

RETIREE



BULLETIN

BAY AREA RETIREE CHAPTER

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

Local #79 ♦ 5818 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. ♦ Tampa, Florida 33619
Phone: (813) 621-1391 Ext 192 E-Mail to: barc79@aol.com

MEETINGS 1st WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 a.m. ♦ FEB - APR - JUNE - AUG - OCT - DEC



February, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

We will have our first 2016 General Membership meeting on Wednesday, February 3 at 10:00 a.m. It will be at Local 79's meeting hall located at 5818 E. MLK Blvd., Tampa, FL 33619.

As always, there will be a covered dish luncheon after the business meeting and some good fellowship with other retired Teamsters. Come on out and bring your spouse or guest and a covered dish, something from the deli, or a good dessert and enjoy. Who knows, you may learn something new.

HELP NEEDED WITH V.O.C.

The Volunteer Organizing Committee wants to use your knowledge of the Union and your experience as an active member and retiree. During an organizing campaign the Local Union could use your help with hand billing, talking to people, either on the phone or in person, informational picketing and many other things that go into such a campaign. There are so many things you can do to help. In most cases, you can be given an assignment that will accommodate your physical abilities to get the job done getting the non-union workers the needed help to become union members. This is a two edge sword, it helps them and makes our

union stronger. If you need more information and can help, contact Steve Mosley at 727-501-2308.

INFORMATION NEEDED

There is some help that the Retiree's Club needs from you.

1. When you move please give us your new address. This alone will help keep the cost of postage down.
2. The same with your phone numbers, please keep us updated on any changes of them.
3. Give the Club your e-mail address and keep it updated also.

All of the above can be done with the membership form that is usually in the last pages of the newsletter. You can also send it to us on your computer by e-mail to barc79@aol.com or by phone at 813-621-1391, extension 192. Please keep in mind that this extension number is for messages only and it is best if you leave your name and number and I will call you back to obtain your information. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by the union hall and leave the information with the ladies in the office.

With everything that is going on this year that effects our union, our pensions and the nation as a whole, we need to have good communications with you.

CHILDREN'S HOME

I know the holidays are over but the kids at the children's home still get hungry. When you come to the meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, February 3rd, please bring some can goods, cereals, pasta and many other foods that are non-perishable for the kids at the Children's Home.

PENSION BATTLE NEWS

As I began putting this newsletter together on Tuesday, January 19th, I received an e-mail from "Teamsters Take Action" at 10:06 a.m. I have put this information into this newsletter word for word as I received it. Please read it and follow thru on it even if your pension is not being cut at this time. It is a good way to possibly help your brothers and sisters who are having their pensions drastically cut.

"TEAMSTERS TAKE ACTION"

"The Trustees of the Central States Plan are asking the Treasury Department to accept their application to allow drastic cuts to many retirees pension benefits. These cuts amount to more than 60 percent in some cases and that is simply unacceptable. These retirees have earned their pension benefits through years of loyalty and dedication to employers and many even chose to forgo wage increases year after year in order to secure their pension plans.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has already submitted comments to the Treasury urging the Department to deny the Central States application. We now need members of

Congress to demand that Treasury reject the application as well and we need YOUR help. Take Action NOW!

A sign-on letter is being circulated in both the House and Senate asking members of Congress to urge the Department of the Treasury to protect retiree benefits.

Please contact your members of Congress and ask them to sign-on to one of these letters. You can take action here and send an email to your members of Congress or you may call the Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline at 1-888-979-9806 to be connected directly to the offices of your members of Congress to let them know how much this issue means to you."

One of the sign-on letters that President Hoffa mentioned had this line in it; "Simply put, America's workers are entitled to the pensions they've earned over a lifetime of hard work – and the big corporations that fall into financial trouble or even declare bankruptcy should not be permitted to take those problems and failures out on employee pensions, especially while executives secure golden parachutes."

These letters were written by members of Congress. That is a plain statement to the fact that the International Union and the members that have been raising hell has got Congress' attention. We need to keep up the pressure by calling and writing to our members of Congress and telling how we feel. If the government had not lost control of Wall Street and the banking institutions back in the early 2000's that led to the failures in 2007 – 2008, our pension fund would not be in this condition.

In a press release of January 6, 2016,

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General President Hoffa stated;
“The heart of the problem is Congress’ approval of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) in late 2014. That’s what allowed Central States to put forward such a ridiculous pension proposal in the first place that now is being mulled by the Treasury Department. But there is a way to fix it.

Capital Hill lawmakers should take a close look at the Keep Our Pensions Act sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT.) and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) or the Pension Accountability Act offered by Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Reps. David Joyce (R-Ohio) and Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) as a way to solve the crisis facing Central States and other pension plans.

In the end, Congress must start over and do whatever it can through the broad powers and resources of the federal government to protect the pensions of millions of retirees who had nothing to do with the crisis, but whose burden they are now being asked to bear.

Meanwhile, Teamsters need to continue to contact Feinberg and the Treasury Department so the federal government listens to their needs and opposes the Central States proposal. Workers deserve better.”

MORE PENSION INFORMATION

I strongly urge each of you to go to some of the web sites on the internet that have a tremendous amount of information regarding the pension cuts. Even if you have to use a relatives or neighbors computer to do so.

At the next meeting on February 3, I will have copies of many of the items that I have used in my research for this article. I will also try to have my laptop computer with me at the meeting and may be able to show you some of the sites available to you.

Meanwhile, here are some web addresses for you to check on.

www.teamster.org – This is the web site for the IBT. Search thru this site under you see a banner or something that says “Protect Pensions! No Cuts!” and click on that. After you have gone over that info then click on “Read More”. That will take you to more info including some press releases sent out from the IBT and copies of letters the IBT has sent to all involved.

www.treasury.gov/mpra - This is the official web site for the Treasury Department where you can find a lot of info. The MOST IMPORTANT ITEM HERE is the public comment section where you can state why you think the pension cuts are unfair.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS MUST BE MADE THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2016

www.CSPensionRescue.com – This site is the one Central States set up to pass info on to you without having to talk to you! However, you can sign up on this site to receive e-mail alerts about what’s going on at Central States.

CentralStatesRetireeRep@losgs.com – This site is for you to contact by e-mail Ms. Susan Mauren, the appointed CSP Retiree Representative.

You will see and hear more about Kenneth Feinberg as this matter drags on. He is the Special Master for the Treasury Department’s implementation

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of the Kline-Miller Law (MPRA). He has a reputation for being fair, but, I think he has his hands full with the pension cuts. If you go on the Treasury Department's web site, go down to the middle of the page and click on the "Read a message about this application from Kenneth Feinberg..." That will bring up a message from him that will give you some idea of how this will move on under his guidance. It is interesting to say the least.

In addition, while you are on the web site of the Treasury Department, look for the parts that give you access to public comments, Central States application, and the IBT's submission regarding the Central States plan to the Treasury Department.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

There are several things you can do that will help keep the pressure on Congress to do something besides complaining about what somebody else is not doing. Read this newsletter and gather all the information you can from it regarding the ways to get needed phone numbers and web sites.

Get on the IBT web site and sign up for the alerts from Teamsters Take Action and stay informed.

Make sure you know your Representative and Senators names. Then call the number at the IBT that will connect you thru the Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline with your local Representative and Senators. Tell them to sign the letter urging the Department of the Treasury to protect retiree benefits and tell how much this issue means to you.

Get on the Treasury Department's web site and check out the info available there. Go to the Public Comment section before February 1 and state why the pension cuts are bad and how it will hurt many families. Read some of the comments already made to give you an idea of what's needed.

Contact your Representative and Senators about the Keep Our Pension Promises Act (S. 1631 and H.R. 2844) and the Pension Accountability Act (S. 2147 and H.R. 4029). Tell them that they need to help pass those bills and save a huge amount of retirees from becoming a ward of the different welfare departments around the country.

Above all, keep the pressure on Congress and the Department of the Treasury for all of the above. Call every few days or each week and ask what they have done about these issues. If you keep calling and keep up the pressure they may begin to feel the stomach pain you feel now worrying about your upcoming shortage of funds.

LOCAL 79 HISTORY QUIZ

The Local 79 History Quiz will return in the next newsletter along with the answers to the December quiz.

ON THE NEXT 3 PAGES....

Page 5 – I thought this press release was important enough to include.

Page 6 – If you have not paid your 2016 dues yet please use this form to pay or join.

Page 7 –The form for joining FLARA. \$10.00 per year for the best organization to represent senior citizens and retirees.

Legislation Would Give Retirees a Real Voice in Deciding the Future of Their Pensions

PRESS CONTACT

Galen Munroe

Email: gmunroe@teamster.org Phone: (202) 624-6911

(WASHINGTON) – The Teamsters Union applauds the efforts of Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) to pass legislation that would guarantee thousands of retirees and workers threatened by deep cuts to their pensions a meaningful voice in deciding their own future, without the threat of the Treasury Department nullifying their decision if it judges that the insolvency of the fund would be "systemically important" by causing a liability of more than \$1 billion to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

The Pension Accountability Act seeks to fix changes to multiemployer pension law that were attached to the omnibus spending bill passed in December. The Multi-employer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) allows the Treasury Department to overrule any vote taken by pension participants on proposed cuts in large plans. Portman's bill would change that part of the law by making any vote by participants binding and not subject to overrule by the Treasury Department. The legislation would also change the law so that only those ballots returned in any vote are counted.

"On behalf of our more than 400,000 retirees who face an uncertain future that may include deep cuts to the pensions they spent their entire careers earning, I would like to thank Sen. Portman for standing up for their right to have a voice in the process," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "While Sen. Portman's legislation is a step in the right direction, I believe a more comprehensive pension protection bill like Sen. Sanders' and Rep. Kaptur's Keep Our Pension Promises Act, is the best option for our retirees. And, it is the best option to undo the assault on their earned pension benefits."

The Keep Our Pension Promises Act (KOPPA) would protect workers and retirees from cuts to their earned retirement benefits. The legislation would roll back the provisions that were slipped into the fiscal 2015 spending bill approved by Congress last year.

KOPPA would restore anti-cutback rules so that retirees in financially troubled multi-employer pension plans would be protected from having their earned benefits cut. It ensures that the safety net system supported mostly by employers does not shift to one funded entirely by taxpayers.

In order to shore up the long-term sustainability of the existing federal pension insurance program, KOPPA creates a \$30 billion legacy fund over 10 years, paid for by closing two tax loopholes used almost exclusively by the super-rich to avoid paying taxes.

Founded in 1903, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 1.4 million hardworking men and women throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Visit www.teamster.org for more information. Follow us on Twitter @Teamsters and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/teamsters.

**BAY AREA RETIREES CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone ____ - ____ - ____ **Cell** ____ - ____ - ____

Retired From Local Union No. _____ **Year Retired** _____

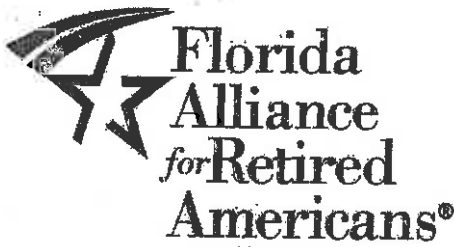
E-Mail Address _____

Would You Be Willing To Serve On A Committee? _____

What Would You Like To Do To Help The Club _____

**Your dues for 2016 are \$30.00. Make your check payable to
Bay Area Retirees Chapter and mail to:**

**BARC Treasurer
c/o Teamsters Local Union No. 79
5818 E. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33619-1033**



Tony Fransetta, President
12773 W. Forest Hill Blvd., #211
Wellington, Florida 33414
561-792-8799; Fax:(561) 792-8797
Contactus@flara.org

THE FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA), a statewide non-profit organization based in Wellington, Florida, actively pursues and promotes legislation and public policies that are in the best interest of current and future retired Floridians. Through the active civic involvement of it's over 200,000 members, FLARA advocates programs and activities at all levels of government to prepare for the growing population of older Floridians who desire to remain self-sufficient.

FLARA has over 200,000 members in the State of Florida through individual memberships and club affiliations.

Our primary purpose is to assist and encourage seniors to be active participants in the life of their community and to protect the rights of seniors in Florida and across the country.

FLARA is affiliated with the National Alliance for Retired Americans, which is one of the largest organizations in the country speaking and working for America's elderly and retired workers.

**To become a member of FLARA, please fill out the form below and return to:*

FLARA
12773 W. Forest Hill Blvd., Suite 211
Wellington, Florida 33414

(561) 792-8799 office; (561) 792-8797 fax; contactus@flara.org e-mail

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 PER YEAR (Spouses count as one membership)

NAME(S) - _____
ADDRESS - _____
PHONE - _____ FAX - _____
E-MAIL - _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Date Paid: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____
12773 West Forest Hill Blvd Suite 211 Wellington, FL 33414



Bay Area Retiree Chapter
5818 E Martin Luther King Blvd.
Tampa, Florida 33619



To Serve and Improve
Our Members Life

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

REGISTER AND VOTE IN 2016

IF YOU DON'T VOTE DON'T COMPLAIN