

# 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.

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## New Opportunities in Pittsburgh

### Post-Gazette Invests in New Press

Recently, the owners of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper, Block Communications, Inc., announced a plan to establish a new production facility and install brand new press equipment. Post-Gazette employees working in the transportation and circulation departments are members of Teamsters Local 211 in Pittsburgh.

The new press replaced the letterpress press lines that were located in the downtown building. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was one of the last newspapers to use letterpress and flexographic presses for the production of their printed product. The high cost of consumables and lack of spare parts were large factors in the decision to move to newer offset equipment.

"Our members are having to adapt to the new printing methods and revised needs of publications such as the Post-Gazette," said Joe Molinero, President of Local 211 and Director of the Teamsters Newspaper, Magazine and Electronic Media Division. "These are still good union jobs. Hopefully this new press will secure a future for all of us at the newspaper."

Building a new facility bucked a growing trend in a time when newspapers have largely closed, outsourced printing, reduced printing days or gone completely digital. Fortunately, the Pittsburgh market con-



tinues to have strong newspaper readership and a customer base committed to the print product. The ownership evaluated their options and chose to keep the product printed locally and set out to modernize to reduce costs.

The owners signed a long-term lease on a facility that had been recently built to produce solar power panels. A global downturn in solar power manufacturing, and a subsequent bankruptcy, made the 245,000 square foot building available just when the Post-Gazette needed to find a new home. The size and location made it possible to move production, distribution and all other business operations into this new facility, and

combine operations from five old buildings into this new site.

The press was installed during the summer of 2014, while other production operations came online soon afterward. The press went live on September 8, 2014. The new press is capable of printing 40 pages, all full color, in a single pass, and can be split into two presses to run multiple products simultaneously. The Post-Gazette previously had to rely on outside printers for some of their products, and this new press will allow them to bring the printing of those products in-house. They also plan to offer commercial printing services to local publications as an additional means of revenue.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE INDUSTRY

As the printing industry continues to change, we are witnessing some employers, such as the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Albany Union-Times, continue to invest in new and improved equipment. The cities they are located in have shown a commitment to the printed medium and, therefore, publishers have heeded the call and carried through with their plans to expand or re-energize their business.



For the Division, our plan is to keep as many jobs as possible in the union. We've always been part of the success of the newspaper industry and we intend to continue having an active role in the product they decide to transition to, whether it's using new, more economical presses or other changes.

Although the web has caused some publications to fold, our members at national, regional and local newspapers continue to print, bind, collate and deliver an extraordinary percentage of the nation's news. Our commitment to the newspaper industry remains strong, our values remain rooted in working-family priorities and we are open to change and our adaptive role in alternative ways of circulating the news.

## NEGOTIATIONS FOR STRONG CONTRACTS

### Locals in Maryland, New York Hold the Line

Recently, local unions with members at the Baltimore Sun, Albany Union-Times and Hamilton News have been steadily negotiating terms for new contracts. The owners of the Albany Union-Times, wanting to cut costs, purchased a new printing press in order to print commercial products in addition to the newspaper.



"We have about 57 members working in the mailing department at the Union-Times, and we are going to keep these good union jobs in Teamster hands," said Stefan Krueger, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 126 in Albany. "Our members have a long tradition of quality work at this newspaper and we will continue to be part of the newspaper's success."

Contract negotiations are also ongoing at Hamilton News where Local 126 members are drivers and deliverymen for the magazine service. "We are working with the company to get the fairest possible terms for our members," Krueger said.

At the Baltimore Sun, members working as mailers from Local 888 have been in negotiations for a new contract since December of last year while the pressmen and drivers, members of Local 355, are just beginning talks with the company.

"Due to the drop in the Baltimore Sun's circulation, the publishers (The Tribune Company) made the decision to buy, and therefore, print, The Baltimore City Paper, New York Daily News, Maryland Gazette and Korean Times," said Jim Deene, a business agent with Local 355.

"We are consulting with the Teamsters Strategic Research and Campaigns department so that we can work toward getting the best contracts possible," said Lawrence Geho, President of Local 888. "Between Local 888 and 355 coordinating our bargaining and the advice from strategic campaigns, and working with the Newspaper Conference, we are in a good position to advocate for our members."



## Chicago Hudson News Workers See Wage Increase

### Warehousemen and Drivers Benefit

Approximately 21 drivers and warehouse workers with Hudson News started receiving bigger paychecks this month after Teamsters Local 710, based in Chicago, secured new increases to their hourly wages.

Local 710 representatives took advantage of a wage re-opener with the employer ahead of comprehensive contract negotiations scheduled for next year. The Teamsters, who work in suburban Des Plaines, received wage increases of 3.5 percent—a stronger raise than rank-and-file members were previously scheduled to accrue.

"The previous contract at Hudson News guaranteed workers a 2-percent raise, but Local 710 had an opportunity to negotiate higher and increase the bottom line for our members," said John T. Coli, International Vice President and Trustee of Local 710. "Since organizing with the Teamsters, these members have gained considerable ground with wages and benefits, seeing improvements over five years that really respect the work they put in each day."

The drivers and warehouse workers fulfill orders destined for O'Hare International and Midway airports, and other area locations, for the popular news service company.

## Weekly News for Working Families



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