



The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

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Bimonthly Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 4

September-October 2008



An Important Message from our President

First and foremost I want to remind everyone to vote on November 4th. It is important to your family, to you as a Teamster and a member of this Local. Your future and that of your children is at stake.

Howard W. Wells

Also I wish to thank my staff and the various negotiating committees for their tireless efforts in securing many new agreements. Some of them are listed here in the newsletter. Collective bargaining is a lengthy and sometimes complex process. It involves and requires compromise on both sides of the table.

As your representative we pursue serious discussion with the employer on all proposals submitted for consideration. The fundamental nature of the process is such that the needs of the many will typically outweigh the needs of a few. Otherwise it would be virtually impossible to reach an agreement.

It is by no means a perfect process, but it sure as heck beats the alternative. Without the Local to negotiate for you, the employer would dictate the terms and conditions of your employment with no input from you. Sadly this is the case for many working families today who are forced to endure inferior wages and benefits.

My door is always open to the members. Get involved! I'll see all of you at the Christmas Party.

Fraternally,

Howard W. Wells

President & Principal Officer Local 676



Local 676 Members Honored at PATCO

Patco announced the following Employee Performance Awards for three of our members.

**Train Operator of the Year
Kelvin E. Wilburn**

**PATCO Tradesperson of the Year
Edward J. Hirowski**

In addition, Lindwood (Ralph) Daniels who is a Train Operator was recognized for his exemplary efforts on Sept. 15, 2008. Ralph was the operator of the train that had a third rail shoe burning as it crossed the Ben Franklin igniting some ties on the bridge.

With the help of Paul Daniels (no relation), a PATCO Supervisor, the passengers were moved out of danger and the fire extinguished.

Please let us know when you or your co-workers receive recognition for a job well done!

Teamsters Health & Welfare Fund Important Update

Board of Trustees Increase Patient Yearly Dental Benefit Allowance

Great news for all Health & Welfare Plan Participants! Effective January 1, 2009 at the direction of the Trustees, each member of your family covered under the plan will enjoy a maximum yearly dental benefit allowance of \$2000 instead of the current \$1500 limit. That's a 33% increase in your benefits!

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Recent Retirees



Left to right –Teamsters Local 676 President **Howard W. Wells**, **Charles McNealy** City of Bridgeton 26 yrs., **Bill Hickman** accepting for **Carl Fogg** City of Bridgeton 32 yrs., **Jake Thatch** HCSC 37 yrs., **Joe Fortino** accepting for **Alex Oriente** L P Canuso 40 yrs., **Charles Damato** Patco 39 yrs.



Left to right:
Harry ‘Hap’ Smith Construction 33 yr.
Howard & Barry Simmons UPS 30 yr.

Benjamin Cardona	So. Development	Joseph Dolbow	CBS Records
Wilbur Eichman	Clemente Transit Mix	Michael Fitzpatrick	United Parcel
William Hill	Railroad Const.	Michael Kelly	United Parcel
Alexander Oriente	Louis P. Canuso	Franklyn Pennell	NL Industries
Stanley Petka	Adams Wholesalers	Mark Sanders	AP Inc. Contr.
Joseph Saypack	PATCO	Barrett Simmons	United Parcel
Harry Smith	Washington Group	Robert Wilson	Camden Iron & Metal



Teamsters Health & Welfare Fund

Open Enrollment

The open enrollment period during which a member may change their coverage from PPO to HMO or HMO to PPO ends Friday Dec. 5, 2008. You must contact the Fund and return your request form by that date.

Haz—Mat 8 Hour Refresher Course Held September 20, 2008

On Saturday September 20, 2008 the Haz-Mat 8 hour refresher course was held in the Teamsters Local 676 Union Hall Auxiliary Meeting Room. The class was well attended by members from Local 676, 445, 331 and 456.

Our thanks go out to Cindy Garlinghouse Vice President of Local 445 for her assistance in scheduling the Haz-Mat instructional class. Also thanks are due to Instructor Chuck Connolly of Local 445 and Instructor Richard Lindsey of the Southern California Teamster Training Center.

Left to right: *Chuck Connolly* Local 445, *Ken Shafer* Local 445, *Tom Weisser, Jr.* Local 676, *Tom Barnabie* Local 676, *Richard Lindsey* (kneeling) S.C. Teamster Training, *Bill Shinn* Local 331, *Mike Doyle* Local 676, *Steve Colbert* Local 676, & *Allen Howell* Local 456.



Like your job & benefits?

VOTE November 4th!

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Upcoming Meeting Events

November 16th

Eagles Sunday



Join us for the 1 PM Kickoff
Food and Drinks and Beer til Halftime *
Prizes for Best Dressed Fans, Door Prizes
Meeting starts 11 AM — No breakfast served this month.
Doors open 10:30 AM



December 21st



Annual Christmas Party

Santa will have presents for all members kids 12 and under.
Please call Shirley by Nov. 21st with the age of each boy & girl.
The General Membership Meeting will begin at 11 AM.
The Christmas Party will follow immediately after (approx. 12 noon).



Philadelphia Area

Teamsters for Obama Rally

October 5, 2008

*From right: Local 676 members
Mike Doyle & Steve Colbert
676 BA Tom Lyon*

This is Our Chance to Vote for Change We Can Believe In!!!

Teamsters have an opportunity to vote for change by casting our votes for Barack Obama. As president, Obama plans to put in place policies that will greatly benefit unions. And his economic policies are geared toward helping the working class.

He said he will sign the **Employee Free Choice Act** into law, reward companies that create good jobs with good benefits for American workers, ban the permanent replacement of striking workers, and create trade policies that open up foreign markets to support good American jobs.



Recently Ratified Contracts

Audubon Park

Borough of Medford Lakes
Wastewater

Cherry Hill White Collar

E.P. Henry
Vineland & Woodbury

Evesham Township
Clerical & Public Works

Harris Tea

Inergy Gas

I R P

LoBiondo Drivers & Mechanics

PATCO

Pemberton MUA

Pennsylvania Jersey Concrete

R.E. Pierson Concrete

Safety Bus
6 month extension



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General Membership Meeting Recaps



Membership Meeting September 21st

The Hall opened at 9:00 AM for a buffet breakfast (served until 10:30 AM). The Officers, Office Manager, and Worker's Comp Attorney Dave Fox were available to answer the members' questions. Also a Register to Vote station was available for the entire morning.

President Wells stressed the importance of registering to vote and then going to the polls and voting! Members in attendance filled out Million Member Mobilization cards which are in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. This one piece of legislation could transform the labor scene in America.

Brother Tom Lyon is appointed Political Coordinator and Brother Don Howell will assist him. Pres. Wells asked for volunteers to help with the political campaign and said family members are invited to help. Brother Ed Pearce explained there will be political walks every Saturday until the election.



Door Prize Winners

Brian Smith, Ray Cuff, Charles Damato, Joe Handy, Kevin Baylock, Tom Weisser, & Jim Colgan



General Membership Meeting October 19, 2008

Esther Diller of First Choice Mortgage gave a presentation on the current situation in the financial and mortgage markets. Mortgage rates are rising and there is no time to waste securing financing or refinancing.

International Teamster Vice President John Murphy addressed the members concerning the upcoming election. He related conversations he has had with Barack Obama and stressed that he is the working family / middle class friend in this Presidential Election.

Two recent retirees—Barry Simmons UPS 30 yr. and Harry "Hap" Smith Construction 33 yr. received their plaque, pins, and Teamster wrist watch.



Howard W. Wells #676 Pres. & IBT V.P. John Murphy