

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!



TANKHAUL News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Keith Gleason, Division Director



TEAMSTERS PROTEST AIR LIQUIDE AT FRENCH EMBASSY IN D.C.

French Company Purchases Airgas, an Abuser of Workers’ Rights in the U.S.

In February, Teamsters protested Air Liquide outside the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., the day after Airgas shareholders voted to approve the purchase by France-based Air Liquide for \$10.3 billion.

The Teamsters held signs and banners that read, “Air Liquide: Stop the Attacks,” and “Air Liquide: Arrêtez les Attaques,” demanding that Air Liquide stop Airgas’ attacks on workers and their rights to form unions and negotiate contracts in the United States and Canada.

“Air Liquide’s acquisition, Airgas, has been abusing workers by locking them out during contract negotiations, threatening workers with loss of health care benefits and wages, and attempting to break its workers’ unions by illegally threatening union activists,” said Ken Hall, Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer.

Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Hall wrote to Air Liquide’s CEO Benoît Potier, asking him to work together with them to address the rapidly deteriorating relationship between Airgas and its workers. There has been no response.

Additionally, officials from all 45 Teamster local unions

that represent North American Air Liquide and Airgas workers signed a letter asking the union that represents Air Liquide workers in France to call on Air Liquide to open dialogue with its American workers.

“Air Liquide would never get away with treating its French workers this way,” said Keith Gleason, Director of the Teamsters Tankhaul Division. “We call on Air Liquide to respond to our union’s request to meet, and to treat its American Airgas employees with the same respect that it treats its French employees.”

“I don’t understand Air Liquide’s business plan for its new holding, Airgas,” Hall said. “Air Liquide is under fire by the investment community in Europe for paying too much for Airgas. And yesterday, the very day that Airgas shareholders voted to accept Air Liquide’s offer, Société Générale downgraded its stock by almost 10 percent. Now Air Liquide turns its back on 45 leaders of their North American employees’ unions? That is difficult to understand.”

The Teamsters Union, and the Tankhaul Division, will continue to work toward fair and equitable treatment for all workers in this industry.

(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

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

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

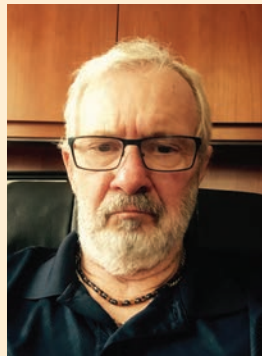


A MESSAGE FROM DIVISION
DIRECTOR KEITH GLEASON

KEEPING UP THE FIGHT

The Teamsters Tankhaul Division continues to fight for our members in the industry as well as for fairness and safety for all workers in this dangerous line of work.

Right now, we are fighting on behalf of Teamsters at Air Liquide and Airgas. Air Liquide, a French company, is purchasing Airgas—both



are tankhaul companies. Airgas, however, has a record of attacks on workers and their rights to form a union and negotiate a contract.

We are holding the company accountable and we have taken the fight to their front door.

I appreciate all our Tankhaul members who have helped with this campaigns and I will be calling on others in the future to help. Our fight is a long-term one: it is not a sprint; it is a marathon.

The companies, with their deep pockets and decisions to hire union busters as well as spending huge amounts of money to not bargain fairly, will continue to battle us as we move forward.

But I am confident that with your continued support and the commitment of our great union, we will win these campaigns for the thousands of Tankhaul workers who are seeking just workplaces.

Let's continue fighting, together.

Thank you for your continued support.

Teamsters to Launch Program to Build Political Power

New Member Activist Training to Begin in February



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 Political Power program please contact the Department of Political and Legislative Action at 202-624-6800.



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.