



# 295 News

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

Summer 2007



Brittany Bennett and her dad Richard Bennett, a member of Local 295 for 24 years. Brittany will attend the State University of New York-New Paltz this fall.



Steven DeAngelis and his dad Anthony DeAngelis, a member of Local 295 for 15 years. Steven will attend William Patterson University this fall.



Randy, Sean and William Robertson, a Local 295 Trustee and member for 27 years. Sean will attend University of Arizona this fall.



Neena Kamath and her dad Anil Kamath, a member of Local 295 for nine years. Neena will attend Harvard University this fall.



Derrick Stroble, Jr. and his dad Derrick Stroble, a member of Local 295 for 16 years. Derrick will attend Kean University this fall.

## First Scholarship Dinner A BLAST



Michael Miller and his dad Kevin Miller, a member of Local 295 for 27 years. Michael will attend Villanova University this fall.



Samantha Sclafane and her dad Glenn Sclafane, a member of Local 295 for 19 years. Samantha will attend Caldwell College this fall.



Makayla Silva and her dad Richard Silva, Jr., a member of Local 295 for 19 years. Makayla will attend Endicott College this fall.



Dennis Manning and his mom Jeneice Manning, a member of Local 851 for two years. Dennis will attend Essex County College this fall.

***“Our two local unions have come together to form this scholarship fund, because we hold a firm belief in building a strong foundation through education.”***

Local 295 President Lou Calemine and  
Local 851 President Thom Conelias

Over 250 people attended the Local 295 and 851 Scholarship Fund's first-ever dinner dance. The event raised \$132,000 for the scholarship fund. The dinner dance was held at Terrace on the Park in Flushing on April 14.

“Our two local unions have come together to form this scholarship fund, because we hold a firm belief in building a strong foundation through education. Our expectation is that when children complete their higher education and enter the workforce as blue collar or white collar workers, they will always honor the labor movement's tradition of being on the right side and join us as proud members of labor,” said Local 295 President Lou Calemine and Local 851 President Thom Conelias in a joint statement.

In its first year, the fund awarded nine scholarships. To be selected, scholarship applicants had to meet certain criteria and submit an essay that answered the question: *“What role has the International Brotherhood of Teamsters played in the labor movement and how do you feel you will be able to influence labor in the future?”* A total of 25 requests were made for applications.

“We congratulate all of our winners and their families. We are raising this money to give out scholarship awards. The more awards we give out, the more successful our fund is,” said Calemine. “Our goal is to support our members and

their families; to help them meet the challenges of raising children.”

At the first annual dinner dance, the fund honored Neil J. Savasta, the president of Savasta and Company, Inc. Savasta has served the two locals for years as the Local 295/Local 851 Welfare and Pension Funds' actuary and third party administrator. During a very turbulent time for funds across the country, Savasta and his team have guided the locals' funds in the right direction, maintaining top-notch benefits while minimizing the costs to members and the funds.

Money for scholarships is also being raised at the Local 295 and Local 851 online store at [www.teamsterslocal295.org](http://www.teamsterslocal295.org). The “store” sells Teamster merchandise — shirts, jackets, hats and more. Money from every item bought goes to the scholarship fund.



# President's View

Lou Calemine

## Protecting Our Rights

As the summer gets underway, we hope that all of you and your families enjoy your summer vacations.

While the summer is a time to relax and take a step back, it is important to remember that we, as union members, can never relax. We cannot take anything that we have for granted. Our wages, health benefits, pensions, rights on the job and other protections and benefits in our contracts are always on the line.

We've fought for years to win these terms and conditions. Generations of union members have shed blood, sweat and tears to get us where we are today. Look around at what's happening to non-union workers and remember that we are privileged to be Teamsters.

Our employers are always looking at ways to cut costs. Sometimes they are doing this out of necessity to compete with other non-union businesses. That's one of the reasons we are always trying to organize non-union competitors. The more of the industry that's unionized, the better off everyone is - union members and employers.

We understand the pressures of our industry and want to remain competitive. But there's never an excuse to cut corners or to work unsafely. Always work safe and smart.

Of course, some employers say they are just trying to be competitive, but they are only being greedy. Many employers out there desperately want to get rid of us. They don't like having to sit down at the negotiating table with you as equals.

They would rather have a non-union shop where they can do whatever they want whenever they want.

All this means that we have to be constantly vigilant in enforcing our contracts and doing our jobs properly. We cannot give our employers any excuse to take back what we've fought so hard to have. It may have taken years to win these great union advantages, but employers would take them back in a heartbeat.

On another note, I want to say how proud we all are of the 295/851 Scholarship Fund. We believe that these scholarships will help many of our members' children pay for an education that at times is almost impossible to afford and pave the way for their successful futures. We also hope that this will help create a new generation of union members and allies. Our first dinner dance was a huge success, and we were able to award nine scholarships in our first year. Thanks to all who were involved, and we look forward to many more years of bigger and better things. Once again, congratulations to all of our winners and their families!

Finally, those of you who have come by our union offices recently have probably noticed the work we are doing. The offices needed some repairs. We had to fix several leaky windows and do some duct work for the air conditioning because they were not properly installed in the first place. We are undertaking these needed repairs so we can better serve you. Take a look at the improvements when you stop by.

Once again, enjoy your summer!

***"We've fought for years to win these terms and conditions. Generations of union members have shed blood sweat and tears to get us where we are today. Look around at what's happening to non-union workers and remember that we are privileged to be Teamsters."***

### Upcoming Membership Meetings

Meetings for June, July and August have been suspended. The next meeting will take place on September 25. Regional meeting dates will be announced soon.

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

**Attention Retirees!**

## Get Involved Today!

Just because you're retired doesn't mean you can't still be involved in our great local union. Local 295 and 851 have a vibrant Retiree Chapter. Its goals are to keep retirees up to date on important issues, like Social Security, Medicare and which elected officials stand up for retirees – and those who don't. The chapter also belongs to the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans (NYSARA). The Retiree Division of the Teamsters Union appointed Chapter President Joe Robinson to the NYSARA Board of Directors.

Our motto is: *Retired from work, not from the union.* We help out the two locals whenever needed.

Contact us today!

Teamsters Local 295/851 Retiree Chapter  
Department of Retirees  
P.O. Box 1146 – Valley Stream, NY 11582-1446  
E-mail: [dvldog35@aol.com](mailto:dvldog35@aol.com)

### Officers

- Joe Robinson, President: (718) 358-0202
- Daniel Marchese, Vice President: (718) 738-5199
- Carmen Munera, Secretary: (516) 938-4756
- Edward Morgan, Treasurer: (516) 826-5377

### Trustees

- Ron Bruno: (609) 242-2242
- Anthony Camme: (718) 843-0217
- Artie Falk: (718) 479-9541
- Marianne Hallahan: (516) 868-0854
- Anthony Melia: (516) 593-6391
- Mickey O'Hara: (516) 794-0639

### Liaison in Florida

- Mel Diamond: (239) 590-9325

## First-Ever 851/295 Summer Picnic: July 21

All members and their families are invited to attend our summer picnic. There will be plenty of fun, games and barbecue for all!

**Saturday, July 21**

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

JFK Federal Circle, Ball Field 141

\$10 per adult (13 and up)

\$5 per child (ages 4-12)

Free for children under 4

*You must RSVP and pay by July 11. Contact your Shop Steward for more information and to RSVP.*

## Contract Update

Local 295 members at nine shops have contracts that are up for renewal this year. At three of those shops, the members negotiated new contracts and have now ratified them. At the other six, negotiations are continuing.

The members at J.F.K. Trucking, Daniel F. Young and Lione Express all ratified their new contracts unanimously. Local 295 Business Agent Ed McCormick led the negotiating for all three shops.

"The members did a great job during these talks. They took an active role, came to meetings and really understood the issues," said McCormick. "These were not easy talks. Times are tough for these companies. Not that we feel bad for them, because time's are tough for us, too, but you have to understand the context of the talks. Also, benefit costs are going through the roof for everyone. The members prioritized the issues and chose to protect their health and pension benefits. They really looked at the big picture and showed the true union spirit."

In all three contracts, the companies are now making increased contributions to the health and welfare funds and to the pension fund.

"There's a real crisis going on in America today," said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "Benefit costs are skyrocketing. We are very lucky to have the health and pension plans that we have. Very few people have defined benefit pension plans or medical coverage where the employer pays 100% of the monthly premiums. We've worked hard to negotiate and protect those benefits. The members at J.F.K. Trucking, Daniel F. Young and Lione Express understood that if they gave the employer an inch, they would eventually lose their benefits, and other employers would try to negotiate the same concessions. They made the choice to protect their benefits at the expense of their wages. It wasn't an easy choice, but it was the right choice for them as individuals, for their families and for the long-term success of our union."

McCormick is currently working with members at Panalpina, Bax Global, Shea Trucking, Firebird Freight, L&I Trucking and JRS Trucking to negotiate new contracts.

Finally, Local 295 is participating in talks with UPS CSI for a first nation-wide contract. The Teamsters Union is coordinating bargaining for all of the locals across the country that represent Teamsters at UPS CSI facilities. Local 295 represent 60 workers at the UPS CSI facility at JFK Airport. The UPS CSI contract expires in 2008, but talks have already started in an effort to reach a national master agreement.

Future issues of *295 News* will feature updates on these negotiations.



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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*

## Scenes from the Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance



Local 295 President Lou Calemine, honoree Neil Savasta and Local 851 President Thom Conelias

## 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.

