

# 295

## News



*Teamsters Local Union 295  
Air Freight Chauffeurs, Handlers,  
Warehousemen & Allied Workers,  
International Brotherhood of  
Teamsters*

Fall 2005

# Showing Our Teamster Pride!

On Saturday, September 10, over 200,000 working men and women marched in solidarity up Fifth Avenue to honor and celebrate Labor Day. The parade was an enormous showing of solidarity, unity and resolve in a world where working people continue to struggle for their fair share of the economic pie.

About 70 members and retirees of Local 295 and Local 851 and their families turned out to show their union pride. DHL and Shea Trucking sent trucks to drive in the parade and the two Locals had t-shirts, heroes and sodas for all who attended.

"There are a lot of people who have written unions off lately. I hope they watched our parade and Labor Day celebrations across the country," said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "The New York labor movement came together to celebrate our union pride. It was a great day. And it was a lot of fun to spend time with our members and our families. We have a great group of members."

This year, the parade's Grand Marshal was Peter Ward, President of the New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council. Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail Workers Department Store Union, was the Parade Chairman.



**Labor Day 2005**

## Hurricane Relief

Hundreds of thousands of workers and their families along the Gulf Coast are facing catastrophic conditions resulting from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund assists members in times like these. It depends on donations from members, Local Unions and other affiliates. The Executive Board of Local 295 has already made a \$5,000 donation to the Fund on behalf of the membership. Donation checks should be made out to: Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund; and sent to: *Disaster Relief Fund, c/o International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 25 Louisiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001. Call (202) 624-7471 for more information.*



Lou Calemine

## Celebrating Teamster Pride

I've always been proud of being a Teamster. These days, I'm prouder than ever to be in this great union. There's so much going on nationally, throughout our state and locally.

At the national level, the Teamsters Union is helping re-shape the labor movement to restore it to a place of strength and power. After years of watching the movement struggling just to stay where it was, General President Hoffa and General Secretary-Treasurer Keegel put together a coalition of other labor leaders who wanted to find a new course. The Change to Win Coalition has put together a plan that will increase the size of unions and make the movement a force to be reckoned with once again.

Here in New York, we're doing our part too. In July, representatives of the three Joint Councils and every single Teamsters Local in the state staged our own historic meeting. It was the first time ever that the Teamsters of New York State came together. We formed the New York State Teamsters Alliance. With 220,000 active and retired members in the state, the alliance will provide us with power and resources for organizing drives and political campaigns.

Our Joint Council, led by Local 282 President Gary LaBarbera, is also doing some great things. The Joint Council 16 Executive Board was sworn in recently by General President Hoffa, who pledged extra organizational and



At the Founding of the NYS Teamster Alliance: (left to right) 295 Trustee Bill Robertson, IBT General Secretary-Treasurer Tom Keegel and 295 Trustee Iggy Garcia.

political resources to help the Council's new leadership in its political and strategic efforts.

Last, and certainly not least, we've got some very exciting things happening here at 295. Our union was featured in the June/July issue of *Teamster Magazine*. The story was about our successful organizing and contract campaigns at DHL's Building 263 at JFK. It shows you how far we have come that our union is being used as an example of how things should be done.

Finally, I want to thank the members on behalf of the Executive Board. You participated in the democratic process for our Local Union election. You nominated us unopposed for another three-year term. Just three years ago, our union was experimenting with its first democratic election in over a decade. We faced the uncertainty of

**“The Teamsters Union is helping re-shape the labor movement to restore it to a place of strength and power.”**

DHL taking over Airborne. It was a scary time for all of us.

I am so proud of the work that we have done together - the members and the board.

We not only survived the turbulent times, but we thrived. As you know, we can never rest easy, however. With health care costs continuing to rise, pensions under attack and jobs continuing to leave the country, we still have a lot of work to do. It's going to take our continued unity and solidarity to take on the coming challenges. With such a great membership and Executive Board, I am confident that Local 295 will continue to grow and prosper.

Once again, the Executive Board thanks all of you for your show of support and for all of your help. We're looking forward to serving you and working with you for the next three years.

In closing, the Executive Board would like to offer our wishes for our nation's troops to return home safely and quickly. God bless America.

## Moving?

If you change your address, it is very important to let the union and funds' offices know. Please call the office as soon as possible to make sure we have the correct contact information for you, so benefit and other important information can reach you.

### Teamsters Local Union 295

Air Freight Chauffeurs, Handlers,  
Warehousemen & Allied Workers,  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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Executive Board  
Lou Calemine *President*  
Charlie Russo *Sec.-Treasurer*  
Patrick Scheer *Vice President*  
Vinny Bruno *Recording Secretary*  
Bill Robertson *Trustee*  
Eddie McCormick *Trustee*  
Ignacio Garcia *Trustee*

# Teamsters Chart Course of Strength for Labor Movement

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters announced July 25 that it is withdrawing its membership in the AFL-CIO to chart a new course of growth and strength in an effort to rebuild the American labor movement.

"This is the beginning of a new era for America's workers," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President.

The Teamsters have partnered with the Service Employees International Union and six other unions in the Change To Win Coalition to organize the unorganized and to create real power for the working families of America. Already set in motion are

plans to launch large-scale strategic organizing campaigns.

"We must have more union members in this country to fight the political and business forces that are undermining workers in this country," Hoffa said.

Hoffa vowed that the Teamsters will remain the backbone of the labor movement. Striking workers, no matter what union they belong to, can always count on the Teamsters for support and assistance.

"That is our history and tradition, and we will never waver from our proud role as defenders of America's working families," Hoffa said.

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— Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President

## Members Re-elect Leadership

**On September 27, Local 295 held a Nomination Meeting in preparation for the upcoming election of its officers. The members nominated the team led by President Lou Calemine for re-election unopposed.**

**"The Executive Board is deeply honored and humbled by the membership. It is our privilege to serve the great members of Local 295," said Calemine. "We've come a long way in the last three years, but we still have a lot of work to do. The Executive Board is looking forward to working with the members over the next three years to make our union even stronger and to continue working with our great leadership in Washington to build Teamster Pride."**

## 295 President Delegate at Founding Convention

The Change to Win Coalition held a founding convention for its new labor federation in St. Louis on September 27, 2005. The one-day convention centered on growing the union movement and creating economic opportunity for workers. It featured workers from the U.S. and abroad, including workers from the Gulf Coast, speaking firsthand about how the new federation will change their lives.

Local 295 President Lou Calemine was asked by the Teamsters Union to attend the convention as a delegate.

"It is a real honor for our union and for me to serve at this convention," said Calemine. "We are fighting to strengthen and grow the labor movement. To have a seat at the table and a voice in the discussion is pretty incredible. As Teamsters, we already know what it's like to kick butt and be in a dominant union.

Hopefully, we'll spread the Teamster way throughout the labor movement."

During the convention, a roundtable discussion was held with national leaders of progressive organizations to discuss the Coalition's plans for improving workers' lives. The Coalition has already launched a massive training and rebuilding effort in the Gulf Coast.

"The Change to Win Coalition has real solutions for working families. At the convention, we shared our vision for empowering the close to 90 percent of workers who lack a voice on the job," said Anna Burger, Chair of the Coalition, to open the historic convention. "Our seven unions have made a commitment to devoting the vast majority of our resources to ensuring that workers are rewarded with a paycheck that supports a family; quality, affordable health care; and retirement with dignity."



## Get A Withdrawal Card When You Leave Your Job

Be sure to request a withdrawal card within 90 days from when you are laid off, called to active duty, terminated, retire, go on disability or leave the craft. The charge for the withdrawal card is \$0.50. All initiation fees and back dues must be up to date before the withdrawal card is issued. Mail or bring in the form below to the Local 295 office along with your check or money order for \$0.50. It is your responsibility to obtain a withdrawal card. Failure to obtain a withdrawal card might obligate you to pay extra dues and re-initiation fees.



*The Executive Board of Local 295 would like to join with our members in a prayer for the members of the United States Armed Forces who have lost their lives defending America and a prayer for the safe return home of those still serving overseas. Victory!*

## Withdrawal Card Request Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last Day of Work \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving (Quit, Laid Off, Terminated, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Meetings

General membership meetings take place on the last Tuesday of every month at the Local 295 Union Hall at 6:00 PM. Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **October 25** and **November 29**.

Regional meetings will be held on the following Sundays, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM:

- **October 16:** Hilton Hotel (2117 Route 4 East, Fort Lee, NJ. Call 201-461-9000 for directions.)
- **October 23:** The Inn at Ethan Allen (21 Lake Avenue, Danbury, CT. Call 800-742-1176 for directions.)
- **October 30:** American Legion Hall (51 Roosevelt Avenue, Valley Stream, NY. Call 516-791-9719 for directions.)

## Reporting Allegations of Corruption

*Donald F. Schwally, Corruption Officer*

The job of the Corruption Officer is to continue the efforts to keep organized crime and corruption out of Local 295. If you have any information concerning allegations of wrongdoing or corruption, contact the officer at: 1-800-613-4295 or by mail at P.O. Box 512, Valley Stream, NY 11582. All correspondence will be kept strictly confidential.