

Teamsters Local Union 295 News



Executive Board Takes Office January 1, 2015



Seated L – R: Jack J. Ruggiero, Secretary-Treasurer – Lou Calemine, President – Vinny Bruno, Vice President
Standing L – R: Ron Fiore Jr., Trustee – William Robertson, Trustee – Ignacio “Iggy” Garcia, Recording Secretary – Steven Bruno, Trustee

On behalf of this Executive Board I thank you for your trust and support; with this we will meet the challenges of tomorrow. It is my pleasure and a great honor to serve as President of the Local 295 Executive Board and a privilege to serve all of the honest and hardworking Teamster members of this Local.

I would like to congratulate my fellow Local 295 Executive Board on their re-election as officers of Local Union No.295. Re-election is an especially high form of recognition. It means you have established a record of achievement that meets with the approval of our members. Officers demonstrating this type of continued support are an especially important resource to the members, this Local Union and me. There is no greater compliment to your leadership than this membership action. By their choice, they recognize the strength of your character. Special congratulations to Steve Bruno for his election to Trustee. I look forward to working with this Executive Board for many years.

Fraternally,
Lou Calemine



President's View

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

VICTORY THROUGH UNITY

I hope this newsletter finds you well and you're beginning to enjoy the holiday season. There have been some changes and challenges to this Local, our Welfare and Pension Funds and all of America's working-class. Unions have a point position and are responsible to represent and serve the best interests of their members and the American Working Class; it is the Working Class who has suffered the most in the last 30 years.

It has been said that this nation's economy is the most resilient and that it will always bounce back and it is rebounding out of the deep recession; unfortunately it hasn't bounced back for the working class and we have not been bailed out like banks and corporations were. The wealth of this economy has been going to richest people of this country; the power players on Wall Street and Corporations are benefiting the most from this recovery. As this goes on, our elected politicians are selling out the working middle class. Elected politicians are making it harder for Unions to exist; they are making it harder for Unions and workers to organize. They increase our current taxes and they invent new taxes. We are paying more for housing, food, clothing, utilities, education, health care and the list goes on and on. Labor must refocus its efforts and concentrate on the issues that are immediately affecting the lives and rights of workers. The Republicans and the Democrats have not just abandoned the middle class and workers they have screwed us in every way possible and fleeced us as well. We must find a labor candidate who is not necessarily a Democrat or Republican. We need a "Labor candidate" that will champion the concerns of the middle class, workers and their Unions. This idea might not beat out the candidates from either of the two prime parties, either one can buy an election with their big money. A Labor Candidate will carry our message so that our voices will be heard instead of silenced by false promises like those made in past elections. We are lucky to have good Teamster jobs but we cannot survive going forward if this trend in the economy and this country's politics do not drastically change. This nation's rich or poor cannot continue to live off our hard earned income when we are being denied good jobs with decent incomes.

Here at Local 295 we strive to serve our members best interest by always keeping our total commitment to the best interest of the entire shop. We cannot allow ourselves to be totally concerned with an individual member at the cost of the best interests of the entire shop's membership. We as a collective force have the leverage to deal with the employer, without the collective unionized shop we have no leverage. It is the collective force of a unified shop, the Local Union and the International that provides a force that can be used when needed to leverage and deal with your employer. An important part of this is that the commitment must come from the individual member to provide a reliable and quality labor service. This sets a value to the Union labor force. Another important part of this is a commitment by the individual member to respect him/herself, their job and their Union brothers and sisters. This respect is the bond that creates the unity. Without all of these things nothing can be accomplished. We all know that there are individuals that may only think of themselves; these individuals probably do more complaining than working. They complain about the work, about others, the employer, the Union and probably you and me. They see themselves as the only thing that matters; they usually try to disguise themselves as caring and hard-working fellow members. They are not the majority. They are not contributing factors to the leverage we need to deal with the employer. Besides being annoying to work alongside of a "chronic complainer" at times may become contagious to a group. You may have noticed that these types of chronic complainers seek out people to complain too, for example they go to newly hired members to agitate the shop members. They look to aggravate the junior members by exaggerating any differences i.e. wage rate etc. They will go to another worker who may be experiencing a problem on the job or in their personal life, the chronic complainer will look to exploit these workers by using this situation to blame the Union, the Employer or the rest of the shop members for these problems. The "chronic complainer" wants to drive a wedge between the members and the Union. We all know that this is not a perfect world, life is not always fair and we don't always agree with each

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other but we must stand together as a collective Union shop and as a Local Union. This unity provides the leverage we need to deal with your employer. Don't let anyone or anything get in the way of this UNITY!

In life there will always be good and bad things, good and bad times and good and bad people. During this Holiday Season Let's all enjoy what we have; Look for the good in ourselves and recognize the good in others. Don't let anyone or anything get in the way of that; this way we can help ourselves and others to the good things in life and enjoy the good people in our lives.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Val and myself I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday Season and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Tom Calh

At this time of year I always like to look back and do a general overview of the last year. I look back at how I have handled the issues and events of the past year. This review must be honest and hard. I realize that being hard on myself will positively benefit me and my ability to deal with the challenges of the coming year. One thing that I do strive for is to prove to myself that I have truly done everything that can be done to serve the members and this Local. I realize that I can't do the impossible, but I must do everything that can be done!!!

I hope and pray for the well-being of this membership and this Local's best interests in the future. My hopes and prayers cannot be my strategy; my strategy is to be honest, direct and a positive influence in dealing with people or any situation whether it be critical or a common everyday event.

I have worked in the craft as a member of Local 295 for 25 years before taking office in this Local. I was a Shop Steward for a good part of those 25 years, that is why I know how important it is to have a good steward and what it takes to be a good steward. I thank our 295 Stewards and Alternate Stewards. They have done everything that could be done to serve their fellow members and this Union. I thank them for the great influence that they have been on me. I thank them for their guidance and their keen insight with job site knowledge. I thank them for their strong and faithful efforts.

On behalf of our Local 295 Stewards, the Business Agents and myself, I must also thank the members for supporting their Steward and for the assistance given to them to get the job done every day.

Fraternally,

Tom Calh

Thank You



Congratulations

to John J. Baker recipient of the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund and son of John Baker (DHL / NWK) pictured on left with Shop Steward Jack Horta and Secretary-Treasurer Jack Ruggiero.

and

to Alec DeBari recipient of the James R. Hoffa Scholarship Fund Essay Contest and son of Mike DeBari (DHL / TTN) pictured on right with shop steward John Kenny.





Merry Christmas

and a

Happy Holiday Season

to you and your family.

.... Best Wishes from Local 295



IBT LOCAL UNION No. 295
33 WEST HAWTHORNE AVENUE
VALLEY STREAM, NY 11580

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 \$.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 Number: _____ Last Day of Work: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Reason for Leaving: _____
(Quit, Laid Off, Terminated, etc.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

VICTORY THROUGH UNITY