During the election, all three of us campaigned to become Trustees on the platform of being involved, helping the membership and visiting terminals on a regular basis. In the past three months, we have visited numerous terminals and plan on visiting the membership as much as possible. In order to keep the membership informed of our activities, the ‘Trustees Update’ will be a continuing feature in the Local 70 Newspaper. Following is the first of these updates:

Alameda County Central Labor Council: It is more important than ever that Local 70 participate in the political process. Local 70 is entitled to 41 delegates to the labor council. The 10 officers and officials are already delegates. We would like to recognize Larry Abbott from Young’s Market, Dan Rivera from A.C.I., Marquel Pea and Ray Woodruff from UPS, and Jim Fried from Waste Management, for being sworn in as delegates. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please contact your Business Agent or one of us for more information.

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Workers’ Rights Summit: This event in March highlighted the ongoing exploitation of different types of workers in every trade. Of particular importance to Local 70 was the part of the program dedicated to the drivers at the Port of Oakland. We are a part of this coalition dedicated to improving the health and working conditions at the Port Of Oakland.

Oakland Port Commission Meeting: Kelsey Frazier testified before the Port Commissioners who regulate the working conditions for the Port Of Oakland. We must convince them of the importance of improving the conditions of port drivers. Local 70 was well represented by officers and officials as well as rank and file members. Our goal is to change the misclassification of port drivers from independent contractors to employees so that they will have the right to organize and become members of our local.

St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser: Although probably not the most exciting place to spend this holiday, it definitely was well worth the time. We were able to spend some quality time with elected officials talking about issues important to Teamsters. Among the officials we spoke with were Majority Senate Leader Ellen Corbett, State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones.

Labor Law Conference: More than 500 people attended this informative and instructive conference sponsored by the law firm Weinberg, Roger, and Rosenfeld. Information from this meeting will be made available to the membership soon.

Waste Management Terminal Visit: We joined Marty Frates, Dominic Chiovare, Felix Martinez and Western Region Vice President Rome Alobe when they visited Local members at the 98th Avenue facility. Alobe updated the members on Teamster-supported legislation in Sacramento regarding the waste and recycling industry, and the importance of membership participation.

From Our Office: Mark Hawkins has been busy putting together quality merchandise for our membership. We have everything from beanies to vests available at the Local for purchase. Rich Fierro has taken over the responsibility of keeping our website updated. You can even find Teamsters Local 70 on YouTube now! Eventually we hope to have the ability to post live videos as they are happening. Kelsey Frazier has been appointed to the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports.

One thing is for sure—there is always plenty of work to do. If you are interested in participating or helping out, please let us know.

Waste Management workers finally get a contract, in black and white

On Monday, April 11, 2011, Business Agent Felix Martinez distributed the new Waste Management contract to the members at the 98th Avenue facility. Brother Mike Bongiovanni summed it up best, “I have been at Waste for 30 years and it’s been almost 20 years since we’ve had the contract in writing. Needless to say, everyone was pleased to finally get it.” This puts to rest a long and contentious period in Local 70’s history. “For years the members working in the solid waste industry have been asking for their contract in writing and every time they asked they were told that they would get it in a few weeks, said Secretary-Treasurer Marty Frates. “They finally have it now and I’ll make sure this never happens again in this or any industry.”

Shop Steward Jim Fried commented, “the guys are really happy to have a contract in writing that they can carry around with them at work. Things are moving in the right direction.”

Solidarity rally in Los Angeles

Teamsters Local 70 participates in march with 10,000 Teamsters and thousands of other union members in Los Angeles on March 26.
2011 this year is full of challenges for Local 70.

**Ashland is now Nexeo:** Ashland Chemical Division’s new name is Nexeo Solutions; this change comes as the result of an asset purchase of this division by an investment company called TPG. Under this type of purchase the company will only recognize the union if a majority of the employees accept their current positions and choose to be represented by the union. I’m pleased to report that 100% of the employees accepted their positions and want Local 70 to represent them in collective bargaining.

Bob Aiello and I have been in bargaining the past month to maintain the wages and benefits our members are accustomed to. We will keep you updated.

**Trouble at Xpedx:** Xpedx Paper’s ongoing negotiations are not going well. Bob Aiello, I and the negotiating committee that includes Ray Guptil, Lorenzo Perez and Don Cassina, have met several times with the company to reach a mutually acceptable contract. The company has been unreasonable to date and it appears that a strike is looming.

**Good news at Spicer:** After a difficult set of negotiations, the negotiations at Spicer Paper were concluded and the members ratified their agreement. Bob and I would like to thank our committee: Andrew Velez and Robert Pokorny.

**WMI in Oakland:** The ever-changing environment of the solid-waste industry unearths many challenges. The question at WMI is whether they can maintain their major franchise with the City of Oakland. WMI is in the process of making a major investment in the Davis Street Transfer Station that will help secure Local 70 jobs in the future.

**Convention time:** The 28th IBT Convention is taking place from June 26 through July 1, 2011 in Las Vegas, NV. At this convention, the international election process will take place. Your elected delegates will be debating and voting on all changes to the international constitution. If you are interested in attending as a guest please notify the Local so we can arrange for the necessary credentials.

**Preparing for talks at QTS**

Business Agent Lou Marchetti meets with QTS members in March for a contract proposal meeting. Negotiations for a new contract are getting under way.

First, I would like to thank the membership for their support in the last election. You have given me the opportunity to take the next step in serving the membership of this local. I was raised in a Teamster household, as both my father and grandfather were members of the union. They taught me that it is my responsibility to support the union by being active and willing to fight for its principles.

The first part of the year has been an amazing learning opportunity. Working with Marty Frates at UPS and Dominic Chiavare in the waste industry, I have had the opportunity to get up to speed with the history and practices of these companies. At the same time, knowing that if I have any questions, Lou Marchetti and Bob Aiello are more than willing to assist.

With my new work assignment, I have made every effort to maintain my political involvement. This has added to some already late nights, but politics and the labor movement go hand in hand and this is no time to let up. All you have to do is watch the local news or pick up the paper to see that unions across America are under attack. I have witnessed the solidarity at countless rallies recently and I am confident the membership is prepared to keep the pressure on.

I have said more than once that I like to work on the ground floor. I believe in being out with the members no matter what their schedules may be. This has afforded me the opportunity to have very open and honest dialog with the membership and has given me a better understanding of each unique industry. As I get out to the work sites, the stewards have welcomed me and shown me around. I look forward to helping them as much as they have helped me.

The history of the labor movement is a testament to the sacrifice and sweat of the working men and women who lived it. Whether it was the Knights of Labor in the late 1800’s meeting in church basements out of fear for their lives, the tragic deaths of young women during the Shirtwaist Factory fire, the bloody general strike of 1934 in San Francisco, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while supporting the sanitation workers in Memphis or César Chavez’s numerous marches and hunger strikes, all of our advances came with a price.

Today the attacks on labor are as fierce as ever, but raise the questions: What are we doing about it? Are we up to the task? And, worst of all, do we even realize the threat we are facing?

A new anti-worker conspiracy, begun in Wisconsin, is rapidly spreading throughout the states. Jobs once held in high esteem are being denigrated and their wages and conditions gutted. At the same time, the villains of Wall Street, creators of this financial travesty, are being bailed out and returning to business as usual with bonuses fatter than ever. The right
Horizon Lines Negotiations: I am happy to report that contract negotiations with Horizon Lines have finally been concluded and the contract was ratified by a huge margin. Despite the fact that the company is going through difficult times, we were able to make some gains. Wage increases were the same as the National Master Freight Agreement, but on a different timeline. The Western Conference of Teamsters Pension contribution rate increased from $6.24 to $7.75 per hour, plus the National Master Freight/Joint Council 7 Supplement increase due August 1, 2011. The health and welfare program still has the maintenance of benefits protection.

The most important provision of the new contract is the right to strike in order to protect work. Horizon Lines is a unique company; they have their top management, but Teamsters Lead Men run the everyday operation of dispatching the trucks and operating the dock. And because of our talented members, the Oakland terminal is the most productive operation they have.

I have participated in Horizon negotiations as a rank and file member, Shop Steward, Business Agent and Secretary-Treasurer since 1967 and I am looking forward to the next one. I want to thank Local 70 Trustee and Shop Steward at Horizon Lines Kelsey Frazier, Shop Steward Jose Gonzalez and special consultant Jim De Silva for their outstanding input and support during these difficult negotiations.

Waste Management: Business Agent Felix Martinez has been visiting Waste on a weekly basis since taking over the assignment on January 3, 2011. It is a great feeling when I visit Waste and hear our members say how proud they are to see their union visiting and working for them. It has been a rewarding experience to see the Business Agent, Chief Steward and Division Stewards all working together.

Local 70 held a rally at Waste Management on January 17 to support our brothers and sisters from Local 174 in Seattle, Washington and Local 769 in Miami, Florida, who are going through difficult negotiations. Rallies were held nationally.

On April 1, Local 70 held meetings at Waste Management to discuss working conditions and our political involvement in protecting the franchise agreement and jobs. We were fortunate to have IBT Vice-President Rome Aloise present to lend his support. Also in attendance were President Dominic Chiovare, Business Agent Felix Martinez and Trustees Kelsey Frazier, Mark Hawkins and Rich Fierro.

All labor victories start with struggle

wing politicians are convincing the average American that the collective bargained contracts of teachers, police, firefighters, and other public servants are at the root of our budgetary crisis. Instead of raising taxes on the wealthy, regulating industry and punishing corporations that outsource our jobs, their solution is to destroy the unions that created the middle class and a standard of living that was once the envy of the world.

To fight off these attacks we will have to rise to the task and be more diligent than ever. We must be willing to make the sacrifices our forefathers did. Over the next few months there will be numerous opportunities make sure labor’s voice is heard on these issues. It is imperative that the rank and file donate their time to attend these rallies. All these actions will be posted on the Local 70 website at www.teamsterslocal70.org. You can also register to vote and sign up for DRIVE while you are there. The 2012 Elections are just around the corner and we must start preparing for them now. Worker to worker communication is our biggest asset. Please download this information.
Sick Benefit Fund

Local Union 70, City of Oakland, CA
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

TRUSTEES REPORT

March 2011

INCOME

- Membership Dues: $219,479.98
- Assessments & Fines: $280.00
- Non-member fees: $183.91
- Assessment & Fines: $280.00
- Total Cash Received: $236,754.31

EXPENSES

- Salaries: $85,111.60
- Insurance (Benevolent): $4,200.00
- List of Obligations: $(277.34)
- Total list of Obligations: $(277.34)
- Total Paid Out: $279,818.82
- Net Increase (or Decrease) in Cash: $(43,064.51)
- Cash Balance: beginning of period: $386,564.87
- Cash Balance: end of period: $343,500.36

STMTATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

As of March 31, 2011

Assets

- United Labor - General Fund: 386,564.87
- Petty Cash: 600.00
- Cash in Special Funds: 34,646.42
- Cash: 34,646.42
- Land: 823,250.00
- Buildings: 4,642,226.34
- Cash Furniture/Equipment: 38,895.36
- Total Assets: $4,975,734.12
- Deduct Obligations: $(5,355.06)
- Total Deducts: $4,930,419.06
- Net Assets: $4,972,501.29
- Net Assets: $(4,239.57)

List of Obligations

- Payroll Liability: $(277.34)
- Total list of Obligations: $(277.34)

SCHEDULES

Schedule A—Other Receipts
- Sale of Supplies: $2,085.00
- Drug Test: $5,115
- Total Other Expenses: $6,129.85

Schedule C—Other Transactions
- Office furniture/equipment: $(2,270.60)
- Payroll liability: deducted not disbursed: 3,974.19
- Total Other Transactions: $1,703.59

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 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

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.

Sick Benefit Fund Bylaws, Section 4: A member depositing an Honorable Withdrawal Card or Transfer Card, or who is reinstated, shall not be eligible for any disability benefits due to injury sustained or illness suffered within a six (6) month period after said Card is deposited, or after said reinstatement: that is, there will be no liability for payment of benefits for any disability having its inception during the six (6) month period. All claims must be filed within thirty (30) days after the date of eligibility. All claims must be filed previous to transferring from Local 70.