



**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 2009 Newsletter

### NEXT MEETING

#### Where:

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

#### When

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM – Lunch  
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

**Special Guest:** **Tracey Thompson-** Secretary Treasurer IBT local 117...Her local is now one of the biggest in the International...come see how she's doing.

**Lunch Menu:** Chicken Cordon Bleu, rice pilaf, salads, veggies, roll, dessert, coffee.

**Reservations:** Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, April 6th** to reserve your place for lunch. The cost of lunch is only \$11.00. ***Be sure to call as soon as possible, as 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.

## **FROM THE VALLEY OF WISDOM**

Did you know that the famous author Victor Hugo once said “Forty is the old age of youth. Fifty is the youth of old age?” Hey, it works for me.

We are continuing to accept your contributions of food for the Labor Agency's food bank. When Jim Hutchens comes to our June meeting for the regular donation pick-up, he can collect the food also.

Long time Teamster official and pension guru, Tony Lock, died March 20th in Phoenix at age 63. GTRC political commentator Elaine Russell has had a spate of bad luck recently. A couple of weeks ago she took a tumble in her home and won't be at our next luncheon. I told her we would all be sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Former Secretary Treasurer Clint Copeland is going to be batching for a couple of weeks while his wife visits a sick relative in Holland. Being a hardened Marine Corps veteran, eating dog food while she is gone won't phase him.

***Things to remind yourself of:*** Have I paid my yearly GTRC dues? Have I told my golfing friends about the GTRC tourney taking place August 13th? Will I remember to bring some books or puzzles to the next luncheon along with my food donation? Have I invited a friend to go with me to the meeting? Am I curious about the very special guest coming to the June luncheon? Isn't it about time that next time I pay for my lunch, I pat trustee Don Smith on the back and tell him what an outstanding job he is doing? By the way, in case you have not heard, the Oak Harbor strike is over, and local 174 will resume negotiations.

## **WHAT IS A “RETIREE”?**

I'm just thinking out loud so bear with me.

The stereotype of a retiree is promoted by the public at large and the retiree him or herself. “ I don't work anymore,” many retired folks will say and their friends and family still in the 40 hour a week world will say with no small amount of envy, “You are lucky to be out of the harness now.”

I am sure there are retired folks who are spending their golden years stretched out on the couch watching television, and maybe walking the dog for a little bit of exercise. There are others, who because of physical infirmities, are mostly sedentary. However, you are just as likely to hear a retiree state that they should “go back to work so that they can have some free time.”

I frankly have been surprised at how many retired people have taken full and part time jobs, extending their working life into their 70's and 80's. Some of this is due to the early out

provisions of pension plans. It is clear that although appealing, many people are not ready to stop punching a clock at age 53 or 55. Or, they simply get bored, and do not know what to do with themselves.

Whatever the case, we all fit somewhere in this so called leisure world. Most of us have developed a routine in and for our “golden” years. We babysit grandkids, and go to their soccer, baseball games and music recitals at school. We play golf, go bowling, belong to a fraternal organization, or have a regular bridge or poker group we are part of. We do yard work, have hobbies, (like making Hooey sticks) fish, hunt, and can be found in Peoria during spring training. Some of us get up each morning and spend time with the newspaper and a cup of coffee and figure out what to do the rest of the day. Many others of us have full time duty caring for a parent, or volunteering as a tutor, or driving vets to the V.A. hospital.

Retirement is not all drudgery, nor is it all fun. We are all different, but all share the label of retiree. One last thing. It is interesting to note that most retired folks state that they would not like to go back to the weekly grind again. At least now, most of us have a choice. Isn't it wonderful?

## **FEET, DON'T FAIL ME NOW**

A DEA officer stops at a ranch in Montana, and talks with an old rancher..He tells the rancher, “I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs.”

The old rancher says, “Okay, but do not go in that field over there” as he points out the location.

The DEA officer verbally explodes saying, “Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me.” Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. “See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish...on any land. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself perfectly clear? Do you understand?”

The old rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life, chased close behind by the rancher's prize bull. With every step, the bull is gaining ground on the officer, and it seems likely that he'll get “horned” before he reaches safety. The officer is clearly terrified. The old rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs.....”Your badge!!! Show him your badge!!!”

See you on the 8<sup>th</sup> for Tracey Thompson, great food, fabulous prizes and celebrity surprises!