Teamster political action makes a difference

By RICH FIERRO
Local 70 Political Coordinator/Trustee

The 2019 General Election was a high stakes event packed with drama and major consequences for the whole country. As it stands right now, we can make some conclusions:

In California, the Republican Party is on the ropes. Democrats won every major statewide office and built super-majorities in both the State Assembly and Senate. Democrats also won almost every contested Congressional District up and down the state. This includes Josh Harder’s defeat of Jeff Denham in San Joaquin County. This important win was particularly sweet for Teamsters nationwide as Denham had made it his personal crusade to undermine the working conditions of the drivers we represent.

The split nationally is greater than ever. In Congress, Democrats picked up 40 seats, and will now control the House in 2019. This likely makes labor champion Nancy Pelosi the next Speaker of the House.

However, Republicans picked up two additional seats in the Senate and will likely become more conservative; they now hold a 53-47 advantage over Democrats and Independents. Although they do not have a filibuster-proof majority, these additional votes give them some breathing room on controversial issues.

The voters made some big changes locally as well. Oakland will now have three new council members, as incumbents Desley Brooks and Abel Guilen lost tough campaigns, and Teamster-backed Sheng Thao will take over the seat vacated by Annie Campbell Washington. In Hayward, Aisha Wahob defeated incumbent council member Marvin Peixoto to become the first Afghan female Council member.

Probably the most exciting aspect of this election was all of the Teamster members running for office. Eight Teamsters from four Locals ran for different offices and five of them were successfully elected!

One of those candidates was our very own Felix Martinez. Although he was not successful in his bid to become an Eden Township Director, he did obtain more than 20,000 votes. More importantly, we were able to raise awareness about the importance of this position and help elect directors who will be more responsive to the needs of the community. I want to thank all of the Officers and Officials, members, and retirees who helped on Felix’ campaign.

One of the lessons I learned was how important participation is to political activities. That will be a focus of ours in 2019. If you would like to become more involved please contact me at 510-673-0731.
RODGERS TRUCKING

Rodgers Trucking drivers recently ratified a new two-year Agreement, which contains wage increases of $1.25/hour and a $0.20 pension increase each year. The agreement also maintains the current health care plan at no cost to the employees.

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 are just finishing the language changes and are now starting on economics. A first contract is the hardest; upcoming meetings will determine the outcome.

UPS FREIGHT

Business Agent Felix Martinez was happy to report that the UPS employees voted the new Agreement through by a 3 to 1 margin. The 5-year Agreement includes wage increases, pension increases, and maintaining their current health care plan. Part-timers will now enjoy the same fringe benefits that the full time employees have.

YOUNGS MARKET

Business Agent Kelsey Frazier reported that our members have ratified the State-Wide Liquor Industry Agreement and the Joint Council 7 Supplement. The two-year agreement includes wage and pension increases, along with no changes to the medical plan.

NMFA/YRCW

National Master Freight Agreement (NMFA) negotiations will start December 17, 2018. The IBT has appointed me to serve on the National Negotiating Committee to negotiate a new National Master Freight Agreement (NMFA) covering YRC Freight, Holland and New Penn. The NMFA expires on March 31, 2019.

EMPLOYMENT

The following companies are all looking for drivers.
- Reddaway and Yellow Freight need 15 Class “A” drivers each.
- ABF is looking for 2 Class “A” city drivers.
- Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) needs 2 Class “B” drivers. Mills College needs 1 Class “B” driver.
- BLT needs 1 Class “A” driver to start in Fairfield.
- MV Transportation Dumbarton Division needs 4 Class “B” Drivers (will train).

ORGANIZING

Trustee Rich Fierro is in contact with consultants for the cannabis industry and has talked to several who are seeking a Labor Peace Agreement. This industry has member growth potential. IBT and Local 70 are looking for XPO contacts. Rich Fierro or Henry Buchanan they are ready to pursue any viable leads. Members who have leads please contact one of the above at 510-568-5494.

STEWARD MEETINGS

The next Stewards meeting is at 9:00 am before the next scheduled Saturday Membership Meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

RETIREE CLUB

Local 70’s Retiree Club next meeting is Wednesday, January 16 at 11:00 a.m. 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/Trustee Rich Fierro serves as Local 70’s Political Coordinator. He will keep the membership updated on President Trump’s future nominees to the Supreme Court and the re-negotiation of NAFTA, and how both will affect our members and the labor movement.

Unions start with YOU!

Local 70’s next membership meeting is Thursday, January 24 at 7 p.m.
All members are invited and encouraged to attend!

Teamsters at the Shark Tank!

San Jose Barracuda vs. Stockton Heat
Saturday, February 2, 2019
Game time: 1:15 p.m.
SAP Center, San Jose

$10/ticket
$1 hot dogs / $2 beers

Please contact Local 287 at 408-453-0287 to purchase tickets

Unions start with YOU!
Members in action

Members from Rodgers Trucking review their new 2-year contract. They eventually ratified it.

Local 70 members in action

President Dominic Chiavare, Business Agent Felix Martinez, and Trustee Henry Buchanan all wish U.P.S. Freight member Brod Jones a great retirement!

Business Agent Felix Martinez joined drivers from Waste Management in a neighborhood pick up for senior citizens.

Business Agents Felix Martinez and Mark Hawkins helped Waste Management drivers with the citywide Oakland clean up.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Marty Frates

UPS Contract Update

This report is to give you the facts on the status of the UPS Negotiations.

On October 5, 2018, the IBT, via UPS Rising, put out a confusing message, saying the National Master UPS Agreement has been ratified even though a majority of those who voted did not approve the contract. The vote was 50,248-NO and 42, 356-YES with 44.3% of the eligible members voting. The IBT states, “in such circumstances where less than fifty percent (50%) of the membership votes on a final contract offer, the International Constitution provides that a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting shall be required to reject such final offer. Failure to reject the offer by at least a 2/3 vote of those voting shall require the negotiating committee to accept such final offer or such additional provisions as can be negotiated by the IBT. Then the IBT concludes “thus, the National Master UPS Agreement has been ratified.”

In the next paragraph, the IBT states “the Committee fully intends to demand that UPS return to the bargaining table to address a number of member concerns with the National Master UPS Agreement.”

Well… what is it? We have not heard anything since October 5, 2018 about any negotiations. The Nor Cal Supplemental and Sort Rider Agreement were also rejected under the same circumstances as the National Master UPS Agreement.

On October 6, 2018, Joint Council 7 UPS Chairman Peter Núñez put out the following:

“Although the Nor Cal Supplement and Sort Rider Agreements were not ratified, it gives us another opportunity to try and improve on what our members did not like about the proposals they were presented with.” Joint Council 7 President David Hawley followed up with, “we have reached out to Rob Pina at UPS to discuss moving forward and possible meeting dates. When we hear back from him, we will let you know.” At the October Nor Cal Panel, Hawley made it clear that the contract was ratified! The following questions need to be answered:

1. Was the contract that was voted on a final contract offer?
2. What is the history with Supplemental Agreements that are rejected by less than a 50% membership vote? Did the IBT implement these Supplemental Agreements?

The contract cannot be ratified until all supplements have been finalized. There are 6 pending supplements not yet ratified. We have not been notified of any negotiations since October 6. The bottom line is that the IBT needs to make it clear the negotiations are over or there are issues with Joint Council 7 taking over the UPS Committee, which will be dealt with.

The only thing that counts is that we are honest with the members. In the future, I will be putting out a newsletter to our members telling it like it is… holding everyone accountable. The best friend you can have in this business is the members. STAY TUNED!

A very special thank you to Local 70 members and officers

By FELIX MARTINEZ

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who believed in me and my election bid for a position on the Eden Township Healthcare District. I wanted to shake things up and bring awareness to the public of the importance of the District, and I can definitely say “we did it.”

For those of you who spent time precinct-walking, social media-posting, and making everyone you know aware of the importance of this election, I thank you. Your time is precious, and to give up your weekends meant more to me than you will ever know. The outpouring of support from the members, retirees, and the Officers and Officials of Local 70 was overwhelming. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

I came up short in the vote count to be elected, but accomplished some important goals along the way, of which I am very proud. In recent elections, 3,800-4,200 votes took first place; even though I received 20,768 votes, I still came in fifth.

This campaign made the majority of voters aware of the District’s responsibilities. The final vote count shows that people paid attention. We went into this election wanting to knock off two sitting directors and we succeeded. We wanted to shed light on the fact that the Directors need to watch over the entire district and pay particular attention to St. Rose Hospital and I believe we achieved that goal as well. With my running mates coming in first and second place, I know that we—the working class—will now be represented on the Board.

This took a coordinated effort between the Alameda County Democrats, Alameda County Central Labor Council and the Teamsters. That effort over the last three months was a primary focus for Local 70 Trustee and Political Director Rich Fierro, and I would be remiss if I did not recognize him individually.

Success is not always measured by winning or losing but by affecting change. With this election, we added Labor’s voice in a big way to the discussion and no doubt pushed the envelope.
Building work complete; now we organize!

We are pleased to announce that, after an active two years, most of the major construction and repairs of our hall have been completed and our building is in great shape for the future. We started with the asphalt project, followed by our solar installation, and most recently finished roof and building repair.

We were particularly proud to be able to use all Union contractors and workers for the most recent repairs. Local 70 will be at the Shark Tank on February 2, 2019! Yes, we have partnered with the Sharks minor league team for a Union Day at the Coliseum. This year will be another Battle Of The Bay, as the Giants will be playing the A’s. We will have more information regarding ticket sales in early 2019.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2019. A recent court decision may help us organize independent contractors, but we will first need to fight off the corporations that want it to be changed by lawmakers in Sacramento. This paper is being put together in December, but you won’t get it until January. However, we didn’t want to miss the opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful New Year!

Teamsters Local 70
2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership Meetings
January 24, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
February 21, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
March 21, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
April 25, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
May 23, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
June 20, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

July/August meetings Suspended (pending vote at March meeting)
September 21, 2019 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
October 24, 2019 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
November 2, 2019 Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
December 10, 2019 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Steward Council Meetings
Precede each of the Saturday membership meetings at 9:00 a.m.
Steward Appreciation Breakfast
October 19, 2019 Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Sick Benefit Meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month
7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at Teamsters Local 70:
400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621, unless otherwise notified.