

# WORKERS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR STRONGER AMERICA

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



With the 2016 election for president, senators and representatives growing closer, working families must focus on finding a viable path forward that empowers them to have a voice in government. By doing so, they can help shape pro-worker and pro-family policies that reward their hard work with fair wages and benefits.

The November election will determine the future for these candidates for office. But more importantly, it will determine the policy direction of this country on issues that affect not only today's workers, but generations to come.

No two issues are more important to Teamsters today than pension security and fair trade.

We must elect candidates who will stand up for working

men and women by protecting their retirement security. Those who earned their pensions and played by the rules must get the secure retirement they invested in for decades. It's just a matter of fairness.

On trade, we must stop the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal that could end up shipping hundreds of thousands of jobs overseas while also lowering the salaries of many who continue to work stateside. For years, the Teamsters have taken aim at the TPP because it jeopardizes the future of too many hardworking Americans.

This nation has increasingly lost its way when it comes to taking care of its own. Income inequality is up and the voting rights of minorities and the poor have been challenged. That needs to stop. But it only will if the people themselves stand up in November and demand to be a greater part of the process.

Workers will decide if that happens.



Teamsters Freight News  
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001



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



# FREIGHT News



James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Tyson Johnson, Division Director

## VOTE IN THE TEAMSTER ELECTION

- ✓ Your Right
- ✓ Your Responsibility

There is no shortage of forces trying to stamp out the labor movement. For years, we have seen overzealous politicians and legislatures attempt to roll back labor rights that have taken a century for workers to earn. Rank-and-file Teamsters have the opportunity to send a message and tell these anti-labor think tanks, media outlets and politicians that they still care about the labor movement.

In October, Teamster members will receive a ballot for the 2016 International Election. It is the right and the responsibility of every Teamster to vote in these upcoming elections for International General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, At-Large Vice Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Trustees.

By voting, Teamsters show how involved the membership is; they show Teamsters pay attention to the issues affecting them; they show that the labor movement is vibrant and alive.

continued on page 2



## Teamsters Make History at FedEx

Union Kicks Off Negotiations With FedEx Freight—a First!

In mid-June, the Teamsters Union made history when it met with representatives of FedEx Freight to kick off contract negotiations for workers in the Philadelphia and Charlotte, N.C. areas. It is the first time the union sat down with a FedEx operating unit for contract talks.

The talks started after FedEx Freight exhausted all its legal appeals in the courts and was forced to sit down with the locals.

"We made it clear to the company that we are very serious about getting a first contract for the FedEx Freight workers at the East Philadelphia terminal," said Bill Hamilton, International Vice President and President of Local 107 in Philadelphia. "The company knows we are very serious about helping our members achieve a better future."

"We are committed to helping the workers improve their conditions and be treated with dignity and respect by the company," said Tyson Johnson, International Vice President and Director of the Teamsters National Freight Division.

continued on page 2

## 'NEVER' HAS HAPPENED

When we began the campaign to organize workers at FedEx Freight, there were people who questioned us. Some of these same people said, "You will never get FedEx to sit down with the Teamsters for negotiations."

Well, as you have heard, never is now—we are sitting down with FedEx Freight. These will not be easy negotiations. No one is claiming otherwise. However, we have sat down at the same table with company officials in Philadelphia and Charlotte, something some people said would never happen.



Don't get me wrong—we have many challenges ahead in the FedEx Freight campaign and in the campaign at XPO/Con-way. But we are building Teamster Power by reaching out to thousands of workers at both companies, educating them about the Teamsters, listening to their concerns, giving them hope for a brighter future.

I have said since the beginning, these campaigns are marathons, not sprints. It will take time, energy, patience and perseverance. But we are making real gains.

Our progress would not have been possible without the assistance from local unions and Teamsters from coast to coast. I appreciate all who have helped, and I will be calling on you for more help in the weeks, months and years ahead.

It will take a real, coordinated effort to organize more workers and win contracts at these two companies. But we must move forward and build on the success we have achieved so far.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Teamsters Make History at FedEx

continued from page 1

A day after Local 107's initial meeting in Philadelphia, Local 71 in Charlotte met with the company on behalf of the employees in its area.

"We are going to hold the company's feet to the fire during negotiations and we are committed to negotiating a first contract for the workers in Charlotte," said Joe Eason, President of Local 71 in Charlotte. During a subsequent round of negotiations in Charlotte in August, drivers joined the negotiations at the table, marking another first.

As negotiations initially took place in mid-June, representatives of local unions handed out fliers to FedEx Freight workers nationwide in another round of leafleting. The fliers featured information about the negotiations that were taking place with the headline "Never is NOW! Teamsters Make History at FedEx Freight."

Meanwhile, in early August, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit rejected FedEx Freight's arguments challenging the certification of Local 701 in North Brunswick, N.J. The court upheld the NLRB's order that the company bargain with Local 701.

## VOTE In The Teamster Election

continued from page 1

 **Your Right**  **Your Responsibility**



The only thing voting will cost is the time it takes to learn about the issues and the ink it takes to mark the ballot. Not voting, however, costs much more. It sends a message to employers, politicians and the public that as voters, Teamster members don't value democracy.

Voter turnout is critical to building a healthy democracy. A union is not a corporation. Members are more than shareholders who are valued by their holdings. Rank-and-file Teamsters have an unprecedented say in the future of the union that many other international union members don't have. Each Teamster has an equal voice in these elections and every vote counts.



## Workers from FedEx Freight, XPO/Con-way Share Their Stories

Drivers Address 29th Teamsters Convention

Workers from FedEx Freight and XPO/Con-way, along with Teamster leaders, addressed the Teamsters 29th International Convention, sharing their stories about the ongoing freight organizing campaigns.

Mel Mendieta, a 26-year employee of FedEx Freight in Stockton, Calif., was among the group of workers who voted 33-12 to join Local 439 in Stockton in March 2015.

"This is about winning a more secure future for ourselves and for our families," Mendieta told the Convention. "Our families deserve this and we deserve this. The security can only be achieved with a Teamster contract."

Juan Narron, a driver at XPO/Con-way in Laredo, Texas was among the workers who were the first to vote for the Teamsters in the United States. Narron and his co-workers voted to join Local 657 in San Antonio. The workers are still seeking their first contract.

"The company has dragged out the representation right we voted for," Narron told the Convention. "They are trying to break our spirit. But you know what? It won't work. It won't work because we are proud Teamsters."

In early June, Teamsters from across the country took part in a National Action handing out leaflets at XPO/Con-way terminals to coincide with actions taking place at the Ports of LA, Long Beach and locations in San Diego as XPO workers are standing united to fight for fairness on the job.

XPO is mistreating former Con-way workers who are being kept in the dark about terminal closures, subcontracting and layoffs. The company is aggressively opposing their new workforce's federally protected right to organize.

XPO port and rail drivers in Southern California and across the nation are fighting company wage theft in excess of \$200 million because they are misclassified as independent contractors and denied their federal right to form their union.

During the early June leafleting, XPO/Con-way workers were outraged to learn that company CEO Bradley Jacobs received a 481-percent raise in compensation over the past two years. Jacobs went from making under \$1 million per year to \$5.8 million in total compensation per year. Jacobs is known as a buyer and seller of companies and has done similar transactions in oil, solid waste and equipment rentals.

**"They are trying to break our spirit. But you know what? It won't work. It won't work because we are proud Teamsters."**

— JUAN NARRON, LOCAL 657, LAREDO, TX