

WORKING TO WIN THE BEST CONTRACTS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Through tough negotiating, we were able to secure a good contract for the next five years for our 4,500 members at Anheuser-Busch. As America's largest brewery company, AB/InBev has had its challenges over the years – being bought by a large conglomerate, InBev, and many changes in management. In addition, the growth of craft beers is encroaching on the beverage territory in which AB has been the major player for many years. However, we were prepared to build a new contract that secured wages and benefits for several years for our members, and we succeeded. I want to thank everyone at local unions who participated in the negotiation process and to our members who voted in favor of the agreement.



This year we are preparing for upcoming negotiations with Pepsi, where we have more than 6,000 Teamsters working. In August we hosted a meeting at Teamster headquarters where representatives from many of the Pepsi local unions met to discuss possible health care plan changes. We are in the midst of assembling data and we plan to send out a survey to all Pepsi members in the coming months so that we can be fully informed of what you, our members, believe should be a priority when we are bargaining with Pepsi. News reports tell us that Pepsi, similar to other soft-drink companies, is planning to cut costs due to a decrease in sales volume. However, they still remain a very profitable company and Teamster members working at Pepsi deserve the best contract we can achieve.



Teamsters and other union representatives from across the globe will participate in a meeting of the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will be held in Greensboro, N.C., in early November. Leaders from Teamster locals in the U.S. who represent Miller/Coors employees, as well as their counterparts in England, Germany, Venezuela, Japan and other countries, will participate in the meeting. They plan to discuss the global beer market, wages, health care and other benefits that employees have access to under the SABMiller/Coors umbrella. Part of the program will include a tour of the SABMiller/Coors plant in Eden, N.C., that has 400 Teamster members employed as bottlers, warehousemen and drivers. The Eden plant has had Teamster representation from Local 391 for more than 35 years. Discussing the strategy for next year's SABMiller contract negotiations will be an integral part of the two-day conference. Bringing together the representatives from the network of SABMiller breweries will give union leaders an unprecedented opportunity to exchange ideas.



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ELECTION DAY MOTIVATES TEAMSTERS



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Visit teamster.org/election-center, the union's new online tool, for the Teamsters Congressional Voting Scorecard and other features. For more information about DRIVE, the union's political action committee, visit teamster.org/content/about-drive.

GETTING OUT THE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4

The November mid-term elections are right around the corner, and the Teamsters are gearing up to help elect candidates to Congress and in state capitals that put workers' interests ahead of those of big business. Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa and Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall are visiting states across the country in an effort to get members out to vote. And they will use the 2010 election cycle as an example of what can happen to workers when they don't show up at the polls. "Four years ago, hardworking Americans learned firsthand the consequences of staying home instead of supporting politicians who value their contributions to our nation," Hoffa said. "Since then, we've increasingly seen the views of billionaire businessmen like the Koch brothers take priority over those of the middle class. At a time when many workers continue to struggle to support their families, we can't afford to sit this election out. So the Teamsters are ramping up our efforts to elect candidates who will listen to the rest of us." Teamster leaders and members across the country are already preparing to make sure every Teamster knows the issues, who stands with them and what is at stake in this election. And the level of activity will continue to escalate right up until the election. Hundreds of Teamster members will be visiting their fellow members at their worksites to discuss the election and the issues. The Teamsters Union has the most aggressive worksite communication programs in organ-

ized labor, with voter registration taking on a more important role. There are many reasons for Teamsters to be motivated to vote this November. They may not be the issues that get highlighted on the evening news, but they are matters that could affect workers' wallets when it comes to pay and job security. Issues like right to work, the minimum wage, worker misclassification and the Trans-Pacific Partnership will all come before the next congress. On Election Day, 36 states will hold gubernatorial elections. In the United States Senate, 33 seats are being contested. Wherever there is an important election for working families, the Teamsters Union will be there. After Election Day, the U.S. House of Representatives will likely still be in the hands of an anti-worker majority. The U.S. Senate, however, could go either way. If Democrats remain the majority party in the Senate, they can be an important check on the extremist-run Republican House. "Right now, most anti-union legislation is happening at the state level, so the most important checks we have on these bills is with governors who have veto power," Hoffa said. As working people have seen in recent years, the biggest struggles for the middle class take place in state capitals. In states where the legislature is dominated by conservatives, politicians are pushing right-to-work and paycheck deception bills instead of trying to create jobs.