

# 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.

*James P. Hoffa*



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# DAIRY News

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## VOTE IN THE TEAMSTER ELECTION

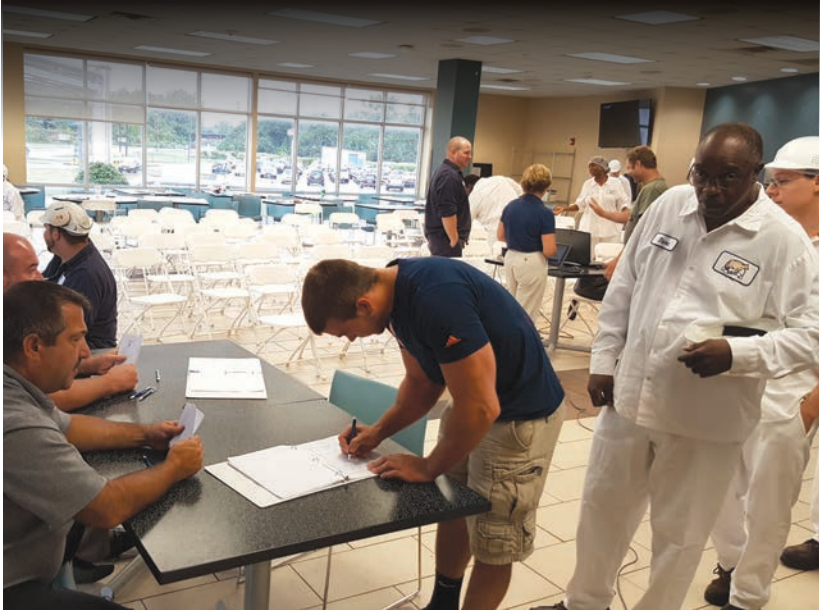
- ✓ Your Right
- ✓ Your Responsibility

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.

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## OATKA Dairy Workers Vote for Higher Wages

New Five-Year Contract Includes Benefit Improvements

Dairy workers at OATKA in Batavia, N.Y. approved a five-year contract that hikes wages for its Local 118 members and locks in health care premiums with the company paying 90 percent. The company also agreed to increase its pension contributions for the 265 workers in the bargaining unit.

Despite difficult issues during negotiations and a rejection of the company's first offer, OATKA workers backed a new deal on August 16 that granted them a ratification bonus. It also addresses pay for new hires and includes a contractual obligation to allow the workers to vote by department on schedule options when the company decides to move to continuous hours of operation.

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## TEAMSTERS USE NEW TOOLS TO INCREASE VOTER TURNOUT

The Teamsters are pulling out all the stops to get more union members out to the ballot box in November.

The work began in June, when members of Local 455 and 633 in Colorado and New Hampshire, respectively, used a new workplace reporting app that allowed Teamsters registering voters (known as TEAM Staff) to better log where they have been and whom they talked to at each job location.

In addition to the members registered by TEAM Staff members at the worksites, national social media efforts have resulted in 469 new online registrations through the Teamsters' Rock the Vote registration tool.

But maybe most exciting was a mailer sent out to union members that allowed them to log on to personalized websites where they could register to vote and find out voting information personalized to where they live and work. As of late July, more than 1,400 members had used the website to register to vote.

The Teamsters are investing in these efforts because it is essential members get out and vote. Everyday Americans will face a stark choice when it comes to candidates up and down the ballot this fall. By maximizing the number of workers that are eligible to vote, this union can help ensure the election of candidates who value its input.



## OATKA Dairy Workers

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"While negotiating in an environment of growth and change is never easy, we believe this agreement protects our membership and allows for real growth within a competitive industry," said Paul Markwitz, President of Local 118.

OATKA employee Mike Moore, who served on the negotiation committee, agreed. "Winning real wage growth and securing our medical benefits was a priority," he said. "Having these issues covered in a five-year contract is a huge win for us."

In addition, the agreement guarantees bonus payments and commits to creating at least 100 new full-time jobs at the facility. Local 118 represents approximately 4,300 members throughout the greater Rochester, N.Y. area.

**"While negotiating in an environment of growth and change is never easy, we believe this agreement protects our membership and allows for real growth within a competitive industry."**

— PAUL MARKWITZ, PRESIDENT, LOCAL 118

## VOTE In The Teamster Election

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 **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.

## TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS YIELD NEW DARIGOLD CONTRACT



### Members of Seattle's 117 Stayed Strong

After months at the bargaining table, Teamsters at Darigold voted to ratify a new five-year contract in late July. The 220 Local 117 members at the company's Seattle and Issaquah, Wash. facilities had been working without a contract since May 31.

Members approved the new contract by a 139-7 vote. The proposal was fully recommended by the bargaining committee.

The ratification comes after several contentious months of negotiations. Facing an uncertain future, the workers at Darigold stood together in solidarity on several occasions. Twice, the workers voted to authorize a strike. In the end, their strength prevailed, with a strong new contract.

"These workers should be proud of their strength and solidarity throughout the bargaining process," said John Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 117. "Their unwavering support for each other made this deal possible."

Darigold had proposed dramatic changes to health and welfare benefits. But the union ultimately was able to secure wage and pension increases while maintaining that the employer pays the lion's share of health care cost increases.

"The bargaining team was incredible," Searcy said. "This was a complete team effort," said Mike Esteron, a Darigold employee and member of the union bargaining committee. "The leadership at Local 117 worked side-by-side with the bargaining team to win this contract."



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