsters working at DHL Express ratified their first national agreement by a solid 82 percent.

The contract is the union's second new national agreement in the past month. These are the first new national pacts negotiated by the Teamsters Union in more than 30 years. In votes counted on April 7, an overwhelming 89 percent of voting workers at UPS Freight (NYSE: UPS) ratified a new national contract that now covers approximately 10,700 new members.

"The vote from DHL Express members is a strong signal of support," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "We were determined to obtain the best contract that we could for members, and I believe we have achieved that. I thank our national negotiating committee and our members on a job well done."

The contract boosts wages and benefits, improves working conditions and strengthens job security for drivers, freight handlers, warehouse workers, clerical workers and call center representatives at dozens of DHL Express locations across the U.S.

"This is a great agreement. We protected what we already had and we've gained more," said Patti McGuckin, a DHL dock agent and member of Teamsters Local 299 in Detroit. "We're getting steady wage increases, and our pension and health-and-welfare plans are protected."

"I can't help but think that this is going to be a good thing for everybody," said Sam Conover, a DHL driver and member of Teamsters Local 135 in Indianapolis. "I believe this helps the company by giving them some avenues to do some cost-saving."

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If you missed the April Meeting? You missed a Lot!



April Meeting Open House

Giveaways — A Visit from Our Politicians — A History of the Teamsters by Karen Jones

Members who attended the April meeting were treated to a Teamster T-shirt, a thermo coffee mug and a Local #676 mini football. US Representative Rob Andrews, State Senators Steve Sweeney and Fred Madden all stopped by to thank us for our continued support of their efforts. These three gentlemen work tirelessly to protect America's working families. We are very fortunate to have them in our corner.

Another highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Karen Jones of the IBT on the History of the Teamsters. She is a fascinating person whose knowledge of the subject seems infinite. Karen answered many questions during the course of her history lesson. Karen altered travel plans and her schedule in order to be with us and enlighten us. A true Teamster to the core she put the members first. Thanks to all of our guests for a very informative meeting.

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Why Obama Should Be President

Democratic Hopeful's Support for Fair Trade Would Help U.S. Workers

March 14, 2008

Sen. Barack Obama is the only presidential candidate who can right the destructive wrongs of the past eight years.

Looking at Obama's record on trade issues and issues dear to working families—such as his commitment to passing the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)—the choice was clear for the Teamsters Union.

I've had several candid conversations with Obama. There's no doubt in my mind that he has a genuine concern about not only our country's trade policies, but about the hardworking men and women whose livelihoods and families are affected by them.

Every bit of the Democratic primary fight between Obama and Hillary Clinton, and every bit of the general election, will be an uphill battle to show people how important it is for the United States to have trade policies that take American workers into account.

Anyone who thinks our country's trade policies do not have an impact on Michigan is mistaken. We've got the highest unemployment in the nation, and there's a direct correlation between those numbers and bad trade policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement. Jobs have been lost. Factories have closed.

Obama has long said NAFTA was oversold since its inception, and will work with Canadian and Mexican leaders to fix it so it's fair for American workers. Michigan cannot continue losing jobs, factories and other facilities as a result of NAFTA.

Obama understands that America needs fair trade policies that will create a level playing field with our trading partners. He understands that the corporate race to the bottom has had a devastating impact on our economy and our communities. Obama also understands that the trade policies of the Bush administration have done nothing to raise the standards of workers globally.

Labor will work closely with Obama to achieve a better balance -- to keep good jobs in America and raise wages, establish benefits and improve working conditions abroad. He has consistently stood firm against agreements that would undermine our nation's economic security.

But Obama realizes that the misguided trade policies of the Bush administration are not the only problems. As president, Obama will pressure the World Trade organization to stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and non-tariff barriers on U.S. exports.

Take the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, which Obama opposes (and Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, supports). While the agreement would be great for banks and telecommunications firms, it fails to ensure that American-made cars and trucks receive fair treatment in the Korean market.

America has an \$11 billion deficit in automotive trade with Korea. Last year, Korea sold 700,000 vehicles in the United States, and the United States sold only 4,556 in Korea. This is largely due to the centralized regulatory and tax structure in South Korea that discriminates against our cars. The proposed agreement does not do nearly enough to change these discriminatory practices or enforce commitments by Korea to open its market.

Trade, of course, is not the only reason why the Teamsters Union endorsed Obama. He understands what working people are going through. He will fight for an improved health care system, retirement security and good jobs. He will join us in our commitment to rebuild our nation's transportation infrastructure and will make appointments that make sense—people who will protect workers. A President Obama will ensure our toys and food are safe, the Environmental Protection Agency actually protects the environment and the Department of Labor enforces worker safety laws and wage and hour laws.

I am proud of our union's support of Obama and will continue to stand with him in his commitment to a trade policy that benefits American workers.

Mr. Hoffa's commentary originally appeared in The Detroit News on March 14, 2008.



Union Launches TeamstersForObama Web Site to Mobilize Members

Volunteer opportunities, downloads and information on key union issues available

April 21, 2008

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters launched TeamstersForObama.org over the weekend to help educate and mobilize its members. The web site is available only to Teamsters members and can be accessed by entering the **Password** published on the **Contents Page** of March/April *Teamsters* magazine.