

TEAMSTERS READY MESSAGE, MUSCLE FOR 2016 ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Having an idea is one thing. Getting it done is another.

The Teamsters late last year introduced a package of legislative priorities when it unveiled “Let’s Get America Working” (LGAW). And the union saw progress made toward those goals when Congress in December passed its first long-term transportation funding bill in more than a decade.

But not all of our proposals are going to slide through the process so smoothly. There are trillions of dollars’ worth of infrastructure needs not only for roads and rails, but for the nation’s energy and water systems. There is a need to protect the rights of workers to organize, and for better education and vocational training as well. And elected officials must ensure that everyday Americans can have a secure retirement.

Now, the union is debuting a new program for activists that will help make the LGAW platform a reality. “Building Teamster Political Power” is meant to get members involved in making these policies a reality. Locals will identify members who will be trained on how to talk about political issues and persuade their fellow Teamsters on the issues that matter most to this union.

By starting early, the Teamsters can have scores of trained political activists on the ground to participate in the union’s 2016 election program. And we will need every one of them to push back on the message of the corporate candidates who are seeking to reward their contributors.

Remember—Teamster Strong, America Stronger!



NEWSPAPER News

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

Teamsters to Launch Program to Build Political Power

Member Activists Trainings Have Started



This month, the Department of Political and Legislative Action and the Training and Development Department will launch a new political activist program called Building Teamster Political Power. The goal of the program is to establish an army of engaged, active members interested in getting involved in politics—not only for the upcoming election, but for years to come.

For nearly a year, staff members from the Department of Political and Legislative Action have been meeting with Joint Council and local union officers and business agents to listen to ideas about how the Teamsters can improve on their already successful political program. The feedback received pointed to a need to focus on working family issues, and have consistent communication with members who have indicated that they are excited to be part of the Teamsters and believe in our political objectives.

All the ideas the union received have gone into the development of the Building Teamster Political Power

program. Each local will be asked to identify members they would want to participate in Member Activist Trainings. At the trainings, members will be taught how to speak about political issues with fellow members, persuasion techniques to get around common objections and how to get involved in politics through their local unions and Joint Councils.

Working with the Training and Development Department, the union will complete trainings before the International Convention in June so there will be a group of trained political activists available to participate in the Teamster election program this cycle. After the classroom-style session, newly trained members will be asked to participate in a real world activity, like phone banking, leafleting or a rally.

If you are interested in participating in the Building Teamster Power program please contact your local union or joint council.

(message and data rates may apply)

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TEAMSTER NEWS- PAPER STANDARDS STAND STRONG

Our Division representatives are actively meeting with local unions across the country to help negotiate new contracts and assist with organizing new members in the newspaper publishing industry. I won't say it's easy because, as you know, the industry is in the process of re-inventing the way it publishes news. Some printing plants are taking on more commercial products to augment the lowering volume of traditional newsprint that had been running through their facilities for the past several decades. When this occurs, the result can be more overall work for the facility, helping to stabilize jobs.



Even amidst the changes in the newspaper industry, our members continue producing quality publications and we are proud of them. Newly hired employees that are just getting introduced to being part of the Teamster family are still undertaking the exacting training and apprenticeships that are part of the crafts found in our industry.

Members of our Division continue working on publications such as the Los Angeles Times, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Baltimore Sun, Boston Globe, Seattle Times, Star-Ledger, Denver Post and others. Whether it is in the press, mailing or delivery department of a local or city-wide newspaper, the work of Newspaper Division Teamsters is a strong hallmark of the industry and our Division is focused on maintaining and growing our membership.

Essay Contest for Teamster Sons, Daughters

Opportunity to Win \$1,000 for College

The Teamsters Union offers an opportunity for the sons, daughters and financial dependents of members to get financial help with the rising costs of higher education. The annual essay contest, sponsored by the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund, awards one-time \$1,000 scholarships to 200 students yearly. To qualify to enter, applicants must be 23 years old, or younger, by June 15, 2016, and be enrolled full-time in a four-year college, university or community college or a two-year technical/vocational school. (The full list of qualifications for entries can be found on the Teamster website under the "Benefits" section.)

This year's essay topic is, "What has living in a Teamster household meant to me and my siblings?" The essay length is 500 words and all essays are evaluated by college educators.

The Fund is named after Teamsters General President Emeritus James R. Hoffa, who believed that every child of a Teamster member should have the opportunity for higher education. "Teamster sons and daughters deserve the best education available," Hoffa said. "Education must be the birthright of every American, not just the children of privilege."

Since its creation in 1999, the Fund has awarded nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$5.5 million dollars. And, due to the generous contributions of Teamster local unions, Joint Councils and corporate sponsors, the Fund plans to award \$1.2 million in scholarships this year.

The Fund is making a difference in the lives of Teamster members and their families every day. If you have a son, daughter or financial dependent in college, university, community college, technical or vocational school, encourage them to apply for the essay contest today.



TEAMSTERS TAKE FIRST STEPS IN GETTING AMERICA WORKING

Last fall, the Teamsters unveiled its "Let's Get America Working" (LGAW) platform that stressed the need for Congress to approve infrastructure investment and defend worker-friendly policies. Members and everyday Americans are already seeing positive results.

The biggest victory came in December when, after more than a decade, Congress approved a five-year, \$305-billion long-term transportation bill that sets a path forward to pay for road, rail and mass transit upgrades. Its passage was somewhat miraculous, given that Capitol Hill is still mired in conflict and unable to come together on much of anything.

"Congress should be congratulated for this major accomplishment," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "Infrastructure investment provided an opportunity to break the political gridlock in Washington, and elected officials from both parties made the first move toward rebuilding and repairing the trust between government and workers."

But the victories didn't end there. The Teamsters supported a \$1.1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill

signed into law just before Christmas that ensured workers retained their rights to organize on the job and continued to receive comprehensive health insurance from their employers without being financially penalized.

The effort to implement LGAW isn't over yet. In 2016, the union will keep up the fight to defeat the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership and keep American jobs at home. It will also continue its efforts to defeat a proposal by the Central States Pension Fund that would dramatically cut the pensions of tens of thousands of Teamsters.

Going forward, this nation must invest in rebuilding its energy and water systems, as well as make sure union members retain their ability to collectively bargain so they can earn a fair wage. Workers need proper training and access to educational opportunities. And retirement should be made secure by bolstering both pension plans and Social Security.

Teamsters need to join together to make this happen. That way everyone wins.