



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



February 2011 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

Where:

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

When

Wednesday, February 9th
11:30 AM – Lunch
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

Special Guest: John Williams, J.C. 28 President-Director Warehouse Division IBT

Lunch Menu: Spaghetti, meatballs, Lasagna, veggies, salads, rolls, dessert, and coffee

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, February 7th** 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 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.

EYES FRONT AND CENTER...READ AND HEED

Former trustees, **Jim and Margaret Foster** celebrated 50 years of marital tranquility January 15th, in Renton at a rather large Catholic church. As I entered, I felt the walls shudder, but I'm happy to report that this sumptuous, religious edifice remained standing. It was a great party, and the Foster's kids knocked themselves out for the event. Margaret had been asked what she should get for staying married to Jim for all these years, and she answered that a trophy would be appropriate. She was presented with one, to the delight of all those in attendance.

Gordy Hammond's wife **Vi** took a header recently and broke a rib. He told me that although she is on the mend, they probably won't be attending the luncheons any longer. Having been faithful attendees for over 12 years, they will be missed.

Long time tanker driver (local 741) **Wayne Moore**, now 90 years old, also told me he will be unable to join us any longer due to a host of infirmities. Wayne's granddaughter looks out after him and although not as agile as he once was, retains his dashing good looks and quick wit. His son **Dana Moore**, a recent Boeing and local 174 retiree, has invested in a condo in Arizona where rumor has it, the weather for golf has a longer season than locally.

There will be no **Labor Agency** pickup this month, and a reminder that if you have a favorite book you would like to swap, bring it to the meeting and put it on the book table.

Speaking of books, I'm almost through with a new non-fiction thriller called **Unbroken**, authored by **Laura Hillenbrand** who also wrote **Sea Biscuit**. It is a thrilling story of the exploits of some American pilots during WW11. It is the kind of book that has you looking up after certain passages and saying to yourself, "Oh my god"!

"AHEM", MR. PRESIDENT

As per usual, President **Obama** gave a stirring State of the Union speech in which he appealed to the better nature of the American people. I noted numerous references to business and corporations, but not one mention of organized labor or unions. Clearly his administration has some work to do in this regard.

According to the **Labor department's Bureau of Statistics**, from 2009 to 2010 union jobs nationally declined to a new low of 11.9% from 12.3%. Losing 612,000 workers the total of union members went from 15.3 million to 14.7 million. Major losses were in construction, manufacturing, and state and local governments.

Kimberly Brown, executive director of American Rights at Work, stated that these statistics are “a telling indication of the fundamental imbalance in our nation’s economy”. Although U.S. corporations enjoyed record profits last year, workers saw more good union jobs slip away. It is no great revelation that as union jobs evaporate, so does the middle class. Other economic researchers are projecting more union job losses this year, there does not seem to be any realistic chance to change repressive labor law, and now many states will be facing the introduction of Right to Work laws!

When Senator **Obama** was campaigning in the rust belt two years ago, he sounded like organized labor’s greatest hope; and labor busted it’s ass to get him elected. One would hope that all our brother’s and sister’s effort would merit at least a mention in the SOTU address in lieu of any meaningful action by this administration thus far.

KIND OF FUNNY

*** Did you hear about the guy who was in a bar as drunk as it is possible to get?

A group of guys notice his condition and decide to be good Samaritans and take him home. First they stand him up to get his wallet so they can find out where he lives, but he keeps falling down. He fell down 8 more times on the way to the car, each time with a real thud.

After they get to his house, he falls down another 4 times getting to the door. His wife answers the door, and one fellow says, “We brought your husband.”

She frowns at him and asks, “Where is his wheelchair?”

*** A motorcycle cop was rushed to the hospital with an inflamed appendix. The doctors operated and advised him that all was well; however, he kept feeling something pulling at the hairs in his crotch.

Worried that it might be a second surgery and the doctors hadn’t told him about it, he finally got enough energy to pull his hospital gown up enough so he could look at what was making him so uncomfortable.

Taped firmly across his pubic hair and private parts were three wide strips of adhesive tape, the kind that doesn’t come off easily...if at all. Written on the tape in large black letters was the sentence, “Get well soon--from the nurse in the Jeep you pulled over last week.”

Ouch!

Come and join us for information, good food, “sweet’ prizes, love, laughs and some of the greatest generation falling asleep, but courteously, refraining from snoring. FEB 9th