



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



December 2008 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING

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

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

Special Guest: “Silver Sagers” Holiday Tunes and Old Time Favorites

Lunch Menu: Ham, scallop potatoes, veggies, salads, rolls, dessert and coffee

Reservations: Call (206) 441-0504 by **Monday, December 8th** 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. Please park in South lot.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving. This is a good time to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. To many of you who celebrate a different religious holiday, same to you! Then for all of those who say “bah humbug!”, a nod in your direction also. There seems to be a growing number of folk who believe the “season” has become way to commercial. During post Thanksgiving sales in New York, and Texas a security guard was trampled to death during a surge of early shoppers at a Wal-Mart, and two shoppers were shot outside a Toys R Us. Now it seems to me that these are examples of taking holiday shopping way too seriously! **JIM FOSTER**, GTRC Trustee told me that the locals provided him with only 5 families, who were all sent \$50 gift certificates. That small number means we can still help more families for Christmas. The **LABOR AGENCY** will be here for a pickup at our luncheon on the 10th. Along with the usual things donated such as clothing, small appliances, books, bedding and the like, agency director **NANCY HOLLAND YOUNG** informs me that their food bank is running perilously low. If possible, try bringing some food to the luncheon. Canned and packaged foodstuffs would be welcome, heck bring a sack of potatoes if you like! My wife Bonnie and I sent out 21 letters to local stores asking for help with the GTRC's gift card program. HAGGEN better known as TOP FOODS was the only firm to make a donation. Next time you are in one of their stores, you might mention that you are a Teamster retiree, and you appreciate their support. Bonnie has helped me a lot with club business and I finally have talked her into attending a luncheon, so I will have to mind my P's and Q,s on the 10th.

DAY OF RECKONING

Many of we retirees lived through the great depression, or were born during it, and all of us have some acquaintance with it from relatives or history books. It made a profound impression on everyone: My father was scarred by it, and for its duration and as it receded with the advent of World War 11, Americans adjusted, and lived in a “we” environment. We as a people became more self sufficient, repaired our own cars and equipment, grew victory gardens, were subject to rationing, and wasted very little, while managing to entertain ourselves. These conditions produced a lot of positive results, such as stronger neighborhood ties, a willingness to save, help, and sacrifice, learning what delayed gratification meant. Servicemen, farmers, city dwellers, and even the kids all felt like we were in this thing together. We may not be entering another depression, but there is going to be a whole lot of pain and suffering for another couple of years. Many prognosticators tell us that this generation (and their parents) are ill prepared to

withstand the economic buffeting we are in for. The current economic downturn is as grave a crisis as this nation has faced since the 1930's. This generation that is going to have to find a way out perhaps has had a soft life, but I'm betting they will find a way. It is a good sign that our new President Obama is calling on some experienced hands to tackle this country's monumental problems. The younger power elite would do well to emulate the Chinese model, and consult with the older, hands, the ones with the bald heads, barnacles, and stretch marks, before they take those reins and say "giddy up".

THE PURINA DIET

Yesterday I was at Safeway buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Sheriff the Wonder Dog, and was in the checkout line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. What did she think I had, an elephant? So since I'm retired and have little to do, on an impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care unit with tubes coming out of most of my orifices, and IV's in both arms. I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was enthralled with my story.) Horrified, she asked if I had ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no; I had stepped off the curb to sniff an Irish Setter's ass and a car hit us both! The guy behind her was laughing so hard he was crying, and Safeway won't let me shop there anymore.

Wear something festive, call a friend, bring some food, and come on down to lunch at our new home. Ray Ellison and his group will be back to entertain us, and lots of Poinsettias will be given away.