Five-year contracts in waste industry

The Local 70 Waste Management contract is recognized as being one of the best in the nation. Many people worried that, after the last contract expired, our Local would be out of moves heading into negotiations for the new contract. In the months leading up to the expiration of the contract, members became concerned that no extension was on the table.

At the May General Membership meeting, Business Agent Felix Martinez said “As I stand here today, I would not accept an extension, not until the company sits down to negotiate over the unnecessary discipline. But where we are today, I see no reason this contract will not be done by the end of June!”

Throughout June, working at an “all hands on deck” pace, tentative agreements were reached with Waste Management, Republic Services, Alameda County Industries and Tri-CED Community Recycling. Members at the first three companies ratified their contracts overwhelmingly; Tri-CED is scheduled to vote on theirs shortly: Livermore Sanitation, Amador Valley, Pleasanton Garbage and California Waste Solutions.

“When I became Business Agent for the waste industry, I knew I had an obligation to maintain what was built before I got here,” Martinez added. “Building upon such a strong foundation was achieved with the help of the stewards at each house. When all was finished, we as a group secured a five-year deal that includes increases to wages and pension, maintenance of benefits at current levels for the life of the agreement, advancement in scheduled time off and clear language with regards to the unnecessary discipline.”

Working in the waste industry is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. One achievement in negotiations was a benefit nobody ever wants to use, Extended Medical Benefits in the event of a member’s death. The Local also felt that for this industry, continuation of Health and Welfare was vital for the security of our members’ households in the event of a loss. This gives a family a bridge of opportunity to find affordable Health and Welfare before the expiration of the current plan coverage.

“I would like to thank the membership for the supporting the process and having faith in our Local Union” said Martinez.

“The negotiating committee was made up of rank and file stewards, who deal with the day-in day-out issues,” said Jim Fried, Vice President of Local 70 and Chief Shop Steward at Waste Management. “Their voice was heard loud and clear.”

On July 1, Waste Management members came to Local 70 to review their newly proposed contract.
**President’s Report**

Dominic Chiovare

**Updates around the local**

**SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING**

Business Agent Felix Martinez and Vice President Jim Fried locked in five more years of labor peace in the Solid-Waste/Recycling industry with the recent renewal of the Waste Management Collective Bargaining Agreement. This CBA is the blueprint that the rest of the industry in Local 70’s jurisdiction follows, with slight variations in the non-economic issues to fit the smaller companies’ operations. To date, Waste Management Inc., Alameda County Industries, and Republic Services have overwhelmingly approved this Agreement; it provides for first-year wage and pension increases of 3.4% along with maintaining health and welfare benefits and working conditions. The remaining companies, Amador Valley Industries, California Waste Solutions, Livermore Sanitation, Pleasanton Garbage, and Tri-Ced Community Recycling will be voting next.

**RELIANCE SHEET & STRIP**

Business Agent Mark Hawkins has completed negotiations at Reliance and the employees have ratified a 3-year agreement with wage and pension increases each year of the CBA along with maintaining the medical plan, TBT Plan, VA and RSP throughout the Agreement.

**DHL EXPRESS**

On June 24-26, the DHL Negotiating Committee commenced bargaining. Committee members include: ICG Reps Rob Bell and Bill Hoyt, Secretary-Treasurer Joe Cilia and Stewards Mo Brown and Miquel Shiffer from Local 2785, Local 287 President Jerry Cordova, Local 70 Stewards Bob Martinez, Chuck Blankenship and myself. Key items include a 4-10’s work week, 7-day work week, part-time driving, health and welfare, and pension. Because of the late start, the parties have agreed to an extension through August, 2017.

**RELIANCE METALS**

Business Agent Mark Hawkins, Steward Brian Crisp and I, after several negotiating sessions with Reliance, have reached an agreement that our members ratified. They now have a five-year contract that provides increases each year to be split between wages and pension as well as maintaining the health and welfare throughout the term of the agreement.

**MV TRANSPORTATION**

Business Agent Mark Hawkins, Stewards Jaspreet Singh, Ashlee Parh, Rodney Beamon and I have been in negotiations on behalf of the Union City and Dumbarton Divisions. We have completed a 3-year agreement that the members overwhelmingly ratified. The Agreement provides for wage increases from $0.75 to $2.00/ hour as well as maintaining the members’ health and welfare benefits and conditions throughout the agreement.

**PAC-RAIL**

Business Agent Lou Marchetti recently organized 24 employees at Pac-Rail in Oakland. They unload and load railcars similar to Quality Terminal Services (QTS). After numerous negotiating sessions with the company, Lou completed a 3-year agreement that the members unanimously ratified. This agreement provides the members with a medical plan they can afford and wages, benefits and working conditions they never experienced before.

**Reminder**

Local 70’s next membership meeting is Saturday, September 23 at 10 a.m. (No meeting in August.)

All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

**OTHER ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL 70**

**EMPLOYMENT**

The following companies are all looking for Drivers’ Class “A” City Drivers and Line Drivers: ABF, DHL, Reddaway, and Yellow Freight. Class “B”: Oakland Unified School Dist. (OUSD). You can apply on-line to all of these companies.

**ORGANIZING**

Rich Fierro, Kelsey Frazier and Henry Buchanan are geared and ready to pursue any viable organizing leads. Members with leads, please contact one of them at 510-568-5494.

**STEWARDS MEETINGS**

Vice President Jim Fried, along with our newly elected Stewards Steering Committee, will be meeting and selecting the topic of interest and speakers for the December Stewards meeting. All Stewards and interested members should meet at 9:00 a.m. before the next scheduled Saturday Membership Meeting. Jim will send the Stewards a notice to post which will list the topic for the Stewards meeting on Saturday, September 23.

**RETIREE CLUB**

Local 70’s Retiree Club’s next meeting is Wednesday, September 20 at 11:00 am in Local 70’s Auditorium. Following the meeting is lunch and a raffle. There’s always great conversation and stories. All Retirees are invited to drop by and check it out. Dues are $26.00 per year.

**POLITICAL ACTION**

Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Trustee Rich Fierro Local 70’s Political Coordinators will be keeping membership updated on President Trump’s changes and the effect they have on our members and the labor movement.

Unions start with YOU!

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**Unions start with YOU!**
Preventing for UPS negotiations

The Nor Cal Committee is preparing for UPS negotiations. The Committee met on July 10 to formulate proposals. Each Local will be meeting with their members to solicit their input in the near future, as proposals have to be submitted to the IBT by August 31. Local 70’s proposal meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Local 70. Some of the major issues facing us are the non-union competition, automation, US Post Office, Amazon delivering their own merchandise, etc.

Automation is moving along at UPS. The Oakland UPS Building is now scheduled to partially re-open at the end of October, with the final move in March of 2018. Knowing UPS, this could change.

Pension news

Local 70 is fortunate to be in the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension plan, which is in great financial shape. There is a legitimate concern with other pension plans around the country that have financial problems and we must work together to ensure their survival. It is absolutely critical that we have membership participation in this process.

Taking a national perspective on the political scene

By RICH FIERRO

I attended the annual Teamsters Political coordinators conference in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Local 70 this past June. The International decided to hold it in Washington because they felt, more than ever, we need to be active on the political front, particularly with our federal level legislators, with whom we may not interact as frequently as we do with local and state reps.

The conference was very informational, with lots of guest speakers and resources on a variety of topics. Key federal issues included:

Automation: This is one of the key priorities for the International. Estimates are that as many as four million jobs may be affected by automation in the next decade. Some of these jobs will be in our core industries such as Package and Freight. Our goal is to ensure that, as this process develops, we are included in the conversation. Many of the industries promoting automation are trying to shut out the concerns of labor and our working members.

Furthermore, we must be vigilant to push our legislators to include strong regulatory measures in the laws they craft, negotiate strong contract language that protects our current members, and ensure any members who may be impacted are treated fairly.

Pension: In many parts of the Central, Southern, and Eastern part of the country, multi-employer pensions are severely underfunded. Congress will be considering two to three pension bills this legislative year. It is still unclear if any of them will make it to the President for signature. Fortunately, our Western States pension is strong and in great shape. However, this is a big issue for members in the rest of the country, and we will keep you posted.

National Right to Work: There have been National Right To Work bills introduced in both the Senate and House. Due to the extreme chaos that is currently in Washington, neither of them have advanced beyond introduction. Many conservatives have longed for this legislation for years because of the potential damage it could inflict on unions. Although it does not seem imminent, it remains a threat that we will monitor closely.

While in Washington, I was able to visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History—definitely an amazing experience. I was particularly impressed with the displays they had about labor struggles throughout history, and various suffrage movements. Whether it was the colonists fighting taxation without representation, African Americans demanding “one man one vote,” women demanding the right to vote, or labor being involved in just about every struggle, it reminded me of how we must always be vigilant to never stop fighting.
Don’t miss out on important information distributed to members by mail and e-mail. Keep your address, telephone number and e-mail updated in the following ways:

▲ By the web: www.teamsterslocal70.org
▲ By E-mail: ibt70@teamsterslocal70.org
▲ In person or U.S. Mail: 400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621

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

SICK BENEFIT FUND

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, see the Sick Benefit Fund Bylaws, Section 4.

First-time contract passes unanimously

Back in December, the workers at Pacific Rail Services voted unanimously to become members of Teamsters Local 70. Business Agent Lou Marchetti, who ran the organizing drive, then started working on their first contract. On July 3, Marchetti got another unanimous vote when the workers ratified the contract.

“We were able to fix the health and welfare problem they had by negotiating them out of a company plan and into a Teamster Managed Plan. This will save the workers $120-200 each month and provide better benefits. Getting the company to put up the money and move to the new plan sealed the deal,” Marchetti said.

Local 70 welcomes these 24 new members who load and unload the trains at the Union Pacific Railroad at the Port of Oakland.

Communications Survey

Local 70 is in the process of updating our methods of communicating with you, and we would like your opinion. Please take a few minutes to answer the following:

1. How often do you read our newsletter?
2. What do you find most interesting about the newsletter?
3. What do you find least interesting about the newsletter?
4. What would you like to see more of in the newsletter?
5. What would you like to see less of in the newsletter?

We appreciate your input! All responses can be emailed to rfierro@teamsterslocal70.org. All respondents will be entered in a drawing for some Local 70 gear to be held September 23 immediately following membership meeting.

Also, if you would like to be included in our email list please provide the following:
Name • Employer • Last 4 of SSN
We will never sell or share your personal data, and will only use it to send you important Local information.

A Teamster summer, from baseball to chili

The annual baseball game turned out to be a huge success. There was plenty of food, drink, entertainment, and even a voter registration booth to mix a little work into a good time.

Probably the greatest part of the game was the more than 3,000 members and their families who came together. This was especially important when we “passed the hat” for the families the three Teamster drivers in San Francisco who were killed as a result of workplace violence. We had a moment of silence, passed the hat, and contributed all of the tips our volunteer bartenders collected for these families. All together, we raised close to $2,000.

Construction on the parking lot and solar installation is scheduled to begin in July. We are hopeful all of the construction will be complete prior to the September membership meeting. If you are coming to the hall, please be mindful that parking may not be available at all times during construction. We will also have a new air conditioning unit installed at some point over the summer. Units as big as the one we need have to be custom built and are installed by crane.

We continued our streak of placing in the various cook-offs where we compete. Most recently, Vice President Jim Fried’s recipe enabled us to placed third in Assembly member Rob Bonta’s annual chili cook-off.

Teamsters Local 70 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meetings
August
September 23, 2017  Saturday 10:00 a.m.
October 26, 2017  Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
November 21, 2017  Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
December 16, 2017  Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Steward Council Meetings
September 23, 2017  Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
December 16, 2017  Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Sick Benefit Meetings
2nd Tuesday of the Month  7:00 p.m.
All meetings are held at Teamsters Local 70: 400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621, unless otherwise notified.

Teamsters Local 70 members are pleased to have their first contract.