

RESISTANCE TO TPP GROWS IN ALL CORNERS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Hundreds of Teamsters were joined in the streets of Atlanta in October by other fair trade advocates sticking up for everyday Americans who could be hurt by the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Unfortunately, the negotiators didn't take our advice.

Instead, officials from all 12 TPP countries involved in the pact came together and attempted

to declare victory for the deal. They praised all aspects of the pact, but were largely muted on what the costs would be for workers on both sides of the Pacific.

Protesters warned about the problems the Pacific Rim trade deal could bring to people around the world.

Whether it's jobs being shipped overseas and wages being driven down in the U.S., medicine prices going through the roof, unsafe food and products heading to our shores or a more toxic environment, that wasn't enough to sway TPP negotiators.

But demonstrators weren't alone in their concerns. For example, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who helped push through fast track trade authority, said the TPP in its current form raised serious concerns. Even Ford Motor Company said the agreement would only worsen an already obscenely large U.S. trade deficit and that Capitol Hill lawmakers should reject it.

In short, this is a bad deal that should be rejected by Congress. As the Teamsters have stressed as part of its new Let's Get America Working campaign, businesses must invest at home, not abroad. And elected officials need to remember who they serve. Corporations aren't people too.



James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Joseph Molinero, Conference Director



UNIFIED FRONT BRINGS VICTORY Baltimore Sun Drivers, Mailers, Pressmen Ratify Contracts

After a year of difficult negotiations, tentative agreements for three departments at the Baltimore Sun newspaper, represented by Local 355 and Local 888, were ratified at a jointly-held membership meeting in October. Hundreds of Teamsters crowded Local 355's hall in Baltimore to hear from members of the bargaining committees representing the pressmen, mailers and delivery driver groups about the contract, which includes a freeze in the percentage of health care paid for by employees and a provision that will allow members to follow the work if the facility moves.

The Baltimore Sun had sought to shift the full burden of health care premium costs to workers, among other regressive demands, but bargaining committee members endorsed agreements that preserve

current contributions and enhance job security provisions. The fact that the three units bargained together gave members a strong edge in completing the new agreement.

"Prior to these negotiations, the company told us that they would never allow us to bargain at the same time, but we did, and having a united front helped bring about this agreement," said Jim Deene, business agent with Local 355. "Standing together changed the tide of the negotiations."

Job Security

Larry Geho, President of Local 888, explained how the agreement promotes job security, in stark contrast to the drastic cuts being proposed at newspapers in other cities. "The company tried to take everything

from us, but this contract includes rights that we did not have before," Geho said.

Under the new agreement, employees will be able to follow the work, should the Baltimore Sun decide to move their facilities. This was an important provision as it was revealed during negotiations that the newspaper had sold its largest facility, called Sun Park, to the owner of Under Armour.

"Without this agreement there was no guarantee that the company would keep the unions. They also wanted us to pay more for benefits, but we stopped them on that," said Jim Sawyer, a 44-year transportation department employee. "If they do move to a new location they will take all of us with them – that is what the job security clause is all about."

(message and data rates may apply)

Text "IBT" to 86466

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES



Follow @Teamsters on Twitter

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



www.facebook.com/teamsters

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



Teamsters Newspaper, Magazine
& Electronic Media Workers News

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit # 4481

CONTRACT VICTORIES BRING STABILITY

Congratulations to Locals 355, 888 and 126 for their ratifications of new contracts at the Baltimore Sun and Albany Times-Union newspapers. These are challenging times for our industry, yet our members have proven, again and again, that they are working hard to help traditional newspaper publishing firms diversify. By taking on additional, what some might call “non-traditional” newspaper work such as printing weekly or community publications, firms are seeing a continued profit.



At both newspapers, our members now have collective bargaining agreements that will give added stability to support their families. I know that many of our members are the sons and daughters of men and women who worked their entire careers in the newspaper industry. This speaks to our steadfastness and dedication to a job well done.

When I started in the newspaper industry some 50 years ago, I originally worked in the transportation department of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Technology in both the printing process and distribution has changed by leaps and bounds since then, but as Teamsters, we understand the need to be resilient and flexible in the face of change.

It's true that traditional newspapers and magazine have been hit hard by the evolution of the internet, but I believe that while we continue to develop new skills and keep up our hard work, the industry will not just survive, but reinvent itself to succeed in the 21st century.



Members at Albany Times- Union Ratify Contract

OUTSOURCING, WAGE REDUCTIONS REJECTED

Members of Local 126 working at the Albany Times-Union newspaper have ratified a new three-year contract. The 63 members all work in the mailing department of the newspaper and fought back against the company's desire to reduce wages.

“They played hardball with us,” said Stefan Krueger, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 126 and an employee in the mailing department unit for the past 27 years. “The company originally wanted a 50 percent reduction in wages and they wanted to outsource our work, but we fought back. Now we have a good agreement for three years, we maintained our top rate of pay and we've paved the way for the company to take on more commercial work, too.”

In addition to the Times-Union, the plant is now printing three of the old Journal Register papers: the Troy Record, the Kingston Freeman, the Saratoga Springs' Saratogian, and Albany's alternative weekly paper, Metroland.

“This is a good contract for the Albany Times-Union members,” said John Peralta, Newspaper Conference representative. “We assisted the local union with their negotiations for nearly a year, and the effort was worth it. None of the current journeymen will suffer wage reductions. In fact they will receive a lump sum bonus. This, combined with other job stability commitments, created a contract that a large majority of the members voted for.”

The mailing department, a critical part of the 159-year-old newspaper, is where advertising fliers are inserted, the paper is bundled and sorted for delivery zones. They have been Teamster members for over 25 years. With a daily circulation of over 66,000 and a Sunday circulation of more than 128,000, the demands on the department are challenging.

“The longevity of many of Local 126's members at the Albany-Times was a driving factor in all of the negotiations,” said Joe Molinero, Director of the Conference. “They've worked hard for this company, and deserved a contract with good conditions. We are pleased that the contract was ratified and that its terms help put current and future employees on a firm foundation.”



LET'S GET AMERICA WORKING!

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters unveiled the “Let's Get America Working” campaign this September in advance of the 2016 election that will encourage both Democratic and Republican lawmakers to endorse a pro-worker platform.

At the center of the platform is the need for this country to invest in infrastructure, which in turn will create good jobs for everyday Americans. Working on transportation, energy and water projects will put thousands to work in construction jobs across the country. It will also improve roads, bridges, ports and other infrastructure, which in turn will help business and improve the U.S. economy.

The U.S. Labor Department's own statistics support the Teamsters' initiative. The median union worker earns more than \$200 a week more than the median non-union worker. That's an extra \$10,000 a year that goes into the pockets of union workers. These jobs also offer health benefits and retirement security.

Infrastructure presents an opportunity to break the political gridlock. Congress in late July approved a three-month extension for spending on transportation projects that provides a temporary patch until the end of October for the continuing issue of road and rail funding. But it is not a real solution.

The transportation system continues to crumble and the safety of those who work and travel along the vast network of U.S. roads and rails is being jeopardized. Our nation's failure to maintain and improve our infrastructure is costing Americans more and more.

There also is a significant need to move forward with a broader agenda that puts U.S. workers first. That means standing up against lousy trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership that send American jobs overseas; protecting workers' rights to form unions and collectively bargain; increasing affordability of college and vocational schools; and ensuring retirement and pension security for

working families.

If elected officials from both parties want to rebuild and repair the trust between government and workers, they need to reinvest in people that have and can continue to make this country great. Better pay will lead to more spending and improve workers' quality of life. That way everyone wins.

Let's Get America Working! Now is the time to Build, Repair and Maintain America!

Weekly News for Working Families



For more information, to listen or subscribe, visit
www.teamster.org/podcast