The 28th IBT convention was held June 27 to July 1, 2011 at Bally’s/Paris in Las Vegas. This was a great event! Local 70 hosted a hospitality suite and a good time was had by all. It was an opportunity for Officers, Officials and rank and file members to meet and talk about issues with other local unions.

Local 70 delegates were Secretary-Treasurer Marty Frates, President Dominic Chiovare, Vice President Milton Lewis, Recording Secretary Rob Dias, and Business Agent Felix Martinez. Alternate Delegates were Trustees Kelsey Frazier, Mark Hawkins, and Rich Fierro, Business Agents Lou Marchetti and Bob Aiello. Local 70 also had four Sergeant at Arms: former Vice President Ron Rocha, who was the Chairman, Frank Rocha (ACCO), Steve Brown (Horizon Lines) and Dan Rivera (ACI).

“I also want to thank the rank and file members who attended,” says Frates. “They include Lonnie Ward, Glen Andrade, Chris Boyd all from ABF; Loretta Hatcher, Tiffani Spearman, and Sybil Charles, all from UPS; Jim De Silva from Horizon Lines; Bob Bell, Freight Coordinator and members Odus Hall, Jon Undeen, Bruce Kelley, Bill Rogers, John Bradley, Pedro Jimenez and Gabe Ybarolaza.”
Strikes against Xpedx corporate greed leads to best contract ever

Xpedx Paper is the largest paper product company in the U.S., with a 2010 fourth quarter profit of $274 million. For the past five months, Xpedx failed to bargain in good faith. Their offer was zero in wages, zero in pension and a drastic increase in employees health and welfare cost. Their continued corporate greed forced Local 70 to take “STRIKE” action against them.

At 3:00 a.m. on May 2, 2011 Business Agent Bob Aiello and I, assisted by Business Agent Lou Marchetti, Trustees Kelsey Frazier, Mark Hawkins and Rich Fierro shut down Xpedx’s two Hayward locations taking out 70 employees on strike.

Our Xpedx members held the line around the clock as well as visited key customers for a five-day period. By the eve of the 5th day, Xpedx became quite responsive to our needs, which made it possible for Bob Aiello, International Vice President Rome Aloise, Stewards Ray Guptil, Lorenzo Perez, Don Cassina and I to conclude the contract.

That weekend, ours members ratified a contract with the highest economic increases since being organized in 1994. Health and welfare and pension benefits are protected throughout the four-year contract.

Special thanks to our Steward/Negotiating committee Ray Guptil, Lorenzo Perez, Don Cassina as well as every employee, they all worked hard making it possible to reach a settlement. The Xpedx employees would like to express their sincere thanks to all our members for their support.

After hearing report on the state of the pension, members weigh in....

Art Balance
DHL

“It was great to hear Chuck’s report. The pension is something we have all worked for and look forward to collecting someday. It is good to know that someone like Chuck is watching over it.”

Nick Radke
Coke

“I came from the freight industry and learned early on that the pension was a top priority. Through all the changes we’ve gone through in my years as a Teamster, the pension has remained constant. I am confident that the pension will continue to thrive with Chuck in charge.”
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Marty Frates

Promises made, promises kept!

The members who have been attending Local 70 membership meetings are well aware of the ongoing issues. One of those issues is vacation payouts upon retirement.

In 2003, the local’s bylaws were changed so that when an Officer or Officials retire or leaves office, the maximum amount of vacation payout they can receive is 12 weeks. We all agreed, at that time, that when it came time to leave, that 12 weeks would be the maximum we would take, even though some of us had earned significantly more vacation time than that.

Every Officer and Official who has left office since 2003 has kept their word. Most recently Chuck Mack and Joe Silva gave up well over $100,000 in earned vacation time payout.

In my case, being a Business Agent and Secretary-Treasurer is not a job but a way of life. Throughout the years, I made the decision to not take my vacation because of my commitment to the union and my work schedule. That was my decision. Why should the members now have to pay when it comes my turn to leave? In 2003, I had fifty-nine (59) weeks of vacation on the books. Both I and President Dominic Chiovare signed documents waiving any vacation over 12 weeks upon retirement, saving the local well over $125,000. Promises made, promises kept!

Local 70 Bylaws Changes

The Executive Board has established a Bylaws Committee consisting of rank and file members Glen Andrade from the Freight Industry (ABF), Jordy DeBenning from the Solid Waste Industry (ACI) and Marcus Lewis from the Beverage Industry (Coke).

We will be making changes to the existing bylaws as well as incorporating changes as a result of the the 2011 IBT Convention.

There will be a special call meeting on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Local 70 to allow the members to make proposals to change the Bylaws. If you cannot attend the meeting, please submit proposals in writing to Secretary-Treasurer Marty Frates.

Local 70 joins BMW boycott campaign

In response to BMW’s threat to shut a 30-year old parts distribution warehouse in Southern California that employs 70 Teamsters, the IBT initiated a nationwide campaign to leaflet BMW dealerships and ask customers to boycott their cars.

Local 70 members Bruce Kelley, John Bradley, Jim Fried, Matt Kaczak and Ruben Bustillos answer the call and help out at the Pleasanton BMW dealership.

Members talk pension....

Mike Fernandes
Horizon Lines

“I am thankful for all the brothers that came before me and built the pension to what it is today. I will be able to enjoy the sacrifices they made when I retire.”

Charlie Burke
Young’s Market

“It was incredible seeing Chuck Mack and knowing that our pension is in good shape for the future.”

Ricardo Moran
Waste Management

“I've got a lot of years left to work but it’s great to know that when I’m done I will have a good pension and will be able to live comfortably.”
Memberships meeting BBQs: A few years ago, Local 70 started having quarterly Saturday General Membership Meetings. Along with taking care of the usual business, we invited guest speakers, politicians, lawyers, anyone who could inform and motivate the members. It has been a great success.

Now, we have started a new tradition at the Saturday meetings: we have members from different workplaces man the BBQ grill for the lunch. So far, members from Horizon Lines, UPS and Coca-Cola have shown off their skills. Waste Management members have volunteered to BBQ at the October 15 meeting. If anyone is interested in coming out and working the grill at one of the Saturday meetings, call one of us to schedule. Our goal is to have a Local 70 cook-off sometime next summer.

Organizing: In today’s economy, organizing new members is critical—not only for the newly unionized workers, but for the local—in the community and at the bargaining table.

Recently, the Trustees worked closely with Business Agent Lou Marchetti on the Odwalla campaign. We were involved at every stage of the campaign: house calling, visiting stores, phone banking and leafleting the workforce. “It was a lot of work, but the reward of helping these workers was well worth it” said Trustee Marchetti.

At first-time Officers, it was a fantastic experience to meet other rank and file members and Officers from across the country. Hearing Vice-President Joe Biden’s speech on the influence of the Teamsters on elections reminds us of the importance of our unity and strength in stopping the War on Workers.

Contact us: We want to hear from you, especially if you have organizing leads or want to volunteer your co-workers to head up an upcoming BBQ. You can leave a message for all of us at: 510-568-5494, or e-mail us at: rfierro@teamsterslocal70.org

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

---

Teamsters Local 70
2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

General Membership & Steward Council Meetings
July – August 2011 Meetings suspended for summer
September 22, 2011 Thursday 7:00 p.m.
October 15, 2011 Saturday 10:00 a.m.
November 15, 2011 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
December 17, 2011 Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Sick Benefit Meetings
2nd Tuesday of the Month

Unless notified otherwise, all meetings are held at Teamsters Local 70: 400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621