Local 70 kicks off 2014 political campaign

The week of August 11-15 marked the beginning of Local 70’s political activity for this year’s general election cycle. With the help of our Joint Council, and our political affairs department we are able to visit multiple worksites. Our focus was to register new voters, and sign up as many DRIVE participants as possible.

DRIVE is our political action committee, and is what we use to donate to causes or politicians who support working people. We will never have the money of corporations, but with everyone’s participation, we can make a difference.

Teamsters Local 70
General Election Recommendations

Alameda County
Measure BB ............................................................. YES
BART District #4 .......................................................... LENA TAM
City Of Alameda
Mayor ................................................................. MARIE GILMORE
City Council .................................................. JIM ODDIE & STEWART CHEN
School Board .................................................. SOLANA HENNEBERRY
City Of Berkeley
Measure D .......................................................... NO
City Of Oakland (Ranked Choice Voting)
Mayor
1) Libby Schaaf
2) Jean Quan
3) Bryan Parker
City Council District 2 ................................. ABEL GUILLEN
City Council District 4 .............................. ANNE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON
City Of San Leandro
Mayor ................................................................. PAULINE CUTTER
City Council District 1 .............................. MIKE KATZ
City Council District 3 .............................. LEE THOMAS
City Council District 5 .............................. CORINA LOPEZ

Important Dates
October 6 ................................................... Absentee Ballots Mailed
October 20 ................................................... Last Day To Register
November 4 ................................................... Election Day!
Updates around the local

City of Oakland Waste & Recycling contract

The City of Oakland Solid Waste and Recycling franchise, for which Waste Management Inc. (WMI) employees have performed the work for over 50 years, has been awarded to California Waste Solutions (CWS). Both companies are party to the Local 70 Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement. Therefore, the affected employees will have the right to follow their work to CWS with their seniority and dovetail with no change to their wages and benefits. This change will take place in July 2015.

Steward Appreciation

Vice President Jim Fried has scheduled Steward’s Appreciation Day Breakfast. On October 18, the Stewards will be recognized for their day-to-day dedication of representing their co-workers and support of the union. The Steward’s Breakfast will be held at the Moose Lodge 20835 Rutledge Rd. Castro Valley from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Reminder

The next membership meeting is Thursday, October 23, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Local to fight the sugar tax on the Berkeley & SF ballots

By Ruben Bustillos, Local 70 Recording Secretary

This November, if you live in Berkeley or San Francisco, you’ll be voting on “Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes” in those cities. These propositions will create a regressive tax on consumers—me and you—as well as affect the jobs of our 700 Local 70 Beverage workers.

The leadership at Local 70 and Joint Council 7 are fighting these ballot measures—Measure D in Berkeley and Measure E in San Francisco.

Special thanks to 7-Up merchandiser Michael Vincent and Coca-Cola transport driver Nick Radke for leafleting at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club on this issue. We were able to gain their support. We were able to secure opposition to the tax from Plumbers Local 38 and the San Francisco Building Trades. Also we secured a neutral position from San Francisco Labor Council, and the Alameda County Building Trades came out against the tax. Bakers Union Local 125 vehemently opposes proposition D and endorsed our position as they fear some of the industries they represent will be under attack next for a sugar tax. UFCW 5 opposes proposition D because they fear this regressive tax could lead to the layoff of retail clerks.

For more information on the SF, go to affordablesf.com and on Berkeley sugar tax, go to NoBerkeleyBeverageTax.com

If any member has family or friends that live in these cities urge them to vote NO and support our jobs!

Over this last month before the election, we will need boots on the ground to help fight these proposed taxes. Beverage Teamsters don’t forget this is our FIGHT to protect our jobs and conditions and those of future Teamsters. Contact me to volunteer at: rbustillos@teamsters-local70.org or call 510-755-4813. Remember, THE JOB YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!
**Secretary-Treasurer’s Report**

**Marty Frates**

**Changes for Oakland waste and recycling**

The Oakland City Council initially awarded the $1 Billion/10 year Solid Waste Franchise Agreement to Cal Waste Solutions. Then, a few weeks later, the Council changed their minds and awarded the garbage and landfill operations to Waste Management, with CWS getting 100% of the recycling work.

Between the first vote and the second, Waste Management had filed several lawsuits and was circulating petitions to the residents of Oakland to overturn the City Council’s decision. There was a big lie floating around Oakland that Local 70 was supporting Waste Management in their efforts to retain the franchise agreement. This is absolutely not true. If we were, our name would be on it! However, we understand why Waste Management was doing this—because of its investments in Oakland and it’s their democratic right! Welcome to the real world. I get challenged all the time.

Our position is that we just want to get the job done, no matter who has the franchise, and we will continue to work with both companies.

Our goal is to make sure the residents of Oakland have no interruption in service and that our members’ jobs are protected. Again we will do everything we can to make this work. If the garbage does not get picked up, it won’t be our fault.

**United Parcel issues continue**

Paying in to organize:

The Nor Cal Local Unions will be voting on paying supplemental dues of $0.10 per hour to combat the unfair competition and shippers that threaten our work and jobs. This fund will hire one organizer to run the programs along with the Nor Cal Committee. All organizers hired will come from UPS!

The reason we are kicking off this program, subject to membership approval, is because of the unfair competition and loss of work and eventually JOBS! Currently, the UPS and FedEx shipping rates are about the same. The wage and benefits package for UPS is substantially higher than at FedEx. OnTrac is a different story; their business model is owner/operator package drivers, and third party warehouse operations. The major problem is that their shipping rates are about 40% lower than the rates charged by UPS.

**Loss of work**

Amazon.com will divert 25,000 packages from UPS in Nor Cal per day! Amazon has already diverted feeder work from their Patterson Distribution Center. Amazon has opened a 570,000sf Distribution Center in Newark, California with no UPS presence. This list goes on. With the shipping rates reduction, we have no choice but to protect our jobs, expose non-payment of social security, workers compensation, state disability, etc. We feel confident that our member at UPS will support this important program to help insure their futures.

**Pension resolution**

Local 70’s pension resolution, introduced in the last issue of this paper, is gaining support. The bottom line is that members have a right to know the financial status of their pension plan. The Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Plan is in great shape because our Trustees do an outstanding job.

I want to make it clear that those Pension Plans like the Central States have to assume responsibility to fix their own plans, even if that requires a reduction in benefits for retirees and a reduction of the accrual rates for actives. Those Pension Plans that are in good shape cannot assume the responsibility of those that are not.

Our leadership at all levels must assume responsibility and do what’s right to bail these plans out. For those who think wealthy Pension Plans will bail those out that are not, and those who think the government will bail them out, need to have their heads examined. We have to be honest, straight forward and make the tough decisions. Your support of this resolution can make it happen.

**Turning out for the candidates**

Trustee Rich Fierro, State Assembly candidate Tony Thurmond, and Trustee/BA Mark Hawkins at Thurmond’s Labor Leader Breakfast. Thurmond is running for Assembly in the Berkeley, Richmond, El Cerrito area.
No down-time for Local 70 Trustees

**Labor Day!**

The Third Annual Labor Day picnic and Motorcycle Ride was a huge success. The event was hosted by more than 30 different unions that represent over 50,000 union members in the Bay Area. Our event is based around members and their families and not listening to a bunch of politicians.

It was great to see so many families enjoying all the activities at the picnic: live music, face painters, jump houses and we even had a lemonade stand for the kids. Once again, all the proceeds will be donated to the Alameda Labor Council and we will have a larger donation than last year.

**Voter Registration**

In the month of August, Local 70, along with the California Teamsters Political Action Committee, led a voter registration and D.R.I.V.E campaign. It is always important to have our members participate in the voting process and be involved and informed on key labor issues. The money given to the D.R.I.V.E program helps to protect workers and money given to the D.R.I.V.E. program helps to protect workers and their rights to fair treatment on the payroll. We worked the floors of the Capitol, visiting elected officials and their staff. Our effort was a success, as the legislature passed the bill. Now we are putting the pressure on the Governor to the sign the bill.

If you are not registered to vote or you are not participating in D.R.I.V.E and would like to, attend any of the next membership meetings and someone will help you with the process. Our next meetings will be Thursday October 22 and Saturday November 15.

**Local 70 Website**

If you want information on Local 70, check the Local 70 website once a week; we post information on upcoming events and meeting schedules. We have lots of great information for all members. We also have current information for Stewards, and forms available to download regarding current laws, beneficiaries, change of address and many more.

**For updates between newspapers, go to the Local 70 Website:**

www.teamsterslocal70.org

Stay on the list! When you move, tell us your new address!

**▲ By the web:** www.teamsterslocal70.org

**▲ By E-mail:** ibt70@teamsterslocal70.org

**▲ In person or U.S. Mail:** 400 Roland Way, Oakland, CA 94621