



Teamsters Local 63

Secretary-Treasurer Randy Cammack

Fall 2010

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Get Involved in Political Activities

Secretary-Treasurer's Message By Randy Cammack

About this time, depending when this publication reaches you, you will vote or have voted in an important election. Soon after you will have the opportunity to vote in your union election.

This is a very important time in both national and union politics. I urge you to do your research, pick the candidate that you feel is the best for the job, and make sure to cast your vote.

In the upcoming years crucial races will be decided across the country, as well as ballot measures that can have far-reaching effects. Your voice will be heard when counting the ballots and deciding the course of action for the future.

We must turn out to the



polls in large numbers, with friends and family, to make sure we elect officials who embrace and respect hardworking union men and women. Your vote is your chance to be heard as an American citizen. Take advantage of the opportunity to exercise your democratic right to help choose the person to represent you.

The democratic process does not end at the state level, and in November you will have

a chance to vote in your local union election. This election is just as important because your union represents you and works for you every single day.

No matter who earns your vote this fall, it is vital that you vote. Our democratic system produces our public officials and — more important for our local — our members get to choose who represents them. Show your Teamster pride and make sure your voice is heard by voting in this local union election.

Remember, as Americans and union members, your leaders and representatives must work for you. History has shown us that one vote does make a difference. Support all unions by making sure our politicians are pro-labor, and support your union by voting for a candidate you think has the best interests of Local 63 at heart.

United Stationers Help Keep Internet Shoppers Well Supplied



Ronnie Rodriguez, George Hasbun, Arturo Gonzalez, Shop Steward Eddie Rodriguez, Marcelo Silva and Orlando Maldonado



Shop Stewards Anthony Balbastro and Josie Ramos with Business Agent Martin Perez

In 2008, the workers at United Stationers needed a change. They were part of a small international union that wasn't getting the job done, and they decided that the Teamsters could help them get the wages and benefits they deserved.

Shop Steward Anthony Balbastro, who knew the benefits of Teamster representation from his time at UPS, was part of the organizing crew. With the help of Business Agent Martin Perez and Local 63 Office Staff Members Martha Rocha (Office Manager) and Ophelia Pena, the workers ran a successful campaign to join Local 63 and are now enjoying a three-year contract

"It's really impressive how quickly things changed once we became Teamsters," Balbastro said.

"Now we have improved wages, retirement benefits and a 40 hour guarantee. From my time at UPS I remembered how strong the Teamsters are, and I'm glad that my fellow members at United Stationers can now be Teamsters also."

Also instrumental in the organizing drive was Business Agent Perez. The senior agent

at Local 63, Perez has been representing and organizing members for 22 years. In his opinion, the new members deserve the credit. "Anthony and his coworkers were instrumental in the organizing drive," said Perez, who now represents the 215 new members. "This is a growing company and the members are one reason for that. They deserve to be represented by the Teamsters."

United Stationers is a wholesale distributor that supplies products to stores such as Costco, Staples and Amazon.com. The rise in Internet shopping has meant a steady stream of work for the members at United Stationers. Balbastro reports that the members are happily working overtime hours, and



Robert Ramos, Anthony Balbastro, Josie Ramos, Jose Gallardo and Art Gonzalez

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Members Give and Take



On September 25, members of Local 63 were on both the giving and receiving ends of the needle.

When over 30 members arrived at the union hall to participate in the local's blood drive, they may not have realized that the Red Cross workers who took their blood are also Local 63 members.

Since 1998, Local 63 has represented workers at the American Red Cross in Pomona. Members who work as Mobile Op Drivers transport and set up the equipment for blood drives. Then, they temporarily store the blood

and transport it back to the lab. Once at the lab, Local 63 laboratory technicians test the blood for purity and type before segmenting it into units.

Over 170 workers at the American Red Cross Pomona are currently enjoying a three-year Teamster contract. There are other blood collection companies in the Inland Empire who are for-profit agencies that do not hire union workers, but the Local 63 members at the Red Cross are proud to hold union membership.

Local 63 puts on similar drives at least twice a year, and the next one will be scheduled for

December. The blood collected at the drives helps to supply hospitals in LA County, the Inland Empire, and Orange and Riverside Counties.

"Local 63 is fantastic!" exclaimed Red Cross Shop Steward William Woods, a Mobile Op Driver and 25 year Teamster. "With strong leadership we have been able to unite and be proud of being Teamster Local 63 members."

Business Agent Debbi Burrows, who has represented the Red Cross members for almost two years, emphasized the importance of taking part in the local's blood drives. "At some point

Blood for Red Cross

On The Cover: Shop Steward Rafael Encinas, Charlita Hunter, Shop Steward Lucky Lopez and Ramon Palacio



Shop Steward Yen Luke, Charlean Sadler and Shop Steward Charlotte Smith



Richard Teems - President of the Southern California Teamsters National Black Caucus.

in everyone's life either they, or someone they know, will need blood," explained the experienced 17-year business agent. "The blood that our members donate and collect helps to save lives around Southern California."

"Our members at the American Red Cross are an extremely dedicated, intelligent and professional staff," added Burrows. "The work they do is so important to healing and returning health to people in need."



Shop Steward Rafael Encinas, Peter Ngo, Hedeshia Robertson, Shop Steward Harold Bliss, Steven Paysu and Alphonso Jones

High Attendance the Norm At Local 63 Meetings



Ask the many hundreds of members who attend monthly Local 63 membership meetings, and they will say they are much more meaningful than the average union assembly.

The cheering coming from the enthusiastic members who attend can be heard down the street, and everyone in the meeting hall comes prepared to be a part of the process. They know that Local 63 membership meetings serve a very significant role in the successful operation of the union.

One important aspect of union meetings is that they give the members a chance to voice

their opinions. The Teamsters have always been a democratic organization that encourages its members to speak. Meetings provide a platform and a voice to the membership, ensuring that they always have a way to have their concerns and issues heard.

These meetings allow union officials to inform the membership about the current state of affairs of the local. Updates on contract negotiations and organizing campaigns, even for shops

other than their own, are crucial for the attendees to be aware of and learn from. They all want to see their fellow Local 63 members earn good contracts, and when they do, you can expect a wild round of applause.

Even more meaningful, the membership meetings are an opportunity for the members to learn the future plans of the local. The direction the local takes impacts every member, and solidarity grows when members have a stake in the

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future efforts ahead.

Meetings for Local 63 have some of the highest participation in Joint Council 42. On average two to three hundred members attend and all of them are eager to participate in the democratic process.

"We have some of the most dedicated and involved

members," said Secretary-Treasurer Randy Cammack. "We always have a packed house and that shows the enthusiasm and support the Teamsters have. Our members come to show their Teamster pride, and when they do, the whole neighborhood hears it."

Once the business is

taken care of, members from different shops can mingle and talk with members from other companies. They can compare important issues, share stories, and network. The sense of satisfaction that comes from participation and involvement lasts a long time and carries over to the work days ahead.

Teamster Local 63

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are grateful to be busy.

Josie Ramos, another shop steward, has gone headfirst into union activities. She has attended two Teamsters Women Conferences to learn about the benefits of union representation. "The Teamsters have made a huge difference since coming to United Stationers, not just at work but also in our lives," Ramos explained. "It is almost a complete turnaround. They are much more organized and involved with the members."

The Shop Stewards at United Stationers are Anthony Balbastro; Ramon Hernandez; Daniel Jimenez, Jr.; John Padilla; Deena Perez; Josie Ramos; Danny Rivera; Eddie Rodriguez; Art Rojas; and Chandell Tolbert.

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