Local 70 holds open house to celebrate going “green”

November 4 was a very busy day at Local 70. Not only did we host our annual Stewards Appreciation meeting, but we also held a “re-grand opening.”

All of our long-discussed improvements and construction is now complete. We felt this was a great opportunity to invite our members and their families to the event. Many of the vendors who provide medical, pension, vision, and dental services were here as well to answer questions and hand out information.

Our BBQ was busy smoking some great meat for lunch; we had lots of cool swag for raffle prizes, and a video game truck kept the kids busy. Nearly 200 members and their families were here to enjoy the day.

Appreciating our shop stewards

Shop Stewards are known as “the backbone of the Local Union” because they are constantly on the front lines dealing with employer and member issues and discontents. The Officers and Officials of Local 70 recognize the contribution of our shop stewards, and are very grateful for their hard work!

Western Region Vice-President Rome Aloise, Joint Council 7 Political Director Doug Bloch, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan all addressed the group.

Local 70 answers the call

Teamsters Local 70 has always prided itself on being active in the many aspects that affect our members’ lives. Because, these days, unions are often misunderstood by the public, this year one of our goals was to improve our community engagement.

Our first “Teamsters Local 70 Neighborhood Clean Up” day was organized by Business Agent Felix Martinez in the summer. This was a great event where about 30 rank and file members helped clean up a section of East Oakland. We are hoping to continue this tradition.

Later in the summer, we brought our B.B.Q. to the Western Workers Heritage Foundation to serve lunch. This community event, held in Berkeley, honors the artistic heritage of working people throughout the years. This definitely was a different type of event for us, but it was great to feed the attendees and community members in the neighborhood.

Most recently we were involved in the relief effort for people affected by the Santa Rosa fires. We had drivers from Pasha and U.P.S. Freight bring desperately-needed trailers of donated supplies and provisions for the fire victims.

We also took our B.B.Q. to our sister Local in Santa Rosa. Local 665 had donated its building and parking lot to serve as a community center to receive local donations and charitable contributions. We were very happy to feed the community members and volunteers who were there helping the relief effort.
Updates around the local

DHL EXPRESS

The DHL Express Negotiating Committee consisting of J/C7 Representatives Bob Bell and Bill Hoyt, Local 2785 Secretary-Treasurer Joe Cilia, Stewards Mo Brown, and Miquel Shiffer, Local 287 President Jerry Cordova, Local 70 Stewards Bob Martinez, Chuck Blankenship and I will be meeting November 20-21 in effort to reach a tentative agreement. Key items include the 4x10's workday, a 7-day work week, part-time driving, and, of course, health and welfare and pension.

Because of the late start, the parties have agreed to an extension that expires November 30, 2017. We are at the point of reaching agreement or having a fight.

SOLID-WASTE/RECYCLING

Business Agent Felix Martinez has completed negotiations and ratified all of the agreements with our Solid-Waste and Recycling companies. WMI, ACI, PGS, CWS, LSI, AVI, Republic and Tri-Ced employees can all expect five years of labor peace working under an agreement that provides high wages, good benefits and a pension.

MILLS COLLEGE

I recently completed a three-year agreement at Mills College in Oakland. The new contract contains 3% wage increases each year of the Agreement and maintains the health and welfare at no cost to the employee. The contract also includes increased vacation, bereavement and leave of absence time, and reduces the three-year wage progression rate to one year.

SELF-DRIVING SEMIS

Tesla, Inc. has plans to platoon partially automated electric trucks with a lead truck. A human driver in the lead truck punches a hole in the wind, with other trucks drafting close behind for maximum efficiency and to take less space on the highway. The trucks communicate electronically and brake immediately as needed. They have been testing this system for two years. Volvo is testing self-driving garbage trucks in Sweden that can navigate the cities. Deutsche Post's DHL announced plans to test Ford Transit self-driving trucks for deliveries starting in 2018.

What is scary is that in a bitterly divided Washington, legislation for autonomous vehicles is moving quickly, with self-driving truck legislation following closely behind.

EMPLEOYMENT

The following companies are all looking for Class “A” licensed City Drivers and Line Drivers: Reddaway and Yellow Freight need 15 Class “A” Drivers each. ABF is looking for 12 Class “A” City Drivers. Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) needs one Class “B” driver.

Apply on-line to all of the above listed companies.

ORGANIZING

Rich Fierro on October 6th won an election at Trench Plate Rental Company in Newark. This Company was established in 1979 and provides contractors all the supplies and plates, boxes and shields for trenching. So thanks to Rich's hard work we will shortly be starting negotiations on behalf of the 10 Drivers who deliver these products throughout the Bay Area to contractors. Our trustees, Rich Fierro, Kelsey Frazier and Henry Buchanan are geared and ready to pursue any viable leads. Members who have leads please contact one of the above 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 at 9:00 am 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 December 16, 2017.

RETIREE CLUB

Local 70’s Retiree Club next meeting is Wednesday December 20, 2017 at 11:00 am in Local 70’s Auditorium. Following the meeting is lunch, and raffle. 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 the President Donald Trump's changes and the effect on our members and the labor movement.

Unions start with YOU!

Reminder

Local 70’s next membership meeting is Saturday, December 16 at 10 a.m.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Marty Frates

UPS contract update: seeking job security

We have been communicating with our members to find out their concerns and discuss the problems in the package industry. Priority number one is job security!

Two major issues are not part of negotiations but directly impact our members into the future. The first is the need for a unified effort to address those pension plans that are in financial trouble, like the Central States, which is due to go broke in 2024 if nothing is done. UPS is a participant in several of these plans and faces a huge unfunded liability if a solution can’t be found. We need a uniform plan with all of the unions and employers in a similar situation in order to resolve this.

Failure to act is a disservice to those we serve, those who worked all their lives for their pension. If we do nothing they will lose everything. This is not acceptable and is a threat to the Teamsters Union as we know it. We’ll see companies and Local Unions filing for bankruptcy with some going out of business. The union will be blamed even though the government’s trucking deregulation scheme is really responsible.

The second issue is the fake business models, and competition from non-union companies and the US Post Office. Specifically, in Nor Cal and the West, OnTrac Trucking has been able to cut UPS’ shipping rates by 60% because they use owner/operator drivers who don’t demand that the company pay payroll taxes, social security, Medicare, workers compensation, state disability, health and welfare, pension and other contractual benefits. This business model is a threat to our local union and our members and undermines our government and all of the items mentioned above.

UPS is moving to employ this same business model in the form of Coyote Logistics, a nationwide feeder network. UPS began implementing a Seasonal Personal Vehicle Driver, who punches in and out for work and records all pick-ups and deliveries with a phone application. UPS is also utilizing Deliv (Uber-type driving) to make deliveries from Macy’s and other stores to the customer. Our competition also includes the US Post Office, the largest E-Commerce carrier in the country, that tax payers subsidize. The Teamsters, organized labor, and our allies need to have a political and legal plan to deal with this.

The Nor Cal Committee has exchanged proposals and met with UPS for three days with virtually no progress. We are scheduled to meet the week after Thanksgiving. I have advised UPS that if they don’t pick up the pace, there is no need to meet. It’s on them!

Key Contract Issues:
1. Job Protection.
3. Subcontracting.
4. Payroll problems/entitlement issues.
5. 9.5 violations/reasonable dispatch.
6. UPS honor contract/grievance decisions.

Political Action Report

There’s hope after this bizarre year

By LOU MARCHETTI

2017 will go down in history as the most bizarre year in American politics ever (so far)! Every day brings a new scandal, firing or resignation, as well as numerous tweets. On a positive note, the Republicans are in such disarray that, to date, they have been unable to pass any meaningful legislation.

As Trump tries to gut Obamacare, overturn DACA and overreach his presidential powers, either the courts or his own party has stopped his edicts. Hopefully, we will be able to stop his “Tax Reform,” which is nothing but a windfall for his billionaire friends and corporations.

The worst thing he has been able to do, and it’s a big one, is appoint numerous federal judges. There were so many vacancies because the Republican Congress blocked Obama from filling them. Because these appointments are for life, we will feel their effects long after Trump is gone.

Now for some good news. The Democrats just won major victories in Virginia and New Jersey as voters rejected the the Republican agenda. We need to build on those victories. The 2018 mid-term elections have never been more important. If we are ever going to see a fair, pro-working families’ agenda, we will need to regain majorities in the house and senate. With organized labor’s help—and that means all of you—we can get this done.

We, at Local 70, know that the Democrats can’t be trusted either; big money lobbyists have influence on both sides of the aisle. We support politicians who support working people, and when we do, we have a seat at the table with them.

We hope you will heavily weigh our recommendations next year in the crucial mid-term election. As always, be sure to register to vote (or re-register if you’ve moved), and sign up for DRIVE.

Working people are still the backbone of our country and we will survive. We have beaten back attacks in the past and are still here fighting.

All of us at Local 70 wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season!
Ending 2017 with two major events

We capped off 2017 with the “grand reopening” of Local 70 on November 4. This day was the culmination of lots of planning, work, and patience.

Our solar system is finished, as is the re-paving of our parking lot. Both projects were quite an ordeal, but we also installed L.E.D. lighting throughout the local, and replaced an air conditioning unit with a new and improved unit.

None of these projects were cheap; they were quite an ordeal, but for all the hard work they do for our members.

Next year will provide many opportunities and challenges for Local 70. We will be very active in the local, statewide, and federal election cycle, and will be visiting your terminal asking for your help to elect worker-friendly politicians.

Save the date: July 21 will be our annual “Day at the ballgame.” We will have more details in early 2018.

Finally, we want to wish you and your family a great Holiday Season!