



General Teamster Retirees Club
Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Teamster Locals #38, #117, #174, #763
14675 Interurban Ave S • Tukwila, WA 98168
Suite 301
Phone 206 441-0504



April 2010 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Where:

Teamster Building (main floor)
14675 Interurban Avenue South, Tukwila
(on METRO bus Line #150)

When

Wednesday, April 14th
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

Special Guest: **Steve Chandler, Secretary-Treasurer Teamster Local 38**

Lunch Menu: Chicken Cordon-Bleu, rice pilaf, veggies, salad, dessert, coffee, etc.

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, April 12th** to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is only \$12.00. ***Be sure to call as soon as possible, because spaces are limited!***

Directions:

From Southbound I-5 take exist #156-Tukwila Interurban Avenue. Turn LEFT on Interurban Avenue South. Proceed south approximately 1 and ¼ miles. The Teamster Building will be on your right.

From Northbound I-5 take exit #156-Tukwila, Interurban Avenue. Take the Tukwila exit, turn right onto Interurban Avenue South and proceed south. Move into the right lane. The Teamster Building will be located approximately a mile and 1/2, on your right.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

You may know this already but after the May-June issue of the **WASHINGTON TEAMSTER**, you will have to notify your local union if you wish to keep receiving it. The International is looking to save operating expenses in this tough economy just like everyone else.

Kudos to the state of **Wisconsin** whose legislature recently enacted a state law which mandates the teaching of labor history and collective bargaining as part of the social studies curriculum. Thus far, Wisconsin is the only state in the union to do so.

It is not about time, but way past time! I recently talked to **Helmer Peterson**, who now lives full time at the **Stafford House** out on Pacific Highway south. Helmer turns 99 this year, and is maybe one of, if not the oldest 174 retirees that we know of. He retired from **Tradewell** in 1976. He assured me that he was going to make it to 100!

The **GTRC** participates in the **Joint Council 28 Catholic Seamen's** annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon and this year was no exception. We donated a \$100 gift certificate to the **Space Needle Restaurant** (a union house). During the prize drawing, our donation was won by former local 174 business agent, local 38 Secretary Treasurer, and close friend of yours truly, **Rod Mendenhall**. (Just kidding Rod).

We are trying to get our audio system straightened out. Several of you have offered equipment and suggestions for which we are grateful. The hand-held mic seems to fade in and out and is perplexing to say the least. One theory is that it is caused by the steel beams in the walls. Another is that it might be caused by the ghost of Jimmy Hoffa.

Business agent **Tim Sullivan** of local 763 recently retired, and his position as administrative assistant to 763 Secretary Treasurer **Dave Grage**, is being filled by former 174 head, **Scott Sullivan**. We wish them both well.

Joint Council 28 has a new "main man", long time Leader of Local 117, **John Williams**. He is an excellent example of why experience is so important in taking on leadership during difficult times.

MIXED RESULTS

Since the time of **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** to the present, including those heady days of yesteryear when unions represented 38% of America's workers, the Democratic Party has been the repository of organized labor's hopes and dreams. The report card

of the party shows very mixed grades, leading to not a little consternation on the part of its supporters.

Let me be slightly indelicate for a moment. How is it that during campaigns when candidates need union help, the Democrats are their best friend, but when it comes time to reciprocate, labor invariably finds itself “out picking shit with the chickens”?

2008 is a case in point. Organized labor spent lots of time and money to elect **Obama**, and sent a clear majority of Senators and Representatives to Washington. Labor was told early on that its signature issue, The Employee Free Choice Act, was off the table. Now that the titanic struggle over the health care bill is over, we are now hearing that EFCA is now DOA...don't you just love acronyms?

This is not an attempt to pick on the President, putting our issues in the storeroom goes back through Clinton, Carter, **and Johnson** etc. **Obama** did give us some hope by making important recess appointments to the **NLRB**, labor sympathetic candidates **Craig Becker**, and **Mark Pearce**. After labor spent more than a quarter-billion dollars on the 2008 election they have a right to expect more...a **lot** more.

But take heart, all is not gloom. Our President **Jimmy Hoffa** and AFL-CIO chief **Richard Trumka** among other labor leaders have leaned on this administration to remind them of who brought them to the dance. If they treat us right at the dance, maybe they will get a goodnight kiss.

COWBOY BOOTS

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?

He asked for help and she could see why...Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said, “Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.” She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on, this time on the right feet...Phew!

He then announced, “These aren't my boots.”

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, “Why didn't you say so?” like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull off the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner were they off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear em."

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He replied, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

She will be eligible for parole in three years!

THREE THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW

1. Coca-Cola was originally green
2. It is impossible to lick your elbow
3. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair...

...and they also come to our luncheons!!!

See you on the 14th.