

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.



INDUSTRIAL TRADES News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Steve Mack, Division Director

ONE MESSAGE VOICE

Tucson Teamsters Win Contract After 42 Days on Strike



The courage, strength, determination and solidarity of 530 Sun Tran/Trans Dev Teamsters in Tucson, Ariz., can only be described as extraordinary. For 42 days, Local 104 members' historic and inspirational strike against the city of Tucson's public transit system contractor made national news as bus workers endured Arizona's searing summer heat to win a fair contract.

From August 6 to September 16, Sun Tran/Trans Dev took to the picket line to protest years of low wages and put pressure on the company to protect the safety of drivers in the wake of ongoing assaults from passengers. In less

than two years, more than 22 drivers were violently injured while on the job, including a driver who suffered a multiple stabbing.

"Going on strike is never an easy decision, but we came together and decided enough was enough," said Amy Friauf, a driver and chief steward for the unit. "Our faith never wavered. We stayed united to win back respect."

Throughout the 42 days spent on the picket line, Friauf and her fellow Sun Tran/Trans Dev drivers stayed united as thousands of Teamster brothers and sisters from across the country showed their support.

Strong Support

Sun Tran/Trans Dev unsuccessfully attempted to break the strike by recruiting scab labor. The total cost per scab came to more than triple what even the highest-paid Teamster driver on strike would make for performing the exact

same work.

"The outpouring of support from the Tucson community and thousands of Teamsters across the country was on display throughout," said Local 104 Business Agent Kevin (K.T.) Thomas. "The public outcry from the community continued to grow until Sun Tran had no choice but to come to the table with a good agreement."

"We adopted the practice of 'one message, one voice' to stay on message and I think that helped us be successful. And thanks to the solidarity and strong voice of workers and the support from thousands of Teamsters across the country, morale never wavered," said Local 104 Secretary-Treasurer Andy Marshall.

In the end, the workers won a tentative agreement with day-one raises and 100 percent of the monthly health and welfare premiums.

(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 Industrial Trades News

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

Strength of our Members

When members work together and unite behind the union cause, we have the power to fight for justice, respect and dignity for all Teamster members. Without member participation, the fight is much more difficult.

As Teamsters, we know that once an organizing election is won, the hard work is far from over. It takes a strong contract and consistent enforcement by local union representatives and shop stewards to protect and maintain those negotiated standards.

Over the past several months, local unions representing members of our division have made significant gains through successful organizing campaigns and strong collective bargaining efforts. As local unions work to achieve strong contracts for their members, the Teamsters Industrial Trades Division is working hard to provide adequate resources for locals and members.

In the coming months, we hope to focus on the efforts taking place at all local unions representing members of the Industrial Trades Division, whatever they may be. Think of us as a resource for you, and let us know how we can help you achieve your goals.

Our ability to successfully organize and bargain is directly linked to the strength of local unions. By organizing new members and building union density, our division continues to grow each year. By building a more active membership, we will build a worker movement and improve the lives of working families. Together, we will continue building a strong division and even stronger union.

Thank you for your continued support.



Rochester Meter Readers Get It In Writing

Local 118 RG&E Workers Ratify First Contract

After months of contentious negotiations, meter readers at RG&E in Rochester, N.Y., are now covered under their first collective bargaining agreement with Heath Consultants, a Texas based sub-contractor that performs meter reading and other services nationwide.

The newest members of Local 118 stood strong when the original sub-contractor lost their bid to Health Consultants shortly after the workers' voted to join the union in 2013, said Andrew Ottenschot, a RG&E meter reader who led the organizing effort for the 60-person unit.

"Shortly after the vote we found out our employer had lost their bid with RG&E. Health Consultants immediately began a campaign against the Teamsters, petitioning the NLRB in an attempt to decertify our union election," said Ottenschot. "It was a long and difficult process to receive union recognition, but justice finally came when the company was ordered back to the negotiating table. Despite the odds against us, we managed to stay united."

"I couldn't be prouder of this unit and the gains they have made in their first Teamster contract. This is a great cornerstone for future contracts."

— Paul Markwitz, President, Local 118

"The wait and solidarity would pay off at the bargaining table," added Ottenschot, noting he shows his Teamster pride by wearing a pin on his uniform while on the job. The three-year agreement contains guaranteed (and retro-active) wage increases along with incentive programs. In addition, the agreement provides significant job protection, seniority rights and dispute resolution language including binding arbitration.

"Despite the company attempting to break the unity of the group, the workers knew the best way to get ahead was to stay united and win a first contract. We have much more work to do, but we now have a solid contract to work from," said Local 118 President Paul Markwitz. "I couldn't be prouder of this unit and the gains they have made in their first Teamster contract. This is a great cornerstone for future contracts."



GOOGLE EXPRESS WORKERS CHOOSE TEAMSTERS

More than 150 Warehouse and Shipping Employees Gain Strong Voice on the Job

On July 27, 151 warehouse and shipping workers at Google Express announced they had filed for a union election seeking improved working conditions and fair treatment on the job. Less than a month later, on August 21, the Palo Alto unit voted overwhelmingly in favor of Teamster representation by Local 853 and have started the fight towards winning a contract that guarantees the respect they deserve.

The 151 Silicon Valley workers, employed through contractor Adecco, had long expressed concerns with the company's low wages, poor benefits and insufficient workplace conditions, including damaged equipment, cracked floors and a failing electrical system that has resulted in fires.

"This is a bright ray of hope for us that our lives at work will get better," said Gabriel Cardenas, a shift coordinator at Google Express. "We've seen what the union has done for other workers in tech and we are so happy to have our union now, too."

Cardenas and his Google Express co-workers are the latest group in the tech industry to join Local 853. Following successful organizing efforts at Facebook, Apple, Yahoo, eBay, Zynga, Genentech, Amtrak and Evernote, the win at Google Express is the latest in a growing

movement of labor, faith and community-based organizations and workers challenging income inequality in Silicon Valley through an innovative partnership called Silicon Valley Rising.

"It's surprising that workers who warehouse and ship for Google Express would be subjected to such terrible conditions," said Rome Aloise, International Vice President of Local 853. "Workers are uniting with the Teamsters to raise standards in this industry, and we're looking forward to negotiating a contract that will bring Google Express workers up to where they should be."

To learn more, go to www.siliconvalleyrising.org



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