



295 News

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

Spring 2007



Thank You Charlie!

The Executive Boards of Local 295 and 851 as well as representatives from the Retiree Chapter pay tribute to retiring Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Russo.

Longtime member and Local 295 Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Russo retired on February 28. Russo, 62, has been a Teamster since 1967.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the members of Local 295. But it's time for me to move on and spend more time with my family," said Charlie at his retirement celebration.

Charlie's first job as a Teamster was as a fuel oil driver in Local 553, where he followed in the footsteps of his father and father-in-law. In the summer of '69, he joined Local 295 working for Mark IV

Airfreight. He has also worked for Novo Airfreight, ACI and Airborne Express.

"Charlie is everything we want our members to be," said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "We're losing a great union man and a great friend."

Charlie served as a shop steward from 1992 to 2003, when he was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. He was also a Trustee to the 295/851 Pension and Health & Welfare Trust Funds.

When asked to sum up what he has learned as a member of Local 295, Charlie said, "A union is only as strong as

its members. That means that all of our members need to be involved and stay educated about the union, their contract, their benefit funds and even what's going on in the political world. You've got to go to meetings and volunteer for picket line duty, phone-banking, organizing and any other time we ask for your help.

"The most important thing about being in a union, to me, is that when you have an issue, whether it's pension, medical or a problem at the job, you always need to look at the big picture. It's not just about you; it's about all of us, past, present and future. Our strength comes when we stand together. That's what being in a union is all about – Victory through unity!"

"I want to thank all of our members, our staff and our Executive Board. It's been a real pleasure and deep honor for me to serve this union. Thank you," he concluded.

"On behalf of the membership and Executive Board of Local 295, I want to wish Charlie and his family the best. We hope he enjoys a long, happy and healthy retirement – and that he becomes an active retiree," said Calemine.

295/851 Web Store



Local 295 and Local 851 opened an on-line store at 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. The deadline to submit applications is April 6.

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



President's View

Lou Calemine

The holidays have come and gone, another year is behind us, and, as I look back on 2006, I am overwhelmed with pride and thankful for a lot of things. I am proud to be a member of Teamsters Local 295, to serve on the 295 Executive Board and to represent this local and the 295 membership. I would like to thank the membership for making this local and the Executive Board successful in accomplishing our goals for 2006. I'm proud of the members for supporting this local, its officers, business agents and especially grateful for their support of our hardworking stewards.

It is only by the members' support, trust and efforts that this local can continue to provide job security, workers' rights, medical coverage, pensions and good wages to Local 295 members. This is not easy in an industry that is always changing: These are challenging times, with labor under constant attack by greedy employers, politicians, lobbyists and union-busting attorneys, and only through the collective and united strength of its members can labor win such a battle. Local 295 membership is up to that fight. Local 295 members know the real issues they face. The members get the big picture; they will stand united and deliver more victories.

Local 295 and its membership have earned recognition and respect for our ability to mobilize our strong collective strength. The united 295 membership has accomplished many tasks to be proud of since 2003. With this tried, tested and proven membership we can face the future and take on any challenges it may bring us.

Our employers know it, our enemies know it, our friends know it, and, for those who don't know it, I make a motion to let them know it!

I want to wish Charlie Russo the best for his retirement. I've known Charlie a long time and want to thank him for his selfless service to our local. He is a true Teamster and a true friend. I also want to welcome Jack Ruggiero to the Executive Board. He will replace Charlie as Secretary-Treasurer and serve as Business Agent for our members at DHL SWF and HPN.

Fraternally,
Lou Calemine

“The united 295 membership has accomplished many tasks to be proud of since 2003. With this tried, tested and proven membership we can face the future and take on any challenges it may bring us.”

Welfare Fund Expands PPO Network

On February 1, the Local 295/Local 851 Welfare Fund changed from using the PPO of Horizon Healthcare to the PPO of Empire Blue Cross. This PPO network is available worldwide. It gives members a much greater choice of in-network providers and provides savings to the Welfare Fund. The switch also includes a new prescription plan. Members can now use one identification card for all hospital, medical, surgical and prescription services. The Board of Trustees and the Administrator of the Fund are always looking for ways to protect and improve members' benefits, while keeping costs to the Funds down at the same time.

295 Wins Long-Term/Short-Term Disability Coverage for Members

In response to requests from members, Local 295 went outside of the union's contracts and secured long-term and short-term disability coverage that is in addition to coverage provided in the contracts and by the Funds. This benefit is in all DHL contracts and will be added to other contracts.

“We used our group purchasing power to negotiate directly with the insurance company to get a discounted plan for our members,” said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. “We then went to DHL and convinced the company to let members conveniently pay their premiums for the policies through check-off payroll deduction. So far, over 1,400 members have signed up.”

“Victory Through Unity!”

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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International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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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*

DRIVE Time

DRIVE (Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education) is gearing up for the 2008 presidential campaign. You can't open up the paper without seeing the Democratic and Republican candidates – and the primaries don't start for months!

"DRIVE is a very important and effective program. Companies have so much money to fight us, but our unity helps balance the playing field," said 295 President Lou Calemine. "But, members also need to register to vote, vote in

elections, and make phone calls to their elected officials. We always need to be active to make our voices heard."

Teamster members showed their power in two recent victories. The first is the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act in the House of Representatives. If passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President, the act would strengthen protections for workers trying to form a union. Secondly, the Teamsters stopped a bill that would have stripped away overtime pay

rights for truck drivers who operate trucks that are 10,000 pounds or less. While 295 members are protected in their contracts, if this bill had passed, non-union competitors would have gained an unfair advantage and union companies would have tried to use it as a threat in negotiations.

Take a stand for working families by signing up for DRIVE and registering to VOTE TODAY!

295 & 851 Shop Steward Meeting a Big Success



*(Left) Members participate in the shop steward seminar
(Right) JAB President Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and two JAB members*

In December, Local 295 and Local 851 held a shop steward seminar. 295 President Lou Calemine and 851 President Tom Conelias led the meeting, which featured: IBT Vice President-elect and Local 111 President Dan Kane, Sr.; representatives from the 295 and 851 benefit funds; Joe Robinson, 295/851 Retirees Chapter President; Local 295's attorneys; officers from Teamsters Local 202; Katie Anne O'Connor from the International Warehouse Division talking about Wal-Mart; IBT Government Affairs Rep. Joe Saroli; International Rep. George Geller; and others.

"The members of Locals 295 and 851 are part of a big team," said

Calemine. "We start with the members, the Executive Boards and the staff. We also have Fund Administrators, lawyers, accountants, investment advisors and others who share our vision. DHL is the biggest freight transportation company in the world. Companies like DHL and UPS can afford enormous teams of union-busting attorneys, lobbyists and even anti-union politicians dedicated to keeping workers and the costs of labor down. It's important for the members to see that they're not in this fight alone."

Calemine and Conelias made a special presentation to Mario Giovanniello, who was instrumental in organizing Building 263. He started

out as a member of Local 851 and is now in 295. Mario was awarded a Teamster jacket with the logos of both locals.

The meeting also featured a talk by Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, the leader of the Joint Association of Boxers (JAB), a Teamster affiliate fighting to bring union protections and respect to professional boxers. With Mustafa Muhammad were Jorge "The Truth" Teron and Joel "El Rey" Castillo, JAB members. They thanked the two locals for their loyal support since JAB was started in 2003. Mustafa Muhammad had a 16-year career as a professional boxer. He posted a 50-8-1 record with 39 knockouts and was the WBA Light Heavyweight champ in the early 1980s.



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“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

Upcoming 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 meetings will take place on **April 24 and May 29.**

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

April 22: Hilton Hotel (2117 Route 4 East, Fort Lee, NJ; For directions, call 201-461-9000.)

May 6: Ethan Allen Inn (21 Lake Avenue, Danbury, CT; For directions, call 800-742-1176.)

Teamster Fight Night



On December 8, the Joint Association of Boxers (JAB), a Teamsters affiliate that represents boxers, sponsored a boxing card at the Huntington Town House in Huntington Station. The fights featured three JAB members, Mean Joe Greene, Jorge “The Truth” Teron and Joel “El Rey” Castillo. Castillo is seen above wearing a 295 t-shirt as he entered the ring.

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 _____

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.