Local 70 blends tradition and education to increase member involvement

From initiating new members, to educating all members, our Saturday meetings are growing in scope and participation.

Vice President Jim Fried and the Stewards Steering Committee put together two fantastic seminars for the past two Stewards Council meetings. In September we focused on politics. Marsi Newman from the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council and Doug Bloch, Joint Council 7 Political Director joined us. Marsi talked about how the election process works in general, and gave us a preview of the website we all will be able to use to get a list of Teamster-endorsed candidates for every election by zip code. Not only will this give members instant access to endorsed candidates, it will also make it easier for members to access information on their smartphone.

Doug Bloch spoke about our recent string of successes in getting legislation to the Governor’s desk and signed into law. He also complimented Local 70 on having one of the highest DRIVE participation levels in the Joint Council, and for our activism when called upon.

The October meeting focused on “the new economy” and what it means for Teamsters and the crafts we represent. Caitlin Vega from the California Labor Federation explained the strategies that Teamsters and our allies are using in Sacramento to fight the new race-to-the-bottom policies that companies like Uber, Lyft, and Amazon are promoting.

Susan Garea from the Beeson Tayer & Bo-
**Coca-Cola:** Business Agent Lou Marchetti held a contract ratification meeting for Coca-Cola members. They were pleased with the Company’s newest offer after voting down the Company’s first offer. The workers ratified the Agreement that Marchetti and his Stewards recommended. The Five-year Agreement contained annual increases $0.25, $0.45, $0.45, $0.45 $0.45 in Wages and $0.10 years 2 through 5 in Pension. The contract also contained a $275 increase in company Health & Welfare contributions to maintain benefits and lower employee cost throughout the Agreement.

**Xpedx/Unisource/Veritiv:** Business Agent Mark Hawkins and I along with Stewards Don Cassina, Patrick Hickman and Julian Manjarrez have been in ongoing negotiations since January with Veritiv Corporation. Veritiv now owns both Xpedx (Livermore) and Unisource (Pleasanton). Steward Ken Moody (Unisource) now joins us for the Veritiv Pleasanton negotiations. The company is adamant about employee Health and Welfare cost sharing, and minimizing employer Pension liability. Next meetings are set for early.

**Young’s Market:** Members at Young’s Market followed Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Chief Steward Rich Fierro recommendation to ratify a new 3 year Liquor Agreement. The Agreement addressed the members concerns with annual Wage increases of $1.00 per hour and Pension increases of 10 cents per hour. Marchetti and Fierro were also able to achieve MOB on Health Care throughout the Agreement.

**Rodgers Trucking:** Stewards Clayton Case, Don Loganecker, Glen Ibarra, and I have completed contract negotiations with Rodgers Trucking. Rodgers biggest account is Southern Wine and Spirits (SWS), which accounts for about 85% of the work they perform. Approximately 80 Rodgers Drivers deliver liquor throughout the S.F. Bay Area for SWS. The 3 year Contract provides for $1.00 per hour Wage increase and $0.10 per hour Pension increase each year of the contract in addition to Health & Welfare cost’s to be borne by the Employer throughout the Contract. The Contract was ratified 112 to 4!

**7-UP:** Local 70 Members at 7-UP ratified a new Agreement. Business Agent Lou Marchetti and his steward committee said it addressed the members concerns. The three-year Agreement included 3% to 15% increase in Wages and $0.05 increase in pension. One (1) additional sick day, and yearly Health & Welfare contribution increases to maintain member benefits and lower member cost were also achieved.

**Stewards Meetings:** Vice President Jim Fried and the Stewards Steering Committee have arranged for training and updates for the Stewards and interested members at 9:00 am before each scheduled Saturday Membership Meeting. Topics like FMLA, Work Comp, DOT Updates, Grievance Filing, etc. have or will be covered. Check your Union Board or our website for updates on meeting schedules/topics.

**Political Action:** Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Trustee Rich Fierro, Local 70’s Political Coordinators along with the rest of the officers and officials have been working non-stop making sure our members are register to vote and would vote for the candidates who support Labor. The Politician’s that are in office affects the wages, benefits and conditions of the workers. Rich and Lou are looking for members who have political interest and are willing to attend political rallies, dinners and functions.

**Cal Waste Solutions expands its reach**

**Reminder**

The next membership meeting is Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Local 70 on the move!

Teamsters Local 70 has had a successful financial year in 2015. A special thanks to the Officers, Officials, and Office Staff for their effort in making this happen.

Organizing – Kelsey Frazier was successful in organizing the drivers at Shippers Transport Express. Shippers operates out of the Port of Oakland. Local 70 is now in the process of developing targets for an organizing program, and will have two organizers in the near future. We will also utilize the Local 70 picketing program to assist as needed.

Why voting is so important

The Officers and Officials will be visiting every terminal encouraging all members, their family, and friends to register to vote.

D.R.I.V.E. Sign-Ups – We will also be encouraging all of our members to join D.R.I.V.E., the Teamsters political arm to raise money for politicians who support our beliefs. This program is critical as we cannot use dues money for political contributions.

Why do we need to register to vote and join D.R.I.V.E.? To protect what we have and to make it better. Politics affects everything we do.

1. Solid Waste Industry – the key to this industry is the franchise agreements with cities, and Alameda County. We’ve been very successful but this is an ongoing process that we have to stay on top of. That can only be done if we have good relations with the local politicians in each jurisdiction. This takes hard work, votes, and money.

2. Package Business – with a tremendous amount of online shipping, the industry is changing. The U.S. Post Office is still the largest package carrier in the country, but they’re increasingly using mostly part-time employees at $15 per hour with very few benefits and are subsidized by the taxpayers. Companies like Ontrak, with shipping rates that are 40% of what UPS charges, use owner operator drivers being paid by the package. They are also in the air business. Major shippers like Amazon are also doing deliveries with logistic companies that pay about $13 per hour. The most disturbing thing is companies like UBER getting into the package delivery business. UBER’s business model is that they have no employees, pay no taxes, no health and welfare, no pension, or any benefits, putting the responsibility on the drivers.

This business model undermines the tax system, Social Security, Medicare, workers compensation and all worker benefits. It’s a license to steal, and we are continuing to fight their misclassification of workers.

Local 70 active with our members

Valley Fire – Pasha and Local 70 drivers Mike Fernandes and Roberto Navarette took Pasha/ Horizon reefer units to Middletown so perishables could be stored and distributed to victims of the Lake County fire in September.

Labor Day Picnic – was again a huge success. A big thanks to Mark Hawkins, Rich Fierro, Kelsey Frazier, Jim Fried, and Henry Buchanan for all the hard work.

Battle of the Bay - The A’s versus Giants baseball game was a great day. We had over 3,200 Teamsters from across the Joint Council at the game, a record for a group attending an A’s game.

Congrats to Local 70’s Harry Polland Scholarship winner

The Harry Polland Scholarship is a tribute to the efforts of longtime Joint Council 7 economist whose mark can still be seen in the language of most California Teamster contracts. His goal, and that of the scholarship fund named for him, is to ensure that Teamster jobs always provide the wages and benefits necessary to support families, and enable Teamsters to send their children to college.

The criteria considered for the scholarship is academic achievement, financial need, school activities, community service, and an essay entitled “The Importance of Labor Unions.”

Teamsters Local 70 was proud to award this year’s scholarship to Jesus De La Paz, son of Alex De La Paz, a member who has worked at Waste Management for 13 years.

When talking about the unrepresented, Jesus wrote, “The importance of unions may never be totally understood but I am very grateful for all of their work. They have positively affected my life as well as millions of others in the past, present, and will continue into the future.”

Jesus is off to UC Santa Cruz to major in Bio-engineering and minor in Bioinformatics. Business Agent Felix Martinez commented “What really stood out to me was Jesus’ awareness of the importance of a Teamster job. While pointing out the struggles of non-union workers with Health and Welfare or job security, he understands that unions fight to better the lives of working families.”

The Officers and Officials at Local 70 wish Jesus the best of luck in college.

Go Banana Slugs!
A big year ahead for Local 70

Next year will be huge politically, as it will be a Presidential election year. The first caucus (Iowa) is approximately 90 days away! We successfully kicked off our Voter registration and DRIVE campaign at the September Executive Board meeting. We will continue our voter education by reaching out to Stewards and visiting terminals to sign up members.

The local continues to be in the black financially. Membership is also beginning to increase, a sign that the economy may finally be improving. Many of our companies are hiring for the first time in years. The Executive Board is currently considering if going solar is a viable option for the Local. There are many potentially positive impacts to this project, but definitely some challenges as well. We will keep you updated if and when we make a decision.

The Executive Board was also very excited to initiate almost 30 new members at our September membership meeting. These new members were part of our first new member orientation class held at the Local before the regular membership meeting. This class was the culmination of much hard work by the Officers and Officials, Stewards Steering Committee, and Stewards Council. Our belief is that educated members are a benefit to the Local. We look forward to continuing this process in the future.

Wishing you and your family a great Holiday Season!

With big elections, local races are key

A year ahead of the presidential election, and we’re already bombarded with debates and media hype. Before becoming overwhelmed, remember that the political process is an integral part of what labor unions do. Politicians and the laws they pass affect working people every day. As the economic divide grows ever larger, fighting for equality and justice becomes one of our most vital jobs.

This fight often has its most significant wins at the state and local level. Here’s where we can see the direct results of Local 70’s rank and file involvement in the political process. We now have a great opportunity to support one of our own in a local contest. Malia Vella, a Business Agent and Staff Attorney for Teamsters Local 856, has announced her candidacy for Alameda City Council.

I’ve worked with Malia on political issues and saw firsthand her savvy and effectiveness. This summer, we negotiated the Statewide Liquor Contract and she impressed me deeply with her knowledge of contract law and how to use it to advance the welfare of the members she represents.

“Alameda needs someone who will listen to the community and who strongly believes in and will fight for the bedrock principles that build the middle class,” Malia says, and Local 70 agrees. This is why we will throw our full support behind this excellent candidate.

We need your help to succeed. Register your families and co-workers to vote, volunteer, and join D.R.I.V.E. Rank and file activism is the antidote to the Big Money interests that are trying to steal our elections and political process.