



The Local Scene

For Members, Family and Friends of Teamsters Local 676

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Bimonthly Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 3

Summer 2008



Howard W. Wells

An Important Message from our President

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. A heartfelt thank you to all those who came up to me at Clementon Lake Park. It gave me the opportunity to talk to you and I appreciate the opinions, thoughts, and comments you shared. It was another great day for our Union Picnic. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Now it is time to get back in the swing of things politically. We need politicians and legislation that work for working families. A big Thank You to everyone who signed up for D.R.I.V.E. (Democrat-Republican-Independent-Voter-Education) which is our Teamster Political Action Committee. Also a big pat on the back for those who registered to vote this summer.

I am calling on all Local 676 members to do your part register to vote then cast your ballot for the candidates who have the courage to back policies and programs that help working families. The most crucial federal labor legislation that will be in front of the Congress and new President is the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).

Every Labor organization in the country has rallied around this landmark legislation. The major Unions have committed to the "Million Member Mobilization". This program seeks to have one million members from each Union sign post cards urging the new President and Congress to enact EFCA. We will have these post cards at the next meeting on September 21st. We will also have voter registration forms.

It has been a very busy summer. I will give you updates on organizing drives and progress on contract negotiations in the next newsletter.

Fraternally Yours,

Howard W. Wells
President Local 676



Your Vote Makes a Difference!

As a Union member it is very important that you are registered to vote ... and then go to the polls and **Vote!**

Politicians make the laws that affect our every day lives. Politicians want to be reelected and so they listen to those who can deliver votes.

Politicians have access to the information as to how many of our members are registered and how many of them vote.

The amount of clout we have with politicians depends on you. Without you, we are a quiet voice in the arena.

How do I Register to Vote?

You can register to vote online at our Local's website. Go to:

www.ibtlocal676.org

Click on link near bottom of page "**Click Here to Register to Vote**"

You can register at the September General Membership Meeting.

You can register at the various County Stores in our area.

Next General Membership Meeting
11 AM Sunday
September 21, 2008

Breakfast will be served
9—10:30 AM

Guest Speaker on Workers Comp.
Dave Fox, Esq.

Wanted

Political Action Volunteers
For the Presidential Campaign

If you can spare some time during
Sept.-Oct. please call Shirley or
give your name and phone # to
Your Business Agent.

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Teamsters Local 676 Scholarship Class of 2008

Christina Allen

Daughter of Bill Allen
Our Member with Whibco
She has applied to
Cumberland County College

Andrew Hoffman

Son of John Hoffman
Our member with UPS
He has applied to
Richard Stockton College

Todd Rambo

Son of Carl Rambo
Our member with PATCO
He has applied to
Camden County College

Kevin Zelvis

Son of Stephen Zelvis
Our member with Wonder Bread
He has applied to
Widener University

Kelsey Cutler

Daughter of Dave Cutler
Our member with UPS
She has applied to
Georgian Court University

John Kammermeir, Jr.

Son of John Kammermeir, Sr.
Our member with Landis Sewerage
Authority — He has applied to
Cumberland County College

Nicole Smith

Daughter of John Smith
Our member with UPS
She has applied to
West Chester University



**The James R. Hoffa
Memorial Scholarship Fund
is pleased to announce the
2008 Essay Contest.**

**The contest began July 1, 2008
Deadline for submission of
entries is September 30, 2008.**

Call the Hall for details.



Fourth Annual Local 676 Picnic a Huge Success!

More than 2000 enjoyed the members and family picnic June 8, 2008 at Clementon Lake Park. Rides, food, drinks, entertainment and a great day for the water park all added to the fun and fraternity.

We need your help with one item however. We have only a few pictures of the day. Please send or email your favorite 4 or 5 to us here at the Local.



AFL-CIO of Southern NJ Peter J. McGuire Scholarship

On August 22, 2008 at the Collingswood Grand Ballroom 27 scholarships were presented to the sons and daughters of Union members.

Our President Howard W. Wells, as a Trustee of Teamsters Joint Council 53, presented one of the scholarships this year.

Brittany Meyer, the daughter of a Teamster from Local 628, was the well deserved recipient.

At the conclusion of the event many of those in attendance continued on to the Peter J. McGuire Memorial at Arlington Cemetery in Pennsauken. He is known as the "Father of Labor Day."

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New UPS Contract Language

New 9.5 Language

New language in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) under Article 37.

For the (5) months following January 1st and June 1st of each year, Package Car Drivers must “**opt in**” or “**opt out**” of the right to file a 9.5 dispatch grievance. “**Opt-In**” drivers retain the right to file a grievance if they are dispatched with more than 9.5 hours of work, more than 3 days in a work week. “**Opt-out**” drivers give up the right to grieve being dispatched with more than 9.5 hours work at any time during the five (5) months covered by their choice.

Thirty (30) days before each January 1st and June 1st every center must post the list for drivers to either Opt-in or Opt-out of the right to grieve excessive over-time. A National 9.5 Committee will hear 9.5 cases which were deadlocked at the local level.

30 / 36 Month Progression

Feeder and Package Car Drivers in the 30 month progression prior to August 1, 2008 will remain in that 30 month progression until top rate is achieved. These drivers will receive the contractual raises during this 30 month progression. Drivers currently in the 30 month progression have a financial advantage over those who will be in the 36 month progression.

New Seniority Drivers after August 1, 2008 will be in a 36 month progression with pay rates as stated in the CBA. They do not get the incremental raises while in the 36 month progression.



Lisa Vitale & Renee Gonzalez enjoy a break in the action.

OSHA 10 Training Class

On Saturday, June 28, 2008 an “OSHA 10” training course was held at Local 676 hall. What is “OSHA 10” you ask? “OSHA 10” is a newly required safety course for construction workers. The course is 10 hours of instruction in a variety of safety procedures. Some procedures were common sense, but some procedures were eye opening and thought provoking. Approximately 60 members attended the class and all agreed it was informative and insightful. Even though it was a long day {11+ hours} the instructors did a great job of moving the class along and keeping everyone’s interest.

Class size was limited so another class will be held for those who could not attend. Local 676 would like to thank Brother Frank Martinez of the IBT Safety Division for conducting the class. Brother Martinez comes in from California and always does a great job. Brother Martinez was assisted by Brother Mike Bourke. Again, thanks are in order. Stay safe on the job return home in good condition



Recent Retirees

Charles Damato, Jr	Patco
Dale Hinkle	United Parcel Ser
Anthony LaGrotta	United Parcel Ser
Lawrence McDermott	CBS Records
John Newton III	Foggs Daily Ser
Roger Roberts	Aunt Kitty’s Foods
William Stengel	United Parcel Ser
Bruce Wallace	United Parcel Ser
Frederick Williams	Patco

Deceased Members

William Burgess, Jr	T&N Van
	Active
Jack Everland	R.E. Pierson
	Inactive
Brien Hadden	Allied Beverage
	Active
James Lomanno	Construction
	Active
Paul Lynch	Lester Fellows
	Active
Jean Ravenkamp	Waterford Twp.
	Inactive
Dennis Tidd	Patco
	Active

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Organizing Victories



UPS Freight (Overnite)

Welcome to the Local! There were more than eighty (80) grievances presented at the first Eastern Region Teamsters-UPS Freight Grievance Panel. Many of these were deadlocked and have moved on to the National Committee which will meet this fall.

There are one hundred four (104) grievances on the docket for the next Eastern Region Teamsters-UPS Freight Grievance Panel. This meeting is scheduled for Sept. 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2008.

Subcontracting, pay rates, classification language, insurance, healthcare, safety, equipment and numerous contract interpretations will be covered. This is in addition to the discharges and suspensions which will be heard by the Panel.

The Local Area work rules are still being reviewed and will most likely be formalized regionally. All of the Pennsauken Terminal proposals were submitted.

There are four (4) Regions for Teamster-UPS Freight Panels in the U. S. The grievances heard in one area are frequently similar to those heard in the other three.

Cases that are referred to the National Committee that remain deadlocked are then sent to arbitration. The process from grievance to final outcome can be lengthy and especially so when a new National Contract is being hashed out down to the local level.



Tri-County Building Supplies

Workers at four Tri-County Building Supplies locations throughout New Jersey recently voted to join Local 676. The 76 drivers, warehouse, counter and yard employees contacted Local 676 seeking fair pay and strong union representation.

“Our local represents workers at a few other building supply yards and the Tri-County workers had talked with our members. They heard about how our members are pleased with their working conditions and representation, so they made the call to us,” said Howard Wells, President of Local 676.

The new members perform various job functions for Tri-County, which sells building supplies and materials. The members work at two Tri-County locations in Cape May Courthouse, one location in Mount Holly and one in Pleasantville.



West Berlin * Lawnside
Willingboro

First Student Bus Drivers & Aides

With the organization of First Student Bus this past year we have embarked on the task of getting them their first contract. We have made significant progress with regards to seniority, grievance procedures, fairness in bidding for extra work and respect in the work place. The company has agreed to 95% of the language and we are down to economics.

We are working toward a salary structure that not only raises the wages, but brings parity in wages for those with equal years of service. We are optimistic that we will have an offer the employees can vote on early this fall.