A man from the past who time catapulted into the future

The birth of the TNBC

By Henry Buchanan

At the 43rd Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) conference, held in Houston in August, I had the privilege of meeting a true legend, a man who lived and saw firsthand the struggles of a hard-working Black man in Alabama in 1971. That man is John Phelan.

His story starts when he was working 40 hours a week for $82; on rare occasions when there was overtime, it would be at straight pay.

Phelan wanted more from life, having nothing but self-pride and the guts to stand and die for what he believed in. As he said, it would be “at any cost necessary.” In 1971, he took part in a strike to achieve better conditions. The company refused to budge and called for the police to come and control the problem. The employees continued to stand tall until their demands were met.

This same year, the Teamsters held their convention in Miami. Denied access to the convention because he was not a delegate, Phelan realized that things had to change. From that day forward, his mission was to become more involved with the Union.

And he did. Not only did he come to future Teamster conventions, he was instrumental in starting the TNBC.

Let us never forget the struggles of the past. Black men and women struggled to improve their lives and be part of our union. Their struggles enabled our generation to have a new way of life. Remembering the past should always drive us as a people to continue our efforts to uphold the vision and stay true to the cause.

Teamster barbecue before Battle of the Bay

4,000 Teamsters came from across Northern California and Nevada to have a party in Oakland on July 21.

400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621

October/November 2018

Phone 510-569-9317

Executive Board
Marty Frates .......... Secretary Treasurer
Dominic Chioware .......... President
Jim Fried .......... Vice President
Ruben Bustillos .......... Recording Secretary
Rich Fierro .......... Trustee
Henry Buchanan .......... Trustee
Mike Craig .......... Trustee

Business Agents
Felix Martinez
Mark Hawkins
Kelsey Frazier
Michael Garcia .......... Conductor
Ray Woodruff .......... Warden

Business Agent Felix Martinez is one of six Joint Council 7 members who have decided to take the next step of service—and that’s public service. Felix has decided to seek election for the Eden Township Healthcare District. This District serves residents of Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and some unincorporated areas. The main goals of the District are to provide affordable and quality healthcare for citizens and their families.

However, this has not always been the case, and Felix has decided to seek election to the board to make a difference. It will be a difficult task as there are seven candidates seeking election for three positions. Felix has considerable experience in both negotiations and healthcare, the two aspects a Director of this District would need most. Our Local, and the entire Joint Council will be supporting him in his bid to get elected.

When asked why he decided to run, Felix responded: “As a Hayward resident I was asked to consider running. The first thing I had to consider was whether I could commit to this without taking away from my responsibilities at Local 70. I decided the answer was yes.”

Fortunately, Eden Township has a meeting schedule that is neither in conflict with Local 70 affairs, nor, just as important, with any local municipality’s city meeting schedules.

“If elected, I would be able to work with those who are most vulnerable, most in need of proper services that the Eden Township Healthcare District should be providing,” Felix said. “This gives me an opportunity to work to help Saint Rose Hospital, whose workers are represented by Teamsters Local 856 and CNA. This gives Local 70 the ability to have a Business Agent and elected official sitting at the table as a champion of labor.”

We will be reaching out for help from members as well. We absolutely will need residents of the above-mentioned cities to vote for Felix. We also will need volunteers to help Felix with campaign activities. If you are available and would like to help please call Felix at 510-305-6881, or Rich Fierro at 510-673-0731.
Updates around the local

7-UP/SNAPPLE

Business Agent Mark Hawkins just completed negotiations with 7-UP. The 5-year agreement has improvements in wages and pension and the cost of health care was significantly reduced. Hawkins, along with Stewards Jim Perkins, Jeff Johnson and Moses Rincon, resolved the wage disparity that resulted from combining the Fremont and San Leandro facilities. The drivers, warehouse workers, and merchandisers ratified the agreement.

TRENCH PLATE

Business Agent Kelsey Frazier and Trustee Rich Fierro have been in ongoing negotiations with newly-organized Trench Plate on behalf of the 10 drivers at the Newark facility. They just completed the language changes and are now starting on economics. The first contract is always the hardest. Upcoming meetings will determine the outcome.

ABF

Local 70 and Local 287 members unanimously ratified the Joint Council 7 Freight Supplement. Our members will receive a $2 wage increase over five years, plus an additional annual January wage diversion increase of any unused projected Health and Welfare monies to wages. The pension contribution was frozen at its current $6.66 per hour rate for the duration of the contract. Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) was kept for the Health and Welfare plan throughout the Agreement.

Bob Bell and Bill Hoyt co-chaired the talks for Joint Council 7, joining Local 287 Business Agent Jerry Cordova and me in the negotiations. Many thanks to all.

UPS FREIGHT

Business Agent Felix Martinez has been in intense contract negotiations with UPS Freight. The employees will soon vote electronically on the agreement, which contains wage and pension increases along with maintaining health and welfare.

YOUNGS MARKET

Business Agent Kelsey Frazier said that the upcoming September and October statewide Liquor Industry meetings will determine the economic package. Once that is concluded, the negotiating team will meet with the company to negotiate the Young’s Market Supplement, which will address those drivers’ local conditions.

RODGERS TRUCKING

I recently held a contract proposal meeting with the Rodgers Trucking drivers to discuss their issues and concerns that the Stewards and I will address in the upcoming October negotiations. The majority of Rodgers Trucking work is delivering for Southern Wine and Spirits, which is part of the statewide Liquor negotiations. No doubt, this other set of talks will impact our negotiations with Rodgers.

Emphasis on Benefits

Negotiations with the Oakland Unified School District will start in October on behalf of our drivers who deliver supplies and food to the Public and Charter Schools throughout the City of Oakland. With a $9 million budget shortfall, the City of Oakland has reduced staffing. Reaching an agreement will be a challenging task for Steward Raul Rivas and me.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following companies are all looking for Class “A” City Drivers and Line Drivers:
- Reddaway, and Yellow Freight: 15 Class “A” drivers each
- ABF: 5 Class “A” city drivers
- Oakland Unified School Dist: 2 Class “B” drivers
- Mills College: 1 Class “B” driver
- Young’s Market: 2 Class “B” drivers
- EMJ: 1 Class “A” driver
- BLT: 1 Class “A” driver
- MV Transportation Dumbarton Division: 4 Class “B” drivers (will train)

Apply on-line for all of the above listed companies. Check Local 70 website.

ORGANIZING

Trustee Rich Fierro is in contact with consultants for the cannabis industry, many of whom are seeking a Labor Peace Agreement. This industry has significant growth potential for new Teamster members.

Rich Fierro or Henry Buchanan they are ready to pursue any viable organizing leads. If you have leads, please contact them at 510-568-5494.

STEWARD MEETINGS

The next Stewards meeting is at 9:00 a.m. before the next scheduled Saturday Membership Meeting on December 15, 2018.

RETIREE CLUB

Local 70’s Retiree Club will next meet on Wednesday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Local 70’s Auditorium. Following the meeting is lunch, and a raffle. All Retirees are invited to drop by and check it out—there’s always great conversation and stories. Dues are $26/year.

POLITICAL ACTION

Business Agent Trustee Rich Fierro Local 70’s Political Coordinators will be keeping membership updated on the President Donald Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court. The re-negotiation of NAFTA. How both will affect our members and the labor movement.

Unions start with YOU!

Local 70’s next membership meeting is Thursday, October 25 at 7 p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend!
Teamsters run for office; work to do on important races

By RICH FIERRO

Labor Day traditionally marks the end of summer and beginning of the formal school and work year. It also marks the eight-week sprint to the General Election. Our Local, along with our entire Joint Council, will be very busy. We will be interviewing candidates for potential endorsements, registering members and their families to vote, and actively helping candidates we feel are worthy of our endorsement.

This year carries an extra bit of urgency, as six Teamsters have entered the ring for elected office in 2018! One of those candidates is our very own Business agent Felix Martinez. He is running for a position as Director for Eden Township Healthcare District. Please see the article on our front page for a more detailed look at the race.

We hope also to get involved in races that are outside of our normal region. The best opportunity for Democrats to take back a branch of Congress is to flip the House of Representatives. We have a chance to take some targeted seats from Republicans in the Central Valley and Orange County. Although most of us don’t vote in those districts, there may be opportunities to help the candidates in other ways. We will keep you posted.

The most important thing is that you—and all of your friends and family members—are registered to vote, that you are informed, and that you vote!

Local 70 Endorsements – 2018 General Election

City of Alameda
City Council .............................................. Jim Oddie
...................................................... John Knox-White
Hospital Board ............................... Dennis Popalardo

City of Dublin
Mayor ............................................... Dave Haubert
City Council ....................................... Jean Josie
................................................. Sean Kumagai

City of Hayward
Mayor ................................................ Barbara Halliday
City Council ....................................... Sara Lamnin
.................................................... Marvin Peixoto
Measure T ............................................ Yes

City of Newark
City Council .......................................... Mike Bucci

City of Oakland (Ranked Choice Voting)
Mayor ................................................... Libby Schaaf
City Council
District 2 ............................................ 1) Abel Guillen
District 4 ............................................ 1) Sheng Thao
................................................................. 2) Pamela Harris
................................................................. 3) Joseph Tanios
District 6 ............................................ 1) Natasha Middleton
...................................................... 2) Loren Taylor
................................................................. 3) Mia Whittaker
Measure Z ............................................ Yes

City of San Leandro
Mayor ................................................... Pauline Cutter
City Council
District 1 ............................................. Deborah Cox
District 3 ............................................. Lee Thomas
District 5 ............................................. Corina Lopez

A.C. Transit Board Of Directors
At large ............................................... Joel Young
Ward 4 ............................................... Mark Williams

Eden Township Healthcare District (vote for 3)
Felix Martinez *(Your Teamster rep!)*
Mariellen Faria
Roxann Lewis

For more state and local endorsements, go to: www.teamstersJC7.org/endorsements
Big changes in Local 70's building

The construction continues at the Local. If you have been to the hall recently, you probably noticed scaffolding, big piles of wood, or even a freshly painted building!

As mentioned in past articles, the executive board approved significant repairs and maintenance to our entire building. These repairs were long overdue, and when completed, will ensure our building will be solid for many years in the future.

We would like to thank Business Agent Kelsey Frazier for coordinating the project.

A home run

The annual “Teamster Day at the Park” was a homerun! Nearly 4,000 Teamster members and their families enjoyed the tailgate and game. Our event continues to grow, and there may be other special events coming in 2019.

Stay informed about Local 70 news

It’s easy to join our e-mail list! Just send your e-mail address by text message—

Text: TEAMSTERSLOCAL70
to: 22828
to get started

Or sign up at: www.teamsterslocal70.org

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

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

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, see the Sick Benefit Fund Bylaws, Section 4.

Did you move? Tell us your new address!

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: ib70@teamsterslocal70.org
- In person or U.S. Mail: 400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621

Teamsters Local 70
2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meetings
October 25, 2018 Thursday 7:00 p.m.
November 13, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
December 15, 2018 Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Steward Council Meetings
Precede each of the Saturday membership meetings at 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.

Local Union 70, City of Oakland, CA
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
TRUSTEES REPORT
July 2018

CASH RECEIVED
Membership Dues $299,981.20
Initiation and Re-initiation Fees 13,216.79
Assessments & Fines (18.00)
Non-member fees 952.91
Funds for transmittal 374.50
Other Income (Schedule A) 16,524.89
Total Cash Received $291,032.29

CASH PAID OUT
Salaries 77,043.40
Expense allowances 11,630.00
Contributions 2,988.75
Per Capita Tax 74,981.10
Benefits Paid 43,553.23
Funds for transmittal 282.50
Refunds - Dues 894.75

Cash Balance Begin. of Period $987,452.71
Cash Balance End of Period $945,162.82

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
As of July 31, 2018

Assets Beginning of period Change End of Period
United Labor - General Fund 987,452.71 (42,289.89) 945,162.82
Pty Cash 830.00 0.00 830.00
Cash in Special Funds 25.10 0.00 25.10
Cash in Special Funds 34,911.61 2.97 34,914.58
Land 823,521.00 0.00 823,521.00
Buildings 3,012,181.43 0.00 3,012,181.43
Office Furniture/Equipment 86,583.61 0.00 86,583.61
Other Assets 31,000.00 60,000.00 91,000.00
Total Assets $4,976,500.36 17,713.08 $4,994,213.44

Deduct Obligations (list below) (106,637.48) (151.66) $(106,789.14)

Net Assets $4,869,862.88 $17,561.42 $4,887,424.30

Obligations Payroll Liability: deducted not disbursed (151.66)

List of Obligations
Schedule A—Other Income

Schedule B—Other Expenses

Schedule C—Other transactions

Schedule B/Other Expenses Total $6,407.67

Schedule C/Other transactions 859.73

Total Paid Out $333,322.18

Funds for Transmittal 374.50
Other transactions (Schedule C) 9,848.34

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash $(42,289.89)
Cash Balance Begin. of Period $987,452.71
Cash Balance End of Period $945,162.82

Sick Benefit Fund Bylaws, Section 4.

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.

By E-mail: ib70@teamsterslocal70.org

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