

LET'S GET AMERICA WORKING

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA

The Teamsters have had enough of workers becoming an afterthought in Capitol Hill policy decisions. There needs to be a way to bring a bipartisan collection of lawmakers together for the good of regular working men and women who are just trying to support their families. And there is one – infrastructure investment. A better transportation network would help both truckers and the owners of their cargo more efficiently move goods across the country. It would help workers get to their jobs more quickly. And increasing the flow of energy like oil and natural gas would lower prices for consumers and businesses. Plus, construction work would create good-paying jobs. Rebuilding America is the key to the nation's future. Whether it's building new roads or fixing old bridges, the idea is a winner not only for workers but the business community. It's rare when Congress can help two constituencies with one plan. This is it. Now is the time to think big. To ignore the need for such a massive program will result in catastrophe for the



health, safety and welfare of Americans and the U.S. economy. Let's get America working and revive our nation to the shining city on the hill it once was again.

James P. Hoffa



BAKERY & LAUNDRY News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Dave Dudas, Conference Director



SWEET VICTORY Chicago Dunkin' Donuts Drivers Join Teamsters

By a 2-to-1 margin, approximately 30 drivers who make deliveries to Chicago-area Dunkin' Donuts restaurants recently voted to join Local 734.

The new Teamsters are employees of G2K Logistics, a distribution company exclusively servicing Dunkin' Donuts from a 100,000-square-foot production facility in Bedford Park, Ill. Nearly 300,000 donuts are prepared every day at the centralized bakery in Chicago's southwest suburbs, before being loaded onto trucks bound for 300 area Dunkin' Donuts locations.

"The Teamsters tip our caps to

the hardworking drivers at G2K Logistics, who stood strong against an internal anti-union campaign and voted yes for Teamster representation," said Brian Meidel, President of Local 734 and Recording Secretary of Joint Council 25. "The majority of these workers are on third shift, making early morning deliveries to hundreds of restaurants. They didn't want to see their hard labor wasted, and they've proudly united for respect and fair working conditions."

Though some of the chain's locations in other parts of the country still make their own donuts on-site, most Dunkin' Donuts franchises in

Chicago have begun using the Bedford Park bakery. The G2K Logistics delivery drivers, who voted 18-9 to join Local 734, are working with Teamster representatives now in preparation for negotiating their first union contract.

Scott Kunz, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 734, said the Teamsters are looking to improve wages and benefits for the drivers, while strengthening work rules and overall job security.

Local 734 represents thousands of delivery drivers in Chicago's bakery industry, including employees of Sara Lee, Entenmann's, Bimbo Bakeries and Alpha Baking.

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Teamsters Bakery & Laundry News



SHARING OUR SUCSESSES

After proudly working with the Bakery and Laundry Conference for more than a decade, I am honored to have been appointed Director of the Conference by Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa, following the retirement of Dennis Raymond. I would like to congratulate Dennis on his retirement and thank him for his service as our Director.



I look forward to taking on the opportunities, challenges and work of leading the Bakery and Laundry Conference into the future. The Bakery and Laundry Conference is the oldest conference within the Teamsters Union, with more than 80,000 members. Our members work hard to produce and deliver products, and I will work hard, along with our knowledgeable Executive Board, Joint Councils and local unions to ensure our members are protected.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will read about some of these members, including the 30 Dunkin' Donuts drivers in the Chicago area who recently voted overwhelmingly to join Local 734. They join the thousands of delivery drivers in Chicago's bakery industry that are Teamsters, including workers at Sara Lee, Entenmann's, Bimbo Bakeries and Alpha Baking.

In the last issue of the newsletter, we told you about the ALSCO master agreement, which covers almost 400 Teamster drivers and mechanics with 22 local unions. We continue to raise standards in the laundry industry at ALSCO. In this issue you will read about gains made by ALSCO members with Local 350 in Daly City, Calif., through their locally negotiated supplement to the already powerful master agreement. And after organizing in July, Angelica Textile drivers with Local 988 in Houston voted unanimously to ratify a two-year contract that includes improvements to sick days, vacation time and a number of protections.

Our Conference is active in organizing and negotiating strong contracts, and we will continue as always to keep you posted on the latest news.

Winning Cycle

Negotiations Pay Off for ALSCO Workers in San Francisco

After a long negotiation process, Local 350 in Daly City, Calif., has ratified a contract that will provide better working conditions and economic improvements for ALSCO laundry workers in San Francisco.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- Wage increase and pension increases;
- Reduced member contributions for health insurance while maintaining level of benefits;
- Improved vacation language by making more time available; and
- Increased sick time accrual and improved language for using sick time.

"The keys to success for getting this contract done were leadership, patience and persistence. It just goes to show that if you stick together and stand up for yourselves you can get what you deserve," said Joel Avalos, an ALSCO worker and shop steward for Local 350.

Management fought tooth and nail to keep costs down, but workers remained united and kept up their bargaining efforts to make some important gains at the negotiation table.

"Our members at ALSCO work extremely hard and provide a very high level of service. I'm proud of them and committee member Joel Avalos for remaining strong and staying focused on the overall goals, which were to put more money in their pockets and improve work rules," said John Bouchard, President of Local 350.



LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN IN TEXAS

Houston Drivers at Angelica Win Workplace Improvements

After winning last year's election to become Teamsters, 22 laundry workers and members of Local 988 in Houston voted unanimously to ratify a two-year contract with Angelica Textile. The drivers are route sales representatives who deliver and collect linens from hospitals, clinics, funeral homes and other businesses.

"With the help of the International Union, we were able to negotiate the best contract possible for drivers at Angelica. Members have already begun to improve conditions, leading more Angelica employees to join the bargaining unit," said Robert Mele, President of Local 988.

"The non-believers started to join us after seeing the benefits we gained thanks to the backing of the Teamsters Union," said Mark Freers, a driver at Angelica Textile for over 13 years, who recently saw the effective grievance procedure in action.

"I had to file a grievance because management wasn't following the seniority clause of our new contract, so Local 988 helped me to file a grievance. The process was quick and successful; now management assigns overtime based on seniority, not favoritism," Freers said. "Seniority protection is a union value that brings fairness to the workplace."

In addition to the excellent grievance procedure,

Angelica workers will also gain improvements to sick days and vacation time.

Weekly News for Working Families



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