



**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 2010 Newsletter

### NEXT MEETING

**Where:**

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

**When**

Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM – Lunch  
12:00-ish – Business Meeting

**Special Guest:**     **Jim Oswald, Attorney – Employee Benefits and Campaign Finance law**

**Lunch Menu:**        Beef Stew, Cabbage Rolls, Salads, Veggies, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee

**Reservations:**     Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, February 8th** 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.

## **NOTES FROM THE OLD SAGE**

“Let me tell ya about the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees, the sun up above, and...a thing called love.” (Lyrics stolen from a tune popular in the 60's.)

Yes folks, this is the love month, or lust month if you prefer. It is also a month that gives numerous retailers an excuse to gouge us gullible consumers. However, we all understand that our partner is worth it. If we no longer have a partner, or never had one in the first place, it is quite acceptable to love yourself.

Our February luncheon will feature the epitome of demonstrating love, giving away boxes of Chocolate!!

A reminder of ongoing retiree activities are donations of food and other usable items to the Puget Sound Labor Agency and if you would like to help the people of Haiti through the Teamsters union you may do so by sending donations to: Disaster Relief Fund-International Brotherhood of Teamsters-25 Louisiana Ave. N.W.-Washington D.C. 20001.

Former Trustee Ed Merritt is already busy working on our 2010 Golf Tournament. It will be held again at Foster Golf Links and our hope is that it will be bigger and better than ever this year.

By the way, the pension trustees voted to once again issue a “13th” check in 2010. If you are not receiving your quarterly issue of the Washington State Teamster, check with the local that either you or your spouse retired from. With the exception of local 38, all of the offices are on the third floor of this building, (Locals 117, 174, 763).

## **THE STATE OF THE “UNION”**

In mid January, Teamster President, James Hoffa met with Vice President Joe Biden, and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to discuss the important need for job creation in a faltering economy. Hoffa also stressed the need of support for union organizing and enforcement of trade agreements and labor regulations.

As you may know, even though Obama has created a “middle class task force” ostensibly to promote raising the standard of living, this administration has put most of labor's issues, including the Employee Free Choice Act on the back burner. The stated cover for this is that all the administration's energy and political capital is being expended on the health care issue.

I would guess that not many of us who are union advocates are surprised by any of this: we have been lied to and thrown crumbs for so long, it is difficult to expect anything different, from the Republicans OR the Democrats! Still, it is comforting to know that the President of our union is still giving it the old college try.

Then we have the phenomenon of large numbers of the voting public placing their hopes and dreams in a presidential candidate as in 2006...including myself. I thought that John Edwards looked like a solid choice. He was good looking, family man, son of a mill worker, pro-union who wanted a national health plan and would fight for the middle class. It turns out he should have been running for President of the Scum-bag association. Hoo boy, he sure turned out to be a piece of work.

It seems that to an increasing number of these leader wanta-bees, trust is merely a 5 letter word.

## **YOU'RE BEING WATCHED**

A burglar broke into a house one night.

He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables. He picked up a CD player to place in his sack, when a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you."

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, and then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The same kind of people that would name a pit bull, Jesus."

***Before you put this work of art in your shredder, remember the date, of our next luncheon meeting and bring a friend or even a relative. I am bringing my wonderful wife.***

***PS: Bring your reading glasses...there will be books galore to pick from...free for the taking.***