In the midst of all the presidential debates and the 2016 election, I feel it’s a good time to look back on some of labor’s victories in 2015. Politics, and how it affects working people, never stops and Local 70 is always involved—especially at the state and local levels.

The City of Oakland enacted Measure FF in March. This raised the minimum wage to $12.25 an hour, which is $3.25 more than the state-mandated $9.00 an hour, and represents a 36% increase. It also goes up every January 1, based on the cost of living index. A few hundred of our UPS Part-Timers received increases due to this law. Other cities in Alameda County and across the state are proposing similar laws.

We thank Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and the City Council members we have supported for getting this done.

At the state level, Senator Mark Leno sponsored SB 546 which requires health plans to provide our trust funds with information about rate increases to help us negotiate better rates for our members and union employers. This will especially help us with Kaiser, which has hit our plans hard and acts like a monopoly with a take it or leave it attitude.

Also, in anticipation of the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative being on the November 8 ballot, Assemblyman Rob Bonta sponsored AB 66 at the Teamsters’ request. This bill will regulate the already existing medical marijuana industry and provides good jobs with a Labor Peace Provision. The bill creates a distribution system much like the one in the liquor business that protects our members at Young’s Market, Gallo Sales and Southern Wine and Spirits. These are just a few examples of labor’s victories in 2015.
Preview of 2016
Local 70 will have a busy year with Collective Bargaining taking place with ACCO Engineering, Crescent Truck Lines, Freshpoint, Gallo Sales, Joseph Buchwald & Sons, Shell Lubricants, Matheson Mail, M.V. Transportation Livermore, Service West, Spicers Paper, Reliance Metal, and Iron Mountain.

Pepsi
Business Agent Lou Marchetti and his Steward Negotiating Committee had been in ongoing negotiations with Pepsi and reached a tentative agreement on January 12, 2016. Our members at Pepsi ratified the contract on January 16, 2016.

The offer contains a new driver training program for the merchandisers to give them the ability to advance to driver positions. The four-year agreement includes annual wage increases of $0.45 per hour and Pension increases of $0.05 per hour.

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, 2015 with Veritiv Livermore, previously known as Xpedx. Now Steward Ken Moudy (Unisource) joins us in the Veritiv Pleasanton negotiations previously known as Unisource.

After numerous days of negotiations the company still refuses to increase the pension rate or even allow the employees to divert money to the pension. The company has been adamant about Health and Welfare cost sharing, and has not budged. Their last offer including an expectation that employees cover 15% of the cost. The next meetings are set for January 28 and 29. Unless the company position changes soon, a strike Action is likely.

Organizing
Local 70’s Executive Board has made a commitment to aggressively move on any viable organizing targets. Rich Fierro, Kelsey Frazier and Henry Buchanan are geared up and ready to pursue the tasks ahead. Members who have leads please contact one of the above.

Stewards Meetings
Vice President Jim Fried has arranged for training and updates for the Stewards and interested members on February 25 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. Jim provides the Stewards with the info.

Hiring
The following Companies are looking for Drivers. ABF, YRC, and REDDAWAY are all taking applications for Class “A” doubles, hazmat, & tanker endorsements. DHL is looking for Class “B” and “C” Drivers who are able to obtain TSA clearance. Shell Lubricants is looking for Driver/ Warehouse person Class “B” Haz-mat and Tanker endorsements.

Political Action
Local 70’s Political Coordinators, Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Trustee Rich Fierro, along with the rest of the officers and officials, have been working non-stop to make sure that our members are registered to vote and will vote for the candidates who support Labor. The Politicians who are in office affect 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.

Best wishes to two longtime Local 70 members
Our pension is strong, but Central States is struggling

A pension is one of the cornerstones of working Union. I am happy to say that the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Plan is in great shape. It is currently funded at about 92%, which is outstanding. We should all be proud that we are participants in one of the best pension plans in the country. A special thanks to Union Chairman Chuck Mack and Trustees Rome Aloise, Randy Cammack, Rick Hicks and Andy Marshall for the job well done.

This is such a relief when you look at the status of the Central States Pension Plan and other plans in similar financial condition. The Central States Pension Plan has submitted a rescue plan to the U.S. Treasury Department as required by the Kline/Miller Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014. The rescue plan will reduce the accrual rate for actives (those who are working) and reduce the pension of retirees in order for the plan to survive.

The U.S. Treasury Department is holding hearings to get input from affected members and retirees and this is okay, but in my opinion, way too late. Anyone who wants to know the financial status of this pension plan, all they had to do is request a copy of the 5500 form filed by pension plans with the government each year! It shows how much money goes in and out and it shows the ratio of active to retirees, etc. The bottom line is if the Kline/Miller bill had not been passed, the Central States pension plan would have gone broke!

What would have happened? The actives (those working) would not have a pension. The employers, most of them, would not be able to pay the unfunded liability with the possibility of closing or filing bankruptcy—both are not good options. The PBGC could only guarantee $1,200 per month for Central State retirees and other pensioners covered. This plan would also go broke within several months. There is no choice, something is better than nothing!

The disturbing facts:
1. The employer and union Trustees failed to do their jobs by making all participants aware of the problem and make changes.
2. The most disturbing thing is the government has been overseeing the Central States Pension Plan for years and they knew the status and did nothing. To me, that’s criminal and they have a responsibility in this matter.
3. It is disturbing that the Treasury Department is conducting hearings on the rescue plan and the impact of the participants! Simple math tells you this is “BS” and the rescue plan will be approved because the government has no money to bail it out!
4. The proposed Sanders/Kaptur Bill offers a political bailout that takes from the rich to pay for pension shortcomings. With a Republican Senate and Congress, that bill has no chance of passing!

We need to be honest with our members, find real solutions and move forward. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Ballots for the IBT Convention delegate election were mailed on February 4, 2016.
Members should receive their ballot no later than February 14, 2016.

If you have not received your ballot please call 1-855-240-0363
Start the year right

The Local had another strong financial year in 2015. Our membership is also beginning to rise—slowly but steadily. We are hopeful that this trend will continue, as that is a good indicator that the economy is improving. As we look forward to 2016, we are expecting a very busy year. There are numerous contracts open, a Presidential election, an International convention, and elections for both International and Local officers. We are also still looking at the possibility of having our Local’s headquarters go solar. Our efforts have been slowed by the lack of companies who use American components. We have one bid, and are in the process of trying to obtain another. We will keep you posted.

For many, this is the time of year for spring cleaning. We want to make sure you also check your files to make sure all of your updated information is currently on file with the local. Take a minute to look at the list below, please contact our office if you are missing any of the following, or if the information is not current:

- Updated Phone number(s) and address
- Pension Beneficiary Form
- Dues With Life Beneficiary Form
- Registered to Vote
- Participating in DRIVE
- Have your own doctor on file with your company.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016!

For updates between newspapers, go to the Local 70 Website: www.teamsterslocal70.org

SICK BENEFIT FUND

Monthly Meetings—2nd Tuesday at 11 a.m.—3 p.m.
1-800-243-1350 or 510-569-9317

To be eligible for Sick Benefits, claims must be filed at Local 70’s office within thirty (30) days of disability. Also, dues for the previous month must have been paid on time. For more information about the rules regarding the Sick Benefit Fund, see the Sick Benefit Fund Bylaws, Section 4.

Local Union 70, City of Oakland, CA
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

TRUSTEES REPORT

December 2015

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
As of December 31, 2015

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<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Beginning of period</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>End of Period</th>
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<td>United Labor - General Fund</td>
<td>1,299,372.95</td>
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<td>Petty Cash</td>
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<td>Cash in Special Funds</td>
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<td>Land</td>
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<td>Buildings</td>
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<td>Office Furniture/Equipment</td>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>5,093,265.84</td>
<td>31,855.97</td>
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<td>Deduct Obligations (list below)</td>
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<td>(93,192.00)</td>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
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<td>List of Obligations</td>
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<td>Obligations</td>
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</tbody>
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SCHEDULES

Schedule A—Other Income
- Sale of Supplies: 974.00
- General Fund Checking: 32.44
- Other: 50.00
- Other Receipts: 14,224.66
- Total 2016 lease: 7,149.95
- Total Schedule A/Other Income: $22,431.05

Schedule B—Other Expenses
- Sick Benefit Payments: 2,480.00
- Building Maintenance: 27,110.53
- Jurisdictional: 2,159.40
- Not Call Teamster News: 1,100.00
- Membership Mailings: 1,272.00
- Total Sch B/Other Expenses: $34,159.93

Schedule C—Other transactions
- Payroll Liability: Deducted/Not Disbursed: 94.43
- Total Other Transactions: $94.43

For Local 70 members who are sick or hurt:
We want to hear from you—you may have benefits coming.

SICK BENEFIT FUND

Local 70 Members: If you are sick or injured, please file your claim at Local 70 immediately or as soon as possible. You may contact our office if you are missing any of the following, or if the information is not current:

- Updated Phone number(s) and address
- Pension Beneficiary Form
- Dues With Life Beneficiary Form
- Registered to Vote
- Participating in DRIVE
- Have your own doctor on file with your company.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016!