

# In this Issue

In this issue, we are proudly highlighting our dynamic and diverse membership in a variety of stories that will inspire and educate.

Although the UPS five-year landmark agreement does not expire until next summer, both parties have agreed to begin early negotiations. There is no doubt that the professionalism and strong work ethic the Teamsters bring to the job, day in and day out, have helped make UPS a global success.

Inside, we've featured a story on the two-man sleeper teams and the key role Local 63 officials and UPS members have played in ensuring that these positions – once contracted out – became union jobs. We spoke with long-time Teamster member Brett Dickerson while he was on the job (but stopped) at the airport in Des Moines, Iowa. He reminded us of the task Local 63 took on a decade ago, and painted a vivid picture of life on the road for these dedicated drivers.

Each of us knows that our Teamster membership comes with many select privileges, but life just seems to be sweeter for our members at Mother's Cookies and Rich Products. We visited with both bargaining units and found it takes a committed group of Teamsters to produce very popular non-dairy products,



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and it takes strong representation and solidarity – as with our members at Mother's – to overcome a handful of not-so-pleasant corporate changes.

We're also pleased to report on our group of dedicated members at Stater Bros. While the area's top three grocery chains continue to be plagued by difficult contract negotiations and strained la-

bor-management relations, the Local proudly represents a group of long-term members spread out among the company's headquarters, warehouses and distribution centers. Loyal to the company and highly valued employees they also say they are grateful to the Teamsters because they're working under a solid agreement with outstanding benefits.

Last but not least, our congratulations go out to IBT Representative and long-standing Local 63 Business Agent Robert Turner. Robert was recently recognized for his years of dedicated volunteer service with the LA County Federation of Labor, and he is the recipient of the Geri Stone AFL-CIO Community Services Award. We applaud his years of unselfish contributions to both this worthy charitable organization and the Teamsters.

## On The Cover

*Upper Left: Group of Line Drivers Ready to Work at UPS.*

*Upper Right: Mike Torres and John Oliphant at Mothers Cookies.*

*Lower Left: Debbie Fletcher at Stater Brothers.*

*Lower Right: Mark Baxter at Rich Products.*