



# 295 NEWS

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

Spring  
2008



## Scholarship Dinner A Great Success

On Saturday, April 12, Local 295 joined with sister Local 851 to hold the second annual fundraising dinner dance for the 295/851 Scholarship Fund.

The Locals' members and Stewards were joined by Teamsters from Locals 111, 202, 210, 282, 445, 522, 707, 802, and 812 as well as the New York State AFL-CIO, Local 420, AFSCME, and employers to make the second annual scholarship event a great success.

David Hoffa, IBT President Jimmy Hoffa's son, spoke on behalf of his father. He praised Local 295 and 851 for, "not only talking the talk but walking the walk," when it comes to the importance placed on education and supporting the children of their members through the scholarship fund.

Labor attorney Walter Kane was honored at the dinner for his work on behalf of 295 and 851 members. Local 295 President Lou Calemine described Kane as, "A pit bull on steroids" when it comes to representing members at contract negotiations and arbitrations. This year's dinner raised more than \$100,000 to be used for scholarships for the children of the members of Locals 295 and 851.

"It's up to all of us to build a better future for our families and to build a better America," Calemine said in his remarks. "The scholarships we award will help do this by supporting our children, making them friends of labor and keeping the labor movement alive."



Top: Local 295 Executive Board, officers, Stewards, David Hoffa and honoree Walter Kane.

Above left: supportive employers Ronnie Fiore and his fiancée Linda Madonia (Shea Trucking), Alexandra Shea and Rich Shea (husband and wife) and Linda Kellner (Savasta).

Above, left to right, Local 851 President Tom Conelias, Local 295 President Lou Calemine thanking Walter Kane for his hard work on behalf of the members.

## Hundreds Turn Out for Regional Membership Meetings



Regional meetings bring Local 295 officers closer to members and are held in addition to the monthly General Membership meetings at the Union Hall. From left to right: recent Connecticut, New York and New Jersey meetings.



## President's View

Lou Calemine

*"All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms is treason. If a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece one is to rob the other."*  
— *Abraham Lincoln*

# Our Future Depends On Electing Candidates Who Share Our Principles

**IBT** Local 295 has a more than 50-year history of success in representing our members on the shop floor. We also look out for you, and your family in the communities where you live by getting involved in local, state and national politics.

Some people want to know why we are active in politics and legislative affairs. The answer is simple, the people elected to public office can pass legislation to help workers or hurt us. Like it or not, the decisions politicians make directly impact our quality of life, the security of our jobs, and the future for our families.

Look no further than the current mortgage mess and Wall Street meltdown and you will see the importance of electing worker-friendly candidates to office. The U.S. economy is tanking because our public officials have let bankers and their corporate allies run amok. Our elected representatives' jobs are to represent our interests. They have failed us miserably. Now it's our responsibility to do something about it by electing people who will represent our interests and those of working people in America.

### Political Labels Mean Little

Politics is much more than just a debate between Democrat and Republican. Political labels mean very little to workers who are losing their jobs, health care, pensions or homes. What matters most is the person. Where do they stand on pocketbook issues? What will they do to help struggling working families? What is their feeling about labor unions? And most importantly, what are they going to do to help us?

Local 295 members don't vote for candidates based upon a particular political party. Our members vote based upon principles. The principles of good jobs at good pay; quality and affordable health care; strong pensions; solid workplace safety laws; and, of course, the rights of workers to organize and join unions. We vote because we want good schools for our children, safe neighborhoods for our families, and strong communities in which to live. We vote because we know that the only people who will stand up for us — is US.

### We are patriots

We are doing our part to fight the two major threats our country

faces today: terrorist attack from our enemies abroad, and the continued war against the middle class. Our members battle both of these by being responsible, hard working Teamsters who stand up for what is right in their workplaces and in this great country of ours. No matter which candidate we choose to vote for, our patriotism cannot be questioned.

We support candidates who are running for office that recognize these two threats and serve the people by defending our nation and defending workers' rights. A weak Middle Class hurts everyone and opens the door to outside meddling. The only way to build the Middle Class is through unionism. Teamsters know this because we fight for decent pay, health coverage and pensions for all Americans. We enjoy the fruits of our labor and want others to be able to do so as well.

Consider this:

- Median household income in our nation has fallen by \$1,300 since 2001.
- A record 47 million American men, women and children don't have health coverage.

## 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,  
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#### Executive Board

Lou Calemine *President*  
Patrick Scheer *Vice President*  
Jack Ruggiero *Sec.-Treasurer*  
Vinny Bruno *Recording Secretary*  
Bill Robertson *Trustee*  
Eddie McCormick *Trustee*  
Ignacio Garcia *Trustee*



President's message continued

- The number of companies that have frozen or terminated pension plans has tripled since 2001.
- Millions upon millions of jobs have been “outsourced” to foreign countries.
- Home foreclosures and personal bankruptcies are at historic levels.

Something is wrong — and something must change. 2008 will be our opportunity to make the changes we need. Local 295 and our members are going to be an active player in bringing about changes that benefit our members and their families.

The stakes for us have never been higher. How things shake out in 2008 will determine the strength of our union, the future of our jobs, and the security of working families, for decades. It all comes down to political power — and how we use it to our benefit. We must use our political power to:

- Protect and create good-paying jobs in America.
- Restore strength to our nation's pension system.
- Demand that Congress fix our broken health care system.
- Fight for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. A union card remains the single best ticket into the Middle Class. We believe that workers must be given a truly free choice about whether they want to improve their wages and working conditions by joining a union.

The election 2008 countdown is underway. Between now and November; I urge all Local 295 members to get involved.

The bottom line is that if we are not politically involved, then someone else will be making decisions that will directly impact our lives and our jobs. If we sit back and watch the political process unfold, instead of standing up and participating, we risk losing everything we hold dear. That is one risk that we are unwilling to take!

We have a tough year ahead of us. The DHL contract expires in February of 2009. The Danza and other contracts are up for negotiations as well. When we negotiate in hard times like these, it's more important than ever to stand strong, stand united, and to stay focused on what's really important.

Speaking on behalf of the entire Local 295 Executive Board I can tell you that we are looking forward to standing with you as we face the challenges ahead.



Local 295 Stewards, Alternates and Business Agents recently received training on the Department of Transportation Drug and Alcohol testing procedures. The training was conducted by DT Service's Vicki Geleti, top, and Art Rettino, pictured here with IBT 295 President Lou Calemine.

## 295/851 Web Store



Local 295 and Local 851 opened an on-line store at [www.teamsterslocal295.org](http://www.teamsterslocal295.org) that sells Teamster merchandise — shirts, jackets, hats and more. Money from every item bought will go to the Scholarship Fund. Applications for scholarships are available now at the Union Hall.

*Investing in the Education of Our Children Is an Investment in Labor's Future*



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## 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.

### 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 Membership Meetings

### General Membership Meetings

take place on the last Tuesday of the month at the Local 295 Union Hall at 6:00 PM. The next two meetings will take place on **April 29 and May 27.**

## DRIVE-ing The Vote Home

With the presidential election season well under way, Local 295's DRIVE (Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education) campaign is in full force. Local 295 is proud to be one of the top five contributors in the IBT to DRIVE, the Teamster's non-partisan political action committee.

"DRIVE is a very important program," says President Lou Calemine. "Now more than ever before, we need a president and Congress that truly supports and understands the needs of working families. We have the power to make it possible by getting informed about the presidential candidates and their platforms, registering to vote and calling elected officials. Together, our voice will be heard."

For more information on DRIVE, visit <http://www.teamster.org/action/political/drive.htm>