



# 295 News

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

Winter 2006

## 295 Starts Scholarship Fund

**L**ocal 295 and Local 851 have teamed up once again to provide members with a scholarship fund. In 2007, the Locals will host a dinner to raise money for scholarships and the first awards will be made in the spring.

"I am very proud of our union for getting a scholarship fund started," said

Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "To be able to help the next generation to get an education and get ahead is really what being a union member is all about. The scholarship fund is another way for our Locals to not only help out our members and their families, but it is also a way we can help the next generation better

understand the power of unions before they go off into our anti-labor world. When they get to college and later get a job, they can then educate their peers about the benefits of being in a union."

The Locals have also opened an on-line store at



*Holiday gift ideas: Order this jacket and other great Teamster clothing at our new web store — and raise money for our scholarship fund!*

[www.teamsterslocal295.org](http://www.teamsterslocal295.org). The "store" sells Teamster merchandise — shirts, jackets, hats and more. Money from every item bought will go to the scholarship fund. The items make great holiday gifts! Check them out today!

Applications for scholarships will be available soon.

### Members Send Holiday Wishes to US Troops

Local 295 is donating Christmas trees and ornaments to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The union, in conjunction with DHL, Adelis International Security and Dee's

Nursery, participated in a holiday initiative put together by American Citizens for Soldiers in Service. The donations were made in a ceremony on December 11.

"This is a tough time of year for the brave men and women of our armed forces. They are separated from their families during the holidays. Our Executive Board and our members decided that we should do something to make the holidays a little happier for our soldiers," said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "It was also a great opportunity to show that we don't always have to fight our employers; that we can work together."

### Congratulations! Hoffa Essay Contest Award Goes to 295 Member

Asha Shareef, daughter of 295 member Talib R. Shareef, was awarded a \$1,000 prize for the essay she submitted to the 2006 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund. Her essay answered the question: Describe how the Teamsters Union has benefited your family and explain how you might use your education to involve the labor movement in your future. Talib works at the DHL facility in Elizabeth, NJ, and has been a member since 1989.



# Five More Years of Teamster Progress

**“Union power starts with the members. If you get involved and participate, the union as a whole grows stronger. When you don't get involved, we have no power. With almost half of our members voting, we showed Teamsters across the country that Local 295 is a powerful union.”**

Teamsters across the United States and Canada stood up and made their voices heard. By a two-to-one margin, they said that they want five more years of President Hoffa's leadership.

When President Hoffa came into office in 1998, our union was in disarray. Members were divided. The treasury was in the red. And the Teamsters had become just another union.

Since then, President Hoffa has led our Teamsters Union back to greatness. We are more united than ever. Our finances are in great health. And the Teamsters are once again leading the way for working families everywhere. Teamster pride is back!

I look forward to working with President Hoffa and his team over the next five years to further strengthen our

union and to help improve the lives of American workers. The Teamsters General Executive Board also got stronger during this election with the addition of Dan Kane, Sr. Our region has a great representative on the GEB looking out for us.

The overall Teamster turnout was less than 19%. But Local 295 almost tripled that! We had a turnout of 45%. I am very proud of our members. Of the 713 Locals who participated in the election, only a handful had higher rates of participation.

As you know, union power starts with the members. If you get involved and participate, the union as a whole grows stronger. When you don't get involved, we have no power. With almost half of our members voting, we showed Teamsters across the country that Local 295 is a powerful union.

In this issue, there are a few other stories that make me proud to serve our members. We are starting a scholarship fund to help members' children go to

college. While much of what we do as a union is to make our lives better, we are always looking to help out future generations as well.

On the front page, there's a story that shows the great things we can accomplish when we team up with one of our employers. DHL and Local 295 have joined together to send Christmas trees and decorations to our troops.

Finally, there's something NOT in this newsletter that makes me very proud. If you look at the back page, there is no longer a box from the Corruption Officer. Our members have shown that when the union is in their hands, it is a clean, democratic and effective union, The Corruption Officer is no longer necessary. We have come a long way in a short period of time. But we can't relax; we always have more work to do.

The Executive Board of Local 295 wishes all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

## Long-Term/Short-Term Disability Coverage Now Available

Local 295 has secured long-term and short-term disability coverage in addition to coverage provided under our contracts and by our Funds. The coverage is low-priced and convenient. Members can sign up through check-off.

“Members asked for this added benefit, and we used our collective purchasing power to negotiate good rates and good coverage,” said Local 295 President Lou Calemine.

Currently, this benefit is in all DHL contracts and will be added to other contracts 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

33 West Hawthorne Avenue, Suite 30  
Valley Stream, NY 11580  
Tel: (516) 568-1970  
Fax: (516) 568-1973  
Web: [www.teamsterslocal295.org](http://www.teamsterslocal295.org)

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 Election

Once again, Teamster members had an opportunity to make their voices heard in the union. The Teamsters Union held elections for the International Executive Board. The slate led by General President Jim Hoffa was overwhelmingly re-elected, by a two-to-one margin.

"Teamsters across the country spoke loudly and with unity. They believe that President Hoffa and his team are leading our union in the right direction," said Local 295 President Lou Calemine. "I look forward to working with President Hoffa for the next five years. He has worked hard to restore Teamster power and pride, and he will continue to make our union stronger."

Hoffa received almost 174,000 votes, or 65% of the votes cast. According to the Election Supervisor's report, 1,328 members of Local 295 members voted, casting 95% of their votes for the Hoffa Slate. Dan Kane, Sr., President of Teamsters Local 111, was elected Eastern Region Vice President as well.

**"Our members should be proud of themselves. Forty-five percent of our membership voted in the election.**

In contrast, only 18.6% of all Teamsters voted," said Calemine. "Our union's strength comes from membership participation. When we speak loudly and decisively, as we did in re-electing President Hoffa, we show employers, politicians and others how strong we are, and that they should think twice before taking us on. We thank all 295 members who voted."

Around 295

## UPS/CSI Negotiations

With UPS/CSI contract negotiations scheduled to start in January, Teamsters across the country are getting ready. Ron Catti, the shop steward from the UPS/CSI facility at JFK, recently attended a Teamster negotiating committee strategy meeting in Louisville, KY. He represented our interests, presenting 295 members' concerns to the members of the committee as they begin to put together a list of contract demands. The committee will meet once more before the talks start. The key issues will be wages, pensions and welfare benefits.

## JRS Members Ratify Contract

By a vote of 42-8, the truck drivers and warehousemen at JRS at JFK voted to ratify their new contract. "This was not an easy contract. It took several extensions, but the members stayed united and we got a contract," said Local 295 Trustee Eddie McCormick.

# Welfare Fund Expands PPO Network

On February 1, 2007, the Local 295/Local 851 Welfare Fund will change from using the PPO of Horizon Healthcare to the PPO of Empire Blue Cross. This PPO network will be available throughout the United States, as well as the world. It will give members a much greater choice of in-network providers, and it will provide savings to the Welfare Fund. Members will be able to use one identification card for all hospital, medical and surgical services instead of the two they currently use.

With medical costs rising nationwide, the Board of Trustees and the Administrator of the Fund are always looking for ways to increase network providers and improve member service, while saving the Fund money at the same time. Our

current PPO, Horizon Healthcare sold their network to another company without giving what would be considered reasonable notice to its clients. Because the Trustees and the Administrator are always on top of the Fund, they immediately jumped on this issue and were able to evaluate and secure proposals from various vendors. The final result is that our members will be provided with more extensive coverage at a reduced cost to the Fund.

*Reminder: You should have received your new prescription plan card from BMR in the mail in early December. If you did not, call the Fund office immediately at (212) 308-4200.*

*“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*

## 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.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

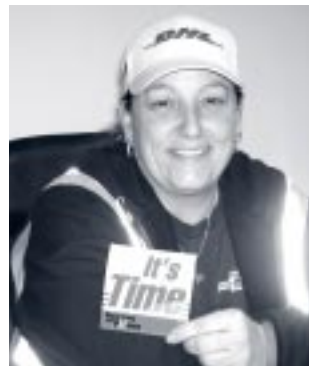
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming 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 **January 30, February 27 and March 27**. By vote of the members, the December meeting has been suspended.



## Building Teamster Power in Ohio

Local 295 member Mary Macaluso has made several trips to Ohio to help workers join the Teamsters at DHL's Wilmington hub. Mary works in the Operations Department at DHL's JFK Gateway facility. She has been a Teamster for 18 years. Locals 295 and 851 have sent members and officers to Ohio to assist the 6,000 ABX Air mechanics and sorters at the Wilmington hub who are fighting to be Teamsters. Local 295 business agent Don Schmidt is also lending a hand in the organizing campaign. He is on loan to the IBT Organizing Department and has been working in Ohio for the last month. We thank Mary, Don and all of our members who have joined this fight.