



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



March 2010 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Where:

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

When

Wednesday, March 10th
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

Special Guest: **John Keane, Head of the Irish Heritage Club, Chairman of Seattle's Irish Week committee-Honorary consul of Ireland in Seattle.** (He won't be discussing the English.)

Lunch Menu: **Meat Loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy** for those of you who have given up meat for Lent there will be plenty of side dishes including veggies, salads, roll, dessert, and coffee

Reservations: Call 206-441-0504 by Monday, March 8th to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is \$12.00 CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SPACES ARE LIMITED.

Directions:

From Southbound I-5 take exit #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.

GENERAL ITEMS OF NOTE

March is the month that the Labor Agency does its first quarterly pickup of the year. Bring in any usable, clothes; appliances (small) bedding etc and Jim will haul it away to help a growing number of truly needy people.

Wayne Moore, a long time loyal member had a stroke recently and is recovering. We hope to see him and his ketchup bottle back soon. Another regular called recently and checked in, **Les Albright**, the button man. His collection of union buttons goes all the way back to the teens, and is displayed in the office of local 174. A few of us attended the reception for **Jim and Lillian Woolbert**, Saturday February 20th, at the Sea-Tac Community Center. February 2nd, marked 75 years of marriage for the pair! Wow! They were just 16 and 15 when they tied the knot, and Lillian offered the following as one explanation for their long, successful life together. "We would have our fights and things, and all of a sudden one of us would start singing and the other one would come along with you, and that was the end of it right there."

On a more somber note, recently retired PSLA President **Nancy Holland Young's** husband **Mike** died suddenly at age 62. He was a long time organizer for the UFCW, and he and Nancy exemplified what a good union couple represents. There was a memorial for him on the 27th of February at UFCW 21.

Former GTRC Secretary Treasurer **Clint Copeland** wanted everyone who got a swine flu shot to know that they really work. He got a shot at the January luncheon, and is just now recovering from a 3 week bout of the "pigs' revenge". His Doctor told him that this was not unusual as some 50% of inoculatees wind up with an episode of the flu.

Finally just a note about our guest, **John Keane**, he is actually from the old sod and has been involved in all things Irish in Seattle. He will be interesting and fun, so wear a patch of green and do not miss this luncheon!

HAITIAN HATE MAIL

Recently I received some nasty e-mails which claimed that we had done plenty for Haiti, and that the country was a failed state, etc.

Then there was the Minister who said that Haiti had got what it deserved because Haiti had "made a pact with the devil". Another Christian minister said recently in the paper that if these people were going to continue practicing Voodoo, that Christian charity was going to have to cease.

For openers, a cursory review of Haiti's history shows that it had a lot of "help" from Europe and good old Uncle Sam in arriving at its sorry state. When the African slaves threw off the yoke of their French masters in 1804, it sent shivers through the slave holding U.S. and the slave trading Europeans.

Haiti has been economically exploited, occupied by US troops from 1915 to 1934 during which time thousands of Haitians were killed and Haiti became an American sweatshop, ruled by ruthless dictators Papa Doc, and his son Baby Doc Duvalier. These two were armed to the teeth to keep the population in check by guess who.

A lot of Americans have shown their generosity and compassion, in contributing to the recovery of this terrible natural disaster. Why are there always some jerks with either a political or religious agenda around to cast a pall on the whole effort?

It puts me in mind of a quote by one Douglas Jerrold in the 1800's. "The ugliest of trades have their moments of pleasure.

Now, if I was a grave digger or even a hangman, there are people I could work for with a great deal of enjoyment".

SISTER MARY ANN'S GASOLINE

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it, a Texaco Gasoline station was just a block away. She walked to the gas station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas.

The attendant told her that the only gas can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned. Since Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to a patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas in her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic."

THIS JUST IN...

Retiree **Harold Schlumberg** was recently asked what he did now that he was retired and his answer: "Well...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background, and one of the things I enjoy most is turning beer, wine, gin and bourbon into urine".

Inspiring, don't you think?

Remember: Shillelaghs, Shamrocks, Shenanigans...March 10th at lunch...be there!