



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

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An Important Message from our President

We are beginning the great budget battles of 2009. Every year it is a struggle to ensure that Public Sector Employees, as well as working people in private industry, are treated with fairness and respect. This year resources are thinner than they have been in decades. Every dollar will be hard won.

Howard W. Wells

To prevent the collapse of our economy from falling squarely on the shoulders of the working class, union leadership is especially important in these difficult times. The Officers of Local 676 will be on the front lines of this battle. We will be fighting hard to protect the wages, benefits, and working conditions of our members.

Fortunately Local 676 is prepared for this fight. By communicating with elected officials and raising our profile with other unions, we have positioned ourselves well. Our members will “have a seat at the table”, through our representation, whenever jobs and benefits must be sought after and defended.

The stimulus money arrives on the heels of a bold new plan for America, outlined in President Obama’s Federal Budget. In a single stroke he has redefined the government’s mission to include help for working class men and women. By focusing on jobs, education, and healthcare, Obama has presented an exciting vision for our country.

Opportunity and fairness are no longer empty slogans but reality for all Americans. Our leadership is committed to supporting his efforts to change America for the better. Wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable summer

See you at the Picnic!

Fraternally Yours,

Howard W. Wells
President / Principal Officer
Local 676

Construction News

After some difficult and contentious negotiations, Local 676 is pleased to report the AGC / CCLE Construction Agreement has been ratified by an overwhelming majority.

Local 676 stood firm in its’ resolve to insist and ensure that the Construction Division not bear the brunt of the economic downturn.

A total package, which included impressive economic increases and no givebacks, was presented to the membership on April 29, 2009.

The members confidence in, and appreciation of, the Local were evident in the number of votes to ratify.

Important Reminders

Withdrawal Card

If you will be out of work for any extended period of time, for any reason, be sure to request a Withdrawal Card. This suspends the collection of dues and protects you from having to pay a new initiation fee in the future.

Moving?

Please inform the Local of your new address to ensure you receive notices.

Coming Soon!



We will soon be appointing a coordinator for this program. In addition many other needs of our veterans past, present, and future will be addressed.



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Member Programs of Teamsters Local #676

A short summary of some of the programs and benefits available to members of Local 676

- **Discount Tax Preparation**
- **Free Legal Consultations & reduced fees for services and/or representation**
- **Scholarship Program open to members children**
- **Members & family Picnic at Clementon Park**
- **Bimonthly newsletter & website**
- **Teamster gear available for purchase at the Hall**
- **Door prize drawings at monthly meetings**
- **Retiree and long term member recognition**
- **Christmas Party for members & family with Santa & presents for the little ones**

In addition we make computers available to unemployed members for job search and filing for benefits with the State. We hope to roll out our **Helmets to Hardhats** program by this fall. Assistance will be offered to all veterans and returning service personnel for job search & placement, benefit coordination, training, etc.

UPS Article 22.3 Grievance Update

The grievance, concerning the layoff of Article 22.3 workers on Friday nights, will be heard by the Metro Philadelphia Area Parcel Grievance Committee May 28, 2009.

I expect a deadlock at the local level. The grievance would then go to the UPS / Teamster National Committee. Should it be deadlocked at the National level the next likely step would be arbitration.

Local 676 does not feel the layoffs are in any way allowed by Contract language. They are definitely not fair to the Article 22.3 employees involved.

The current voluntary Friday off list has been of temporary help to some of those who cannot afford to miss work. Single parent families and employees struggling to make ends meet were hurt by the company's decision.

The grievance procedure will be exhausted on behalf of our members. There is no way of predicting when the global economy will rebound and eliminate this situation.

Hopefully the vacation season will help keep most employees working a full schedule.

Roy V. Kaiser
Secretary-Treasurer / BA

Local 676 Once Again Sponsors "Katie's Crew"



The Washington Twp. MS Walk raises almost \$100,000 each year for research

For 18 yrs. now Brian Higginbotham and his wife Katie have been living with a diagnosis of MS. 10 yrs. ago they got involved with the Washington Twp. MS Walk held at the end of April each year. *Starting out with 10 family members it has grown to a crew of 100-200 walkers. Brian realized he would need a sponsor and immediately thought of us here at Teamsters Local 676.*

Local 676 provides t-shirts for the walkers as well as a donation. Katie's Crew has averaged \$4000 a year in donations with a high of \$8000 last year.

Brian works for L. P. Canuso and has been a Teamster for 19+ years.

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Local 676 Welcomes the New Members At Willingboro First Student

Employees at First Student Willingboro ratified their first contract insuring excellent wage increases, seniority and equality in extra work distribution. This brings the total number of First Student employees under contract in this local to over 300. We are very close to a tentative agreement with the Berlin/Burlington yard which will increase the total by another 200 plus!

Be sure to welcome them to our Local when you see them on the street or at the meetings. They join the 150+ other new members from other occupations who have confidently voted for representation by Local 676 in the past 12 months.



Pres. Howard W. Wells with retiree William Norton of Patco

Three Generations of Teamsters



Alex Holder—UPS, Ed Friend—1st Student, Darrell Holder—Sysco

40 Years of Service Pin recipient Tom Ackley



l to r: President Howard W. Wells, member Tom Ackley, BA Ed Pearce

Recent Retirees



Jack Everland	Vineland Transit
William Franchi Jr	Diocese of Camden Cemetery
Arthur Harvey	Harold G Cline Inc
John Jordan	United Parcel
Anvear Karan	Patco
William Mock	Valleries Trans. Ser.
Charles Motil	United Parcel
David Steffen	Cornell & Co.
Stephen Sellers	Patco
William Szymanski	Lo Biondo
George Thies Jr	Cornell & Co.
Joseph V Todd	M. L. Ruberton Constr. Co.

Deceased Members

Amyle "Stoney" Stone	Retired	RCA
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Local 676 ~ Everywhere We Need To Be For America's Workers



Local 676 Business Agent Tom Lyon joined Teamsters from all over the country in a rally outside the National Restaurant Retailers Association in Washington, D.C. to protest the unfair labor practices of US Foodservice. Workers from the Phoenix area addressed the participants telling of their plight and the anti-union tactics the company employs. The rally shut down the street and the N.R.R.A. building was locked down and representatives of the Teamsters were denied entry while trying to hand deliver our message to corporate officials. The Teamsters will continue to organize US Foodservice facilities and negotiate decent contracts for those already organized.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Monday May 11, 2009

The Vice President and I just met with leaders from the House of Representatives and received their commitment to pass a comprehensive health care reform bill by July 31.

We also have an unprecedented commitment from health care industry leaders, many of whom opposed health reform in the past. Monday, I met with some of these health care stakeholders, and they pledged to do their part to reduce the health care spending growth rate, saving more than two trillion over the next ten years — around \$2,500 for each American family. Then on Tuesday, leaders from some of America's top companies came to the White House To showcase innovative ways to reduce health care costs by improving the health of their workers.

Now the House and Senate are beginning a critical debate that will determine the health of our nation's economy and its families. This process should be transparent and inclusive and its product must drive down costs, assure quality

and affordable health care for everyone, and guarantee all of us a choice of doctors and plans.

Reforming health care should also involve you. Think of other people who may want to stay up to date on health care reform and other national issues and tell them to join us here: www.whitehouse.gov/EmailUpdates

Health care reform can't come soon enough. We spend more on health care than any country, but families continue to struggle with skyrocketing premiums and nearly 46 million are without insurance entirely. It is a priority for the American people and a pillar of the new foundation we are seeking to build for our economy.

We'll continue to keep you posted about this and other important issues.

Thank you,
Barack Obama

PS—To get more in-depth information about health reform and how you can participate visit www.HealthReform.gov